

Tice, Clarence Claude

Veterans of Intelligencer Newsroom Recall Highlights Over Past 40 Years

This week writes finis—well almost finis — to the newspaper careers of two Intelligencer editorial staff members who between them have a total of well over three-quarters of a century service to their credit — all with the same newspaper.

Tomorrow, city editor Claude D. Tice steps down from the desk job which he has held for 36 years, while George Carver is retiring as sports editor.

Mr. Tice will continue on as an editorial staff member in a less arduous role than the 6 a.m. to noon stint to which he has been accustomed.

But for Mr. Carver, the break will be a bit more complete. He is bowing out as sport editor after 32 years with The Intelligencer, but after a brief holiday he will continue to write a column for the sports department.

Mr. Tice is the oldest Canadian press correspondent on the Ontario circuit — he has been at the job continuously for three and a half decades. Intelligencer.

Between them, Mr. Tice and Mr. Carver can recall a raft of newspaper experiences ranging all the way from reporting murders to "covering" women's teas and doing box scores for championship sporting events.

Mr. Carver was in the Halifax military hospital, just back from overseas, when in December, 1917, a munitions ship blew up in the harbor, killing more than 1,600 people and levelling a large section of the Maritimes seacoast city.

More than a mile away from the harbor blast, Mr. Carver recalls feeling a tremor throughout the building. He walked to the window to investigate and had just turned

his back when the concussion blast tore out the window and slammed him against the wall.

His eyesight was saved by the fact he had momentarily turned from the window. Later doctors picked dozens of pieces of shattered glass from his back.

After World War I, he got his initiation as a cub reporter with the Halifax Herald.

Later he worked for the Picton Gazette and came to The Intelligencer—in June 1936.

A native of Old London, but calling Wellington, Ont. as his "home town", Mr. Carver did general reporting for some years before joining the sports staff under the late Kenneth Colling.

As a reporter on general news assignment in 1936 he covered one of the most bitterly fought Ontario bye-elections in East Hastings which saw Conservative Dr. Harold Welsh of Roslin defeat Liberal Dr. H. E. Boyce of Deseronto.

It was during this bye-election that the Tory premier of the day coined the phrase "as East Hastings goes, so goes Ontario."

Other general reporting highlights of Mr. Carver's career were the Thain murder in Rawdon township and the Mary Bell poison murder trial which saw more than 80,000 words written for his newspaper — all in longhand.

The Thain murder trial resulted in a conviction with Mr. Thain dying on the gallows for the gunshot slaying of a Rawdon township man and his wife.

Mrs. Bell won acquittal on the charge of poisoning her husband.

Mr. Tice also assisted in "covering" the Thain murder, filing copy for the Canadian Press. Earlier in the mid-thirties he covered the Vermilyea murder in Belleville.

During his tenure of duty covering county fairs, Mr. Carver at Shannonville "World's Fair" was once inducted as a member of the Mohawk Indian Orange Lodge — because he was wearing the same colors.

On another occasion he was mistaken for a much wanted criminal when riding alone in an OPP cruiser with two constables.

The car was spearheading a Shrine caravan for crippled youngsters going to a Toronto circus and drew the attention of thousands as it was escorted by motorcycle police through downtown Toronto.

Highlights of his career as sports editor include coverage of world championship boxing events, the world series, Harmsworth races at Picton, and world championship amateur hockey games in Prague with the 1959 Belleville McFarlands.

For his interest in sporting activities, he has been honored with memberships from the Belleville Shrine Club, Bay of Quinte Yacht Club, Bay of Quinte Country Club and local curling and tennis clubs.

He was instrumental in the motion of minor sports in city and was the originator of the first city darts club.

During the 1950s he travelled thousands of miles with city's senior hockey clubs they played scheduled games throughout Central and Eastern Ontario.

During World War II he took time out from his newspaper duties to again serve his country.

In 1942 he was appointed and in command of the 34th Squadron in Belleville and later led the permanent force of the rank of captain and named adjutant of the Field Regiment RCA at Annapolis and Petawawa.

Mr. Tice also saw army service in World War I and after returning from overseas duty

in 1919 joined The Intelligencer as a part time sports writer. He worked in this capacity until 1922 when he was offered a full time job with the newspaper — as sports writer and general reporter covering the police beat, writing obituaries, covering fires, and the other news events.

In fact, his duties as general reporter meant just that. They extended even to the social desk and Mr. Tice admits he attended weddings and covered afternoon teas.

As sports writer under his "C.D.T." byline, Mr. Tice travelled with the old Belleville Grand Trunks and Nationals senior baseball team which more than once went to the provincial finals.

He also recalls the thrilling hockey games of the early 1920s played in the old Turnbull Street arena.

In 1932 Mr. Tice was named city editor, the position which after 36 years he is now relinquishing.

In addition to his role as city editor, Mr. Tice was city hall reporter for many years, covering council and other municipal events. Then, becoming more closely associated with municipal affairs he was elected as member of city council and served as alderman and chairman of the arena committee for a full decade.

Throughout the years he has retained an interest in sports and has continuously covered local curling and lawn bowling events.

What was his biggest 'scoop' during his long newspaper career?

It was the death of the late

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