

Negro Press--A Crusader, Herald, Mirror

National Negro Newspaper Week

Step Right Up Folks, And Meet The Members Of The Guide News Staff

By MARY V. RANSOM

NORFOLK—With emphasis being placed on the newspapers who serve as a source of information to and about the 15 million Negroes in this country during National Negro Newspaper week, Feb. 26-March 5, here's an introduction to the hardworking reporters and editors of the Journal and Guide news staff . . . who labor each year to keep the public informed.



MISS RANSOM

Off in a corner of the newsroom, there is an office with "P BERNARD YOUNG JR., editor-in-chief, marked on the door. From this office, our editor, whom we call "Mr. P. B. Jr.," sends forth those top news stories such as the one on the United Nations San Francisco Conference in 1946, the Bikini atomic bomb experiments, and his cruise with the U. S. S. Missouri last summer. In addition, he is the guardian of the Guide's editorial policy.

fore writing the story. He is, also the instigator of lunch hour-bull sessions on any topic from the cold war to modern women.

There are two women reporters on the staff, MARTHA HURSEY and MARY RANSOM, who are called "Hursey" and "Ransom," by the staff. At present they are collaborating on a series of articles on Norfolk schools.

Miss Hursey, who is deeply interested in the part the Navy plays in Norfolk, is also turning out some remarkable features on anybody or anything that crosses her path. She has a knack for finding out what the average reader would be interested in, and then writing about it.

Miss Ransom devotes her time to writing two social columns, for the national and home editions, and to soothing Norfolk hostesses who either want or do not want their parties in the paper.

"THE BIG FIVE"

Then there are REBECCA RIDDICK who takes very good care of the photo and cut files, GRACE

only desire on a Saturday morning is for more sleep. Jordan is also justly famed for the length to which his cigarette ashes can grow before they'll fall off.

"Chief," or CLIFTON L. WILLIAMS, who writes the popular "Looking on in Norfolk" column, often raises his head from his work and looks around at a newsroom filled with women, as if he longs for the good old days when newspaper work was a man's job.

Chief is looked upon as something of a combination oracle and high priest by the people in Norfolk who read his column, and daily streams of them come to his desk for help.

Other than bringing aid to the needy and troubled people who seek him out, Chief's top hobby is hinting that it would be nice if the women in the newsroom talked a little less and a little less loudly. He does this very effectively by fixing an hypnotic glare on the loudest talker.

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CHURCH NEWS REPORTER

If you'd like to know just how many people in Norfolk work with their churches, and how popular church news is here, then you should talk to THOMAS L. DABNEY, the Guide's church reporter. Through long years of practice, Mr. Dabney has become something of an artist at trimming down stories from over-zealous church reporters, and at bringing out the best in the news from shy ones. He plays no favorites (even though he knows that five of the news staff members belong to the same church), and manages to keep everybody happy when the paper comes out on Thursday.

CALVIN M. JACOX, the sports reporter, is a man who seems to be perpetually persecuted, even while he turns out an excellent sports column and two top sports pages each week. He also handles theatrical news, and the two jobs lead to an interesting combination of characters who pour their troubles on his broad shoulders each week.

Jake's visitors run the gamut from battered ex-boxers to embryo singers and actresses. He handles each one with the same soothing finesse, and reverts to his moans of trouble after they leave.



Mr. Rhea

The news staff is kept "socially-conscious" by city reporter JAMES N. RHEA who covers all of the big news sources in Norfolk.

"I SAYS TO HIM—"

When Rhea returns from an assignment, the staff is treated to a complete resume of the incident or interview as he "lets off steam" be-

GREGORY who handles the wire copy from the International News Service machine, and doubles as receptionist, VIVIAN T. FONTANILLA, the librarian who can put her finger on any news article a reporter may desire, MARYE SPRUELL, who meticulously reads the hundreds of proofs needed to get the paper out, and EVELYN M. SWANN, who is the editor's secretary, and writer of the "Feminine Viewpoint."

Our engraver is SOUTHALL BASS III, who is assisted by



Mrs. Fontanilla

THOMAS LOUNDES JR. Mr. Bass, who converts pictures to cuts, can effectively wither a reporter who brings down a picture after the deadline, in a half dozen words of one syllable.

And last but not least, our photographer, J. ANDREW BOWLER, who can make sense out of the



Mrs. Swann

most garbled assignments the managing editor might give him, and who always "brings home the bacon," as he did when he shared the Guide's Willkie Award for 1946 for his photographic work on



Mr. Loundes

the Princess Anne County Schools. And there we are, always at your service, and ready to help you. Come up sometime this week, and shake hands with us.



Mr. Young

Next in rank is ALBERT L. HINTON, associate editor who sits surrounded by learned magazines and newspapers, used for source material for his excellent editorials.

ISLAND IN A RAGING SEA
Mr. Hinton is a calm, quiet man who seldom gets ruffled by the chaos that can arise in a newsroom on a moment's notice. His stock answer for harassed reporters who wonder why they ever came into a field like newspaper work is: "The United States Labor Department lists some 2,000 occupations. You had your choice." The calm and peace which surrounds his desk makes it an island in the raging sea that the newsroom sometimes becomes.

In his days as a managing editor, Mr. Hinton turned out a series of illustrated stories, feature articles and editorial columns on the deplorable conditions in the Princess Anne County colored schools which led to the Journal and Guide winning the Wendell Willkie Award for public service in 1946.

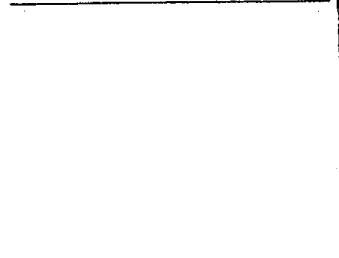


Mr. Williams

Our managing editor, JOHN Q. JORDAN, who gained fame as a war correspondent and writer of the "Rambling Rover" column, is just like all the managing editors in the movies.

CARES NOTHING FOR YAWNING REPORTERS

From his desk, he barks orders for hapless and helpless reporters to turn in a feature a week. And woe be unto the quivering reporter who fails to show up with that weekly feature. Besides his ability to get work out of reporters, whose



Mr. Jordan

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