THE HISTORY OF THE ARLINGTON CITIZEN-JOURNAL

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the North Texas State University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

By

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Denton, Texas
August, 1977

This study was conducted to detail the history of The Arlington Citizen-Journal newspaper and its editors and the effect of an active newspaper on the orderly growth of a town.

The Arlington Citizen-Journal evolved from a merger of two Arlington weekly newspapers, The Arlington Journal and The Arlington Citizen, which for more than fifty years reported Arlington happenings.

The study includes historical information about the city, its people, and its institutions, and direct quotations of both editorial comment and news reports of Arlington events and people.

It was found that throughout the years of Arlington's rapid growth, The Citizen-Journal was a vital force behind its citizens.
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A HISTORY OF THE ARLINGTON CITIZEN-JOURNAL

INTRODUCTION

From a small railroad stop in 1876 to a bustling city of 100,000 in 1976, the city of Arlington, Texas, has emerged into a full-blown cultural, educational, and industrial "home town." Encouraging and undergirding the growth of the community since even before Arlington was a town has been a strong newspaper. Always urging civic improvement, better schools, and moral responsibility, the newspaper has been an important element in the growth of the city.

The first newspaper showed up in the late 1800's. In 1897, The Arlington Journal, destined to last, made its appearance. It was not until 1936 that The Journal experienced its first competition: The Arlington Citizen. The two competed hotly for the Arlington reader until the mid-1950's when the announcement was made that the two newspapers had merged. Published twice a week, The Citizen-Journal continued telling the story of Arlington's growth and development. Later, two more ownership changes occurred: when Carter Publications of Fort Worth bought the paper, and when Capital Cities News of New York bought Carter Publications itself, which included The Citizen-Journal.
The major problem of this study is to detail the history of The Arlington Citizen-Journal newspaper and its editors. The study was designed to discern any relationship between an active newspaper and the growth and development of a city.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this paper is (1) to relate the history of a small-town newspaper and its owners, and (2) to show how an active newspaper aided a growing city in its development.

Review of Literature

Prior to undertaking this problem, a search was made of similar histories. Specifically, the following literature was consulted: (1) printed histories of other newspapers, (2) histories of the city of Arlington, and (3) articles on The Citizen-Journal.

Justification

The Arlington Citizen-Journal long served the city of Arlington as an outlet for information both of importance and of only local interest. Since there is no detailed history of the city during the early part of the twentieth century, this study will serve as a history of Arlington during its period of rapid growth. The paper will provide valuable aid to those seeking to study (1) the history of a
small-town paper, (2) early American journalistic writing, and (3) the history of Arlington, Texas.

Limitations

This study is limited to the years between the time in 1897 when the first paper was printed and 1973 when The Arlington Citizen-Journal was absorbed by Capital Cities News, thus removing the paper from under the management of a home-town owner for the first time in its history.

A complete appraisal of some of the early years of The Citizen-Journal is limited by the facts that no known copies exist of The Journal in 1935, and that The Citizen files are incomplete between 1937 and 1947.

Methodology

A variety of research sources was utilized in preparing this study. Foremost among these was the year-by-year reading of the microfilm of the newspapers. Other sources were interviews with Mrs. Josie Appleton, an early member of The Journal staff, to obtain more information on Colonel William A. Bowen, long-time Journal editor; Mrs. S.L. Perry, widow of a publisher of The Journal, to fill in information needed because of incomplete files; Mrs. Elna Rose Calloway, daughter of A.H. Wheeler, Citizen founder, to obtain first-hand information concerning the work of The Citizen and its founder; Mr. Dick Weicker, Journal associate editor and Citizen-Journal business manager, to obtain his impression;

The resources of several libraries were used in this study to fill in missing information on both the newspapers and their editors. Libraries were the Arlington Public Library, Grand Prairie Public Library, Fort Worth Public Library, Dallas Public Library, Southwestern University Library, and the State of Texas Archives.

**Organization**

This thesis is divided into ten chapters: Chapter I comprises the introduction; Chapter II comprises the early years, 1897-1908; Chapter III comprises the biography of Colonel William A. Bowen, 1856-1921; Chapter IV comprises the Bowen years, 1908-1921; Chapter V comprises the Perry years, 1925-1950; Chapter VI comprises the Altwegg-Weicker years, 1950-1956; Chapter VII comprises the Wheeler *Citizen* years, 1934-46; Chapter VIII comprises the Hawkeses *Citizen* years, 1946-1956; Chapter IX comprises *The Citizen-Journal-Carter Publications* period, 1956-1974; and Chapter X comprises a summary, conclusions and recommendations for further study.
CHAPTER II

THE EARLY YEARS, 1897-1908

No one knows exactly when the first weekly Arlington Journal appeared in print. It probably was on July 30, 1897, based on the fact that the first-known microfilm copy of The Journal was dated August 20, 1897, Volume 1, No. 4. Byus and Byus were listed as the publishers; however, only one Byus was ever identified. The subscription rate was fifty cents a year.

Byus was George A. Byus who moved an "old-fashioned Washington hand press, which he had bought second-hand from a defunct office in Mineral Wells."¹ Byus printed his newspaper in a shed on Center Street.

The Journal, as established by Byus, was apparently not the first newspaper in Arlington. Two later editors reported in The Journal the publication of earlier papers. In the January 6, 1911, Journal, Editor William A. Bowen reported that he had come into possession of copies of a forerunner of The Journal. Professor O.J. Lawrence, who taught at the Masonic Home, issued the first copy of The Arlington Banner in January 1877, one year after the town, known as Hayter until this time, had been founded.

¹Arlington Journal, January 6, 1911.
The town of Arlington was an outgrowth of the stage stop called Johnson Station. The Texas and Pacific Railroad was due to go through the area between Fort Worth and Dallas in 1874.

Carol Henning, in her book _Wild West Days in Arlington, Texas_, related that legend reported plans initially called for the train to go through Johnson Station, but a landowner refused to give up right-of-way, forcing re-routing the track three miles north. Plans were made to lay the tracks to the north, and people of Johnson Station began moving near the planned railroad. A depression hit, and work on the railroad was slowed. When it did go through in January 1876, the town was called Hayter, in tribute to The Reverend Mr. Andrew S. Hayter, a pioneer Presbyterian minister, who had helped the railroad survey the land searching for a suitable rail bed. In 1877, after a post office was established, the name was changed to Arlington.

In Bowen's article, he related that the material Lawrence used in the _Banner_ went into the _Arlington Argus_, which began publication on April 15, 1882. Charles P. Litton was editor.

The Argus ran several years and when new men took the helm they felt called upon to change the name of the publication. Several names were added to the Arlington printing business. The same material being used until in January, the exact date cannot be ascertained, Messrs. Byus and Byus, G.A. Byus and brother,

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2 Carol Henning, _Wild West Days Arlington, Texas_ (Mansfield, Texas, 1972) p. 28.
got hold of the material and changed the name to The Arlington Journal.³

Byus had worked for John B. McGraw who had published still another paper, The Arlington Democrat.

Still later, Journal Editor F.L. Perry reported in his twenty-ninth anniversary edition that he had met and talked with McGraw. "McGraw's paper was Republican and pursued a radical editorial policy not approved by a section that was unanimously democratic, and proved his undoing."⁴

In Perry's history, he contended that McGraw was not the first editor. He said that, after interviewing several pioneer citizens, he was convinced that Willis Timmerman was the first editor to publish a paper in Arlington. Timmerman was mayor, postmaster, and editor of The Democrat, which was later printed by McGraw.

Two copies of Byus' Journal are preserved on microfilm. The first, August 20, 1897, was a 12-page tabloid, four columns wide with an Old English name plate. Articles on page one were all of a national or international nature. Headlines were eight-point capitals. Page two carried a farm and garden column and a national news column that reported the population of the United States as 77,000,068. Under Local Notes on page three, Byus reported:

A close observer will notice that several typographical errors appear in our paper. They come about

³Arlington Journal, January 6, 1911.
in this way: Doing all the work ourselves, job work, hustling for local news, etc., makes it necessary for us to work very fast, and as we never take proofs of anything unless it is an advertisement. We think we are doing pretty well to not make more mistakes than we do. However, we hope the reading public will overlook such little errors and as long as no one is hurt by the appearance of such all will be well. In a short while we will begin to read proof on everything as well as make other improvements.5

Page four carried the staff box plus a market column and card ads for physicians. The remainder of the paper contained patent print items, dairy and poultry columns, church news, local news and ads, and patent medicine ads. The church columns listed a Methodist, a Christian, and a Baptist church.

Word and Kent

Byus published the paper for about two and one half years. On October 1, 1899, Karl M. Word and Charles W. Kent took over. Word served as editor and Kent as business manager. They immediately began adding to the printing equipment, installed a "large Chandler-Price press" and put in a Blakeslee gasoline engine to power it. "It is a two-horse power machine and the first gasoline engine ever brought to Arlington."6 This addition of the engine and the press brought the expense of their improvements to more than $600. Maybe they felt a little financial pressure, as

5Arlington Journal, August 20, 1897.
6Arlington Journal, January 31, 1901.
they included the following in their announcement of the improvements in the January 17, 1901 Journal:

We are indeed thankful to the people for their past patronage and hope to continue to merit same. Each merchant should put aside a sum of money each year to expend in legitimate and profitable advertising. It is as essential to the success of a business as any other one thing and should not be overlooked.

We realize our dependence on the support of the people, and will always give you good value for your money. By helping us you also help yourself. We do not ask you to give us something for nothing, but "fair exchange is not robbery."

Every subscriber to this paper and everyone who is a friend to us, and we sincerely hope this includes you all, are invited to come to visit our office. We appreciate visits of the hundreds who have called to see our improvements, and many have handed us their subscription demonstrating that you have an interest in our success. We hope to reward you by giving you one of the best local papers in the county. No trouble to show you through our office; pleasure to answer your questions.

Kent and Word's Journal was a typical early American paper. However, it does appear that they worked hard to produce an interesting publication, very clean mechanically, compared to many of that day, a paper continually boosting the community. The Journal under Kent and Word was usually eight pages of five columns each. The average paper ran about 350 inches of advertisements. Ads appeared regularly on the first page of the paper.

Arlington continued to grow as a town during the time Kent and Word were Journal publishers. In the Number 15 issue of the 1901 Journal, Word printed an article taken from The Texas Railway and Industrial Journal of Fort Worth.

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7Arlington Journal, January 17, 1907.
which gives a good description of the community:

Situated nearly midway between Fort Worth and Dallas, on the Texas and Pacific Railroad is Arlington. It is the most prosperous and thriving of the smaller towns of Tarrant County. The history of this hustling little city begins with the construction of the Texas and Pacific road through the county. While there has never been anything like a boom connected with this prosperous town, its growth and prosperity have been steady and continuous, and is decidedly the best business place in Tarrant county outside of Fort Worth. Indeed as a cotton market Fort Worth itself is second to Arlington.

The town is situated just on the eastern boundary of the timber belt known as the Lower Cross Timbers, while to the east and south extends a section of as fine black waxy land as is found anywhere in Texas. The site of the town is sufficiently broken to insure perfect drainage, while the continuous belt of timber furnishes an abundant supply of wood for fuel and other purposes. The sandy nature of the soil prevents the unpleasant features resulting from mud which is so disagreeable in some of the black land towns.

Evidence of the steady and healthy growth of the town are readily noted even by the most casual observer. Within the past six or seven months one firm of contractors has built nine brick buildings in the town, besides dwellings and other structures too numerous to mention in detail that have been erected recently.

Among the institutions that deserve mention are one bank, six dry goods stores, six or seven grocery stores, two furniture stores, three hardware stores, three drugstores, two lumber yards, two liveries, stables, three restaurants, one bakery, four blacksmiths shops, one harness and saddlery shop, an opera house, seven physicians, one lawyer, one weekly newspaper, two square bale cotton gins and one round-bale gin, a cotton seed oil mill of 40 tons capacity, a brick plant with a capacity of 50,000 per day, one flouring mill, two corn shellers, one public school, and Arlington college, the later a chartered institution which is the pride of the town.

The Arlington Journal published by Messrs. Karl H. Word and C.W. Kent is a bright and newsy local paper, which is well supported by the town. These young gentlemen are practical newspapermen and deserve the success they are meeting at Arlington.8

8Arlington Journal, April 11, 1901.
Word's local news stories centered on the proposed interurban, an electric railroad scheduled to go through Arlington to link Dallas and Fort Worth; the public school situation; and social news. His news style was typical of the day in that his own opinion filtered into the stories frequently. An example of his writing is shown in the following article describing the ground-breaking for the interurban:

The prospect of an electric railroad to pass through our city, which has been dormant since the memorable meeting of the city council, at which time two rights-of-way were granted two separate companies to pass through the city, was again revived yesterday, when a committee of aldermen and citizens went to the street running in front of Mayor W.C. Weeks' house and with a plow guided by Uncle Tom Collins and pulled by a pair of mules, broke the first dirt in the city for the building of the interurban railway between Dallas and Fort Worth. It was deeply regretted by all that the mayor could not be present, but the committee could not find him when everything was in readiness to go to the scene.

The aldermen present were B.E. Weber and S.H. Thompson and Messrs. Joe and Tom Collins. The aldermen debated at first who should hold the plow handles, but it was soon settled, both giving way to the old war horse, Uncle Tom Collins, and as he grasped the handles of the plow he went down upon his knees and offered one of the most fervent prayers, Mr. Weber says, he ever heard. He said that "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn,"but the prayer that Uncle Tom offered would make an Egyptian mummy shed tears.

The entire city rejoices at this prospect of an electric line through our streets and we hope very soon now to see them begin laying ties and rails, which of course would be the most substantial assurance that the work is going to be pushed to an end at the very earliest possible date. To be ready for the fair and other attractions this will have to be done quickly. Ties will soon be here.

\[9\text{Arlington Journal, January 31, 1901.}\]
The society editor on a Texas weekly had not become a necessary position at that time, and the editor's attempts at social news did not seem to have been a result of a course in journalism, as the following two examples reveal:

Again the matrimonial fever takes hold of our young people.
Last Sunday Rev. David C. Sibley was called upon to perform the rites of matrimony between two couples.
Mr. G.P. Penrod and Miss Mattie Rhea were married in a buggy in front of Rev. Sibley's home at 10 a.m.
Mr. T.B. Galloway and Miss Fannie Grider were married at the home of the bride's father Mr. J.M. Grider at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, Feb. 17.

It has been rumored for sometime that our fellow townsman Capt. W.W. McNatt was soon to marry, but the date was not to be learned until after the happy event had taken place.
Thursday, Feb. 14, he was married to Miss Sallie E. Ferguson of Itasca, Texas, and they immediately left for this place arriving here Thursday evening.
Capt. McNatt has been a resident of our city for many years, is a man of splendid business traits and is liked by all.
Miss Ferguson is a popular member of Itasca society circle and has many warm friends in that city who will miss her from their midst.
The Journal extends hardy congratulations to this favored couple, and wished that their married life may be always as happy as their wedding day.
We wish no clouds may gather to mar their pleasure, but that their lives may be one of unalloyed happiness.
They will make Arlington their home.10

Another aspect of Word's reporting that left a little to be desired, according to present day standards, was his crime reporting. Arlington was rocked in 1901 by a shooting that occurred in a downtown restaurant. His aggressiveness as a reporter is shown by the following example:

10Arlington Journal, February 21, 1901.
Our little city was thrown into a fever of excitement yesterday when it became known that a killing had taken place in the heart of town with the knowledge of but a few.

A reporter for the Journal was on the scene soon after the shooting occurred. The sight which met our gaze was calculated to make stout hearts grow faint.

Joseph W. Oldfield was lying on the floor in the rear of Johnson's restaurant breathing his last with a gunshot wound just behind the left ear.

Immediately after the killing J.M. Young surrendered to City Marshall Douglass and was locked up.

We called on Young and asked him if he wished to make any statement for publication but he declined, and so we were unable to secure the facts leading up to the killing. Oldfield was shot while sitting at the lunch counter in Johnson's restaurant. He was shot from the sidewalk, the load passing through the screen door and entered his skull all in a lump.

In the afternoon Tom Kilgore was arrested, and as Sheriff Clark arrived from Fort Worth at 11 a.m. he took them both to Fort Worth on the 2:25 train yesterday evening.

The deceased was about 25 years old, a school teacher and stood high in the community. He leaves a wife and child. Young, after the killing, expressed himself as satisfied that he would have no trouble in securing an acquittal, but refused to talk for publication. All parties connected with the tragedy stand well in the community.

The case is being investigated by the grand jury now in session, other witnesses are being examined today.

The funeral took place from the Baptist church at 1 o'clock and the remains were followed to the grave by a large number of friends.11

Editorial comment in The Journal under Word was of two types: asking for patronage for the paper, and advocating improvements for the town. Word frequently reminded readers that advertising in The Journal was a necessity for both him and the businessman. He kept up a constant plea for new subscribers, and for subscribers to pay for their subscriptions.

11 Arlington Journal, May 1, 1901.
He would accept as payment money, eggs, chickens, or cordwood.

From copies of *The Journal* published by Kent and Word, the reader gets the picture of an editor who had the welfare of his town uppermost on his mind. The example below ran as a one-column editorial on February 28, 1901:

If ever golden opportunity stood wooing at the gates of any city, now is the time and Arlington is the city. Nature has done much for us; circumstances has done more; all that is now necessary is enthusiastic, unselfish, concerted action on the part of our people.

One way to help a town is always speak well of it. It is true patriotism to stand by your town, and it is self-interest as well. As a man, who speaks ill of his own family, lowers himself and family, in estimation of others, so also does a man who cares little for his town and community. The man who desires to be respected by others, must respect himself and his neighbors. Patriotism begins at home.

Another way to help your town is to do all you can to beautify it. Beautify your own property all you can and then do all in your power to help beautify the streets.

Be friendly to everybody and especially courteous to all strangers. Your civility will help to make good impressions and will be carried away and cherished.

Never forget that you are a part of the town and that your deportment helps to make the estimate which strangers form of the place.

Sell all you can and buy all you can at home. Every dollar that is sent or carried away from the town makes it that much poorer. If you have the means, invest in something that will give somebody employment. Do not kick against a proposed improvement simply because it is not at your own door. A town that is improving is also spreading itself out. If a rich man starts a project, encourage him. If a poor man starts, help him.

Don't be afraid to thrust your hand down in your pocket to help a public enterprise. More towns have been killed by such refusals than any other way. The citizens of any prosperous town are always public-spirited and united. Stand together. Work together for the whole interest of the town, always stand ready to do your part. Don't grumble and spend your time in prophesying failures, but help to make every enterprise a
success. Every man owes something to the community for his own success, no matter whether that success be great or small. Be energetic, be enterprising and your example will be imitated.  

