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## A History of the (Price, Utah) Sun-Advocate 1891-1962

Edith May A. Allred

*Brigham Young University - Provo*

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A HISTORY OF  
THE (PRICE, UTAH) SUN-ADVOCATE  
1891 - 1962

A Thesis  
Presented to the  
Department of Journalism  
Brigham Young University  
Provo, Utah

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Science

by  
Edith May A. Allred  
June, 1963

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CHRONOLOGY OF THE PRICE, UTAH SUN-ADVOCATE

Eastern Utah Telegraph

Jan. 15,	1891--S. K. King
Nov. 6,	1891--S. I. Paradice J. A. Sarvis

Eastern Utah Advocate

Feb. 7,	1895--S. H. Brownlee Dexter Smith
Oct. 15,	1895--Dexter Smith (Brown disappears)
June 16,	1898--Clarence Marsh
August 18,	1898-- R. W. Crockett J. A. Crockett
July 13,	1913-- Fred L. Watrous
May, 1915	--R. W. Crockett Awarded physical plant. Name, <u>Eastern Utah Advocate</u> awarded to <u>Fred L. Watrous</u> who sold it to the <u>Carbon County News</u> .

Castle Valley News

1895--John V. Long (No records exist for this paper)
---

Carbon County News

July 21, 1898--Dexter Smith
April 26, 1907--Carl Nelson Carl Williams
May 15, 1908--B. R. McDonald J. B. Middleton
Sept. 4, 1908--Hector T. Evans
Jan. 1, 1909--E. A. Phillips C. H. Keith
April 15, 1909-- J. David Larson
July 9, 1909--H. C. Smith, Lessee E. J. Dunn
Sept. 8, 1910--Sold at sheriff's sale to H. C. Smith
Jan. 1912--W. C. Benfer & Co.
July 2, 1912--Eastern Utah Advertising Company. W. C. Benfer, editor. Company pur- chased name, <u>Eastern Utah Advocate</u>

News-Advocate

(Merger of Carbon County News and  
Eastern Utah Advocate.) This  
paper claimed to be the descend-  
ant of the Eastern Utah Advocate.

The Sun

June 4, 1915--R. W. Crockett  
J. A. Crockett

(This paper also claimed to  
be the descendant of the  
Eastern Utah Advocate)

February, 1930--R. W.  
Crockett, Jr., (took over  
the paper at the death of  
his father, R. W. Crockett)

The News-Advocate

July, 1915--W. C. Benfer

December 24, 1915--Harry  
W. Cooper

August 16, 1923--Grace A.  
Cooper (took over paper  
after death of her  
husband)

March 24, 1929--William  
T. Ingleheart

July, 1930--Sold to P. K.  
Nielsen at a sheriff's  
sale

The Sun-Advocate

December, 1932  
(merger of the Sun and the News-Advocate)  
By Joseph F. Asbury

January 24, 1935--Val Cowles  
Hal G. MacKnight

April 19, 1945--Hal G. MacKnight  
John Vlahovich

August 5, 1948--Hal. G. MacKnight

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Probably no weekly newspaper in a Utah community has endured the turbulent but colorful history of the Price, Utah, Sun-Advocate and its predecessors.

The first of these Carbon County newspapers, the Eastern Utah Telegraph, was born January 15, 1891, in Price, Utah, a village of fewer than 300 population. From this beginning the Telegraph, over a period of years, evolved into the present neat-looking and progressive newspaper, the Sun-Advocate. En route it has weathered the storm occasioned by two mergers and six name changes. It has passed through the hands of more than twenty skilled and unskilled editors, only two of whom "died in the harness." Some of the editors served only a month or two, one lost the name of his newspaper in a lawsuit through the carelessness of his attorney, and several times the newspapers were sold at sheriff's sale.

In spite of the tumultuous history of its forerunners, the present newspaper, the Sun-Advocate, has excelled in its field. In 1952 this newspaper was named second place winner in the nation for general excellence in typography. In addition it is the winner of many state honors.

## I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. The purpose of this study was to write a history of the early newspapers of Carbon County and their descendant, the Sun-Advocate, with primary emphasis on the personalities involved, the physical changes, and the editorial content. Major social, political, and economic conditions of the county will be noted as they occurred in the chronological history of the county.

## II. EXTENT AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The area of the study has been limited to the communities of Carbon County, since only three years of the early newspaper history included Emery County.

The study covers the period from 1891, when the first newspaper was printed, to the present.

Investigation reveals that no person has ever completed a story or history of the Sun-Advocate and its predecessors. Short sketches have been written about incidents contained within the newspapers, but none of these writings has exceeded a few pages.

Justification of the study. This study is of particular importance in that it is one of the few attempts to record and preserve a picture of early journalism in Utah. Researchers are cognizant of the dearth of local and regional history.



They recognize that with the passage of time, a knowledge of the past is invaluable.

Sidney Kobre, journalism historian, states:

Many aspects of the present day newspapers cannot be understood completely without reference to their past history. In addition, a sociological study of the newspaper will free us from considering the present as being forever fixed and immutable, and will help liberate us from many perhaps harmful existing traditions and conventions. We shall have an opportunity to see how past events condition and shape the character of journalism in the following age. Then we may be able to understand what past social, economic and journalistic conditions originated and shape present day traits, characteristics, objectives and values, and to discover which are obsolete and ineffective. . . .<sup>1</sup>

Since it is impossible to separate newspaper history from the social, political, and economic conditions of the country, they must necessarily become a part of the study.

