

Printing and newspaper work were looked upon as among the foremost trades, and the artistic and talented printer was respected and the newspaper man looked upon as one of the most important individuals in the community. There were very few important toast lists at banquets where the Press was left off. It was always one of the toasts of the day. It was the custom to send newspaper men complimentary tickets to various functions and two passes instead of one. Today the newspaper man is expected to attend all functions and at times pay his way, and then work hard on a good report and all without so much as a thank-you.

Remember the old typograph setting machine, later replaced by the monoline and the linotype? The matrixes

from the typograph were on long brass bars, which fell into place as the operator punched the keys. Many a time more than one would fall and many times the lines were jammed. Instead of punching a button and a lever to return the matrixes to their proper homes, the operator had to turn a crank by hand and then lift the rack holding the matrixes back into place. Instead of being electrically heated, the metal was heated over a gas jet from which the fumes poured forth in clouds. The operator was not as fast as today, but almost.

There was plenty of hard work in the printing shop, where all type was set by hand. It was laborious and yet some of the type-setters were exceedingly fast and clean in their work. There was also lots of fun and many a prank was played, especially on beginners, such as sending the new boy out for a round square, or to another print shop for a hair space. The beverage used was usually water, but frequently the water contained rolled oats in the hot summer-time, and not infrequently the shop boasted of a pail of beer.

It is recalled how on one occasion the new proof reader was given seven columns of proofs to correct and he read every column, but "hit the

strip of metal often used in early days, and still used by smaller newspapers today.