NNA: The Fourth Decade

Journey through the National Newspaper Association's history

"The arrival of our Fairy Godmother – the war – changed our viewpoint, for the increased prosperity in all lines of business reflected itself in the country newspaper office. We adopted better business methods ... proved ourselves most valuable in service to our country and for the first time in our lives wore for a while the glass slipper of national advertising."

- H.Z. Mitchell of the Bemidji Sentinel in Minnesota, calling small papers the "Cinderella of journalism" NNA's annual convention, 1922



"The intensity of anti-German sentiments was reflected in the newspapers across the land, especially where there were concentrations of that particular nationality. Even the lowly hamburger became a 'victory steak."

- Robert Karolevitz, "From Quill to Computer"

The Vinton Kagle. SEMI-WEEKLY-TUESDAY AND FRIDAY MORNINGS VINTON, IOWA, TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 12, 1918. VOLUME 64 Wash. D.C. Monday, Nov. 11, 2a.m. Peace Armistice Signed at midnight Sunday Nov. 10 with hostilities to cease at 11 o'clock. Delivery of the German high seas fleet and buildings and trucks were at the service of terms of the armistice with Germany were a certain number of submarines to the allies read before congress in joint session at 12 and American naval forces. Auto parades were in order every minute o'clock by President Wilson Occupation of the principal German naval and it took but two or three to start in order bases by sea forces of the victorious nations. Release of allied and American soldiers, The armistice contains about 3000 words to get a line of cars filled with people blowand is practically the same as that agreed uping horns and waving flags on for Austria. sallors and civilians held prisoners in Ger-Practically all business was suspended and everybody devoted the day to celebrating the cessation of hostilities which means peace to Int terms were all made by the allies which means unconditional surrender. many without such reciprocal action by the associated governments. **AUTHORITY BY WIRELESS** the world and a safe place for humanity. Washington, D. C., Nov. 11, 1:00 p. m.—All calls under the draft for November have People from the country flocked to Vinton There was no information as to the circumand at an early hour the town was filled with stances under which the armistice was signed been rescinded and it is stated that there will cars from the nearby rural districts. be no further calls issued. but since the German courier did not reach German military headquarters until 10 While the local board has not yet been notified officially, this means that the Benton o'clock yesterday morning, French time, it Washington, D. C., Nov. 11-(By the Aswas generally assumed here that the German county boys who were to leave Wednesday sociated Press)—Armistice terms have been envoys within the French lines had been inand Thursday of this week will not be requirsigned by Germany, the state department anstructed by wireless to sign the terms. nounced at 2:45 o'clock this morning. There Forty-seven hours had been required for was no announcement as to whether hostilithe courier to reach German headquarters Washington, Nov. 11—(By the Associated ties had ceased or the hour which they would Press)-Armistice terms have been signed and unquestionably several hours were necby Germany the state department announced essary for the examination of the terms and The department's announcement simply at 2:45 O'clock this morning. a decision. It was regarded as possible, how-Washington, Nov. 11—The world war will ever, that the decision may have been made said: "The armistice has been signed." end this morning at 6 o'clock Washington at Berlin and instructions transmitted from time, 11 o'clock Paris time. The armistice there by the new German government. Washington, D. C., Nov. 11.—The world was signed by the German representatives at midnight. his announcement was made Germany had been given until 11 o'clock war will end this morning at 6 o'clock Washthis morning, French time, 6 o'clock Washington time, and 11 o'clock Paris time. The by the state department at 2:20 o'clock this ington time, to accept. So hostilities will end armistice was signed by the German repmorning. The news was announced by an at the hour set by Marshal Foch for a deresentatives at midnight. This announceofficial of the state department in this form: cision by Germany for peace or for continuament was made by the state department at "The armistice has been signed. It was 2:30 o'clock this morning. si, ned at 5 a. m. Paris and hostilities will cease at 11 o'clock this morning, Paris time.' The announcement was made verbally by The momentous news that the armistice an official of the state department in this had been signed was telephoned to the White Vinton received news early yesterday House for transmission to the president a morning of the end of the war and cessation few minutes before it was given to the news-"The armistice has been signed. It was of hostilities and the first announcement was signed at 5 o'clock a. m., Paris time, and hospaper correspondents. Later it was said that

Rural newspapers, although they often participated in the same super-patriotic reporting as big metropolitan dailies, played a crucial role in the coverage of World War I.

tilities will cease at 11 o'clock this morning,

The terms of the armistice, it was announc-

ed, will not be made public until later. Mili-

tary men here, however, regard it as certain

American forces of such strategic points in

Germany as will make impossible a renewal

that they include:

there would be no statement from the White

Keystone, Nov. 11, 9 a. m.—(Special)—

Keystone which is filled with loyal Ameri-

days to get the earliest news for the people

were determined to let no other communicy

House at this time.

about 6:30 by the blowing of the fire whistle

Auto signals were sounded by people going

through the streets and every conceivable

thing with which to make a noise was used.