The study, then, is important to future researchers and to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its collection of state and church history in that it is essentially a history of the Latter-day Saint people who made up the majority of settlers and played a prominent part in Carbon County history.

In many respects journalism history is very difficult to write, because one is naturally tempted to try to include all the facts. Just where to draw the line is the problem, but a good researcher must learn to sacrifice.

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<sup>1</sup>Sidney Kobre, "The Sociological Approach in Research in Newspaper History," Journalism Quarterly, XXII, 18.

### III. METHOD OF PROCEDURE AND SOURCES OF DATA

This study will be handled through the historical method. It will attempt to describe the sequence of events during definite chronological periods and to explain their significance in the county. Each chapter emphasizes a logical division in the history of the newspapers.

The material and facts for the study, for the most part, were gathered from primary sources, the early newspaper files of Carbon County newspapers and their descendant, the Sun-Advocate. Much of the material for the later periods was obtained from personal interviews with the present publisher, his managing editor, from business records, from pamphlets, books, periodicals, letters, and from local citizens.

## CHAPTER II

### CARBON COUNTY: THE BACKGROUND

Within the faded and brittle pages of old newspapers a story is concealed. This is the story of Carbon County as it is unfolded week by week for a period of over seventy years. These old newspapers have served as the principal source of history since 1891. Sometimes the story is distorted by unethical editors, sometimes one can read between the lines, but always the story is nostalgic. It can bring tears to one's eyes, wry smiles of disdain, or hearty laughs. It is a story of high adventure--a story of physical hardships, crime, lawlessness, and the struggle that goes hand in hand with the development of a typical American community in the West.

The story has been depicted in part thousands of times through the medium of radio, television, the narrative, and the moving picture, but only the columns of the newspapers supply all the details.

Today's researchers scan the columns of newspapers for story materials. It is through this medium that the stories of man's dreams, his political aspirations, his successes and his failures have been recorded. The fact that many of the columns contain slanted or colored stories greatly increases the problem of sifting the wheat from the chaff; however, the

stories are typical of early day journalism, and one would not gain the complete picture without them.

The little mining community of Price, Utah, provided the setting for the first newspaper in Carbon County, the Eastern Utah Telegraph, which made its initial appearance January 15, 1891, in what was then Utah's Emery County.

Escalante, Spanish explorer, had passed by the area in 1776, as he travelled along the southern flank of the Uintah Mountains. General William Ashley, fur trapper, entered the region as early as 1825, and both Spanish and Mexican fur traders had made trails, some along the Price River Canyon.<sup>1</sup>

History of the earliest settlers of Price and of the naming of the area is meager. C. H. Madsen, veteran school teacher in the county, compiled a "History of Carbon County" in which he stated:

One story has it that Bishop Price of Goshen, Utah, made an exploring trip up Spanish Fork Canyon during the summer of 1869, although the exact date remains uncertain, and that he came across the stream now called the White river. Following the river, he found another stream six miles away which ran through Pleasant Valley and came to be known as Fish Creek. He called the convergence of these streams the Price river. Legend has it that Bishop Price followed this stream down past the now famous Castlegate Rock and thence into the valley as far east as Wellington. Ernest S. Horsley, one of the early Price settlers and one who has an unusual talent for remembering historical data which he has gathered from various

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<sup>1</sup>Milton R. Hunter, Utah in Her Western Setting (Salt Lake City: The Deseret News Press, 1946) pp. 26-48.

sources, gives credence to this story of the origin of the name Price.<sup>2</sup>

In October, 1877, two hardy trappers, Caleb Rhoades and Abraham Powell, made a trip into the area. They remained long enough to build a log cabin from which they continued their trapping activities until the following spring when they returned to their homes in Salem, Utah.<sup>3</sup>

The spirit of pioneering was apparently accelerated by the tales told by these two trappers for the very next year the first permanent settlement was effected in what is now Price, Utah.<sup>4</sup>

This little community, nestled in the heart of scenic Castle Valley, was a natural setting for the shopping area which was shortly to become the center for adjacent mining camps which were springing up on all sides.<sup>5</sup>

Previous to its settlement, Castle Valley had been a land of intrigue to the Mormon settlers who lived in bordering counties, and was coveted by the most adventurous. Tales of the picturesque boulders which resembled huge castles, and the vast stretches of desolation which offered a haven to robbers

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<sup>2</sup>C. H. Madsen (ed.) Carbon County: A History (Unpublished manuscript) 1947, p. 8.

<sup>3</sup>Ernest H. Horsley, "Fifty Years Ago in and Around Price," (Unpublished manuscript) 1925, p. 3.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

whetted the imagination of the curious. To the more practical-minded citizen the possibilities of vast livestock and farming areas and even the lure of hidden treasures served as a spur to prod the reluctant pioneer to action.

Discovery of coal in the valley naturally led to an influx of Mormon settlers as well as hundreds of "opportunity seekers." By 1893, the settlement, a part of Emery County, found itself with a varied assortment of new problems. The restlessness of the citizens culminated eventually in their seeking a county of their own.