Every week, Word advocated some improvement for the town. He campaigned for a Commercial Club, a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce, and saw it organized. He called for the building of a power plant, organization of a fire department, a street sprinkler, and construction of a school. At the time, Arlington was struggling with the school question. The public school building had been declared unsafe and a new one was needed. Meanwhile, the state had set up guidelines for establishing school districts, and the town was attempting to decide which way it wanted to go. Through his editorials, Word urged the townspeople to make a choice. An election was called to set up a school district but it was defeated. The reason given for the defeat was that the voters did not fully understand the issue. The Journal began to run a column of comments from the leading citizens, explaining their ideas and thoughts on the issue. The question, however, was not resolved before Kent and Word sold the paper.

Newspapermen of this era, especially weekly editors, carried out in their pages a mutual admiration society. It was a common occurrence for one paper to carry a complimentary comment about a fellow paper, which then would find its

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way into the columns of the local paper so all could read how
"Others See Us."

Messrs. Kent and Word are making a great success of the Arlington Journal. It is one of the neatest weeklies that comes to this office. The Journal says Arlington will soon be the only town of any importance in Texas, passed through by an electric car line. Dirt has been broken there for the Dallas-Fort Worth interurban road. Ennis Daily News

The above coming from two as old, tried, and experienced newspapermen as Messrs. Hardy and Chambless makes it doubly appreciated. Thank you gentlemen, for your complimentary remarks.13

June 27, 1901, the Kent and Word era of The Journal ended when the following announcement appeared on the front page under the head "Business Notice:"

After nearly a year in the ownership, management and control of The Arlington Journal we sever our connection with it and transfer its management to Mr. H.O. Johnston, an experienced and practical newspaperman, of Yoakum, Texas. It is befitting that in quitting we express our pride and gratification. We have by the cooperation of a kind and liberal patronage made the paper a success and in selling it we are in no wise actuated by motives founded on any measure or degree of failure. We have enjoyed a patronage in both subscription and advertising departments not hitherto achieved in this field, and we are thankful, indeed, for the enterprise and public spiritedness of a town which made it possible to thus realize the full fruition of our arduous efforts. We have striven to give value received for all patronage bestowed and how far we have succeeded our continued growth attests.

We are proud when we contemplate the fact that we have looked upon the consummation of some improvements and advantages to the town for the creation of which we have so earnestly striven and ardently hope.

Then, we are also gratified to feel that the town has appreciated our efforts to give it at all times a clean, readable and newsy paper, and we have spared no pains and saved no expense in the presentation of what

13 ARLINGTON JOURNAL, June 27, 1901.
the local news centers have furnished and feel that our labors are amply rewarded.

To the merchants who have been far sighted enough to see the value of the publicity we had to offer and who have so zealously supported the paper, we are duly, truly and really thankful and want you to know it.

Now in conclusion, we want to thank you, one and all, and express the wish in earnestness and sincerity that you may prosper always.

Trusting that you will be as liberal with our successor and as kind, we are Most Cordially Yours, Chas. W. Kent, Karl H. Word.14

Harry Johnston

Harry Johnston edited The Journal for only a year, but it was a year that saw many major news stories on the paper's pages. Arlington voted to form an independent school district and passed a bond issue to build a $15,000 brick school building. The citizens voted a five-cent tax to finance the school district. The year saw Professor J.M. Carlisle move to Arlington with his Carlisle Boys School, a forerunner of the University of Texas at Arlington.

Another event occurring this year, that probably had much to do with Arlington's growth, was the completion of the interurban. Just before Johnston sold The Journal, he reported on the opening ceremonies for the electric train that went through Arlington as it linked Fort Worth and Dallas. Most of Johnston's news stories carried the facts with just a little of his opinion. However, on occasion, he got carried away, as in the following example:

14 Arlington Journal, June 27, 1901.
Quite a sensation was sprung on the good people of Arlington last Friday evening when the report reached town heralding the disgraceful news that a new born babe had been found--abandoned by its mother--just east of town, near the railroad trestle. While out rabbit hunting at the time above stated and near the railroad trestle east of town, Messrs. A.J. Mahaney and R.P. Putman were attracted by what they supposed was a baby crying and upon investigation they found lying on the cold ground--entirely nude--a baby boy only a short time born and uncared for--abandoned in the woods by a mother who had been disgraced by a culprit who, did he have his just deserts, would dangle from the end of a rope thrown over the limb of a tree or convenient telephone pole and his polluted carcass fed to the buzzards. While Messrs. Mahaney and Putman were making arrangements to have the baby wrapped up and cared for J.K. Martin, who had been over to a neighbors, came on the scene and took the child to the home of Tom Williamson, nearby, where it is being cared for.15

Johnston took up where Word left off in the editorials of the paper, advocating everything that he believed was good for the town. He was a strong backer of schools and urged everyone involved to settle the issue of good public schools. He was constantly reminding his readers that Arlington was a good place to live and had the potential of being a leading city in the state. The Commercial Club had become inactive and Johnston called constantly for its revival.

Social news in The Journal during Johnston's term included two types of stories that modern readers are not accustomed to reading. One was a list of the presents given a bride and bridegroom. Many times, on the front page of The Journal would be a list of who gave what to a recent...
bride and bridegroom. The other big social news during this
time was of a commercial nature as it reported the Fall Open-
ing of stores. The following example appeared in The Journal
in October 1901:

Ditto & Yates' fall opening and display of new
goods last Thursday, Friday and Saturday was a huge
success in every detail. It is estimated that fully
2000 visitors attended. During the three days music
was rendered by a graphophone and over 1000 beautiful
pictures were given to the lady visitors by the enter-
prising firm.

The Rogers-McKnight Company fall millinery open-
ing, like all their former ones, was a pronounced
success, the ladies visiting the store in throngs all
three days. The array of fine pattern and walking
hats was superb and the ladies were delighted with the
up-to-dateness and newness of the stock. Miss Lulu
Mason, who is in charge of the millinery department,
is perfectly familiar with every detail of the art and
the numerous sales she made proves her fitness for the
position.

A.W. Collins' fall millinery opening occurred
Tuesday and Wednesday of last week and the ladies
were out in full force to view the pretty millinery
creations presided over by Mrs. Cora Coleman, who
visited the eastern markets and made the purchases.
Mr. Collins' opening was a brillant success.¹⁶

Johnston introduced two new twists in The Journal:

printing extras when news deemed them necessary, and con-
ducting contests to increase subscriptions. Within an hour
after President William McKinley was shot, The Journal hit
the streets with an extra, informing the people of the news.
The following day, another extra was circulated, giving the
president's condition. Johnston reported that the extras
were free and were printed at a great expense to him, but
he wanted to give the people full coverage.

¹⁶Arlington Journal, October 3, 1901.
Johnston inaugurated contests in The Journal by giving a gold watch to the young woman voted the most popular in Arlington. Voters could mark a ballot in The Journal or purchase additional ballots. Later, he launched a Most Popular Married Lady Contest. Voting in this contest was based on the number of new subscriptions turned in; and the prize was a sewing machine.

Except for the fact that Johnston changed the name of the paper to The Arlington Weekly Journal, his paper looked much the same as the one published by Kent and Word. Johnston still ran advertisements on page one. He did make one improvement, however; he printed his news stories at the top of the page rather than beneath the ads. Advertisers paid fifty cents per inch per month for these ads and readers were charged one dollar for a year's subscription.

During his one-year tenure, Johnston made one other change. He moved the plant to a building on Center Street opposite the Texas and Pacific Railway depot.

In the August 8, 1902 issue of The Journal, Johnston announced, under the head "Business Change," that he had sold the paper to Laten and W.M. Stanberry.

With this issue The Journal subscription, accounts, and all bills contracted since Saturday, August 2 are payable to the Stanberry Brothers who now have the management of the paper. Bills for job printing and advertising executed previous to that date are payable to the undersigned. Respectfully, H.O. Johnston. 17

17 Arlington Journal, August 8, 1902.
Then in the following article, Johnston closed out his year as editor of The Journal:

As will be seen at a glance the names of Messrs. Laten and W.M. Stanberry now float from the masthead of THE JOURNAL. They having assumed charge of the paper on last Monday morning. In retiring from the newspaper business in Arlington, I wish to extend my thanks to those who contributed to the support of the paper during my connection with it, and I retire with the best of feeling toward all the people of Arlington. My residence here has been most pleasant and my business relations the same. I am proud of the friends I have made among the good citizens of the town and likewise proud of the enemies I have made. To make a few enemies in the newspaper business is inevitable, but it goes to show that the newspaperman moves about and at some time "runs up against something," and the result is that the enmity of the same is incurred.

The Messrs. Stanberry are experienced newspapermen and will give the town a good, live local paper, and I solicit for them a continuance of the very liberal patronage heretofore extended THE JOURNAL.

Again thanking those who have encouraged and supported me since our advent upon the journalistic sea here, and trusting that they will live forever and always be prosperous and happy, I am, Most respectfully, Harry O. Johnston.18

Stanberry Brothers

William M. and Laten Stanberry took over The Journal from Johnston with the following salutatory:

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for a man or men to take charge of a newspaper, it has been a custom to write a salutatory. In these all the changes have been wrung from the epigrammatic effort at wit on up to the most labored and wordy promises of every good thing. Hence, there is left for this line "Nothing new under the sun."

As we are to be your servants, and as we expect your assistance, we know of no better way to do than to tell you what we propose to try doing and what we hope to accomplish.

18 Arlington Journal, August 8, 1902.
We only expect to publish a local newspaper in the interest of Arlington and surrounding community. We expect to make it as thoroughly as possible, and we expect to make it a little better every month than it was the month before, and we expect your patronage of us to increase just in proportion to our merit. If you do this we will be satisfied, and if we demand no more of you, you ought to be too.

As we are to be the medium for local news among you, we deem it necessary to say that we regard ill-natured gossip...as wrong as illnatured gossip among neighbors. Hence as a rule we'll be no "roasting" machine either to air our own personal grievances or yours. Any person or thing has to be awfully bad indeed, if it has not a good side to it. Let's find that good side. Let's always wait until day after tomorrow to quarrel and we'll be surprised to see how often the necessity for it will have passed away in the meantime.

Then, we want your assistance. We want that more than anything else. There is not a one of you but would like to see Arlington's paper the best of any published in any town of its class. You can assist materially in making it so. Tell us the news, all of the news, all the time. Don't wait for us to ask you because we can't tell when you ought to be asked. If some genius would invent a thermometer by which we should tell when you are loaded up on news items, then we'll buy it and all our troubles will be over, but in the meantime you ought to tell us. Will you do it?

We will be here by ourselves until about September 1st when W.M. Stanberry, the senior member, will move to Arlington and take charge of the editorial department.

We want everybody to come in and see us, slap up on the shoulder, sit in our new chairs, put their feet on our table, spit in our new pine box and have a good time out of us and nurture us in our journalistic infancy, and when we have thrown off our swaddling clothes, we'll fight all your battles and "we'll all live happily ever thereafter." Laten Stanberry.

Laten Stanberry had worked on The Mansfield Sun. He moved to Arlington and took over The Journal. William joined him a few weeks later after completing business in

19 Arlington Journal, August 8, 1902.
South Texas. William became editor and Laten, business manager or "hoss editor," as he was frequently called.

The Stanberry brothers became the first long-term proprietors. They took over The Journal and began immediately to improve the paper in many respects. They worked diligently to get more subscribers. They bought a new buggy and made regular trips to rural areas near Arlington to enlist new readers. They made improvements in the equipment, moved the office, and improved the over-all quality of the paper in both printing and news content.

The two must have gotten along well together because the paper became an immediate success both in the editorial and business sense. However, they did not always agree on editorial subjects as the following from the 1907 paper illustrates:

The hoss editor last week took advantage of our absence to indorse the proposed amendment to the state constitution, raising the salary of the governor and members of the legislature, to all of which we ("the old man") are strongly opposed. Ever since the kid hoss editor went down to Austin and stayed all spring with the legislature, he has been more and more inclined to boodleism, high taxes, increase of salaries, etc. In fact he indorses nearly everything the legislature did, or proposes doing, except the Bailey whitewash act--even indorses the legislature taking away my privilege to contract with railroads for transportation payable in advertising. I sometimes regret letting him go down there at all.\(^{20}\)

News reporting under William Stanberry took on more the look of real reporting. Paragraphs began to appear more

\(^{20}\)Arlington Journal, June 27, 1907.
frequently and less opinion appeared in the stories. He had more real news events to deal with. The first public free schools in Arlington finally came into being during the time the Stanberry brothers were publishing The Journal; but this announcement was not made in just one news story. The coverage of the founding of Arlington Public Schools spread out over more than a year.

In 1902, the city voted to form an independent school district and called a $15,000 bond issue to build a public school. The bond issue carried, and citizens thought the school was on its way. Word was received from Austin, however, that the Legislature must pass a bill to permit the school district to issue bonds. Citizens went to Austin to get the bill through the Legislature, and, in July, 1903, the bond issue passed by a vote of nearly four to one. However, two days after the election, the trustees announced that "someone at Austin had failed to do his duty,"21 and the bill did not go into effect until two days after they had held the election. They called another election, and, for the third time, bonds for Arlington's first public school were approved.22

Another news event slipped up on The Journal. The Beracha Home, a residence for unwed mothers, apparently was started in Arlington in 1903. However, not much mention

21Arlington Journal, July 16, 1903.
22Arlington Journal, August 6, 1903.
was made of it until in 1907 when the home's fourth anniversary celebration was bringing in many members of the Holiness Church, the sponsoring organization. The home was "one mile south of the center of the city and just outside the city limits." William Stanberry described Berachah Home as "an institution for the redemption of fallen girls." It had twenty-seven acres, the Home, a printing office, a park, an orchard, poultry yards and houses, and a garden.

Perhaps the most interesting example of William Stanberry's writing concerns the cotton market in Arlington. The city had already been established as a leading cotton market in the area. Many had already admitted that even Fort Worth was second to Arlington in this field. However, his excitement became apparent in the following story reporting the beginning of a farmers' union for selling cotton:

All Arlington was taken completely by surprise Tuesday morning when an Advant Courier came in from Grapevine and informed the city that members of the Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union from all over the county were then on their way to Arlington, bringing their cotton to market, and wanted to make arrangements for a hall for a night meeting, camping grounds, water and hotel accomodations. No one knew of such a coming, and few knew of such an organization. The local buyers had not been appraised of their coming and were unprepared for such an emergency, but with one accord the people set about at once to make ready for them.

Woodman Hall was secured for their deliberations, the classic grove of the Carlisle Military Academy was secured for the camping grounds and a free dinner

23 Arlington Journal, May 16, 1907.
arranged for the morrow. In the afternoon wagons began to arrive and go out to the camping grounds.

As great trains of wagons came creaking and knocking into town the excitement grew. Then a Telegram reporter came down from Ft. Worth and reported a hundred bales driven down Main Street headed for Arlington. Then Joe Burney came down and said the road between here and Ft. Worth was alive with cotton wagons headed this way, and the excitement increased.

Then it was dark and we went home and was trying to choke down a few bites to sustain life, when here came 30 wagons from Azle bearing nearly a hundred bales, Knock! Knock! Knock! and up jumped the whole family and ran out to watch them pass.

Then we tried sleep, but the excitement was too great. There we lay thinking about what a great city we had and especially what a great cotton market we had, and feeling bad for poor Ft. Worth thinking about whole wagon trains of cotton arriving right through the heart of the city, paying no attention whatever to their entreaties to stop and do business with them.

By and by day dawned and we hopped out and went out to the cotton camp and took breakfast with our friends. Our friends? Yes, our friends no matter if we had never met them before they were our friends, at least they let us eat with them, and that is what a newspaper man calls a friend.

Now if you will excuse us for this long personal detour, we will give the termination of the business proper. There was 253 bales of this Union cotton and after telephoning around to other markets and ascertaining the exact standing of the market, the cotton was closed out to M.L. Dickerson representing Neil P. Anderson and Co., at 10.40 for the whole amount. This together with local receipts amounted to over 700 bales yesterday. This was about one-fourth of a cent above the market and represented a profit of approximately $450 cleared by selling together. Of course it was not big money but was a beginning.24

Editor Stanberry didn't pull any punches in his editorials. He was a strong prohibitionist; and The Journals before elections were filled with news stories, clips from other papers, and editorials on this subject. He did not hesitate to get into the middle of political battles.

24Arlington Journal, September 15, 1904.
He carried on a heated battle with a Judge Poindexter who was running for the Congress from the Twelfth District. The Judge even went so far as to have circulars distributed in Arlington to answer William Stanberry's stories. However, the power of the press won; Poindexter lost. "Judge Poindexter ought to have known he could not be elected when The Journal was against him to say nothing of the Venus Times," the newspaper said.

William Stanberry followed his predecessors in editorially backing anything that would improve the city of Arlington. He pushed the public school building even to the extent of running an editorial advocating raising taxes to pay for it.

William Stanberry took definite stands on national issues. He was quick to point out that Teddy Roosevelt did not deserve the tremendous welcome he received on a visit to Fort Worth. He could not see how Texans could cheer Roosevelt who, he said, had done nothing for them.

Stanberry never would have made it as an editor in the 1970s, however. He probably would have been labeled a male chauvinist pig, and a bigot. The following editorials are examples of his position on the Negro question and women's rights:

**Negroes in Evening Dress**

The other evening Roosevelt gave a reception to the judiciary of the nation a very swell affair, and at it were several negroes in full evening dress. The men

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in claw hammer coats, and the women in decolette dress. All of which means a tighter rein on the negroes in the south, and greater disrespect for the president. The south has been liberal with the negro. Has educated him, given him the right to vote, to hold office, to sit on juries, etc., but he is liable to lose many of these privileges if Roosevelt's tactics are kept up. Texas spends a large amount of money on her colored citizens for educational purposes. Other states do the same and we feel that we are the ones to settle the social, yes even the political problem of the negro in the south.  

Our Daughters

The Journal this week received a copy of "Progress," a woman suffrage paper published at Warren, Ohio. These papers we presume are sent to all editors, with at least a mute appeal for help. The Journal is generally on the side of ladies and ready to help them out of their troubles, but must draw the line on these sisters from the cold and frozen north. The Journal doesn't believe a woman could do better than to be the wife of one husband, the mother of a family of respectable children, the light of a happy home. It always has and always will be her highest and best mission and every effort to "ameliorate" her condition, which alienates her affections from home, and dissatisfies and embitters her with and towards the position which God placed her, is a curse not only to the world but to herself as well.

Think of the lovable women you know, and who are they? They are the mothers of families, the mistress of homes.

Not women in offices, or pants, but the kind of women our mothers used to be, women who loved children and knew how to care for them, women who are useful as well as beautiful.