Steel culverts, water tanks, windmill wheels and boilers were trailed behind autos. Every-

A huge bonfire was started at the inter ection of First avenue and Fifth street and

from various parts of the city. Boys and men

While the bigger papers during the National Newspaper Association's fourth decade (1915-1924) attempted to provide a blow-by-blow of the war's events, the small-town papers kept tabs on the accomplishments and tragedies of local servicemen and women. As some journalists were called to war, papers hired replacement staffers.

WWI, known as the war to end all wars, bolstered circulation and advertising sales for many papers. The community paper, the Vinton (IA) Eagle, did what most papers did at the conclusion of World War I — it announced the war's end by using a large, celebratory headline across its front page.

The WWI patriotic environment created a toxic climate for German papers. Foreign-language newspapers have existed in American history since colonial times and include American Indian, Chinese, Spanish and even a language created at one point in Utah among members of the Mormon population.

About half of German-language papers went out of business during WWI, and some editors faced jail time for violations to the Espionage Act, which in part required editors to translate into English any political comments.

1918

The Stars & Stripes paper was created for members of the American military serving in Europe, and was printed in the London Daily News' plant in Paris.

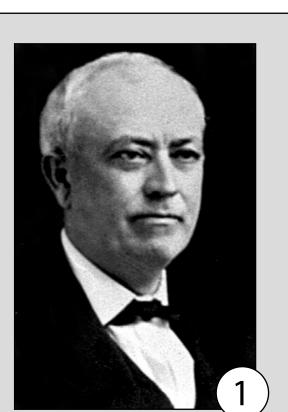


At the conclusion of World War I, production became difficult for rural journalists because paper was hard to come by. The paper shortage was caused by an increasing population and the growth of newspapers. The situation was more difficult for small newspapers because major dailies began using their power and connections to horde paper.

NNA, which was called the National Editorial Association during this era, joined the fight to find a solution to the shortage, and small-town papers formed co-ops to purchase paper and other supplies.

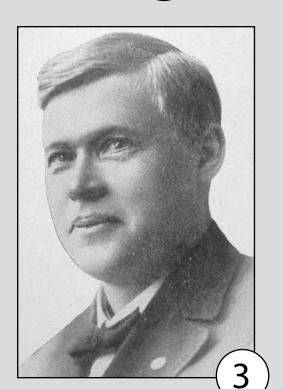
NNA increased its political presence by sending a representative, William Daley, to Washington to advocate for rural and community newspapers. He earned roughly \$50 a month for the job.

1923

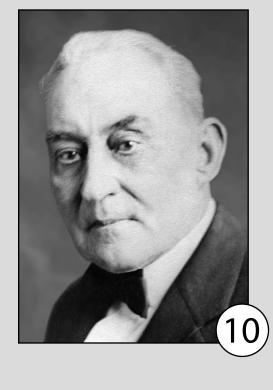


Presidents of NNA's fourth decade

- 1. Lee J. Roundtree of the Bryan Eagle in Bryan, TX, 1915
- 2. E.H. Tomlinson of the Daily Record in Morristown, NJ, 1916
- 3. Herbert C. Hotaling of the Mapleton Enterprise in Mapleton, MN, 1917
- 4. Guy U. Hardy of the Record in Canon City, CO, 1918
- 5. Edward Albright* of the Gallatin News in Gallatin, TN, 1919
- 6. Will Wilke* of the Grey Eagle Gazette in Grey Eagle, MN, 1920 7. E.E. Brodie* of the Oregon City Enterprise in Oregon City, OR, 1921
- 8. J.C. Brimlecon* of the Graphic in Newton, MA, 1922
- 9. Wallace Odell* of the Tarrytown News in Tarrytown, NY, 1923 10. Edgar S. Bronson of the El Reno American in El Reno, OK, 1924
- 11. George W. Marble of the Fort Scott Tribune in Fort Scott, KS, 1924 (Marbel took over the office of president after Bronson died.)
- * No photo available









Guy Hardy elected to Congress

NNA's 34th president, Guy Hardy, had a career that went beyond working as editor and publisher in Canon City, CO. He also served as postmaster for the city and later became a Republican congressman from 1919 to 1933.

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