In 1894 a bill was introduced in the Utah Territorial Legislature "to create Carbon County out of a portion of Emery County. The bill passed the legislature and was signed by Governor Caleb B. West on March 8, 1894."<sup>6</sup>

The new Carbon County, uniquely descriptive of its name, lies approximately 123 miles southeast of Salt Lake City, and covers an area 70 miles wide on the north, 55 miles wide on the south, and 24 miles long. State Highways 50 and 6 run through the county.<sup>7</sup>

Extensive coal deposits have become the major development in the valley, since poor soil, lack of water, and

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<sup>6</sup>B. H. Young, "Historical Information Relative to Carbon County," Centennial Echoes from Carbon County (Price, Utah: Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Carbon County, 1948), p. 100.

<sup>7</sup>County Archives of Utah, Carbon No. 4 County, Historical Records Survey, Ogden, Utah, July, 1940, p. 9.

high altitude have tended to discourage farming in most sections.<sup>8</sup>

As early as 1883 the Rio Grande Western Railroad had laid 386 miles of narrow gauge track through Emery County to Springville. Increased mining operations necessitated its replacement with standard gauge track by 1890.<sup>9</sup>

A post office was established in 1883, and in 1884 construction began on a canal to bring water to the town. In May, 1888, the canal was completed at a cost of \$20,000. A three-room adobe schoolhouse was completed in 1885 to serve the expanding school population.<sup>10</sup>

Religion, even in a mining camp, is an integral part of living. The first religious organization to establish a church was the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Organized in 1882, the church opened the doors of a new building on April 13, 1884. Other churches were soon established, and shortly after the turn of the century, denominational schools were also opened.<sup>11</sup>

The first community to be developed after the settlement of Price was Spring Glen. Settled in 1880, this community is still the only community in Carbon County in which the

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<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

inhabitants depend primarily upon agriculture for a livelihood.<sup>12</sup>

Castle Gate, first of the major camps to be founded, was settled shortly after coal was discovered there in 1880. Sunnyside, famous for its coking of coal, was established in 1889. Other coal camps and towns which came into existence during the early period were Kenilworth, Scofield, Clear Creek, Winter Quarters, Hiawatha, Helper, Wellington, Coal City, Consumers, and Wattis.<sup>13</sup>

Margaret Ann Horseley, one of the first women settlers in the region (1884), pictures the difficult economic conditions of the times:

My hobby has been cooking, quilting, and homemaking. My girlhood days were spent in milking cows, making cheese, butter, sewing by hand. I once made a man's shirt which took three yards of cloth and three days in the making. I received fifty cents for the shirt, the first money I ever earned. At one time I washed for a lady from eight in the morning until eight at night, and for this I received twenty-five cents.<sup>14</sup>

Since the advent of coal mining had brought many new settlers into the county, population figures soared. By 1930 the census figures showed that the population in the county had more than doubled--17,798--since 1900. Many of the newcomers were foreigners who sought opportunity in a new country;

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<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Madsen, op. cit., pp. 28-58.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.



some of them were brought to the coal camps by promoters who exploited the gullible foreigners who had neither money nor the ability to speak the English language; hence they were at the mercy of their benefactors. Census figures showed a total of 2,750 foreign born persons in 1930.<sup>15</sup>

Foreigners were not generally accepted by the earlier residents. Many of them were forced to live in a separate part of the community. The County Archives stated:

Intermarriage with foreigners was considered almost as bad as death. If they had become Americanized it was not so bad. Greeks were the most determined to marry American girls . . . in spite of their peculiar traits, Greeks were the most determined to become good Americans. If they could get an American wife, they felt that they were good citizens.<sup>16</sup>

The Archives explain that the pronounced emphasis on coal mining had given Carbon County a "cultural complex quite dissimilar to most of the rest of Utah. The Mormon influence is greatly lessened, and the character of the population is quite unlike that of other Utah communities."<sup>17</sup>

Compulsory education laws in Utah schools and the advent of Carbon College in 1938 have been highly important factors in changing the cultural pattern of the county in recent years. In 1960, 41 per cent of the high school graduating class was enrolled in Carbon College, and many other students from the

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<sup>15</sup>County Archives, op. cit., p. 13.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., p. 14.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., p. 13.

same class were enrolled in various other colleges of their choice.

Second and third generation foreigners have become typical American citizens today, largely as a result of the free school system and the availability of the college. The word foreigner is no longer employed in the county. Racial inter-marriage is common, and except for the traditional vowel endings on Italian names and the as or us endings on Greek names, one is not really cognizant of racial differences.

Carbon County reached its peak population in 1950 with a population of 24,901.

Politically the county is solidly Democratic today. In its earlier period it was strongly Republican. The switch came with the organization of labor unions in the early 1930's.

Mining camps in the county have prospered and died. Camps which still exist are Castle Gate, Columbia, Hiawatha, Wattis, Scofield, Clear Creek, Kenilworth, and Royal. During the past two years Hiawatha, Wattis, Kenilworth, and Royal dwindled in population until school officials were forced to discontinue schools in all but Hiawatha.

In the camps that remain, the homes are well-kept and neat. Columbia, with its terraced flower gardens, shady streets and beautiful trees is perhaps an example of a model coal camp.

Price, Sunnyside, Dragerton, and Helper are up-to-date communities with well-paved streets and modern homes. Because of its central location, Price has grown in spite of the slump

which has manifested itself in many coal areas in recent years. Residents of the out-lying camps have moved to Price, finding new jobs rather than leaving the county.

Many of the people who reside in Carbon County are fiercely loyal to their county because of the broad-minded attitude of the average citizen toward religion, nationality, and economic status. On the political scene the picture is different. The county is in the hands of a virtual Democratic dictatorship. One who is not a Democrat finds it expedient to keep his political affiliations to himself.