Of course it is alright to educate girls, and even to teach them to rely upon themselves to some extent, but to forever prate in girls ears about woman's rights and advantages of remaining single and voting, holding office, and "filling" positions, is wrong. Every sensible parent would rather see a daughter the mother and mistress of a respectable family and home, than to see her in some position, where her only reward is money, be it ever so much. Because money cannot satisfy a woman's soul. It can never take the place of child love and home life. A life of celibacy is bad for a man, but worse for a woman. Thousands of

26 Arlington Journal, January 30, 1903.
women today have their eyes turned in the wrong direction for happiness. They need not look towards the polls; it is not there; they need not look away from home, it is not there.27

The city of Arlington continued to grow. The Journal reported in 1904 that the city contained 2,500 people, two banks, three gins, an oil mill, a $3,000 newspaper plant, a $15,000 school, a $20,000 military academy with more than 100 cadets, four churches, a kindergarten, $30,000 worth of bricks built that year, 40 brick business houses, two general merchandise companies, four dry good stores, three drug stores, ten grocery stores, four hardware stores, one confectionery, one jeweler, four blacksmiths, one dentist, one lawyer, six doctors, two depots, rural mail delivery, an electric light and power plant, three lumber yards, one corn and flour mill, two corn shellers, three restaurants, one bakery, two livery stables, three furniture stores, a telephone system, steam and electric cars to the cities all day and night, two express companies, two barber shops, three meat markets, two hotels, one wagon yard, and one dairy. The new school building contained seven large rooms, an office, an auditorium, sixteen cloak rooms, and two large halls. Furnishings included desks of oak, black boards, maps charts, chemical apparatus, and office furniture for the teachers.

A typical 1903 paper consisted of eight pages with ads and local news on page one. The second page contained a column of "Events from Everywhere" and "News from Austin." These two columns were the only stories with twenty-four point headlines. Everything else had just eight-point bold faced headlines. Page three contained farming news and fillers. Page four contained the masthead, editorials, local items, and "Those We Love" (paid-up subscribers). Page five carried a full-page ad for the Collins and Yates store. The remainder of the paper was a mixture of local items, card ads for physicians, patent medicine ads, the Texas and Pacific Railway timetable, and patent fillers.

A subscription was still one dollar per year and the masthead stated that advertising rates were reasonable. The name was changed back to The Arlington Journal and the Old English type name plate was used. The paper carried more than 400 inches of advertising. However, a December paper carried approximately 670 inches.

The Stanberry brothers made continual improvements in both the equipment and plant. In March, 1903, The Journal went to a six-column quarto. The next year, a move was made to the "rear of the new Weeks brick" building. In October 1904, The Journal announced that a new four-page cylinder press had been ordered.
NOTICE!

This week we are again forced to leave out many news items as well as nearly a page of good paying advertising matter. We regret this more than anyone else, and ask our friends to be charitable one more week, we will then have in the big cylinder press, go to all home print, have plenty of room, give all the news, and we will all live happily ever thereafter. Stanberry Bros.28

One month later, The Journal ran twelve pages and contained, according to an article in the paper, the largest amount of ads ever carried, approximately 1,184 inches.

In 1905, a Fairbanks Morse gasoline engine took the place of the old Blakeslee, "disabled by age, and marked improvements in the moral condition of the devil and hoss editor are confidently expected at an early date."29

Biggest news as far as equipment improvements were concerned during the Stanberry era, was the arrival of a new linotype. In the June 27, 1907 issue, Stanberry announced that a deal had been made to sell one-third interest in The Journal to a third party, John Nichols, and that the firm would install a $3,500 linotype. They announced his name in the September 5, 1907 issue along with the information that the office once again would be moved. This time it would be located in a twenty-five-by one hundred-foot new office in the "New Cox brick three blocks west of the post office on Main." In addition to the linotype, a Babcock

28 Arlington Journal, October 6, 1904.
29 Arlington Journal, March 2, 1905.
press and 1,000 pounds of type metal had been ordered. The masthead now read "The Arlington Journal published by Stanberry Bros. and Nichols."

With the installation of the linotype The Journal went to all machine type. This brought about some personnel changes.

The introduction of the linotype into the Journal office, witnesses the departure of some employees that deserve more than a passing notice. The oldest employer, in point of service, to go out is Louis Tillery, who was here long before the present owners knew The Journal. Altogether he has worked with The Journal practically continuously for over 7 years; and in the mechanical department at least, may justly be termed the father of The Journal.

Louis remembers when he used to do all the work in The Journal office, and play half the time, while the boss man played pool and lounged in saloons day after day. But Louis hasn't played much of late years, and will doubtless be glad for awhile at least, to be rid of The Journal's yoke.

Next in point of service is Miss Mattie Lyon who has worked day in and day out for over four years with but few off days. . . .

Three months after announcing Nichols as a third partner, the Stanberry brothers revealed they were selling the other two-thirds to Nichols and that they had no definite plans. However, later issues mentioned that they had bought the Clarksville Times.

Summary

In 1897, George Byus started a weekly newspaper in Arlington, Texas. After publishing the paper for two and one

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Arlington Journal, September 12, 1907.
half years, Byus sold the paper to Karl M. Word and
Charles W. Kent, who became civic boosters as well as
publishers. They published the paper for a little over a
year and transferred management to H.O. Johnston, who stayed
for a year before selling the paper to Laten and William M.
Stanberry, two brothers who ran the paper from 1902 until
1908.
CHAPTER III

COLONEL WILLIAM A. BOWEN

In 1908, perhaps the most colorful editor took over The Journal. William A. Bowen, who for the next 12 years was to publicize Arlington through the pages of The Journal, established the Arlington Printing Company and became editor of The Arlington Journal. Colonel Bowen had already established himself as a journalist, having worked on several dailies and edited weeklies. A book containing biographies and information on Texas and Texans, contained the following article on Bowen:

Mr. Bowen, whose home is at Arlington in Tarrant County, where he is editor and president of the company publishing the Arlington Journal, and is the editor and proprietor of the Farmers' Fireside Bulletin, has had a long and unusually active career as an editor, newspaper correspondent, orator, and man of affairs.1

Born at Bagdad, Florida on April 14, 1856, Bowen was the son of a colorful Confederate soldier. Bowen's father took the family from Florida to a plantation in Montgomery County in 1858. Bowen's father carried out an heroic escape during the Battle of Galveston. Captain Bowen was pilot of the "Neptune," a Confederate gunboat. He disabled a Federal gunboat by running "The Neptune" into its bow.

The Federal boat was prevented from escaping with the "Bayou City," another Confederate boat the Yankees had captured. Captain Bowen then turned the disabled "Neptune" towards shallow water.

This prevented the "Neptune" sinking in deep water with a lot of wounded and dead Confederates aboard. For this bravery and thoughtfulness Capt. Bowen was promoted to the command of the "Josiah H. Bell," the most substantial gunboat in the Texas Department of the Confederate navy, which command he held until the surrender of Lee at Appomattox.²

At the end of the war, Captain Bowen settled his family in Galveston. Here, the long and colorful newspaper career of William A. Bowen was to begin. As a teen-ager, Bowen became a printer's apprentice on the Galveston News when William Richardson was its editor. An article in the Dallas News in 1908 reported that Bowen related that, while he was working on the Galveston News, the mode of power for the press was a horse walking a treadmill. In the same year, Bowen related in his own paper the same information.

Early after the war it became a daily, its blind horse trying to walk up an incline to eat hay and oats tantalizingly held out before him in a rack which he could reach until the paper was run off and the wheels stopped. For he was walking up a treadmill! Many is the time I used to stand and watch that horse's sightless eyes as his head peaked over the top of that old frame out on Tremont Street--now the rear Tremont side of Levy's building. When A.H. Belo became a partner with Mr. Richardson in The News after the War (this writer having just previously become an apprentice on The News under the old friend of his parents, Mr. Williard Richardson,) The News became at once a leading

²Ibid.
paper and in a short time killed off Flake's Bulletin--Galveston's first morning paper.³

After a two-year stand on the Dallas Herald, Bowen entered the weekly newspaper field. As a pioneer editor of the Decatur Advance Guard, the first newspaper in the county, Bowen was an eye-witness to an Indian massacre. Decatur was still a frontier town plagued by Indian raids at this time. "On August 27, 1874, he was a witness to the last great Indian tragedy in Wise County, the massacre of the entire Huff family, which occurred a short distance northeast of Decatur."⁴ Along with his newspaper work in Decatur, Bowen taught school and studied Latin and other higher subjects with Professor H.M. Booth.

Leaving Decatur and traveling a few miles north, Bowen teamed with E.G. Crowell in the fall of 1874 to establish the Montague News. The two printed the Henrietta Journal inasmuch as that paper had no plant.

Education

Education beckoned, and, in 1875, Bowen entered Southwestern University in Georgetown. While attending the university through 1877, Bowen taught school during his vacations and continued working for newspapers. During this time, Bowen reportedly had caught the attention of Brick

³The Arlington Journal, November 20, 1908.
⁴Johnson, op. cit.
Pomeroy, editor of *Pomeroy's Democrat* of New York, who encouraged the young journalist.

*Texas* and *Texans* reported that Bowen wrote articles for the *Galveston News* on his explorations and investigations of the granite and marble deposits around Burnet and Marble Falls.

It is a fact worth noting that the State Capitol Commissioners in choosing the material for the great state house erected in 1882-85 made their decision in favor of the Texas granite on the strength of articles written by the *Galveston News* correspondent, who personally carried on a campaign of publicity in favor of the Texas material against the New Bedford blue stone, which had been tentatively selected by the commissioners.5

It was Principal Bowen for two years when he served as principal of the high school at Elgin, Texas. This stint must have instilled in Bowen a deep interest in education, as he devoted much space in his later papers to schools and earned the respect of the state's leading educators.

Because of his long and efficient work in this line, he is frequently consulted in mapping out campaigns for better rural schools by such men as Hon. T.M. Bralley, director of the department of extension of the University of Texas, and by Superintendent W.T. Daughty, of the department of education and other eminent educators.6

**Works on Dailies**

Newspaper work called again, and in 1880, Bowen was off to Houston where he worked on *The Post*. *The Post* sent him to


Austin in 1881 as staff correspondent. His next stop was San Antonio where he was political editor of *The Express* until 1886, when he moved to Chicago.

There he was a reporter on the old *Chicago Times*, during the famous anarchy troubles and the greatest strikes of history, such as the C.B. & Q. Ry., the Pullman, and the Stockyards strikes and also was on *The Tribune* and *The Herald*.7

Bowen went from Chicago to St. Louis where he worked on *The Missouri Republican*, left St. Louis for *The Houston Post* and then returned to St. Louis for a stint on *The Republic*. He returned to Texas and purchased *The Cameron Herald*.

**The Arlington Journal**

In 1908, Bowen moved to Arlington and took over as editor of *The Journal*. John Nichols, who had been managing the paper since the Stanberry brothers had departed, stayed on as his business manager. The paper was published by the Arlington Printing Company, with Bowen as president. Colonel Bowen began immediately building up Arlington and originated the phrase, "The Great Arlington Country." He became the first long-term editor of the paper and saw it grow in both circulation and prestige in Arlington and all over the state. He added new equipment and made other general improvements.

While editing *The Journal*, Bowen started the Farmer's *Fireside Bulletin*, a weekly for farmers that became the official publication of the Farmers Co-operative Union in Texas,

7Ibid.
Oklahoma, and Louisiana. He urged improved farming techniques and better prices and conditions for the farmers. The paper contained union news, but, mostly, it carried articles on how to improve crops. Mrs. Bowen edited a page for the farmer's wife and a page for children. As editor of the *Farmer's Fireside Bulletin*, Bowen was called upon to make speeches all over the United States.

**Writer**

In addition to his newspaper work, Bowen wrote for other publications, and he wrote two books. One book, *Why Two Methodist Episcopal Churches in the United States?* was a historical work he said was written to inform the young people in the Methodist church of its history. The other book was published by the Arlington Printing Company and ran in serial form in *The Journal*. Entitled, *Uncle Zeke's Speculation; A Story of War and Reconstruction Days in Texas*, the volume was written in Negro dialect. The *Texas and Texans* article reported that Bowen was "a contributor to magazines and periodicals, including such high class publications as *The Youth's Companion*." 8

Bowen was listed in an 1885 volume, *The Poets and Poetry of Texas* by Sam H. Dixon. The listing read, "W.A. Bowen, known to the public almost exclusively by his pseudo-

8Ibid.
name, 'Ike Philkins' is one of the most widely known correspondents at the state Capitol."  

Chautauqua Interest  

Bowen was a backer of the Chautauqua movement, traveling groups that moved from town to town during the summer giving programs of lectures, recitals, and concerts. Bowen was reported to have been a Chautauqua lecturer himself. He was a leader among Arlington people to bring the Chautauqua program to Arlington for several summers.  

Professional Ties  

It is understandable that Colonel Bowen would take an active part in professional organizations. One article listed him as a charter member of the Texas Press Association. However, his name was not listed as a charter member in the minutes of that organization. Nevertheless, he did take an active part in the association, served on several TPA committees and rarely missed a meeting of the group. Frequently, he delivered papers during TPA conventions. The papers would then be printed in full in The Journal. Colonel Bowen served as a delegate to the National Editorial Association, and as president of the Texas Editorial Association in 1918, and reported that "some drastic action will be taken

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regarding the discrimination against newspapers in some high political circles. One of the largest meetings in its history is expected of this association of men and women who have been in newspaper harness 30 or more years."\textsuperscript{10}

Family Man

Bowen was a family man. In 1877 he married a Bastrop, Louisiana physician's daughter, Ada De Bardeleben. They had one daughter, Merle, and three adopted children, Lily, Chester, and Mary Catherine. Merle married Charles Batsell and became a widely known reader and impersonator. She gave readings in Dallas, New York, and Springfield, Massachusetts. Her concert in Arlington rated front-page coverage and a large picture.

Illness

Bowen's active life was cut short, however, by a lingering illness that eventually caused his death. In the January 18, 1918 \textit{Journal}, it was announced that Colonel Bowen underwent surgery in Sherman. "Mr. Wm. A. Bowen went to the Sanitarium at Sherman Saturday, and Monday was operated on by Dr. Neatherly, who sends us word that Mr. Bowen came out of the operation very well and is doing nicely."\textsuperscript{11} There were additional notes on his recovery, but the nature of his

\textsuperscript{10}The Arlington \textit{Journal}, October 4, 1918.\textsuperscript{11}The Arlington \textit{Journal}, January 18, 1918.
illness was not stated. Interviews with Mrs. Josie Appleton, an employee of The Journal at that time, revealed that the editor suffered from cancer. He continued to improve after this first operation, and the paper reported that he telephoned from Sherman March 1, 1918. Then, on March 8, Bowen wrote, "I am sure these will be glad to know that I am almost recovered from one of the greatest major operations known to modern surgery." After two months, he returned home and resumed his normal and active life.

He continued to edit The Journal vigorously until May, 1920, when the paper reported he was back in the hospital, "his former ailment...so serious that it became necessary for him to go to Sherman and enter the hospital again under the treatment of his physician." He sent a message from Sherman, assuring the citizens he had left good people in charge and urged that the organization of a Chamber of Commerce be continued.

In mid-June, Bowen returned to Arlington, but reported that he was a permanent shut-in and an incurable.

A constant stream of prominent people began to visit the ailing editor at his home on North Center Street. Citizens who can remember Bowen, related that the formerly tall, robust editor had wasted away to a shadow of his former self. Among his visitors were Sam P. Harben, secretary of the Texas

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Press Association and publisher of the Richardson Echo; Joseph A. Bailey, ex-state senator and candidate for governor; John M. Barcus, Methodist preacher from Fort Worth, who had attended Georgetown University with Bowen; and Will S. Christenson of Houston, who had worked on the Galveston News with him.

On Thursday, April 15, 1921, more than 200 friends of Colonel Bowen gathered at his home to celebrate his sixty-sixth birthday. The next day, the editor died. Colonel Bowen's funeral was reported in the Fort Worth Record as the largest ever held in Arlington. Speakers invited to take part in the memorial included Frank Holland of Texas Farm and Ranch; Louis Blaylock, publisher of the Texas Christian Advocate; George B. Dealey, of the Dallas-Galveston News; Louis J. Wortham of the Fort Worth Star Telegram; Hugh Nugent Fitzgerald of the Fort Worth Record; and three ministers.

The Record reported Bowen's death with the following article:

Wm. A. Bowen has passed on. He was 66 when the summons came. He had passed sixty-three of his years under Texas skies. Texas newspaperdom has been robbed of a picturesque figure. Texas political circles of a breezy personality. Texas commercial circles of one who was always in attendance.

Wm. A. Bowen had been identified with the printing and newspaper business for more than fifty years. He was a cub reporter when E.J. Davis was hustled out of the capitol at Austin by Richard Coke, "the lionhearted." He was a star reporter on the staff of the Austin Statesman when Ben Thompson, king of gunmen, was the chief of the capitol police and the six-shooter boss of the town.
He was one of the early prohibitionists. In fact, he was a member of the first squad of white ribboners that began the crusade against John Barleycorn when John was all powerful from the Gulf of Mexico to the Rocky Mountains and most Texans drank their liquor straight.

During his long life he had been connected with many newspapers. He had been a lecturer and an organizer. He had been identified with farmer's movements and his first weekly was published in Wise County, then on the fringe of desert and one of the frontier posts.

For twelve years he had been publisher and editor of the Arlington Journal and a farm publication until ill health weakened his magnificent physique and the beckoning finger of the Reaper had warned him that "Thirty" for him was near.

This pioneer printer and writer and citizen was widely known. He had many friends, in his political convictions he was an Old Liner and his Democracy was of that brand that the early Texans fought for tenaciously and held to until the end came.

He was one of the most ultra champions of states rights, he did not believe in many of the policies of Woodrow Wilson of the Wilson-administration and he passed away wedded to the convictions political and otherwise which he had formed in his early boyhood and had advocated with ability and intensity throughout his long career as a moulder of public thought and educator or developer of the minds of his fellows.

Bowen's work for Arlington, farmers, and education would appear to be the reasons for the tributes paid to him. However, after researching Bowen's Journal, another aspect of the man is frequently revealed. That aspect was his keen sense of humor. Hardly a week passed without an example of his ability to see some humor in everyday life. A typical example of Bowen's humor appears in the following article from the June 12, 1914 Journal.

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14 The Fort Worth Record, April 16, 1921.
A Versatile Colonel

Last Thursday under the above heading State Press of the Galveston-Dallas News, reproduced the following from my good friend Col. Sam P. Harben, editor of The Richardson Echo, and Secretary of the Texas Press Association---and for which I feel grateful to friend Harben:

"Col. Wm. A. Bowen, editor of the Arlington Journal, was called to Indianapolis, Ind., last week to deliver the Decoration Day speech before the encampment of the G.A.R. and Farmers Union of that state. The Colonel is there with the oratory and information along these lines and enjoys disseminating the said information when he can perform a service by so doing."

