

KANKAKEE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
801 S. 8TH. AVE.
KANKAKEE, IL 60901



THE DAILY JOURNAL

Kankakee, Illinois

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2 Sections, 20 Pages

25 Cents

Rain

Increasing cloudiness and not so cold tonight. Low in the low or mid 20s. Cloudy and cold Wednesday with a 90 percent chance of snow or rain. High in the 30s. Monday's high was 45; the low was 14. More weather information on page 17.



Len H. Small, publisher and editor

Nationwide tributes follow news of death

Staff reports

Len H. Small's death Monday evoked praise for his talents as a newspaperman, appreciation of his qualities as a gentleman and great

An ascending career is brought to an end. Editorial, page 4.

sadness at his loss from fellow publishers, civic leaders and longtime friends.

Those in the highest ranks of the newspaper profession joined national and local officials in an out-

pouring of affection and respect for Mr. Small, who was described as a champion of the free press, a great statesman and "one of the family."

Public officials from Sen. Charles Percy to Gov. James Thompson to Mayor Tom Ryan paid tribute to Mr. Small.

U.S. Sen. Charles Percy said, "I am saddened by the untimely death of Len Small. He has been a good friend and wise counselor to me throughout my years in public office and before."

See NATIONWIDE, page 2

Len H. Small dies in crash

By Jerry Morgan
Journal writer

Len H. Small, descendant of a pioneer Kankakee family, a lawyer who became editor and publisher of The Daily Journal and chief executive officer of six daily newspapers in three states, is dead at the age of 65.

Mr. Small was killed in a two-car collision on Ill. 113 just a few miles northwest of his home in Westwood subdivision of Kankakee.

His death occurred just one month before he was to be nominated to assume office as president and chairman of the American Newspaper Publishers Association.

When the accident happened he was on the way to O'Hare Airport to fly to Washington, D.C., for an ANPA committee meeting. That evening he was to have had dinner at the home of Katharine Graham, chairman of the board of The Washington Post, who will be nominated at the same April 23 meeting of the ANPA as vice chairman.

The driver of Mr. Small's car, Roy Normandin, was injured. Normandin was in critical condition this morning at Riverside Medical Center. Dennis Curry, 29, Bourbonnais, driver of the second car, also was injured. He was listed in fair condition this morning at Riverside.

Mr. Small was trained in the law at the University of Illinois. He spent 18 years in that profession before joining The Journal in 1955 as associate editor.

He spent the rest of his career in publishing. Under his guidance, The Journal and its sister newspaper, the Ottawa Daily Times, were joined by the LaPerte, Ind., Herald-Argus; the Daily Dispatch of Moline; the Rochester, Minn., Post-Bulletin; and, recently, the Streator Times-Press. Included in the newspaper group is the weekly Metro Shopper of Davenport, Iowa.

His wife, Jean Alice Small, has been associate editor and publisher of The Journal since 1976 and associate editor since 1974. She served as vice president and director of the Kankakee Daily Journal Co. since 1969. Their son, Len Robert Small, is editor and publisher of the Daily Dispatch. Another son, Thomas Putnam Small, is publisher of the Metro Shopper. Their daughter, Jennifer Jean, is a correspondent in the Small Newspapers Washington, D.C., bureau.

Small Newspaper Group bought a one-fourth interest in Family Weekly in 1976 and sold it to the Columbia Broadcasting System in December 1979. During Small Newspapers' co-ownership of Family Weekly, a Sunday magazine distributed in 352 newspapers, Mr. Small had served as chairman of the board.

Mr. Small was the grandson of a former governor of Illinois, the



Mr. Small at the press of The Daily Journal in Kankakee

Journal photos

late Len Small, and the son of the late Leslie C. Small, who directed the Kankakee Journal for 43 years before his death in 1957.

The entry of Leslie Small into journalism and the rise of the family to publishing prominence was almost a matter of chance.

Leslie Small was a teller at the former First National Bank of Kankakee when he was asked in 1913 by the bank's board of directors to find a remedy for the financial troubles of the Kankakee Daily Republican.

The Daily Republican, forerunner of The Journal, was then the smallest of the three, fiercely competitive daily newspapers in Kankakee.

The paper had just lost its eighth manager in 10 years and was in deep trouble. Leslie Small extended his original three-day assignment and stayed on as manager. He decided that newspapering was his profession.