J. Bracken Lee, mayor of Price for six terms, is an exception to the political rule. Mr. Lee served from 1936 until 1947, after being elected by the Republican Party. The Republicans have not elected a candidate to an office in the county since 1934. Most of the time a full slate of opposing candidates cannot be induced to run for office.

## CHAPTER III

1891 - 1915

### "NO MAN'S PERSONAL OR POLITICAL ORGAN"

S. K. King was the managing editor of the first newspaper to be published in Carbon County, the Eastern Utah Telegraph. The first edition carried an advertisement stating that he was also established as an attorney-at-law.

An item in the March 19, 1891, paper intimated that Mr. King came to Price from Burlington, Colorado. The June 19 issue stated that "It has been our lot to reside for a short time in another territory, viz: Dakota."<sup>1</sup> The only source of information about his previous history is his newspaper in which brief snatches are recorded from time to time.

Tucked away on page four with no headline was a short article which related his early observations of Carbon County.

During our short stay in Utah we have made one trip of observation through the towns of Huntington, Castle Dale, and Orangeville to the south of Price, and were surprised to find on our trip so many people, such fine land, and such valuable improvements are to be found in the localities mentioned. . . .

We also noticed that lying to the west of these towns are fine veins of coal cropping out of the mountain side for miles with an average thickness of sixteen feet. This coal is of fine quality. . . .<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Editorial in [Price] Eastern Utah Telegraph, June 19, 1891.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., January 15, 1891.

On page one of the first issue Editor King also announced:

The Telegraph is a new venture in Utah journalism and, as its name imports, is dedicated to the people of Eastern Utah upon whom, in the main, it depends for its support and in whose interests its influence will at all times be exerted.<sup>3</sup>

The first issue of the Eastern Utah Telegraph was published on January 15, 1891. This issue bore a handset name plate of Roman print with two non-matching fonts. The newspaper's eight-page, five column format was neatly arranged. Three-fifths of the front page was devoted to advertising. Such services as blacksmithing, horseshoeing, contracting, and building were included along with advertisements for wines, liquors, hotels, attorneys, surgeons, and a meat market. The advertisements pointed out the central position of Price as a shopping center.<sup>4</sup>

The paper printed a total of two-hundred nine inches of advertising within its eight pages. This was the equivalent of two and one-half of its total pages.

Page one contained no headlines. One column of local news was printed with no break between items. They were lumped together in one long column and included such trite news statements as:

- We are having very cold weather.
- The new bank is in full blast.

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

# EASTERN UTAH TELEGRAPH.

\$2.50 PER YEAR

PRICE, EMERY CO., UTAH. JAN. 15, 1891.

Vol. I, No. 1.

## TIME TABLE.

G. W. R. R. Price Utah	
WEST BOUND.	
No. 1	11:10, A. M.
No. 2	9:25, P. M.
EAST BOUND.	
No. 1	1:20, P. M.
No. 2	3:22, A. M.
H. L. C. THROUGH AGENT.	

## A. BALLINGER.

Attorney-at-Law,  
EMERY COUNTY ATTORNEY,  
UTAH.

## S. K. KING.

Agency and Counselor at Law  
Will practice before the Depart-  
ment of the Interior. Legal busi-  
ness at Ogden in all Courts.

## J. S. Hoyt,

Physician and Surgeon,  
PRICE, UTAH.

## E. S. HORSLEY.

CARPENTER & BUILDER  
Price, Utah

## H. A. ATKESON.

Contractor and Builder,  
Plans and Specifications  
furnished. Work done on  
short notice.  
Price, Utah.

Price Blacksmith  
SHOP.

E. ANDERSON, Prop.

General work done on short  
notice. Shop North of P. O.

## City Meat Market.

Best of Beef always  
on hand.  
WHOLESALE  
and  
RETAIL.  
PRICE, UTAH.

The TELEGRAPH is a new venture in Utah journalism and, as its name imports, is dedicated to the people of Eastern Utah, upon whom, in main it depends for its support, and in whose interests its labors will at all times be exerted. It is intended to be a paper for the people and not for any class or individual and all will be treated alike—FAIRLY.

We make no pretense, for the reason that we may not be able to fulfill them, and it is our greatest desire to preserve the reputation for trustworthiness which is characteristic of our profession, but will attempt to give our readers the latest news and particularly that of the mountains of Emery, Grand and Uintah.

It is estimated that there are seven million acres of land under cultivation in Emery county. We know by this land under ditch and well irrigated, and to a large supply of water at all times. Water for that there this amount of land can be obtained from the remaining prairie by building reservoirs in which to store it for future use should be needed for irrigation. There being natural sites for these in the numerous canyons adjacent to the streams upon the east would be not small. In addition it is believed that an abundance of water for irrigation may be had by sinking artesian wells. It is evident that artesian water can be had in Castle valley from the flow obtained at Desert Station and Great Horn at both of which points the flow is fighting to the shallowness of the wells. As a rule, if artesian water can be found in any portion of a valley or section of low country, it can at any other point of the same territory. For instance the dip in the basin of South Tushnet requires this theory. Seven years ago there were but few wells in that locality, some of them being shallow with a light flow and others of greater depth all about large quantities of water. At that time it was a question in the minds of the people as to whether or not water could be found at all places in the valley. Now the question is settled and all that is required to insure a good artesian well is a little capital and energy.

The same thing applies here, water has been found and can be found if the people so will it.