Then, State Press (Col. Joe J. Taylor, who is also president of the Texas Press Association) adds the following:

"When the Indianans chose Col. Bowen for their orator on Decoration Day they picked one who could tell it to them. The Colonel has been all his life indefatigable in collecting information, and he has forgotten nothing. We bet that he could, right off the reel, tell you the date of the Battle of Bennington or reloads himself to the gunwhales with soup in one of those fabled editors who can sail a ship, shine at a soiree, raise a hymn, lead an orchestra, win at poker, write a drama, correct history, soothe a mob, curry a mule, compound a cocktail, quote Scripture, bathe a baby, cook chittlings, rope a maverick, dance the tango, break a colt, play tennis and cure hog cholera. Col. Bowen not only looks like an orator and, talks like an orator--he is an orator."

I am sorry the "make-up man" made some breaks---as I am curious to know what else State Press is expert at. For, the greatest compliment one man can pay another is to attribute to that other those virtues and accomplishments which are dear to himself and which much practice has perfected him in. Hence, I appreciate State Press attributing (even apochryphally) to me many his most distinguished virtues and well-known accomplishments---even though many of them are as Syriac or Aramaic to me. For instance, I can sail a ship, raise a hymn, correct some historical dates, curry a mule, quote Scripture, break a colt, cure hog cholera (sometimes), play tennis---a little, and can even "load with soup," and can tell when the Battle of Bennington was fought. But, I must modestly disclaim those other scholarly and polite accomplishments which distinguish State Press himself among his fellowmen of less degree--I can't bathe a baby, nor dance the tango, nor lead an orchestra, nor write a
drama, nor win at poker (whatever that is), nor com-
pound a cocktail as I never studied nor practiced the
pharmacuetical art, nor cook chittlings--but can eat
them by the yard when such an artist as State Press
cooks them. But, nevertheless, I bow my acknowled-
gements to Col. Taylor for his kind words and intentions.
I feel like the old darkey, to whom a man applied for
change for a twenty-dollar bill. "Can you change this
bill, uncle?" "No, sir, I jest natchully can't boss;
but I'se bleeged to you fer d' compliment in intimatin'
that I could."15

Summary

Colonel William A. Bowen took over The Journal in 1908
and edited the paper for 12 years. Bowen became a booster
of the city of Arlington and coined the phrase, "The Great
Arlington Country."

Bowen's interests were not confined to The Journal.
His interest in the affairs of farmers and in education led
to speaking engagements throughout the United States. He
started an agriculture paper, The Farmer's Fireside Bulletin,
wrote articles for other publications, and authored two books.

Bowen contracted cancer in 1918. After surgery, he re-
turned to edit the paper for two more years before the ill-
ness forced him to be confined to his home where he died in
1921.

15The Arlington Journal, June 12, 1914.
CHAPTER IV

THE BOWEN YEARS, 1908-1921

Following the departure of the Stanberry brothers, the Journal Publishing Company was established by a group of Arlington businessmen. No account of the organization appears in The Journal on file. However, the officers include M.G. Caldwell, president; Noah Deal, vice president; John Nichols, secretary-treasurer-manager; and J.S. McKinley and I. Walton, directors. Nichols managed the paper until Bowen arrived October 9, 1908. The company name was changed to the Arlington Printing Company. William A. Bowen was listed as editor and John Nichols, business manager. Bowen said that a group of Arlington's leading citizens made possible the forward movement of The Journal. Officers of the Arlington Printing Company included William A. Bowen, president; Thomas Spruance, vice president; John Nichols, secretary-treasurer; and J.S. McKinley, James Ditto, Thomas Spruance, William Bowen, and John Nichols, directors.

Bowen's first issue was published October 9, 1908. In "A Forward," Bowen said that he was an experienced newspaper man and that The Journal shall have but one purpose no matter from which angle or point it may direct its efforts to see that Arlington speedily becomes what nature and modern progress intend it to be. The best city for homes and education and
small factories in North Texas. The Journal confidently expects its and Arlington's expansion to be synchronous their interest to be one.1

He immediately began, through the paper, to urge and cajole the people of Arlington to carry out his idea of greatness for Arlington. His early editorials dealt with such community subjects as making the college in Arlington a branch of Texas A&M and encouraging such civic improvements as passing a sewer bond election. He even put out an extra on the bond election with one of the first banner headlines observed in the paper. The head read, "Give Arlington a Sewerage System for a Christmas present."2 This edition came out on December 18, 1908. The next issue carried the news that the bonds had passed 122 to 33.

After three months, Bowen reported "More than 6,000 people now read The Journal." He felt that this called for new advertising rates. These were listed as thirty cents per inch or fifteen dollars per page (120 inches) for one time, no contract. The rate went as low as $9.60 per page on an annual contract basis.

Bowen's news content dealt almost entirely with matters concerning Arlington. He did, however, report on presidential elections and state elections when they were interesting races, and prohibition. His Arlington news stories were frequently interposed with his own opinions on the subject being reported. He was for anything that he believed would

1The Arlington Journal, October 9, 1908.
make the town better, well known, or more prosperous. Bowen believed that Arlington needed to install a sewage system. He campaigned for the decorative fountain, which was built in the center of Main and Center Streets to house Arlington's mineral well. Bowen pushed for Grubbs Vocational School to become a part of the Texas A&M system, and was instrumental in the re-establishment of the Chamber of Commerce. He reported on city council meetings, school news, church news, especially of the First Methodist of which he was a member, and other stories in which citizens of a small town would be interested. Several times, Bowen reported on important meetings that took place in Arlington where several dignitaries made speeches. He would report on the speeches of the other speakers but would print his own speeches in full. His writing was flowery, as was the custom in most small papers of that period. The following example of his reporting and writing appeared early in 1909.

At 8:30 Monday night the loud report of 4 pistol shots in rapid succession followed by the dread cry of Fire! Fire! alarmed the residents of the north side. In five minutes there was seen a broad pencil of light shooting up into the dark gray clouds that were sprinkling their soft mantel of white over the earth. Only too well did those who looked out to see why the alarm knew that the light was from the North Side School Building and that it meant the doom of this modern new structure. In less than 10 minutes after the first alarm was sounded hundreds of our citizens were on the scene ready to lend any assistance necessary.

But the school building was doomed. When Henry Hood who lives in the first house south of the building and who first gave the alarm discovered the fire it was by a blaze shooting out of the small basement window at the northeast corner of the building. Looking
inside he saw that the lower part of the building was already a roaring furnace of white heated flames even then beginning to eat their way up to the upper floor. It was Mr. Hood who sounded out the general alarm and then turned his attention to his own home which stood dangerously near the school building. Dr. Harkey who lives across from the building on North Center Street and Mr. Dillon across from Mr. Hood and Mr. Woolsey next door to Mr. Hood and Mr. Crownover next south of Mr. Woolsey with other nearby residents rushed to the school house to see if anything could be saved. Seeing that there was no possible chance even with the modern fire fighting apparatus were one available to save the building, the work of preventing the fire spreading was begun in earnest by everyone.

There was a strong northwest wind blowing and the roofs of the houses were covered with the snow that had been falling for several hours. This snow and the wind saved the adjoining property. The snow by making drifts in the valleys on the roofs and the wind by its force driving away the burning embers of shingles and boards that flew from the heavy draft of heat and covered every roof in its path for nearly half a mile. The sight was fascinating even weird. The broad stream of glowing sparks began carrying in a solid current away from the building stretching above the houses for half a mile like a fiery serpent dropping their [sic] scintillations as they drifted made a spectacle more dazzling than any Fourth of July pyrotechnic display ever witnessed. But the heavy brick walls of the school building and the light inside woodwork and the shingles prevented any large heavy firebrands from drifting out which made it comparatively easy to save all the houses in the lurid pathway of fire that streamed overhead.

The volunteer fire department was on hand promptly with what apparatus they had but the hydrants were all frozen and no fire hydrants being in that immediate neighborhood rendered useless everything except their ladders and buckets. These did good service in the hands of willing workers. A bucket brigade was soon formed and water thrown upon the walls and roof exposed to the burning school house with wet blankets where the heat was most dangerous. Cool heads tried to prevent the removal of furniture from any except Mr. Hood's residence as it was seen by experienced eyes that no other house was in danger and that even his house was in very little danger under the valient work being done to prevent the fire getting its gnawing teeth into shingles or planks. Brooms were put to sweeping the swirling coals from the roofs of the Woolsey and Crownover houses which was all the precaution needed to keep them from
catching fire. But before the excited people could be made to this moved by the real desire to be of service in saving all household goods possible the furniture was hurriedly taken out of the three nearby houses and piled in the streets, thereby doing much damage. Within half an hour the work was done. The lurid tongue of the fire fiend having itself in the raw atmosphere had licked into the devouring maul of its flaming body all that was within its power to destroy. The once modern school house stood only a blackened cracked and seamed collection of walls with all its apparatus and what books the children had left gone. But fortunately the paint was scarcely scorched upon the house of Mr. Hood and on the others no sign of fire was left. The occupants assisted by kind neighbors the same hand that had so hurriedly taken things out soon had sleeping places once more inside their own dwellings which but a few minutes before they feared would be but smoking ruins. Several things besides the willing work rendered at the scene of the fire occurred to indicate that this age is not entirely given over to selfishness and forgetfulness of others. Mrs. D. Spurgeon phoned the writer of this article early in the excitement that she was preparing a place for the family of this scribe who she knew was in line of the fire nearby and any others who might need shelter in case of a burning out. Other thoughtful people likewise proffered all assistance and shelter needed. It is Christian thoughtfulness like this that proves that troubles and sorrows and calamities draw attention to the kinship of mankind generally. It is the true Christian spirit to think not only upon his own things but also upon the things of others.

The School Will Be Continued

Elsewhere will be found an article giving the action of the school board and the ready assistance proffered by citizens which enables the city schools to continue unimpaired and the school building which carried $9,000 insurance will be rebuilt. The Journal presents a photograph of the burned building as it stood when first completed. It was a modern structure and its loss was caused by a defective flue connecting the heating furnace as the janitor left everything in good shape when he quit the building after school Monday. One of the most pathetic things connected with this fire was the children gathering there next morning in time for school who had not learned of the fire. Their little faces many of them bedewed with tears over the loss of the "dear schoolroom" with their books left overnight were a study of philanthropist. But when they were told
school would take up next Monday again right at the old
grounds and that there would be a brand new building
ready for next fall right where the burned one stood,
they were delighted and consoled. Arlington has a
splendid citizenship. The proffers of school rooms
was quick and general from many sources.  

Editorially, Bowen left no room for doubt on where he
stood on issues. He was staunchly Democratic, Arlington's
Number One booster, a dedicated Methodist, and a prohibi-
tionist. He probably would have had a hard time in today's
society, however, as he had very definite ideas on the roles
of women and Negroes. He believed women were to be protected
and respected and not subjected to embarrassment by crude
behavior or exposed to the seamy side of life. Bowen liked
Negroes, but believed that they were second-class citizens
and should stay in their places. He took part in state
election campaigns, even to the point of getting involved in
speech-making and some name-calling. It would be obvious,
even on his news pages, what candidate he supported, as his
editorializing found the way frequently into his news stories.

By far, the majority of Bowen's editorials were on his
favorite subject, Arlington. Even after he returned to
Arlington in 1918 after another operation in the Sherman
hospital, his editorial to the readers expressing his thanks
for their kindness during his illness and expressing his
happiness to be back in Arlington, ended with an admonition

to the people to continue to work hard to make Arlington a better place to live.

Bowen's thinking and reasoning on some subjects was sometimes quite interesting, as the following editorial which appeared on November 18, 1910 shows.

The ladies of the country are raising quite a hue and cry against what is termed the "white slave traffic." The women themselves are to blame. The Journal does not mean that the blame rests with the young victims, but it should largely be put on the shoulders of women who shop, and are bargain hunters, who will go from store to store, to save a few cents on the price of an article.

These reduced prices mean lower wages to employees, and when a young woman who is forced to earn her own living, goes to a large city, and is compelled to work on $4.50 per week (as thousands upon thousands of them do) out of which she must dress neatly, pay for meals, lodging, laundry, and other expenses, what avenue is left to them when temptation and poverty are on either side of them?

The Journal asserts that the woman of the country are largely responsible for such ills as "the white slave traffic," and other evils of this sort. Where will it end?  

Both news stories and editorials displayed the editor's opinion of Negroes. Bowen was very fond of many of Arlington's black citizens, but he believed they had a definite place that they should not attempt to overstep. The editorial below illustrates Bowen's thoughts on Negroes. It appeared in the January 27, 1911 Journal.

For more than twenty-five years the editor of The Journal has been visiting the Dallas fair grounds and not until Sunday, January 8, 1911 did he ever know of a grand stand ticket being sold to negroes. On that same date several negroes were seen in the grand stand enclosure wearing grand stand badges. This is the result

4 The Arlington Journal, November 18, 1910.
of a lot of money-loving people from the northern states being permitted to take charge of selling tickets as that class prizes a dollar more than a principle. The Journal trusts that the management of the Dallas Fair Grounds whether it be the city, the Chamber of Commerce or the fair association will take heed and see that such blunders are not repeated. The grand stand must be preserved for white people only where our mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters may go alone if necessary and not be subjected to the humiliation of having a negro sit behind them.5

Typographically, The Journal under William Bowen was always cleaner than most of its contemporaries. During the early years of his editorship the paper lacked any semblance of layout or design, but he continually made improvements and added innovations to make it a better paper. A typical early paper carried ads on page one and lots of social notes. There were no headlines on the six-column page. Eight-point bold faced capital labels distinguished the stories in the early papers. The paper was usually eight pages, with page two carrying editorials and editorial comment; page three, canned items; page four, more editorials and many farm articles (probably gleaned from the Farmers Fireside Bulletin); page five, columns of personal items; page six, fiction (this is where he ran his book, Uncle Zeke's Speculation); page seven, news from Austin; and page eight, more local and personal items and about seventeen classified ads, which were started in 1909. Every page, with the exception of the second, carried ads. A typical paper had 335 inches of display advertising.

5The Arlington Journal, January 27, 1911.
After Bowen had the paper for a while, he began to make improvements in its appearance. In June, 1910, he did away with the Old English type name plate and went to a sans serif name plate. This he kept for only a few weeks. On August 5, 1910, a new ornate name plate appeared on The Journal, depicting the things Bowen believed Arlington stood for. In the center was an illustration of Arlington's new fountain for its mineral water. To the left of the fountain was an illustration of a farm scene and to the right, an orchard. The name appeared in an inverted arch above the fountain.

Bowen continued to innovate during 1910. He began to use cuts. His first cuts showed a scene as one entered Arlington, one of the First Methodist Church, and one of Arlington High School. He used color and published a colored comic section.

In 1911, Bowen announced that he was going to a new numbering system for The Journal after having been shown some early papers that convinced him that the first Journal appeared before 1891. His announcement included the following:

So in order to preserve the history of the newspapers in Arlington consecutively as possible The Journal will hereafter bear the volumes and numbers of the first issue of which it is really the continuation as well as the numbers etc. since it took its present name. This will make the old Volume 34 Number 42. This will hereinafter appear on the first page.6

6The Arlington Journal, January 6, 1911.
From this point on, Bowen's paper seesawed as far as makeup was concerned. He began using multi column headlines and large type faces. He ran banner headlines when he thought they were needed. There were times when the paper would revert to eight-point labels, however. This seemed to occur during one of his illnesses or while he was off on one of his many trips either for the farmers or the various press associations or the Chataugua movement.

During 1917 or 1918 (the files of the paper are not complete at this point), Bowen began printing a paper twice a week. This continued until he became ill. For quite a time after the paper ceased to come out twice weekly, the name plate still stated that The Journal was printed every two weeks.

War times created a special problem for The Journal. In 1915 advertising fell off and he resorted to a four-page paper.

The Journal, feeling the "War Times," as advertising is small comes out four pages this issue. We trust this will not be repeated. But our readers will find the usual, or even a larger amount of local reading matter and news. We shall issue a paper large enough to carry all local news and important general matters but do like the dailies--cut down pages to fit advertising.7

In 1916, a half-sheet paper was put out due to what Bowen called a paper famine. The April 14, 1916 paper

carried a banner headline, "No Paper in Texas. Not since the Civil War has paper been so short and it's 40 percent higher."⁸

Bowen said The Journal was one of the first Texas papers to use linotype. In December 1916, he announced "A Christmas Present to The Journal and Our Readers," in a banner headline. This present was in the form of a Model 14 Linotype, "the latest and completest machine in the type-setting line that is made."⁹ In May 1918, The Journal reported that all of the type in that issue was set on Model 14 Linotype except standard ads.

Machine sets from large advertising to 5½ points. Even borders, ornaments, etc. were set on linotype. The Journal, by the way, was the first paper in Texas--daily or weekly--to all be set in linotype. It will be remembered that a year ago last December we got our holiday edition, two weeks before Christmas, all set in linotype.¹⁰

Bowen added stenotypying machinery during his term as editor. In the May 7, 1920 Journal, Bowen announced that a Meyer-Both stereotyping outfit had been added to the paper's equipment. Again he boasted, "Arlington is the only city in the Southwest offering Meyer-Both."

When Bowen took over The Journal, he inherited two employees. John Nichols stayed with Bowen as business manager

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⁹The Arlington Journal, December 14, 1918.
¹⁰The Arlington Journal, May 1, 1918.
until 1910. Bowen's foreman, Louis Tillery, had been with the paper since the first issue put out by Byus in 1897. Bowen frequently said that Tillery was a valuable member of The Journal staff.

Throughout his editorship, Bowen ran the show. However, during his illnesses, his staff kept the paper going and did a creditable job. Staffers included Mrs. M.C. Poole and Mrs. C.M. Cooke, who prepared social and personal items, an important part of a small-town weekly newspaper; and O.J. Read, who was hired from the Fort Worth Record. G.J. Glenn became the foreman in 1918 and was assisted by Frank Ragsdale.

Of the original owners listed in 1908, only J.S. McKinley was listed in a 1910 statement of ownership. Bowen was listed as president; Thomas Spruance, vice president; McKinley, secretary-treasurer; and James Ditto, director. A 1913 statement reported several new names.


Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortages, or other securities. None below are stockholders: W.I. Ghormley, Lockhart, Texas, L.J. Worthan, Ft. Worth, J.C. Brown, Ft. Worth.

Signed: Wm. A. Bowen.11

The circulation was not given.

Bowen was listed as editor, managing editor, and business manager in the April 12, 1918 edition. Owners included Bowen, McKinley, W.C. Weeks, the Thomas Spruance Estate, L. Griffin, Walter Burton, W.C. Goldring, Ghormley of Lockhart, B.B. Bell and J.C. Brown of Dallas, and J.L. Worthan of Fort Worth.

Summary

Colonel William A. Bowen became editor of The Arlington Journal in 1908. He immediately began to use the paper as a tool to help make Arlington a better place in which to live. He improved the paper; but, along with it, he helped improve the town. Many of the civic improvements Bowen campaigned for were implemented.