The Journal, which traces its history back to 1853, was the flagship of Small Newspapers and the newspaper from which Small directed the group's operations.

Besides his work in publishing, Mr. Small took an active role in civic and business affairs in the Kankakee area.

He served two terms as president of the Kankakee Area Chamber of Commerce, played a key role in the building of Heritage House (a retirement home at 901 N. Entrance Ave.), was among the original members of the board of Kankakee Development Corp., served on the board of Kankakee Industrial Development Corp., was active in local Community Chest drives and helped raise funds for the building in 1965 of the YMCA on Kennedy Drive.

His interest in the newspaper field led him to the presidency in 1970 of the Inland Daily Press Association, the oldest and largest

regional association of daily newspapers in North America.

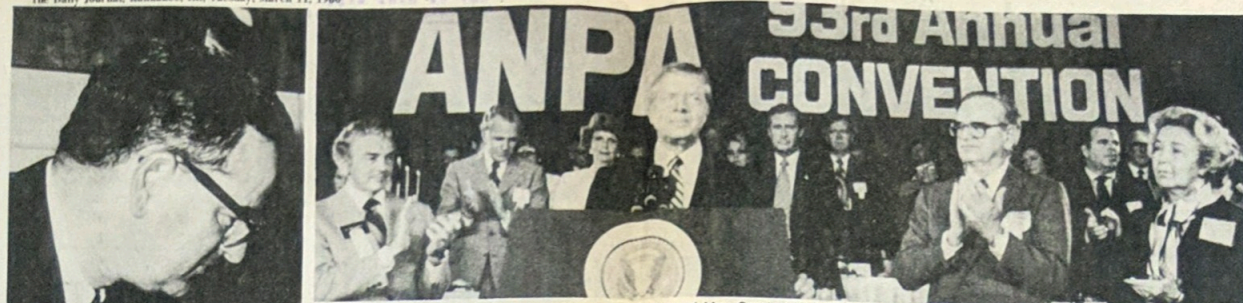
Mrs. Small was the first woman named to the Inland board of directors, in 1976.

In the year following his election as president of Inland, Mr. Small was elected to the board of directors of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. In the following year, he was elected treasurer of the ANPA.

The ANPA is a trade association of 1,371 member dailies in the United States, Canada and elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere. It operates a newspaper center in Reston, Va., and a research center in Easton, Pa. The association provides technical help for its members.

In 1978, he was elected vice chairman of ANPA and was scheduled for nomination as president and chairman when the ANPA meets in April in Honolulu.

See SMALL, page 2



Mr. and Mrs. Small applaud as President Carter addresses ANPA luncheon in New York



Len H. Small, left, and President Eisenhower



Smalls with President Ford at White House



Small greeted by Mrs. Nixon; President Nixon in background



Small, at table corner, with President Kennedy

Small met presidents

His meetings and conversations with five presidents were photographed. They included, most recently, the American Newspapers Publishers Association convention in New York in April of 1979, at top right. Small was the vice chairman of ANPA at the time. He was to become president and chairman of the ANPA this year.

He also met Dwight D. Eisenhower, top left, Richard M. Nixon and Mrs. Nixon, lower left, Gerald R. Ford, at right, center, and John F. Kennedy, lower right.

Small was to have headed national newspaper publishers' group

Continued from page 1

As a director of the ANPA, he was chairman of its governmental affairs committee and was named in 1977 by ANPA to serve on a joint task force of national publishers and attorneys to help each profession better understand the other.

The 1972 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that newsmen must divulge their confidential sources or face jail sentences for contempt of court was of deep concern to Mr. Small.

He became a spokesman for ANPA's position that the nation should adopt a law to protect newsmen from having to reveal their sources.

In 1973 Mr. Small said in a talk to the Kiwanis Club of Kankakee that the issue was not over the jailing of reporters; rather, he was concerned that reportorial sources would dry up and the public's right to know would be jeopardized.

In 1978 Mr. Small represented the ANPA at an international conference of press associations of the free world in The Hague, Holland.

Out of that conference, he wrote a series of articles detailing the problems of Britain and the British press.

He observed in one of his articles, "One of the principal reasons the sun has set on the British Empire is that long ago it ceased being a productive nation."

In 1975 Mr. Small addressed a meeting of ANPA directors and the representatives of the Canadian newspaper industry, in which he warned of the inflationary peril facing the United States and traced what he believed were some of its causes.