It is proposed to incorporate a company with a capital stock of \$15,000 and stock prospect wells at Heart Grove, Castle Dale, Orangeville, Ferris, Minnie and Price. Good machinery can be had for \$2,000. The charges concerning the matter will be discussed in the different towns in a few days.

Why the Sermon was Short.  
You must have had a great long sermon. You are an half an hour late than usual, and Colonel. Yes, you are late who had just returned from church.  
"What I thought the sermon was very short," replied Mrs. Young.  
"Did you have your nose laid on to the first chair?"  
"Yes, dear."  
"Ah, that explains it. No sermon is long to women who do not return church—TEXAS PATRIOT.

Demands our story stay in Utah we have made our trip of observation through the towns of Huntington, Castle Dale and Orangeville, to the south of Price, and were surprised to find on our trip so many people, such fine land, and such valuable improvements as are to be found in the localities mentioned. The town of Huntington, we believe the largest in the county, is situated on Huntington river, and the towns of Castle Dale and Orangeville on the Cottonwood river. Surrounding each is a fine body of agricultural land, under a fine system of irrigation as could be found in any country, and the farmer in raising crops, only has to use ordinary diligence in planting and cultivating and the yield is several. Not like prairie land, Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado, where rain is a scarce article and there is no water supply with which to irrigate the low frequent result is a failure of crops and a consequent depression of business and general hard times among both farmers and business men. We also noticed that being just to the west of each of these towns are fine fields of coal, crapping out of the mountainside, for miles with a high percentage of carbon feet. This coal is of a fine quality, well we were informed is a good smoking coal. In the gulches and on the top of the mountains can be found an abundance of timber and brush, you saw much, one running in fact, which furnishes most of the fuel for the mountains. The soil of Huntington is the same as that of the land of which is being discussed, this has been stated in various newspapers in the Eastern part of Utah. These lands are supplied with water from the Colorado irrigation ditches, the head of which takes the water up from some place in the mountains, the ditch being over ten miles in length and having been constructed at a cost of over \$200,000. This is one of the finest irrigating ditches in the county and will furnish thousands of acres of land with water.

This town is only a short distance from the southern portion of the county, the facts having been gathered from a one day's trip, and containing no mention at Ferris, Lawrence, Minnie and other points south which we have not visited, but will give space to in an early issue of the TELEGRAPH.

A Great Advantage.  
Teacher—Suppose, Loretta you were principal of the United States, what would you do?  
Tommy—I would not let anybody wash my face or wash my hair any more. TEXAS PATRIOT.

It is just that there are too expensive companies at Huntington and that they have thoughts of extending at Price also. Our people would certainly extend their welcome.

## BLACKSMITHING.

—FOR—  
Ranchmen, Freighters  
And the General Public.  
Horse & Mule Shoeing a Specialty.  
Satisfaction Guaranteed. Your Patronage Solicited.  
Wilmor Burgess, Proprietor.  
PRICE, UTAH.

Bring Your  
JOB PRINTING  
To This Office.  
Letter Heads, Bill Heads,  
Circulars, Cards, Posters,  
Dodgers, Labels, Statements,  
Invitations, Pamphlets, Programs,  
Tickets, Tags,  
And all kinds of Plain and Fancy Printing.

J. B. MILBURN,  
PROPRIETOR OF  
THE "OASIS" SALOON.  
Dealer in  
CIGARS,  
WINES & LIQUORS.  
Fine Stock of Whiskeys.

ALSO  
Good Hotel  
and  
Restaurant  
In Connection.  
Board by the day or week, at reasonable rates.

Price, Utah.  
CITY BLACKSMITH SHOP.

O. ROBBINS,  
Proprietor.  
HORSE SHOEING  
and  
GENERAL REPAIRING.  
All kinds of Blacksmithing done in a satisfactory manner.

Price, Utah.  
F. B. LANG,  
PROPRIETOR OF  
"THE MAGNET"  
Dealer in  
CIGARS,  
WINES & LIQUORS.  
Fine Stock of Whiskeys always on hand.  
PRICE, UTAH.

FIGURE 1

--Our town people had a lively time at the library.  
--The young people are talking up a dance for Saturday night.<sup>5</sup>

Included on the front page were one eleven inch article about water and one nine inch article on economic conditions. Neither carried a headline and only one paragraph indentation marred the unbroken lines of the articles. Two jokes and two "fillers" completed the news on page one.

Boilerplate (ready printed material) made up most of the inside pages. Page seven, although it contained no advertising, contained news for the farm and the home. Seven columns of seasonal hints for rural readers were copied from "Good Housekeeping." Articles on such topics as the value of skim milk, disease in hogs, desertion of soldiers, the value of clover, and farm animal news were included. When a headline was used, it was usually eight-point or smaller type.

Page eight contained a serialized story, forty-five inches of advertising, and a long article on fruit culture, which, in subdivided accounts, discussed pears, plums, cherries, quince, nectarines, apricots, and grapes. Mixed together with no division marks nor heads were the death notices, jokes, and miscellaneous articles. Price, an unincorporated city, was the subject of one article which pointed out the advantages of incorporation.

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<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

Advertisements for St. Jacobs Oil, Carter's Little Liver Pills, Prickly Ash Bitters, Scott's Emulsion for colds, and Ferry's Seeds were elaborately portrayed in the boilerplate news section. Sensational testimonials attested to the value of some of the medicine.