He cleaned up the paper typographically and improved on the news content. He developed an elaborate name plate incorporating the things he believed represented Arlington.

Bowen's vigorous editorship was hampered in the later years of his ownership of The Journal by an illness that caused his death in 1921.
CHAPTER V

THE PERRY YEARS, 1925-1950

After Colonel Bowen's death, Mrs. Bowen retained ownership of The Journal for more than ten years, but leased it to several editors. At first, there was a succession of editors, including Knowles and Hill, G.J. Glenn, a Dr. Barnes, and N.O. Carter. Some reports in The Journal history articles related that a rival paper, The Gazette, consolidated with The Journal when Carter took over.

In 1925, Mrs. Bowen leased the paper to two brothers from a newspapering family. J.S. and F.L. Perry took over The Journal July 1, 1925, and operated it until 1929, when F.L. Perry sold his interest to S.L. Perry who became better known as Luther. Luther and J.S. formed the Perry Brothers Printing Company and ran the paper until 1931 when Luther announced in The Journal that he had bought out the lease interest of Miranda C. Perry, the wife of J.S. Perry. The same year, Luther got out of the newspaper lease business by purchasing the paper from Mrs. Bowen.

Mrs. Luther Perry reported that the Perry brothers had learned the newspaper business from their father, J.S. Perry, a Methodist circuit riding preacher who started a church paper to help feed his family.

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"My husband learned the newspaper business standing on the hellbox catching papers," Mrs. Perry related.

There were six Perry brothers, all in the newspaper business. At one time, Luther owned The Arlington Journal; J.S., The Polytechnic Herald; F.L., The Nocona News; Francis, The Dublin Progress; and Coy, The Hamilton Herald-News; and Elliott was an employee of The Dallas Morning News.

Prior to coming to Arlington, Luther had been in the newspaper business in two other towns. As owner of the Carlsbad Current, he was among the first twenty-three people to enter Carlsbad Caverns where he took pictures and wrote the first article about the Caverns and their discoverer, Jim White.

From Carlsbad, the Perrys went to Mercedes, Texas, for two years where they owned a one-third interest in the Mercedes News.

After a sixteen-year tour of editing The Journal, Perry took a two-year leave. He leased the paper to his sons-in-law, Bennie G. Young and Charlie Gregory, in April 1947. Perry reported he decided to lease the paper because he needed a rest after the pace he had been forced to follow during World War II. In an interview with Mrs. Perry, she described how hard it was to find help during the war years. "He once worked a day and night without stopping," she said.¹

¹Statement by Mrs. Luther Perry, March 10, 1976.
In his column, "Unwise and Wise," Perry wrote,

It is a fact that we regret to give up any of the work we have been doing because we like to work. We learned our ABC's in a printing office and have never wanted to do anything else. When you see us don't think we are a retired 'old man' but rather think of us as a semi-retired 'young man.'

In an article written by Mrs. Tom Lee, she reported that Benny G. Young, Jr. served as an officer in the Army Air Corps for four years. After being released from the service, he served on The Journal staff as a linotype operator and make-up man and "has acquired a general knowledge of the editing and printing of a newspaper." Charlie Gregory had been associated with The Journal for a number of years, according to Mrs. Lee. "Six years ago, he and Mrs. Gregory moved to Seminole, Texas, and bought The Seminole Sentinel, which they operated until they sold it last summer." Gregory helped with The Journal for three months while Mr. and Mrs. Perry were on vacation. The Gregory's moved to Rocky Ford, Colorado, where he was on the staff of the Rocky Ford daily paper and operated the Co-operative City Directory Company.

Both men had been reared in Arlington and had attended Arlington schools and North Texas Agricultural College.

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3Ibid.
4Ibid.
Luther Perry resumed active operation of The Journal in April 1949, when Gregory and Young established a printing and publishing business in Grand Prairie. They stated that they chose Grand Prairie as the site for the business because of the large number of industries in the area. They named their new business the Midway Publishing Company and purchased the entire equipment of the Hays County Herald at San Marcos for their new operation.

Perry continued to operate The Journal until, as a small article on the front page of the May 26, 1950 Journal announced, he sold the paper to "Illinois Journalists." Mr. and Mrs. C. Albert Altwegg, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Weicker of Decatur, Illinois, had purchased the paper. Mrs. Luther Perry related that they believed "that it would be necessary to buy all new machinery or else," so they listed the paper with various companies and sold it to the Altwegg and Weickers. Perry stayed on in a part-time capacity for a while to help the new owners get established. Then, according to Mrs. Perry, "he retired and played golf."5

News

With the take over of The Journal by the Perrys, news-writing improved some. There was less writer's opinion and more facts in the stories. There was a great deal of news for a town of 5,000.

5Mrs. Perry.
Such news items as bond issues and street paving received adequate coverage but finally took second place to the big news of the late 1920s: the opening of Arlington Downs Race Track. A banner headline of very large type announced on November 4, 1927, "Waggoner Invests in Arlington." Waggoner was W.T. Waggoner, a wealthy oil man, who purchased a tract of land east of Arlington and built the 3-D Stock Farm and Arlington Downs Race Track. For the next several months, Waggoner's every move was reported in The Journal.

A November 1, 1929, article reported that Arlington streets contained cars from nearly every state, bringing people for the first races, to be run November 6-16.

Other news covered by the paper in the late 1920's included the destruction of numerous stills, construction of a city hall, stories on church revivals and other church news, and social news. The latter found its way frequently to page one. In one issue of The Journal, a story reported that 100,000 Klansmen of the Ku Klux Klan were to meet in Arlington for a convention. The Journal carried a small story the next week saying it had rained so hard that only 50,000 came. This low attendance caused a major problem as food had been purchased to feed the larger crowd. The Journal reported, "Twenty-one truck loads of beef were sold
to a Fort Worth packing house and 1,000 loaves of bread were given to the needy."\(^6\)

A 1927 article entitled "Some Facts about Arlington" reported that the city had a population of 5,000, supported chiefly by agricultural interests. The city had utilities of natural gas, lights, telephones, artesian water and mineral water—"All you can drink free. Only a small charge for large amounts."\(^7\) Arlington students attended school in a $100,000 high school, two elementary buildings and a junior college, North Texas Agricultural College, a branch of the Texas A&M System. Dallas and Fort Worth workers caught the interurban and returned to their Arlington homes every night. Arlington, according to the article, housed the families of 300 traveling men and was the site of both the Eastern Star and Masonic Homes for the Aged. Businesses listed included two banks, one newspaper, five real estate firms, twenty groceries, two variety stores, two hardware stores, ten dry goods stores, one paint factory, two lumber yards, three cotton gins, and garages and auto service stations "serving Bankhead Highway running through our town, the most traveled highway in the state. It is estimated that a car passes this highway every six seconds day and night."\(^8\)

\(^6\) The Arlington Journal, September 18, 1925.
\(^7\) The Arlington Journal, March 25, 1927.
\(^8\) Ibid.
Journal stories in the thirties saw two Arlington news stores continuing and the birth of another. Stills and horse racing continued to be big news, and a push to make North Texas Agriculture College a four-year college was begun.

Arlington's new constable, Albert D. Austin, went to work immediately after his election to rid the area of illegal "home brew" manufacturing. Stories appeared nearly every week, telling of another raid. Two sets of headlines on page one of The Journal are good examples of Prohibition Days in Arlington:

Dairy Cows Get Drunk After
Officers Empty Mash in Creek

Right below that story, the following headline appeared:

Moonshine Still Accessories
Officers Empty Mash in Creek

Similar set of headlines ran in the June 2, 1933 issue:

Federal Officers Seize Large
Whiskey Still Near Arlington

Home Brew Captured In Raid By
Officers Blows Up in Night

Arlington Downs came into its own, with large crowds attending the races in anticipation of the passage of a race track bill by the Texas Legislature to legalize betting.

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10 The Arlington Journal, June 2, 1933.
Many of Arlington's citizens worked for the passage of the bill. After the bill's defeat in 1931, The Journal informed its readers, "Although the racing bill lost in the legislature, there will be a race meet at Arlington Downs this fall... Colonel Waggoner has spent a huge sum of money on Arlington Downs and is planning to spend more." \(^{11}\)

A May 19, 1933 banner in The Journal read, "Horse Race Bill Passes Legislature." For a while, headlines, such as "Racing Spirit Now Prevalent in Arlington," appeared frequently in the paper. However, it was not long before stories began to appear, reporting that Arlington businessmen were going to Austin "in interest of races." \(^{12}\) After horse-racing was ruled out by the Legislature, the following article appeared in the July 2, 1937 Journal:

**Arlington Downs Being Dismantled
Thoroughbreds Sold**

Arlington Downs, the show place and pride of Arlington for the past five or six years, is being dismantled as a racing plant and the horses have run their last race on one of the finest tracks in the Nation. After the Downs is closed over fifty men will be out of work and the owners Paul and Guy Waggoner will have suffered a loss of approximately one million dollars.

Most of the sixty-five thoroughbreds carrying the Waggoner colors have been sold and this week the dining hall, dairy, and poultry farm will be closed out. Employees have already started removing furniture from the grandstand and club house. According to Trav Daniel of Ft. Worth all other property and business interests

\(^{11}\)The Arlington Journal, March 31, 1931.

\(^{12}\)The Arlington Journal, March 5, 1937.
by the Waggoner Brothers in Tarrant County is also offered for sale. Thus ends the vision and dream of the late Colonel W.T. Waggoner who built the track to instill the love of horses into the people of Texas. He lived to see the horses run and the track and his thoroughbreds were his proudest possessions. Paul Waggoner is moving to his ranch home near Vernon and Guy is building a home in New Mexico. They will likely move their operating headquarters to Vernon. They hope to sell the racing plant as it stands, so that it may be used for some other purpose, failing to do this it may be converted into a stock farm for work horses, mules and jacks.13

Another Arlington era came to its end with the announcement on November 30, 1934 that the Interurban train was being discontinued for loss of revenue.

The long struggle was to begin during this decade to have a four-year college in Arlington. Local people went to Austin frequently to lobby for the bill to make North Texas Agricultural College a four-year institution. In 1937 and in 1939, Perry announced that prospects looked bright for the passage of the bill, but that was not to come about for thirty years.

Society writers of this decade seemed to attempt to vie for the reader's interest with wordy embellishment of social items, as witnessed by the following leads from two wedding stories of the 1930s:

As the moon came peeping over the green tree tops Tuesday evening, June the 10th, it seemed that it hovered over the flower garden with its brilliance and enchantment which added to the beauty of the scenery that had been prepared at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J.T.

Upchurch for the marriage of their daughter, Miss Lometa Valerie Upchurch, to Henry C. Christopher.

As the sun was slowly sinking in the west, relatives and friends of Miss Hazel Yarbrough, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E.N. Yarbrough and Mr. Rowland Broiles, son of Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Broiles, of Fort Worth, were gathering at First Methodist Church to witness one of the prettiest weddings of the season.14

The color involved in Texas politics probably hit an all-time high in 1937 with the inauguration of W. Lee O'Daniel as governor. Perry reported that an invitation to the people of Arlington to attend the inauguration and its activities had been extended by the arrangement committee. The University Curtain Club was to present a pageant depicting the history of Texas and the rise of O'Daniel to leadership, followed by a massed chorus of school children singing "Beautiful, Beautiful Texas," the governor's own composition. O'Daniel was to lead the chorus.

Austin was to be aglow that night with "thousands of bright lights," as several inaugural balls got under way. North of the Capitol, the street was to be roped off for six blocks for a "gala street dance at which O'Daniel and his hillbilly band will furnish music."15

World War II years brought many hardships on the people of Arlington and the staff of The Journal. Perry found it difficult to find help and had to do much of the work

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himself, causing a break in his health and the subsequent leasing of the paper to Gregory and Young for two years. Much news about Arlington men in the service and patriotic rallies filled the pages of The Journal.

Other war news included the articles announcing Arlington Schools would be closed May 4, 1942 for sugar registration, and that dormitories were being built at NTAC to house male employees of North American Aviation Plant and national defense trainees. Teacher shortages plagued the city's schools, and newsprint shortages caused the discontinuance of a free-circulation paper, The Arlington Review, which The Journal was publishing.

Probably the biggest of all Arlington news stories began to hit page one during the late 1940s--growth. A banner headline, to be followed through the years by many similar headlines: "Arlington '48 Building Runs Million & Half" ran in the February 25, 1949 issue. The story stated that the building total was an increase of forty percent over the 1947 total. With the growth came such events as the changing of the city charter to a city manager type and the appearance of dial telephones.

The Perry era of The Journal was closed out newswise with stories announcing the changing of the college's name from North Texas Agricultural College to Arlington State College, and the hiring of Albert S. Jones as Arlington's first city manager.
One can see from reading the news stories that, throughout their management of The Journal, the Perry brothers adhered to a news policy outlined as part of a long editorial that appeared soon after they acquired the paper:

A mistake often made in the rural weekly paper is to open its news columns to foreign happenings. It is far more difficult to gather local happenings than to edit news of statewide importance, the publishing of which is at the best, a duplication of what the dailies have already covered. As for this paper, nothing is allowed that is not of local origin, or else dealing with subjects that are helpful to local people. No man should be without his favorite daily paper and no family should be without its home town paper. Each cover a distinct and separate field with practically no duplication and is so recognized by newspapermen.  

Editorials

Editorials in The Journal during the Perry period were mild and, in many issues, nonexistent. Perry urged the citizens to vote for bond issues, to buy at home, to buy war bonds, and to cooperate after city elections. Only in a few cases did he take a real stand. Luther Perry came out in favor of horse racing and tried to make the people accept his belief that, economically, horse racing was good for Arlington. He chastised the school board for lowering the pay of school teachers. Early in the Perry brothers' ownership, the editorial policy was stated and apparently adhered to for over twenty years.

Thirty years ago it was the custom of newspapers generally to pursue a policy of radicalism in politics, often times catering to the bickerings and differences of its readers, thereby creating heated debates through its columns and attempting to cause more interest in its appearance. Today it is the policy of this paper to give both sides of every question in an unbiased, informative way, to discourage differences that might arise among our citizenship on public questions and to promote tolerance, understanding, and good fellowship among the people of the town.17

Luther Perry used his front page column, "Wise, Unwise, and Otherwise," to comment editorially a great deal. Here, again, not much was controversial but continued in the footsteps of former Journal editors to boost the city.

The Perry Journal

The Perrys' Journal did not change in appearance much from previous years. However, a few features were added early in their management. In 1928, a four-color comic section was added, and the paper expanded from six to seven columns wide. At this time, Perry boasted, "Advertising carried in The Journal has doubled and many times over during the last three years, and the subscription list has more than kept pace with advertising lineage."18 Once again no subscription number was given. In one October 1928 paper were 520 inches of advertising.

17The Arlington Journal, September 27, 1929.
18The Arlington Journal, August 10, 1928.
A typical late 1920's paper carried a banner headline on page one, with one or two two-column headlines. The remainder of the stories bore eighteen-point one-column headlines, with some just label headlines. A few cuts were used, mainly mug shots and posed pictures of teams or students. The overall effect of page one was of a fairly attractive, clean weekly paper.

Most papers were eight pages, with the first page carrying news stories on city government activities, churches, schools, and many social items. Page two comprised canned material and ads. On page three were columns from the rural communities of Harrison and Watson and canned material. On page four were the staff box, social news, and Euless news, and on page five were social items and local news features. Pages six and seven carried ads and canned material and columns from the communities of Johnson Station and Webb. A few comics were on page seven. Classified ads appeared on the last page, along with more social notes.

The paper did not change in appearance during the 1930's. Two features were added, however: Luther Perry's column, "Wise, Unwise, and Otherwise" appeared in the left column of page one and contained his comments on a variety of subjects, humor, reports on his vacation trips, and editorial opinion on those subjects of interest to him. This column was the editorial voice of the paper many times, as the only editorials run were not original with The Journal
staff. The other new feature was a church page. At this time news appeared about the Christian Church, First Methodist, First Baptist, Presbyterian, Arlington Baptist Church, Church of Christ, and monthly meetings of the Christian Missionary Society.

A second section was added to The Journal during the 1930's. This carried more local news and features and was frequently a special section for the opening of a new business or a special event such as a fair or rodeo.

Most headlines in The Journal were fairly well written in a conservative manner. Occasionally, the editors strayed from their conservative ways as the following example shows.

Boy Loses Leg in Wreck
DeRoy Bearden Seriously Injured
When Ice Truck Collides
With Limited. Bones
Strewn Along Track

The 1940's saw little changes in the paper. During World War II, the number of pages sometimes dropped to six, and few cuts were used. Personal items were separated by the patriotic symbol V...__. In a 1944 issue, 727 inches of ads were run, and in 1940, a story reported, "1,135 names were used in last week's Journal."
One innovation of the staff backfired. In the spring of 1949, a "chemist-perfumer," George Cummings, arranged for a "nice subtle scent" to be added to The Journal's ink. The first week, the experiment went well, with the scent a little on the weak side. The following week, after Cummings had worked to improve his product, "the paper came out smelling to high heaven. The too-much odor made folks talk and how." Perry reported that The Journal staff "had been catching it in the neck. Anybody within a radius of 500 paces of copy has vigorously searched to find what it was, unless that somebody is smell-deaf."  

Equipment

In 1928, The Journal announced the addition of new equipment, including a newspaper folder, a paper perforater, a punching machine, and a No. 5 Mergenthaler. "This gives the plant two typesetting machines with two faces of type." This was the only mention of new equipment found in the available files, which probably accounts for the statement by Mrs. Luther Perry that "We either had to buy all new equipment or get out," when discussing Luther Perry's retirement.

23 Mrs. Perry.
Staff

When J.S. and F.L. Perry first took over the paper, Mrs. J.M. Hope was the local and society reporter. After she moved to Fort Worth, she was replaced by Mrs. T.J. Cayton. In 1927, the name of Miss Vera Mae Biggers appeared as social editor. The next year, The Journal announced that Mrs. Inez Rigsbee of Dallas, "an experienced newspaper solicitor and feature writer," had started to work on the paper. Another printer was added, "making a total of eight on The Journal staff besides six rural correspondents."24

In 1930, Mrs. Lillye B. Hiett resigned as society editor and was replaced by Mrs. Eva Roundtree, who "had been a resident of Arlington for four years and was at the Eastern Star Home. Her husband was a newspaperman before his death and she has had previous experience in newspaper business."25 The editor appealed to readers to call in items so "The Journal may be able to carry a large volume of local happenings each week." During 1930, the first photographer was listed in the staff box. He was Charles Johnston, owner of a photography studio.

The thirty-second anniversary edition of *The Journal* reported that S.L. Perry was editor and manager, and Mrs. Roundtree was local and society editor.