"The dominant liberal forces in Congress," he said, "are simply unwilling or unable to recognize that what is needed is a major reordering of social spending priorities rather than a further increase in total outlays."

In that speech he said, "Seldom, if ever, has our country had an electorate so cynical and frustrated with government by either major party. This is a new factor in the political picture."

He attended as a newsmen the 1976 Republican National Convention, in which President Gerald R. Ford was nominated to seek his first full term, and wrote several stories about the event.

His knowledge and expertise in the field of journalism was recognized in 1972 by Evergreen Communications Inc., parent corporation of The Bloomington Pantagraph, which named him to its board of directors.

As a director of the Community Chest and was chairman of its professional division in its 1952 fund drive.

In 1965 he served as chairman of the advanced gifts drive for construction of a new YMCA building here. That drive materialized in the new structure on Kennedy Drive.

He also served as an officer of the Kankakee County Historical Society.

Mr. Small also had been involved in land development in Kankakee. Gracefield subdivision adjacent to Calista Street on the western edge of the city was one example. Another was the Westwood subdivision, where

he lived. That land is east of Ill. 113 and north of the Penn Central tracks.

Mr. Small took an active part in the Kankakee Country Club. He has been cited as one of the prime movers behind its recent decision to modernize and enlarge its facility.

He was born here May 12, 1914, to Mr. and Mrs. Leslie C. Small and was married Feb. 9, 1940, to the former Jean Alice Shaver.

He attended public schools in Kankakee and obtained his AB degree from the University of Illinois in 1935, where he obtained his law degree in 1937.

He was admitted to the Illinois bar and served as an assistant attorney general for the state in 1940. From 1945 to 1946, he served with the U.S. Army.

He retired from law practice in 1955 upon his appointment as associate editor of The Journal. He became co-editor and publisher in 1957 and

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Nationwide tributes follow news of Len Small's death

Continued from page 1

of the Rochester, Minn., Post-Bulletin, said "Len Small's death was a shock and a great loss to all of us at the Post-Bulletin. He was a warm and humane man and was regarded as a friend as well as an employer."

"Len Small was, and is, and will be an inspiration for all leaders because he loved his followers as much as they loved him," said James Booth, treasurer of the Small Newspaper Group.

Members of the board of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, also demonstrated their high regard for Mr. Small.

"Len Small was a giant in the American news field," said Charles Meredith, publisher of the Free Press in Quakertown, Pa.

Another member of the ANPA board, Dolph C. Simons Jr., said, "Len Small was a gentleman and a fine newspaperman."

Jerry Friedheim, executive vice president and general manager of the ANPA, said, "Len Small worked hard not just in the communities served by Small Newspapers, but throughout America and the free world, championing the indispensability of a free press to free societies. His leadership will be sorely missed, but his example will continue to guide free journalists and publishers wherever they labor."

Commented Stanton R. Cook, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, "He was a real gentleman and a first-rate newspaperman."

William Harper, publisher of the Watske Times-Republic for 25 years before it was purchased by Nixon Newspapers, said he was "totally shocked" by the news of Mr. Small's death.

Funeral services for Mr. Small will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Asbury United Methodist Church.

Visitation will be at the Kankakee chapel of the Schreffler & Sexton Funeral Home from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Burial will be in Limestone Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kankakee County Historical Society.

Robert J. Marbut, president and chief executive officer for Harle Hanks Communications in San Antonio, Texas, said, "Len Small left us too soon. Yet, his significant accomplishments have touched thousands of people from all walks of life across the United States. His legacy will enrich us all."

Mary Bricker, chairwoman of the Illinois County Republican Women's Federation, said "the whole area has suffered a terrific loss."

Edwin Sale, a Kankakee attorney and member of the Kankakee County Board, shared an apartment with Mr. Small while both attended the University of Illinois Law School in 1934. In 1946, Sale came to Kankakee and the two men practiced law together until 1955.

"I characterize Len as essentially a private person, who nevertheless liked people. He had many, many friends, but not a host of friends as someone in politics might have," Sale said.

"He had an excellent sense of humor. And his most important characteristic was that he had a generous soul. He loved to do things for people. And his relationship with people whom he knew was frequently benevolent — except on the golf course." Golf partner Fred Hendron said "I have lost the best friend I've ever had. It's hard to find words to describe the way I feel. He was a man that I respected and loved more than any man I've ever known. The hours we spent playing golf together were truly the greatest pleasures of my life."