The newspaper appeared regularly on Fridays at a cost of \$2.50 a year. Advertisements appeared in identical spots each week. In subsequent issues the editor quoted freely from the San Francisco Examiner and other large newspapers. Congressional summaries in very small print often occupied a prominent place on page one.

On February 5, a three deck headline in Caslon light-face type appeared. Twelve-point heads also made an appearance over reprinted articles. A serial story, "How She Cured Him of Drinking," took up the entire space on page two.<sup>6</sup>

For the first time a column of news from Huntington, the county seat, appeared in the February 26 edition.

The twenty-third edition of the paper, which appeared on June 19, sported a new format. Now a seven column paper, the sheet was so wide that it was necessary to fold over one column in the files. Size of the paper was cut to four pages, and the front page flaunted a new and impressive masthead. Only one column on the front page was used for advertising.

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<sup>6</sup>Ibid., February 26, 1891.



In this issue the editor mentioned his political affiliation for the first time. He quoted an article from a Salt Lake City newspaper which condemned party division in the ranks of the Republican party. At the end of the article, Mr. King inserted the following note from the editor:

The only political opponent we know is a Democrat and we want to fight him fairly and with friendship because he stands by a principle he believes to be right, but for a mug wump we have no use--none whatsoever.<sup>7</sup>

In another article in the same issue, politics and church membership were discussed. The Mormon Church had been accused of dictating political policies to its membership. Since the article was reprinted, the usual note from the editor accompanied it. "We have respect for all churches but each should refrain from attempting to dictate in any manner the politics of the country. Impartiality is the motto of the Telegraph. . . .<sup>8</sup>

Later issues of the paper proved, however, that Mr. King did not adhere to his policy of impartiality. Several times he quoted news items from the Provo Enquirer. This paper had been accused of not being a Republican newspaper, and was attempting to prove that it was a loyal Republican paper by taking a definite stand on political issues. The editor's comment after one of these articles was, "The Enquirer is on the right track.

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid., June 23, 1891.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

Editor Graham isn't blind. He knows that her [Utah's] future depends upon the doctrine of Republican protection."<sup>9</sup>

The most important news article of the year was carried in the July 3 issue. A six deck, two column headline was used to head an article which covered the entire page. The story was reprinted from the Salt Lake Times of June 23. The story had been written as a result of an extensive campaign being waged by non-Mormons who were attempting to prove that the leadership of the Mormon Church was hatching an elaborate plot against the interests of the non-Mormons. A part of the article follows:

In brief it has been claimed that it is the purpose of the church to secure statehood for Utah and through the alleged political control of its members, seize all the officers and carry on the government in the interest of the Mormons and against the interest of the non-Mormons. It is held that the church claims the right to exercise absolute authority over its members in all things.<sup>10</sup>

Part of the story was devoted to an interview with leaders of the Mormon Church in which the leaders vehemently denied that they dictated the political policy of church members. They declared in unequivocal terms that they had no intentions of re-establishing polygamy in the territory.<sup>11</sup>

Apparently Editor King and the people of Carbon County were not unduly concerned about the situation. The story

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<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., July 3, 1891.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

received no further publicity, an indication that the influence of the Mormon Church had considerably less impact there than in other Utah communities.

In November the Telegraph discontinued the name of S. K. King as editor. From November 6 to the end of the year no other name was listed as editor. However, the November 6 issue carried a front page story which stated:

The Telegraph will in the future be independent in all things and neutral in nothing. But will not so blindly follow the dictates of any political party or faction as to lose sight of the people's interest, believing as we do that eternal vigilance of the press is the price of good government. . . .

The Telegraph will be no man's personal or political organ, nor the organ of any click [sic] or combine, but a paper for the people. We believe in like treatment for all, therefore we say "With malice toward none and charity for all" we remain the

Editor<sup>12</sup>

A small article in the September 25 paper announced that:

This week J. H. Sarvis, one of the Editor's Colorado Friends, in company with another Colorado man, has purchased a half interest in the Telegraph. The other member is S. I. Paradise of Plattville, Colorado. The new company is divided, part being Democrats and part being Republicans and the Telegraph will in the future remain neutral and independent. Mr. Sarvis will fill the position of associate editor, the management remaining unchanged, but will be placed in charge of Mr. Paradise after January 1st, after which time S. K. King will devote his entire time to law practice.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>Editorial, Ibid., November 6, 1891.

<sup>13</sup>News item, Ibid., September 25, 1891.

The new editors inserted a small editorial in the November 6 newspaper which stated that "While the Telegraph management deeply regret the severance of S. K. King with the Telegraph, our best wishes accompany him to his new home in Provo."<sup>14</sup>

In the last issue for the year 1891, the editor cleverly summarized the state of Price City:

Price has:  
 . . . no flirts, no dudes, one bank, a dentist, two saloons . . . no theater, three hotels . . . good society, happy homes . . . two carpenters . . . a good market . . . one attorney, fine scenery, a barber shop, cheap property, one railroad, no old maids, plenty of room, a notary public, one newspaper, no fire brigade, no city "dads," no waterworks, a good location . . . two daily stages, a good physician, two meat markets, one livery stable, county officials, a good reputation . . . four general stores, a few old bachelors, intelligent people, five hundred people, two school teachers, time for everything, two blacksmith shops, promising young men, an obliging postmaster, enterprising business men, a U.S. commissioner, a host of handsome young ladies, men who believe in fostering home industries.<sup>15</sup>

Some of the newspaper files are missing at this point, but on January 25, 1895, the Telegraph carried this message: "With this issue we cease our connections with the Telegraph Publishing Company . . . We assume all indebtedness and collect all outstanding accounts."<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>Editorial, Ibid., November 6, 1891.