In 1940, the staff box listed S.L. Perry as editor and publisher; Doris Gregory, assistant editor; Charles Gregory, business manager; and Arrita Davenport, society editor. Doris Gregory was Perry's daughter, and Charles Gregory was her husband. They worked with him until they left for Seminole, "one of Texas' newest oil towns to run the *Seminole Sentinel*."26

Perry and Mrs. Davenport were the only staff members mentioned until April 11, 1947, when Perry announced that his sons-in-law, Charlie Gregory and Bennie G. Young, were taking over as editors. During their two years of *Journal* management, they hired Chris Gill, "widely known Texas advertising man" as advertising manager. "Gill first entered the advertising business in 1925 and has served on a number of the better newspapers of East and West Texas. For a time he worked on Utah and Colorado papers. He has done duty as copy writer and space buyer for advertising agencies in Little Rock and Dallas."27 Gill did quite a bit of feature writing for the paper. Appearing during this time was a new column, "On The Drag," written by

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27 Ibid.
Muriel Turner, who remained with the paper for many years. Her column contained items of information about local people.

Probably the first writer with college journalism training joined the staff in early 1949. She was Mrs. Sidney Samuel who had moved to Arlington recently from Illinois. She was hired as a local news reporter. Although none of her previous jobs listed in the article announcing her association with The Journal were in the journalism field, she had studied journalism for three years at the University of Missouri. The last paragraph of the article reported, "Eugene Smith, who had been employed by The Journal since June began work Monday in the Fort Worth office of the Burlington Railroad."  

Mrs. Luther Perry worked beside her husband as bookkeeper and proofreader. She recalled that one of the activities of The Journal she remembered well was an advertising program in which merchants in the stores gave tickets that were chances for a drawing held once each month. "They roped off the street from Abram past the Well, where the drawing was held," she said. "It brought more people into Arlington than anything I know of. The town was so full, you couldn't stir them."  

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29 Mrs. Luther Perry.
Summary

After Colonel W.A. Bowen's death, Mrs. Bowen leased the paper to a succession of editors. In 1925, she leased the paper to two brothers, J.S. and F.L. Perry. Later, F.L. (Luther) Perry bought out his brother's interest and published *The Journal* for twenty-five years.

During these twenty-five years, the paper grew along with the city of Arlington. Perry operated *The Journal* during World War II almost totally by himself. After the war, he leased the paper to his sons-in-law, Bennie Young and Charlie Gregory, who published *The Journal* for two years.

Perry reported on the rise and fall of horse racing in Arlington, the destruction of many stills, the shortages and other hardships brought on by World War II, and the beginning of Arlington's rapid growth. Soon after reporting news of the beginning of the city's boom, Perry announced that he had sold *The Journal* to Al Altwegg and Dick Weicker, two Illinois journalists.
CHAPTER VI

THE ALTWEGG-WEICKER YEARS, 1950-1956

Little did the two "Illinois Journalists" realize the drama that was about to unfold in the small town of Arlington when they purchased The Journal from Luther Perry, and, probably in their wildest dreams, they did not dream of the part they were to play in that drama.

Dick Weicker and Albert Altwegg had been colleagues for several years prior to going to Arlington. Before their marriages, they had been roommates, and, after World War II, they returned to the Decatur (Illinois) Herald and Review, where they were employed at the time they purchased The Journal.

"We had been roommates and close friends for several years," Weicker said, "and decided to try a joint venture of our own. We looked all over--Illinois, California--and finally came across The Journal listed with a broker. We thought it looked good because of the location, climate, and the way the country was moving. It looked like it had potential--but no one had any idea it would grow like it did."  

1 Dick Weicker; Business Manager, Citizen-Journal; June 23, 1976.
Altwegg and Weicker soon found themselves an important part of a rapidly growing and expanding town of 7,000 that was to become a city of over 100,000 in twenty years.

Altwegg, a native of Wisconsin, grew up in Europe where his father was European production manager for the Carnation Milk Company. He was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and from that school's Wharton School of Finance. He joined the staff of the Decatur Herald and Review where he was an editorial writer at the time of The Journal purchase.

Weicker, a 1938 graduate of Illinois State Normal University, was a native of Dwight, Illinois. He served as sports editor of his college newspaper and was on the ISNU basketball team for three years. He joined the Herald and Review staff in 1939 and served as municipal affairs reporter.

Both of the new owners' wives joined them in the work of The Journal. Martha Altwegg had worked as society editor of the Decatur Herald after being graduated from the University of Illinois. Martha Weicker taught school after graduation from Millikin University and before joining the Herald staff.

Altwegg and Weicker wasted no time in getting down to the business of putting out a good weekly newspaper. In less than six months, they produced a total new look with an entirely new type face and several new features. In December 1950, The Journal editors announced they were
printing in fourteen-point Metromedium No. 2 Roman and Italic; twenty-eight-point Italic; and thirty-six-point, forty-eight-point, and sixty-point Roman, "a new type designed by experts in typography to be good looking but, more than that, also easy on eyes and easy to read." They chose a new sans serif name plate. The staff box listed C. Albert Altwegg, Jr., managing editor; R.M. Weicker, associate editor; Martha M. Altwegg, woman's news editor; Martha K. Weicker, church news editor; George Allison, advertising manager; and C.A. Keyes, plant superintendent.

Weicker started a sports column and Altwegg began his "One Man's Opinion." He wrote that the column would not be editorial in the usual sense of the word.

We'll leave it to others to tell you that Communism should be thrown out of Czechoslovakia or that President Truman does, or does not know what he's doing. What we will write is how we feel about things here in Arlington, things that our readers can support or choose to eliminate, and what we are doing with The Journal to make it a better newspaper.

Other new features of The Journal included a weekly church page and the wider use of pictures of local people and events.

Generally, during the first years of The Journal under Altwegg and Weicker, the paper was a clean weekly with good coverage of local news, which was abundant as the city had

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begun to grow. With this growth had come the pains that go along with growth: city government and services, taxes, water, streets, school enrollment growth, and the problem of building enough schools. The Journal reported on all of these stories. Only local news was reported in the paper, since the town of Arlington was between the two metropolitan cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, each of which supported two dailies that enjoyed wide circulation in Arlington.

On May 15, 1953, The Journal announced "Another Step Forward" in the form of a new page size. The paper was now "a standard-size newspaper...a step made possible by the purchase by The Journal of a new high-speed modern newspaper press. The page size was now eight columns by twenty-one inches deep, up from seven columns by twenty inches." The new "high-speed press" was a Model A Duplex web perfecting press capable of printing 3,000 or more eight-page sections an hour.

General progress of The Journal continued. Classified advertising grew until, in October 1953, The Journal reported a record for classifieds of 413 inches. Also in 1953, a new look appeared on the editorial page. Altwegg wrote from one to three editorials each issue and printed a column of editorials from other papers. He installed "The Poet's Corner,"

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which was space for local poets to display their talent. This feature was to run for twenty years.

On November 13, 1953, the first actual circulation figure was published. Previous editors had boasted of large circulations, but never did they actually publish the figure. Altwegg and Weicker announced a paid, all-time high circulation of 4,233.

With the town growing rapidly, The Journal announced on September 11, 1955, that the paper would be put on a twice-weekly publication schedule with a Sunday paper added to the Thursday edition. "...because they (the publishers) believe that the community has now grown to the point where it needs and wants a more frequent local newspaper to serve them." An attempt was made to have the papers delivered by carrier. However, after a few months, the method was not working, and the paper went back to the mail box. At this time, the Sunday paper was moved to Monday.

Other features of The Journal during the early 1950's included editorial cartoons drawn by Pat Patterson, Journal advertising manager; a column "About People and Things" by Ruth Grundy; a column of favorite recipes of Arlingtonites, compiled by Arista Joyner; and "Places To Go and Things To Do" by Fae Shaw.

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The most important aspect of The Journal under Altwegg and Weicker was its news content. Few towns grew as rapidly as Arlington in so short a time. With this growth came news stories galore, dealing with all the growing pains and pleasures.

Weicker listed the first major news story under the Altwegg-Weicker management as the announcement by the Foster Investment Company of plans for a subdivision of 400 houses on land east of Meadowbrook Park. This started what Weicker labeled as a continued story of Arlington's growth. In 1951, Tommy J. Vandergriff, twenty-five years old, was elected mayor, a position he held until 1977. Just four months later, what Weicker called the "pinnacle" of the Arlington growth story ran in The Journal. The large-type headline read, "General Motors Buys East Arlington Site."

Expansion was topped off by the story in a 1956 paper reporting that the Webb & Knapp Real Estate Company of William Zeckendorf of New York City and American Home Realty Company of Dallas, headed by Toddie Lee Wynn, Sr., had purchased the Waggoner 3-D Stock Farm and had formed the Great Southwest Corporation, which developed one of the largest industrial districts in the Southwest.

Altwegg and Weicker were kept busy reporting all the stories that went along with the expansion. Schools had a difficult time keeping up with the rapid growth. Arlington
citizens passed bond issue after bond issue to build schools at a rapid pace to keep roofs over students' heads. Additional lots were purchased near Arlington High School to add on to the building. Before the addition was started, it became apparent a much larger building would be needed. Land was purchased on West Park Row, and, in 1956, a "new" Arlington High School was opened.

City problems were great. But, through the efforts of the paper to support worthwhile changes and cooperation of the citizens, Arlington managed to hire a city manager, build a lake for its water supply, and build a hospital.

Arlington readers found stories in The Journal covering an annexation fight with the neighboring city of Grand Prairie, another attempt to make Arlington State College a four-year institution, the adoption of the German town of Koenigshofen and the shipment of food and clothes to its citizens, a polio scare each summer, the winning of the Class A football championship by Arlington High School, and the upset victory over Compton of California by Arlington State College in the 1956 Junior Rose Bowl game in Pasadena, California.

Editorially, during this period, The Journal was a supporter of bigger and better things for Arlington. Nothing of a controversial nature appeared in the editorial columns generally. Altwegg backed to the fullest those projects he believed were best for the growing city. If he
believed the citizens were slow in approving a project, he did not hesitate to chastise them through his editorials. If Altwegg believed his readers were concerned that council or board actions were not always the best, he urged the citizens to help with the solutions by attending school board or city council meetings.

The Journal played an important part in securing such projects for Arlington as a hospital, a lake, and many schools by editorially endorsing these projects.

Probably the nearest thing to controversy appearing on the editorial page was during wet and dry elections. "We were always on one side (wet) and The Citizen on the other," Weicker said.

The Altwegg-Weicker Journal

A typical copy of The Journal after Altwegg and Weicker had established their look was that of a clean, sans serif headlined paper, containing a great deal of city news stories, much social news of both weddings and woman's club activities, well-rounded sports coverage of high school, college, and recreational sports events, business news, display and classified advertising, a page of editorial material, church news, and a variety of columns.

Weicker.
The Journal, printed usually in from one to three sections, did a good job of covering every aspect of a growing city's events, but did not attempt to cover state, national, or international news. This, of course, resulted from the proximity of Dallas and Fort Worth and their daily newspapers.

Columns covered sports, entertainment, interesting people in Arlington, recipes, hunting and fishing, and, of course, Altwegg's "One Man's Opinion," which served as the editorial most of the time.

Staff

After Altwegg and Weicker, along with their wives, arrived at The Journal, Luther Perry stayed on for a short time to help through the transitional period. The original staff members listed earlier remained until 1951, when George Allison was replaced as advertising manager by Pat Patterson, who remained for several years. Others working on the staff during this seven-year period included Ruth Grundy, who served as women's editor for many years and continued in that capacity after The Journal merged with The Citizen; Fae Shaw; Arista Joyner; Charles Niergarth; Charles Kreher; Mrs. Betty Hammond, classified advertising manager; Mrs. Ed Barney, who handled some advertising accounts and did photography work; Kenny Cornell; Johnny Bordeaux; and Frank Adams. The latter three served in the
production end of the operation. Weicker related how he and Altwegg served in nearly every capacity. "We worked at inserting, folding, and making up the paper, but I never learned photography or how to operate the linotype--on purpose,"7 Weicker said.

Equipment

In addition to the new press, The Journal added a new linotype to its equipment under Altwegg and Weicker. When plastic photo engraving machinery came on the market, The Journal acquired one of the machines, which greatly increased the number of cuts in the paper. Prior to that, all Journal pictures had to be sent by bus to Fort Worth's Southwestern Engraving Company, where the zinc engravings were made, then returned by bus.

Civic improvement appeared to be the main thrust of The Journal. Numerous projects were given columns of space both newswise and editorially.

Standing out were the drives to obtain a hospital for Arlington. Nearly every issue leading to the climax of the hospital fund drive contained news stories and editorials, urging Arlington citizens to put the drive over the top, which was eventually accomplished. The drive for building Lake Arlington was supported by the paper. Weicker recalled

7 Weicker.
how opposition had to be overcome in the lake fight. "We were in the midst of a severe drought, and a lot of good people opposed it [the lake]," he related. "They called the lake foolish, and said it would never fill up." However, the bonds passed, and construction was begun.

One of the projects initiated by The Journal was the Newcomers Association. After twenty years, the Arlington Newcomers Association was still an active and vital organization in the city. The association grew out of a series of yearly Christmas teas given by The Journal for women newcomers.

Weicker recalled two other projects The Journal had a part in organizing. These were the Christmas Samaritans, an organization providing food and clothing for needy families, and the Arlington Recreation Association, which was taken over by the city and which became the City Recreation Department.

Just as The Journal was making rapid progress, disaster in the form of illness struck. In 1956, Weicker became ill and was confined to his home for a year. Altwegg ran the paper alone until December 1956, when the announcement came that The Journal would merge with another Arlington paper, The Citizen.

8Weicker.
"After working so hard by himself, Al just ran out of gas, so we considered the merger," Weicker said. "Besides, it didn't make sense to be chasing each other around." He referred to The Citizen. "Arlington was not big enough to support two successful papers. "Our competition with The Citizen had been a friendly one," Weicker said. "We delivered ad copy to each other back and forth across the street." At this time The Journal was at 110 East Abram Street and The Citizen was directly across the street.

The merger announcement revealed that the Citizen Publishing Company partnership had acquired the controlling stock interest of The Journal, which had been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Altwegg. The Citizen stockholders were George W. Hawkes, Charles T. Hawkes, and Mrs. Ellen Bunkley. Weicker, the remaining Journal stockholder, was to retain an interest in the merged operation, which was to be known as Citizen-Journal Incorporated.

The story reported that the two papers would continue to operate separately for a brief period while merger details were ironed out. New directors of the corporation included George W. Hawkes, president and general manager; J.M. Bunkley, vice president and production superintendent; Charles T. Hawkes, secretary and managing editor; and Weicker, treasurer and business manager.

9 Ibid.
10 Ibid.
"The merger of the two Arlington papers under one publishing company will no doubt be welcomed by the larger majority of Arlington subscribers and advertisers," Hawkes said in announcing the purchase. "Both papers have made rapid strides as competitors in the paid-circulation field in Arlington during the past five years, and the merger operation will give them one of the largest paid-in-advance, mail-delivered circulations in the nation for weekly papers," he added. 11

Altwegg remained in Arlington, where he entered the insurance business. However, he later re-entered the journalism field as a business writer for the Dallas Morning News, becoming business editor.

Summary

Dick Weicker and Al Altwegg, of Decatur, Illinois, purchased The Journal from Luther Perry in 1950. Their six-year span as publishers of The Journal were six of the busiest years, newswise, in the paper's history.

The two happened on a small town on the very threshold of becoming a city. It became their job to report on the rapid growth and development of Arlington.

Their news stories reported the election of a young man as mayor who was to hold that position for twenty-five years. 11

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years, and the announcements that General Motors would build an automobile assembly plant in Arlington, and that a New York firm had formed the Great Southwest Corporation that developed one of the largest industrial districts in the Southwest in Arlington. The Journal was filled with stories of the events and people making these things happen.

The Journal, under Weicker and Altwegg, helped Arlington obtain schools, a hospital, and a lake to help bolster the city's water supply.

The competition paper, The Arlington Citizen, had been taken over by a new owner who was building that paper into a successful enterprise. In 1956, the two papers announced they would no longer be competing, but would merge their operations and form the Citizen-Journal Publishing Company.
CHAPTER VII

WHEELER'S CITIZEN YEARS, 1934-1946

In October 1934, The Journal was faced with its first real competition. A.H. Wheeler, who tabbed himself the "Country Editor," published the first edition of The Arlington Citizen.

A typical country paper, The Citizen ran mostly social items, obituaries, canned material, a few editorials, and several columns. It was a clean paper, with few multi-column headlines.

Wheeler reported in The Citizen that he was born and reared on a farm and educated in rural schools. In 1899, he went to Fort Worth and entered Fort Worth University. To earn his expenses, he took a job as a railway fireman on the Santa Fe Railroad. He decided he was "not 'cut out' for railroad man and studied law in office of late Judge Ben M. Terrell in Fort Worth."  

For the next few years, Wheeler was involved in a variety of activities. He published a paper in Arkansas; served three years as organizer and lecturer for Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of America, a farmer's

1The Arlington Citizen, June 9, 1938.

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union; and enlisted in the Army Young Men's Christian Association where he served throughout World War I. Wheeler served as vocational and educational director of the El Paso YMCA for five years, "and aided 10,000 returning ex-soldiers to select life vocations and secured employment for more than 3,000."\(^2\)

Following his El Paso stint, Wheeler joined the staff of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce as business manager of West Texas Today Magazine and became editor of the magazine and publicity director of the organization. He served as editor and publisher of Texas Commercial News.

According to Mrs. Elna Rose Wheeler Calloway, Wheeler's daughter, The Citizen was started in a building owned by E.G. Senter at 300 East Second Street. "The print shop was next door to our house, and we all worked on the paper. It was a seven-day-a-week job," she said.\(^3\)

Type was set by hand and the flatbed press was hand fed.

"At the 1936 Texas Centennial in Dallas the antique press on exhibit was not as old as ours," Mrs. Calloway said.\(^4\)

\(^2\)Ibid.

\(^3\)Statement by Mrs. Elna Rose Calloway; Publisher's daughter, The Arlington Citizen; November 15, 1976.

\(^4\)Ibid.
Mrs. A.H. Wheeler worked on the paper, keeping books and selling advertising. Lowell, a son who later took over the paper, did most of the printing. He received his training at the Beracha Home, an Arlington home for unwed mothers, which had a complete print shop.

Mrs. Calloway reported that the folding machine used for The Citizen was run by hand, and the papers were rolled, wrapped, and stamped by hand.

Later, the paper moved to the 100 block of East Main Street where it remained throughout the Wheeler ownership. Here, Mrs. C.N. Hiett joined the staff as news writer. Her job was to report club, church, and other social news. Articles appeared frequently, inviting readers to "call Mrs. C.N. Hiett at 611 as early in the week as possible." If readers had news and wanted to write it themselves, they could leave it at Mrs. Hiett's home at 200 South Center or at Mickey Maguire's Jewelry Store.