<sup>15</sup>News item, Ibid., December 25, 1891.

<sup>16</sup>Editorial, Ibid., January 25, 1895.

New owners of the newspaper were S. H. Brownlee and Dexter Smith who chose to give their paper a new name. The Telegraph editors, in their last issue, stated:

On February 7th the initial number of the Eastern Utah Advocate will appear. The Advocate will continue to their maturity, all prepaid subscriptions to the Telegraph and advertising accounts.<sup>17</sup>

J. Cecil Alter in his book, Early Utah Journalism, comments that "strangely enough, that was the demise of the Telegraph, but its successor, after passing its chrysalis state, nevertheless continued the serial numbers of the Telegraph."<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>18</sup>J. Cecil Alter, Early Utah Journalism (Salt Lake City: Utah Historical Society, 1938), p. 195.

## CHAPTER IV

1895 - 1915

### "WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

The hectic period from 1895 to 1915 branded Carbon County with a stigma from which it has never fully recovered. A certain amount of prejudice toward the county and its inhabitants still remains in the minds of uninformed Utahns. The period was marked by robberies committed by organized gangs, by labor uprisings, mine disasters, crime, lawlessness, corruption in government, and work layoffs. Abusive language, political harangues, vitriolic attacks, and even gun play were common journalistic procedures. On the whole it was a trying period, but evil forces were not the only forces at work. An imposing new courthouse was erected in 1908-1909. A huge water project was completed at Gooseberry, churches were built, new school buildings were constructed, and business flourished in spite of temporary recessions.

Early in 1895 the Advocate Printing Company was incorporated and the Eastern Utah Advocate began publication. The first edition, which made its debut on February 7, 1895, listed the names of S. H. Brownlee as business manager and J. Dexter Smith as editor.

In October, Brownlee and Smith, newcomers to Price, were arrested for arson. They were charged with setting the

newspaper office afire in their efforts to cover up an attempt to steal some political money which they knew was concealed in the building.

Brownlee, out of jail on bail, disappeared. Smith was not brought to trial, and later was allowed to resume publication of the newspaper.

J. Cecil Alter in his book, Early Utah Journalism, quotes the American Newspaper Directory for 1898 for the following description of Brownlee and his newspaper:

4 pages 17x24, \$1. circulation 461, Thursday, Independent, Democratic, Advocate Publishing Company, Incorporated.

. . . In its initial issue, brother Brownlee, editor and manager, claims a distribution, not to say circulation in excess of a thousand copies. There is nothing to indicate that the paper circulated in Hades, but from certain reports, Publisher Brownlee got a good start in that direction himself.<sup>1</sup>

Smith published the newspaper successfully for a year before Brownlee reappeared and demanded that he be reinstated as business manager. When Smith remonstrated, Brownlee resorted to drastic measures. Smith tells the story:

The fact that the Advocate came out lately with the name of S. H. Brownlee as business manager was not with the consent of the lessee or the board of directors of the company. Brownlee took forcible possession and held that possession by force. He called to his aid men who were prepared to hold possession by backing themselves up with Winchester rifles. . . .

At the time of Brownlee's conviction and confinement in jail, the board of directors, who controlled over

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<sup>1</sup>J. Cecil Alter, Early Utah Journalism (Salt Lake City: Utah Historical Society, 1938) p. 195.

twenty-five hundred and ten dollars (the entire issue of stock) showed that "Brownlee's holdings in this company's stock amount to the enormous sum of ten dollars. . . ."

In July of '95 one Fontaine, a former hotel waiter and an old time chum of the man Brownlee, arrived on the scene and was immediately taken in and fed and clothed at the expense of the earnings of the paper. It is pertinent to the statement hereafter to be made that the man Fontaine was illiterate and did not know a "case from a handcar." To the surprise of the board a claim was presented to the president of the company by D. W. Holdaway for \$184. for services of Fontaine as typesetter from July, 1895, to the following February, 1896, which was the eventful time that Fontaine hied himself to balmier climes with the jail bird [Brownlee].

It is very apparent that the claim of Fontaine's was not disposed of for actual labor performed but to injure the company. The claim was fought in the district court and beaten, the costs falling on Holdaway et.al. It is important to relate that in giving his decision, Judge McCarty ruled that Brownlee was lessee and not business manager. Thus it appears that in forcibly possessing himself of the plant, again, Brownlee did so without even a shadow of a legal right.<sup>2</sup>

Smith attempted to dispose of Brownlee through legal channels of the law, saying that he believed "to regain possession by force would not be right nor sanctioned by the better element of the community."<sup>3</sup> Accordingly he swore out a complaint against M. P. Braffitt (Brownlee's attorney) J. M. Thomas, and C. L. Maxwell before the Spring Glen Justice of the Peace "as the Price Justice had been bulldozed and bluffed around so much that he resigned his office in disgust."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Editorial in the [Price] Eastern Utah Advocate, April 8, 1897.

<sup>3</sup>News item, Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.



After the prisoners were arraigned, they requested a change of venue. The request was granted and the trial proceeded in the Helper precinct.<sup>5</sup>

Before the trial began, however, the defendants demanded separate trials by jury. In order to make a case, the prosecution was forced to prove that Smith had held "peaceable possession for a period of five days prior to forcible entrance by Brownlee, and that Brownlee continued to hold forcible possession at the plant."<sup>6</sup> To save time, the defense admitted the charge.