In the September 28, 1939 Citizen, Wheeler wrote:

We Eat--That is, we try to fairly regularly. Which leads us to say to our farmer friends that we will accept on subscriptions anything you may have, such as canned vegetables, fruits, chickens, eggs, and almost anything grown on your farm. Bring us a dollar's worth of what you have and we will send you The Citizen for fifty-two weeks. Tell your neighbor about this offer.  

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5 The Arlington Citizen, September 28, 1939.

6 Ibid.
Evidently, the readers did just that, as Mrs. Calloway reported that "most of his pay was in trade." She related that she took music and tap dancing lessons and attended kindergarten in payment for subscriptions to the paper. She recalled that the family received passes to the movies and to such events as the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show in payment for advertising or subscriptions.

"Something different" in radio programs was announced in a 1937 *Citizen*. The "something different" was Wheeler's new radio program, "The Country Editor," to be broadcast over Station KTAK on Monday mornings at 7 o'clock, "while you are eating breakfast."\(^7\)

Wheeler reported that the show was being put on to promote the interest of *The Citizen* communities, Arlington, Azle, Haltom City, Handley, "and the entire rural and suburban Tarrant County."\(^8\) His plan was for three shows a week featuring music by the Hardie Family Circle Band & Quartet of Handley and news of the "little towns of Tarrant."

In addition to these, Wheeler reported, "You're going to hear public questions discussed from the standpoint of the 'little man,' instead of the big business interests of the country that are about to wipe out the little man, as well as the little towns."\(^9\)

\(^7\) *The Arlington Citizen*, November 11, 1937.

\(^8\) Ibid.

\(^9\) Ibid.
Either the show was a tremendous success, as Wheeler reported, or the financial backing was extremely strong, for it was quickly expanded to twice-weekly and, in February, moved to Station KFJZ and went on the air six days a week.

On Saturday afternoons, the show was broadcast from the stage of the Aggie Theatre in Arlington, where a children's amateur program was staged. Wheeler reported that the children's program was sponsored by Safeway Grocery Stores and Little Rascal Spinach. Auditions were held each evening during the week for the Saturday program.

The weekday show added a feature about this time: short skits between "The Country Editor and his colored office boy, Sambo." Sambo was played by Ollie Schrickel, a local businessman whom Wheeler labeled, "a well-known minstrel actor and amateur theatrical artist of Arlington."11

It might be interesting to note that, within a few weeks of the initiation of the radio program, both the Country Editor and Sambo announced plans to run for political office. Schrickel was a successful candidate for the Arlington school board in an election that saw the largest turnout in Arlington school board election history. One of the candidates Schrickel defeated was S.L. Perry, publisher of The Citizen's opposition paper, The Arlington Journal.

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10 The Arlington Citizen, February 7, 1938.
11 Ibid.
Perry was a candidate for re-election. Wheeler later announced his candidacy for Congress.


In April Wheeler announced, "Another epoch in the life of our town." The Saturday afternoon "Amateur Parade," which was still originating from the stage of the Aggie Theatre, would go on a two-station radio hook-up over Station KFJZ in Fort Worth and WRR in Dallas.

A few weeks after the election, no further mention of the radio program was made in The Citizen.

Probably the biggest item to hit the pages of The Citizen during Wheeler's ownership was the announcement in 1938 that Wheeler was a candidate for Congress, Twelfth District. The June 9, 1938 Citizen carried the following article.

"Country Editor" Takes Fearful Plunge in Big Time Political Maelstrom

For more than thirty years this "Country Editor" has been writing political announcements for others,

12 The Arlington Citizen, April 14, 1938.
but not in all that time did he ever write one for himself, not even for precinct chairman.

Just why did he take that fearful plunge at last? Well, you'll just have to figure it out for yourself. He has ample reasons, but you probably would not believe any of them if you heard them, so you'll just have to supply your own.

No it wasn't because he could not resist the pleadings of his multitude of friends to step out boldly and save the country from certain ruin. Not one patriotic citizen, not even the "Country Editor's" better half, entreated him to make the great sacrifice in the name of patriotism.

It is said that, sooner or later, every citizen gets the "bug" to seek political office. Probably that's as good a reason as any. It certainly isn't any disgrace to have ambitions of any kind, and probably more people have ambitions for political honors than anything else.

Of course, it is expected that a candidate for public office should have ability to fill the office, or think he has it, at least and then let the voters decide whether or not he had that ability. I believe I have that ability, as well as a good knowledge of national affairs, necessary to fill the office of congressman.

But there is one thing which I want definitely understood. I want the vote of every man and woman who thinks I am qualified to fill this high office, but I DON'T WANT ONE SINGLE VOTE ON THE FAULTS OR FAILINGS OF SOMEONE ELSE. If you think, Mr. and Mrs. Voter, that I am the best in sight to represent you in congress, I want your vote and support, and I DON'T WANT IT UNDER ANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

On this high plane, fellow citizens, as far as my part of it is concerned, this campaign is going to be held. There is no honor in the demerits of another. If you don't think I am the one who should receive this honor, I don't want it.

On another page of this newspaper will be found my complete platform. I invite every citizen to read it carefully and write me your opinion of it.13

Wheeler's campaign platform favored "COMPENSATION for our old people and not PENSIONS. The old people are CITIZENS

He approved of the agriculture program of the New Deal and recommended organization of all the farmers into a "Great Farmers Union." He favored organized labor for every gainful trade or profession. He endorsed legislation that would "utterly stamp out monopoly and give little business a chance to survive." He favored low interest rates for homebuilding and reclamation and conservation of watercourses.

Wheeler ran an editorial, outlining the plan for his campaign. He said he was about the busiest man in the state, since he was trying to edit and keep going five newspapers. He had added editions to his publishing empire in Azle, Haltom City, Handley, and the Tarrant County Citizen. Therefore, he announced that he would be using "printer's ink" for the most part in his campaign.

"This country newspaper, The Citizen, will be my sturdy campaign worker. Each week, extra copies will be printed for distribution all over the Twelfth Congressional District."\(^{15}\)

Wheeler related that he was "a poor man as all country editors usually are,"\(^{16}\) so he would have no paid workers. His volunteer workers would distribute at least two copies of the paper to every voter during the campaign.

\(^{14}\) Ibid.
\(^{15}\) Ibid.
\(^{16}\) Ibid.
Wheeler waged a strong campaign through the pages of The Citizen, but to no avail. He lost. He was defeated by Fritz G. Lanham, but no story of the exact election results appeared in The Citizen.

Wheeler's concession in the pages of The Citizen are worth mentioning. Beneath a picture of the editor seated at a cluttered desk typing, with a telephone in foreground, the following editorial ran:

Bill McCraw says he has a very definite mandate from the voters of Texas to return to the practice of law. The "Country Editor" seems to hear a faint hint from those same voters in the Twelfth Congressional District to keep right along with his country newspapers and radio program. That, we intended to do all the time.

First, let us say right here that we entered the race for Congress for the purpose of winning. It looked like a good opportunity, and we didn't feel we should pass it up. We were earnest and sincere in our campaign.

But many of our best friends steadfastly refused to see anything in our campaign but an advertising "stunt" for our newspapers and radio program. And a great many of them cooperated with us in every way but by giving us their votes last Saturday. But even at that, they were helpful.

From the standpoint of advertising, we couldn't spend twenty times as much as we spent on our campaign and get as much benefit. In the first place, we put out nearly 100,000 copies of our newspapers all over five counties. There are very few families of these five counties including the city of Fort Worth, who did not receive one copy or more, of our paper. You can't ask anybody now about The Citizen who doesn't know something about it, and that most favorable, too.

The effect on our circulation is already manifest, and we are following the campaign with an intensive circulation campaign. Hundreds of people have come to us and complimented us on our paper and volunteered to subscribe. We expect to have a personal solicitation made on every rural family in Tarrant County for subscriptions.
Advertisers are taking notice of our papers more definitely than they did before the political campaign. Our ad salesmen say they do not call on any advertiser now who does not know about our newspapers. And without exception, their reaction is favorable. Many large advertisers in Fort Worth are including our papers in their ad budget.

The personal appearance of the editor before very nearly 100,000 people in five counties has a value that cannot be over-estimated. While we are free to admit that our personal charm isn't on a par with Clark Gable and Wm. Powell, as the ladies would judge, it has its value in a business way. In all of our thirty years experience in the newspaper business, we do not consider that we have ever done anything so valuable to our business as making this political campaign, and meeting so many people personally, and speaking to them from the public platform. To be perfectly honest in this statement, we must admit that we were thinking all the time about the business value of the campaign, more than we were of the political value. We went into The Citizen as a business proposition, and our reward has already been very great, and it is just begun. We shall reap from it for many years to come.

We are very grateful to those who were for us in business but had reasons for voting for others in the race. It was a grand and glorious experience, and we are very happy over it.

After the campaign, Wheeler returned to publishing his paper. By this time, he had a paper in Springtown, another small town in Tarrant County. From time to time, news from one of the other papers appeared in the Arlington paper.

Late in 1939, the name plate was changed to read, The Tarrant County Citizen with "Arlington Edition" printed above. This name plate and the Arlington Citizen name plate were switched back and forth throughout the remainder of the time the Wheelers published the paper.

17 The Arlington Citizen, July 21, 1938.
The paper carried mostly church news, social news, obituaries, school sports, much canned entertainment news, and, on rare occasions, a story on city affairs. Wheeler wrote many editorials on national political subjects. His daughter recalled that, at one time, The Citizen was so political it was difficult to sell advertising.

Overall, the paper was just a typical small-town publication. Advertising, most of which was local in nature, averaged 400 inches. Most headlines were one column wide.

In the paper were several local columns on a variety of subjects, ranging from the Sunday School lesson to politics. Included among these were "Rifle Balls," a political opinion column by E.G. Senter, a former Texas senator and owner of the building and equipment used in publishing The Citizen; "The Country Editor," a column of jokes and verse by Wheeler; "Everyday Beauty Hints" by Mayme Isbell; "Here and There" by Norwood Hiett, a member of a long-time Arlington family; "Just Talkin" by Violet M. Roberts; and "Down the Street," which the editor reported was a "popular feature."

In the January 18, 1940 issue, Wheeler announced that his son, Lowell H. Wheeler, "junior member of the partnership known as Tarrant County Publications," was taking over the paper. "A.H. Wheeler founder and former editor and publisher, is entirely out of the picture, having disposed of his
interests, including the commercial printing department, to his son."18

Wheeler informed the readers that he would be devoting all his time to the editing and publishing of his political newspaper, The Texas Citizen. He said the paper was "a statewide general and political newspaper."19 Whether this statement had merit is questionable. After thorough re-search, no account or copies of the paper could be found. Wheeler, sometime within the next six years, again assumed control of the paper. Files of The Citizen are incomplete during this period. George Hawkes, who bought The Arlington Citizen from Wheeler, reported that Wheeler was running the paper at the time Hawkes purchased it. "Lowell was working on another paper, and we bought the paper from Wheeler,"20 Hawkes said.

In his article announcing that Lowell was taking over, Wheeler said The Arlington Citizen and The Tarrant County Citizen were in their sixth year. He reported that Lowell had attended North Texas Agriculture College for two years and was married, and that he and Mrs. Wheeler had a three-month-old daughter.

18 The Arlington Citizen, January 18, 1940.
19 Ibid.
"This is his first business venture 'on his own' and he is anxious to see how his friends are going to take it."²¹

Although Mrs. Calloway, Wheeler's daughter, could not recall much about the political paper, she did relate that her father had been a big worker for a pension for older people. She remembered that he received a great deal of mail from the older people as a result of his political writing.²²

Lowell worked on the **Fort Worth Tribune** and retired to Marshall, Texas.

Wheeler became ill with cancer in 1942 and died in 1951. In the May 30, 1946 *Citizen*, the announcement was made that Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Wheeler had sold the paper to George W. Hawkes.²³

**Summary**

*The Journal* faced its first competition in 1934 when A.H. Wheeler established *The Arlington Citizen*. Wheeler's paper was a typical country weekly running mostly obituaries, social items, canned material, and church news.

About the biggest news carried in the paper during Wheeler's ownership was reports of Wheeler's candidacy for

²¹ *The Arlington Citizen*, January 18, 1940.

²² Statement by Elna Rose Calloway; Founder's daughter, *Citizen-Journal*; in interview, November 15, 1976.

Congress. He covered that news story thoroughly. After the election, which his opponent won, Wheeler even hinted at the fact that he might have run for the office for business reasons. Very few other genuine news stories found their way onto the pages of the paper. His son, Lowell Wheeler, took over the management of the paper so Wheeler could devote more time to a political paper he had started. In 1946, Wheeler sold the paper to George W. Hawkes.
CHAPTER VIII
THE HAWKESES CITIZEN YEARS, 1946-1956

The new owner of The Citizen, George W. Hawkes, took over the paper on June 1, 1946. Hawkes had already spent a number of years in the newspaper business. As a freshman in Flatonia (Texas) High School, Hawkes began work on The Flatonia Argus as a printer's devil. During his last two years of high school (at that time Texas high schools comprised only eleven grades), Hawkes began writing and reporting. After his graduation from high school in 1933, Hawkes worked for a year on The Argus. "I actually did most of the reporting and writing since we had an absentee owner," Hawkes said. He entered Baylor University in the fall of 1934 where he worked on the university paper, The Lariat, as a linotype operator while enrolled in journalism courses. At the end of the year, he returned to Flatonia, where he leased The Argus and ran it for a year.

The next year, while only eighteen years old, Hawkes bought The Argus. He paid $3,600 for the paper, building, and equipment. Under the terms of the sale, Hawkes was to pay fifty dollars each month for six years at no interest charge. "Dad had to sign the papers, since I was only

1 Statement by George Hawkes, Publisher, Citizen-Journal, January 28, 1977.
eighteen," Hawkes said. He published The Argus until World War II. In 1941 he entered the army.

"I was called up for the draft three times, but was turned down because of poor eyesight," Hawkes recalled. "It was not a popular thing to not be in the service, so, through my congressman, I got in under a special assignment."  

Reporting to Perrin Field under a limited service arrangement, Hawkes went to work in the public relations office. He worked for a year and a half under what he called a good newspaperman producing a daily news bulletin for the camp and writing both hometown releases and camp releases.

In 1944, a ruling was made that servicemen must qualify for full service classification or be discharged. Since he couldn't qualify because of his eyesight, Hawkes was discharged. He went to Nacogdoches, Texas, where he went to work on The Redland Herald, a well recognized weekly publication, published by The Nacogdoches Sentinel. After a year, John Van Cronkite went to Nacogdoches to run The Sentinel. He put The Herald and The Sentinel together, but was fired, and Hawkes edited the five-day daily Sentinel for a year. The war was winding down, and Victor Fain, who

\(^2\)Ibid.  
\(^3\)Ibid.
had edited the paper before the war, returned home. "Victor regained his former job under the rule that servicemen would get their jobs back when the war was over," Hawkes said. "I saw no future for me with that company, so I began looking for another opportunity."4

After spending six months looking for that opportunity, Hawkes read a classified advertisement in *The Dallas Morning News*, offering *The Arlington Citizen* for sale. He and his brother, Charles, who had just returned from the service, drove to Arlington to meet A.H. Wheeler. "We met Wheeler at two and by four, I had bought the paper," Hawkes said. All I bought was the name, a 200 paid mail-out subscription list, and an old Remington typewriter." The rest of the plant still belonged to E.G. Senter, Jr., who was in a Dallas hospital at the time. The two Hawkes brothers went to Senter's hospital room and purchased the printing plant. "We paid $7,000 for *The Citizen*," Hawkes said. "The equipment we bought included a number 8 linotype, a bobtail Miehle press, and a shirrtail full of type."5

Charles Hawkes went to Arlington with George "to help him get started" and stayed for more than thirty years. Charles had graduated from Flatonia High School and had entered Texas A&M University, planning to pursue an electrical engineering degree. After several counselors urged him

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4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
to consider a literary degree, Charles entered Baylor University and majored in journalism. Going to school year round, Charles was graduated from Baylor in 1943. He graduated in ceremonies in Waco on a Saturday morning and, by nightfall, was in army basic training.

Charles served in public relations in the army, working on the First Division newspaper and on Stars and Stripes. He was just returning from the service when George bought The Citizen.

The two young men found Arlington eager for a good home-town paper. Several young men were returning to Arlington from the war to resume interrupted careers. George reported that The Citizen began making money the first week. "We had to; we had no capital," Hawkes said. "We still owned The Flatonia Argus."\(^6\)

The Hawkeses immediately went to work and produced a sixteen-page paper the first week. They used a flat-bed press they had purchased from Senter. They had to print four pages at a time and then flip those pages over to print four more on the back. Pages of that first Hawkeses Citizen were six columns wide and eighteen inches tall.

The two brothers divided the chores, as they had inherited only a printer named Weehunt; a linotype operator, C.L. Selman; and a society editor, Mrs. C.N. Hiett. Muriel

\(^6\)Ibid.
Turner went over from *The Journal* to help Mrs. Hiett; and Ellen Hawkes, the brothers' sister, gave up her school teaching job to move to Arlington and serve as bookkeeper and office manager for *The Citizen*. Both of the brothers sold advertising. "On Mondays and Tuesdays we covered our ad beats and gathered news as we went," \(^7\) Charles said. Wednesday the Hawkes brothers devoted the entire day to news-gathering and writing. The paper was printed Wednesday night and distributed through the mail Thursday morning. George covered the city news and Charles, the school news.

"We tried to wake the city up," Charles recalled. "George got in real solid with the big advertisers, such as Texas Electric and C.H. Wilemon of the Arlington State Bank." \(^8\)

One technique the brothers employed to build up the paper was sampling. "We divided the town into sections and threw sample papers to one section each week," Charles said. George drove, and I rolled. One day we made a mistake and threw a paper in Mr. Perry's (*The Journal* publisher) yard. He took it to the post office and said we were violating our postal permit."\(^9\) Charles explained that the charge proved to be unfounded as post office regulations permitted


\(^8\)Ibid.

\(^9\)Ibid.
publications to sample up to ten per cent of their circulation per issue.  

Charles holds the distinction of being the first news photographer in Arlington, using a German camera he obtained during World War II. He bought a small flash attachment and set about taking pictures of Arlington events. At that time, the only way a picture could appear in the paper was after a zinc engraving had been made. For this to be done, prints had to be sent to Southwestern Engraving Company in Fort Worth. Since this required extra time and was quite expensive, not all of Charles's pictures found their way into the pages of The Citizen. To create public interest in the paper, Charles mounted pictures not used in the paper on a board he placed in the window of The Citizen office.

To develop his pictures, Charles needed a darkroom. The Citizen was being published in a two-story building on East Main Street. Charles built a small darkroom under the stairs. He recalled that he bought his equipment at Montgomery Ward. His early photo work was produced under a great deal of hardship. "When anyone went up the stairs, dust would sift down on my prints," Charles recalled. Since the building was not air conditioned, many times Charles would have to go to the ice house in the next block and purchase ice to cool his chemicals.

10 Ibid.
Improvements began to appear rapidly in the paper. Four months after the Hawkeses took over, the front page of The Citizen carried only news stories, no sports or social items, and page one was not filled with obituaries. Each week, a three-column headline was on the lead story.

A sports page was developed, centered on Arlington High School and North Texas Agriculture College athletics, but carrying stories about local golf play and city recreation games.

Charles developed the sports page, and, in one instance, played a role in making the news for his page. The high school football coach at that time was Ben Lucas, whom Charles had known in college. After Charles began covering Arlington High sports, he and Lucas became friends. Lucas told Charles that Arlington was playing AAA ball but should be playing in lower AA ball, based on the school's enrollment figures. Lucas believed the teams would fare better if they competed in the lower district. Charles mentioned the classification question in his sports column, "From the Sidelines." At the next school board meeting, Board Member Hop Reynolds brought up the article. "The superintendent said he felt it was financially more beneficial to be in AAA,"¹¹ Charles said. However, the board disagreed, and the team applied for and was given a AA classification.

¹¹Ibid.
The next year, Arlington High School won the district championship and was eliminated from the playoffs in bi-district competition on penetrations. The following year, the Arlington High Colts went as far as the state AA semifinals. The next year, 1951, they were state AA champs.

The Citizen scooped its competitor, The Journal, on a North Texas Agriculture College football game in 1946. The game was scheduled for Thanksgiving Day but was changed to Wednesday. Evidently, The Journal did not get the message on the date change as the Thursday morning Journal carried an advance story on the game, while The Citizen carried a report of the game results called in by NTAC sports writer Jim Trinkle, who went on to become a long-time sports reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

In 1953, The Citizen had outgrown its Main Street facilities. New quarters were obtained to house the publication at 117 East Abram Street directly across the street from The Journal office. General Motors had gone to Arlington in 1952 and had remodeled a building in the 100 block of East Abram to use as office space while the plant was being constructed. When General Motors moved out of the offices, The Citizen moved in. For the first time, The Citizen staff worked in air-conditioned comfort away from the smoke and dust of the backshop, and, for a time, they had adequate office space. The staff had increased to include a society editor, Dawn Cummings; a news reporter,
Griff Singer; a bookkeeper, Eloise Wheeler; and a classified advertisement manager, Doris Lumsden.

Two major equipment improvements occurred at the time of the move. One was the installation of a duplex press. This eliminated numerous problems that had been prevalent with the old press. Weather affected the paper used on the flat-bed press. Dry and cold weather would create static electricity, sometimes requiring the staffers to hand fold the papers. The new press eliminated those problems.

The second improvement was the addition of a photo-engraving machine, enabling the paper to run more pictures. The Citizen obtained a Klischograph engraver. Although this allowed the paper to print more pictures more economically, it had one drawback: Engraving had to be done one picture at a time. "Sometimes this would take half the night, and Griff or I one would have to stay to finish all the pictures," Charles said.

The move to Abram produced a friendly rivalry with the competitor across the street. Advertising copy was exchanged as were some news releases. However, competition was keen, and the two papers often took different stands. In elections concerning local option liquor sales, The Citizen always came out for the drys and The Journal, for the wets. The battle for subscribers was fought also. When

\[12^{\text{Ibid.}}\]
The Journal started a big subscription contest that had a new car as the prize, The Citizen cut its subscription rate to one dollar to counteract the contest.

Arlington's population was growing at a rapid rate as new industries followed General Motors to the town in the center of what was later to become the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. This growth had its effect on the newspaper business. Stanley McBrayer had established a daily paper in Arlington, The Daily News Texan, the first offset printed paper in town. The Citizen was still making progress, but was struggling at times. But across the street, The Journal was struggling even more. Dick Weicker had been confined to his home for over a year, recovering from a serious illness, and Al Altwegg was fighting a seemingly losing battle to try to keep The Journal going. After Dick returned to work, the publishers of The Journal and The Citizen began to talk merger. In 1957, the two organizations merged, with the Hawkeses buying Altwegg's fifty-one percent of The Journal stock and Weicker putting his forty-nine percent into the new company. Although The Journal was not making money at the time of the merger, its loss factor actually helped the new organization by providing a tax break.

One hitch developed during the merger proceedings. Luther Perry still held an $11,000 paper bill against The Journal, which could have brought the merger progress to a standstill. However, C.H. Wilemon of the Arlington State
Bank lent the new organization the money to pay Perry, and the merger took place.

The combining of the two subscription lists gave The Citizen-Journal the largest circulation of any newspaper in Arlington, both local and out of town. Many Arlington residents subscribed to either a Fort Worth or a Dallas daily paper.

The Journal and The Citizen for a while were published separately. The Journal was sent out on Thursday and The Citizen, on Monday, both by mail. However, postal regulations created problems for this system after a time. The publishers combined the names of the papers and published The Citizen-Journal semi weekly. For seven years, the paper grew with Arlington as it told the story of a small town growing into a full-sized city.

Stories on the pages of The Arlington Citizen-Journal during this time included the first industry beginning its operation in the Great Southwest Industrial District; Arlington State College winning the Junior Rose Bowl game in Pasadena, California for two years; the building of Lake Arlington and its miraculous filling (Engineers had estimated it would take seven years to fill the lake, but it filled in twenty-eight days.); ASC finally gaining four-year college status; the beginning of the tourist industry in Arlington, with the opening of Six Flags Over Texas; and another chapter in a continuous story of Arlington's rapid growth.
Arlington's population stood at 44,775 in 1960. When the story started in 1950, the figure stood at 7,692.

In 1964, another major announcement was made in The Citizen-Journal: Carter Publications, publishers of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram had purchased a substantial block of Citizen-Journal stock.

A typical paper during the years following the merger of The Citizen and The Journal would include about 2,300 inches of display advertising and two pages of classified ads. The front page would carry a lead story bearing a four-column head, several multi column stories, and many one-column heads. All the stories were news stories. From two to four local pictures appeared on page one and many other local illustrations were scattered through the other twenty-three pages. "Rambling Around," a column containing local human interest items, was begun in January, 1947, and continued to appear in the same spot on page one. Columns included "Places To Go, Things To Do in Arlington and Thereabouts" by Charles Hawkes, "Inquiring Reporter," and "Journal Junior" by Martha Shawn, "News from Webb, and "About People and Things" by Ruth Grundy, and "One Gal's Opinion" by Juanita Jo Moody. The papers carried a church page and a business and professional directory.

Editorially, Hawkes followed in the footsteps of former Arlington editors, urging various types of city improvements. One such editorial got instant results. Heavily
traveled Highway 80, known locally as the Turnpike, made its way through Arlington's midsection from east to west. Several north-south streets crossed the busy highway, the only major thoroughfare between Fort Worth and Dallas. Only Center Street had an operating traffic signal at its intersection with Highway 80. Hawkes wrote a front-page editorial pointing out the need for more signals. The following week, a news story boasted that the editorial had done its job, as city officials had announced three more lights would be installed on Highway 80. Probably having some affect on this improvement was the fact that the city was being threatened by a lawsuit by a person injured in a traffic accident, which was blamed on the malfunction of the traffic signal.

Other editorial topics centered on improving the city's ordinances, urging more home construction, and supporting elected officials.

Summary

Two brothers, both veterans of World War II, went to Arlington in 1946 to take over a small-town weekly newspaper. George Hawkes bought *The Arlington Citizen* from A. H. Wheeler. His brother, Charles, arrived to help him out for a while, and stayed for more than twenty years.

George Hawkes bought little more than a name and a paid subscription list of 200. However, the city of Arlington was on the threshold of a tremendous growth period, and
the brothers soon found themselves reporting the events of a growing, industrious city.

When George Hawkes bought the paper, it was being printed in a small plant on East Main Street. In 1953, the paper was moved to 117 East Abram Street, and a new duplex press was installed. The staff had been enlarged to include a news writer, society editor, classified ad manager, and a bookkeeper.

Throughout their years of publishing *The Citizen*, the Hawkeses had been carrying on a friendly rivalry with their competitor, *The Journal*. In 1957, the two rivals merged their operations and formed the Citizen-Journal Publishing Company. Dick Weicker joined George and Charles Hawkes in the new operation. For a while, *The Journal* and *The Citizen* were published separately, one on Monday and the other on Thursday. Later, the names were combined into *The Citizen-Journal*, which was published twice a week.

*The Citizen-Journal* carried stories on Arlington's growth, the opening of Six Flags Over Texas, Arlington State College's becoming a four-year institution, a new lake for the city's water supply, and the first industry beginning operation in the Great Southwest Industrial District.

In 1964, *The Citizen-Journal* announced that a substantial block of *Citizen-Journal* stock had been purchased by Carter Publications, publishers of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. 
CHAPTER IX

CITIZEN-JOURNAL-CARTER PUBLICATIONS, YEARS 1906-1974

The association with The Star-Telegram and Carter Publications was brought about by several reasons. The Citizen-Journal was trying to keep pace with the rapid growth of the city of Arlington. To do this, more room and additional equipment were needed to produce the paper. The dailies in the area had become aware of the Arlington market. The Dallas Morning News had made an offer, The Star-Telegram had expressed an interest, and there was even some interest on the part of a Chicago group. The Citizen-Journal publishers felt a need to change to the offset printing process, and wanted to provide a central printing plant for many smaller papers in the area. "We didn't have the money needed to go offset,"¹ George Hawkes said. The Arlington group considered the offer of Carter Publications and finally agreed to it. Hawkes was still the major stockholder in the Citizen-Journal Publishing Corporation. Other stockholders were Charles Hawkes, Dick Weicker, and Miller Bunkley. Under the new setup, Carter Publications obtained fifty-one percent of the stock and the Citizen-Journal Publishing Company,

forty-nine percent. Nor-Tex Publishing Company, owned by the Arlington group, was not affected by the negotiations. This company published *The Mansfield News-Mirror* and *The De Soto Star*. In addition to the two Hawkeses, Weicker, and Bunkley, Al White was listed as one of the owners of Nor-Tex.

Under the arrangement with Carter Publications, the management of *The Citizen-Journal* remained the same. George Hawkes was publisher; Charles Hawkes, editor and director of news; Dick Weicker, general manager and business manager; and Miller Bunkley, operations manager.

In less than a year, a plant was opened at 500 East Front Street in a new steel frame building. Open house was held in the new building on May 23, 1965.

A new twenty-four-page Suburban offset press had been installed, and, for the first time, *The Citizen-Journal* was printed by this method. Typesetting was still by the hot type or linotype method, however. "We still used the hot type method," George Hawkes said. "This gave us the beauty of hot type but the convenience of offset."²

The plant began printing more papers and, within a year, it was apparent still more room was needed.

*The Star-Telegram* recognized the need for the additional space and more equipment for reasons of its own: a new plant separate from *Star-Telegram* operations in Fort Worth could

²George Hawkes.
serve as a standby facility in the event of a labor problem in the Fort Worth plant; and the need for a large commercial printing plant to serve the printing needs of the many weekly and speciality papers in the Metroplex.

After a corporate study on expansion was completed, the conclusion was reached that the East Front Street property was not large enough to expand to a central printing plant size. After a search, four and one half acres at 1111 West Abram Street were purchased.

Donald M. Goss, a San Angelo architect who specialized in designing newspaper plants, was hired to plan the million-dollar plant. Elbert Gunn Construction Company of Fort Worth was engaged to build the 48,000-square-foot masonry structure. In April, 1971, the plant moved from Front Street to the new facility on West Abram.

Installed in the new building were a thirty-two-page Goss Urbanite Offset press and a new Photon type system. The plant went totally to the new Photon system, no longer using a linotype machine. Under the new system, the type was set up by a photo typesetting machine and then pasted on a page layout. Negatives were made, and the negatives were transferred to a metal plate. In addition to printing The Citizen-Journal, the plant was printing thirty-five papers and operating twenty-four hours a day. Many of the papers were ready for the camera and just required the printing
process. However, others were specialty papers that used The Citizen-Journal's Photon equipment.

The new plant could print 80,000 papers an hour. The presses ran twenty-four hours a day, six days a week. During an average week, The Citizen-Journal plant used five boxcars of newsprint (125 tons) and more than 3,000 pounds of ink.

Among the papers printed by The Citizen-Journal plant were high school papers from Arlington, Euless, and Grand Prairie, The University of Texas at Arlington Shorthorn, Wise County Messenger, Burleson Star, De Soto Star, Lancaster Herald, Garland Shopper, East Side News, Oak Cliff Tribune, two nationally circulated aviation papers, Sears' employees paper, Cowboy Newsletter, and numerous circulars for department and chain stores.

Along with adding equipment, many new staff members were added. Jerry Hyde became the advertising manager, with a staff of salesmen and artists working under him. Margaret Galloway became the women's editor, and Gene Randall served as news editor. The Citizen-Journal was serving as a proving ground for beginning journalists: Griff Singer left The Citizen-Journal for The Dallas Morning News and then went to Austin to teach in the University of Texas School of Communications; and Kenny Hand served as sports editor of The Citizen-Journal before moving to The Dallas Times Herald.
These people, along with the other staff members, were reporting a variety of stories. The continued story of Arlington's population growth showed 44,775 in 1960 and 90,000 in 1969. The stories reported that Arlington State College finally became a four-year institution and then changed its name to the University of Texas at Arlington. The paper carried the stories announcing the purchase of Turnpike Stadium by the City of Arlington and the news that the Washington Senators, turned Texas Rangers, would be the new inhabitants. Along with the stories appeared an abundance of local pictures.

Charles Hawkes won numerous awards for his coverage of Arlington school news. Six times the Texas State Teachers Association presented The Citizen-Journal with its School Bell Award for coverage of school news. Only three schools were in the Arlington system when Charles began to cover that beat. In 1975, the Arlington Independent School District had grown to include four high schools, six junior high schools, twenty-four elementary schools, and several special schools. Charles recalled that he had attended school board meetings in four different locations during his thirty-year coverage. The first meetings he covered were held at Arlington High School when it was on South Cooper Street. Then, the Arlington schools purchased the Pope house across the street for an administration building. Board meetings were held there until the new Arlington
High School was opened at 818 West Park Row Drive. He moved for the last time with the board to the new school administration building on Pioneer Parkway.

According to George, the paper had a paid circulation of 11,000 in 1975 and had undergone many changes since the June day in 1946 when he took over. He listed as the biggest news stories during these years as Arlington's growth, Arlington State College's becoming a four-year institution known as The University of Texas at Arlington, and the General Motors announcement that a Buick-Oldsmobile-Pontiac assembly plant would be constructed in Arlington. George Hawkes believed that the 1951 State Championship Football Team and the town's support of it did as much to weld Arlington into a community as did anything else. He said that long-time Mayor "Tommy Vandergriff was a leader and The Citizen-Journal was his supporter."3 The publisher believed that "A newspaper's first obligation is to serve the community. To succeed, it must be a thriving entity."4

Editorially, George Hawkes came out in favor of the "drys" in "wet-dry" elections, against pari-mutual betting, and for Christian ethics. "We would always take a stand," he said. "We were one for progress and cooperative effort."5

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3 George Hawkes.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
Hometown ownership of *The Citizen-Journal* came to a halt when the announcement was made in November, 1974, that Capital Cities Publishing Company of New York had purchased Carter Publications and, along with it, *The Citizen-Journal*.

Summary

The Citizen-Journal Publishing Company sold fifty-one percent of the stock to Carter Publications. Management remained the same with George Hawkes, publisher; Charles Hawkes, editor and director of news; Dick Weicker, general manager and business manager; and Miller Bunkley, operations manager.

The main reason for selling the stock was the need for more space and equipment. In less than a year after the stock sale, a new plant was opened at 500 East Front Street. *The Citizen-Journal* went to the offset method of printing with the move. However, type was still set by linotype.

Six years later, the plant moved to even larger facilities at 1111 West Abram Street. The new million-dollar plant not only served as the home of the growing *Citizen-Journal*, but also as a central print facility. Linotype machines were not moved to the new plant. *The Citizen-Journal* installed a new Photon type system.

News coverage during this period reported that Arlington State College had a new name, The University of Texas at Arlington; the city of Arlington had purchased Turnpike
Stadium; the Washington Senators were moving to Arlington with a new name, the Texas Rangers; and that Arlington's population stood at 90,000 in 1969.

CHAPTER X

SUMMARY

From 1897 until 1975, the citizens of the city of Arlington, Texas, were provided with home-owned newspapers. The Arlington Journal, established in 1897, was published by editors who were, for the most part, staunch supporters of the town and were always urging, through The Journal pages, civic betterment. In 1934, competition for The Journal came on the scene when a rival paper, The Citizen, was founded. The Citizen struggled for several years until two young brothers, both veterans of World War II, took over the paper in 1946 and turned it into a vigorous weekly, supporting a growing city.

The city of Arlington began a period of phenomenal growth during the early 1950's, which saw the town's population jump from 7,500 in 1951 to more than 100,000 in 1975. Research conducted for this paper showed that, during this period of growth, the papers played a vital role in helping the citizens through the maze of problems that face a growing city.

In 1956, the two papers merged and formed the Citizen-Journal Publishing Company. For a few years, the papers were published separately, one on Monday and one on Thursday.
Later the names were combined into The Arlington Citizen-Journal. Again, research shows that the paper urged Arlington citizens to undertake what tasks were necessary to make the growing city a good place in which to live.

Guiding these newspapers over the years and sometimes doing most of the work by themselves, were the editors or publishers, who were active, interesting men. Many of them earned the respect of people throughout the state of Texas.


Conclusions

Several conclusions can be drawn from this study. Foremost among these is that a good, active newspaper is essential to a city's organized growth. It can inform the citizens of needed improvements and urge that the improvements be made. It can serve to educate the readers on issues that often times are new to them.

Another conclusion reached is that the newspaper of a town or city is a very detailed history of that town and its citizens, and, often, is the only history of the town. The pages of the newspapers are filled with information relating the history of nearly every phase of a city's life. Included
among the historical information are reports of elected officials, growth, building, schools, organizations, churches, financial data, and for genealogy enthusiasts, birth and death notices provide vital information.

Recommendations for Further Study

A comparison of news coverage and editorial policy could be made between papers published by the home-town owner and those published under absentee ownership. To complete this study, interviews or surveys of citizens should be made in addition to reading the paper's microfilm.

It is vital that a near complete file of the papers be available for the researcher. However, this will not answer all the questions that arise when writing a newspaper's history. Interviews with relatives of owners and with long-time employees will fill in much vital information. Long-time residents of the town can provide additional information.

Not to be overlooked, are the historical reference departments of many libraries. These are under a variety of titles in the various libraries, but a wealth of information on the 1800's and early 1900's can be found in public and university libraries.

Since editors play a vital role in the life of most communities, research on the editors can provide a history of a newspaper and a town.
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