According to Smith's reporting, the jury went out for about five minutes after hearing the testimony, and then served notice that they had reached a decision.<sup>7</sup>

Smith may have been biased in his reporting, but no other side of the story is available. He continues his story:

Contrary to the admission of the defense, the jury . . . found Brownlee not guilty. . . . As it was a foregone conclusion that justice could not be had, the prosecution withdrew the charge against the other three.<sup>8</sup>

A suit for possession and damages was then begun in the court of Justice Simmins of Spring Glen.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>News item, Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

Mark Braffitt was a clever criminal lawyer of early day Price. Braffitt and several of Brownlee's former cronies set about to create sympathy for Brownlee by circulating stories in the community which painted Brownlee as a maligned young man who had been denied justice. They pretended that they were willing to post bonds to enable him to regain legal possession of the plant. The offer was rescinded, however, before any action could be taken.<sup>10</sup>

The trial in Spring Glen was concluded March 24, 1897. The jury found the defendants guilty, awarded Smith \$100.00 damages, and instructed that the plant should be returned immediately to its rightful owners. The following day the sheriff of Carbon County was given a writ.<sup>11</sup>

Smith continued his story:

Sheriff Donant availed himself of every possible excuse for ten days to avoid doing his very plain duty in the matter of turning the plant to us at once as ordered by the court. His main excuse being that the defendants had ten days in which to file an appeal bond and thus did he parley with it, nor did he repossess us of the plant unit until the last moment, giving the lawbreakers every possible moment to abuse the property and destroy the business of the paper. We even tendered the sheriff indemnity bonds in any amount he would name if he would turn the plant over to us, but no, we must await his pleasure.<sup>12</sup>

Smith stated that he was finally permitted to enter his office after the sheriff had forced an entrance. Brownlee had

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<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Editorial, Ibid., April 15, 1897.

again disappeared. Three-fourths of the type had been "pied," or badly mixed, the machinery had been damaged, and some personal property was missing.<sup>13</sup>

Smith's frustration was apparent. He wrote:

In accordance with Brownlee's established custom, he left town again before another criminal action could be filed against him, but there are others who are yet likely to be heard from in this mixup. . . .<sup>14</sup>

The story as told by Smith is typical of many other tales contained in the early files which depict officers of the law as people who obstruct justice and enter into corruptive practices while they hide behind their badges of authority.

Smith himself made every use of the instrument at his command--his newspaper--to point out offenders and brand them as undesirable citizens. The fact that he harbored prejudices, however, is revealed in his writings. In one editorial he said:

This "clique" [sic] in Price grasp every opportunity to do the Advocate and its management injury and it would appear that Brownlee's antics were but the outcome of a plot hatched, turned over, and planned in the fertile, mischief-loving craneum [sic] of some of those sore-headed, malicious, and corrupt politicians who would like to own the company. The necessity of their having to put up bonds to have Brownlee retain the plant would have exposed their hand, and they wisely dropped the deal like a hot potato, but not soon enough to avoid being caught in the scheme.

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<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

All those liable for criminal action have not left town even if Joe Walker [robber] and Brownlee are non est.<sup>15</sup>

Smith operated the paper for about a year after his trouble with Brownlee. In June, 1898, he stated that he was in somewhat the same frame of mind as Editor Gibson of the Springville Independent who had written about the business men of his town, scoring them for not supporting their home town paper by advertising oftener. Smith said it might be consoling to Editor Gibson to know that there were others in the same predicament:<sup>16</sup>

. . . there are subscribers to the Advocate who have read the paper for three years without paying a cent and have been heard to threaten to discontinue their support (?) because its policies did not meet their views. There are others who, after paying the small sum of one dollar a year for a subscription, expect the Advocate to fight their political battles and pay the car fare of political heavyweights who are amongst us with personal axes to grind.<sup>17</sup>

This is the only hint that Smith dropped of any trouble, financial or otherwise. However, the next issue of the Advocate carried the name of Clarence Marsh as publisher. No explanation was given for Smith's leaving the Advocate, and the fact that he had taken over the rival newspaper was never mentioned by Marsh until July 21, 1898, when he quoted an article from the Salina Sun which stated:

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<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., June 9, 1898.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

The Carbon County News is a new paper which has just been born at Price. J. D. Smith is the sire--dam unknown. The News is as pretty as a French doll and as lively as a yellar wasp.

Salina Sun

Edit. Note

It appears from the above that Brother Howard editor of the Salina Sun has sized Dexter Smith's latest progeny about right--a cross betwixt a yellar wasp and a French doll. He is likewise right in his inference that it has not a dam--it isn't worth a dam!<sup>18</sup>

The name of Clarence Marsh is listed as agent for the Rio Grande Railway on early records in Price. No record is available as to his qualifications for the editorship, and his term in office was very short--it lasted only two months. On the front page of the first issue of his paper he stated that he expected to publish a lively sheet which "like Brady's bit-  
ters, every farmer will want to take."<sup>19</sup>

Marsh gave every indication that he was a fearless publisher. He took a definite stand on issues, regardless of the social standing of the people involved. J. W. Warf, a local attorney, and Alpha Ballinger, one of the leading citizens of early-day Price, were principals in a case which originated in a quarrel over water rights. Marsh printed the story in bold headlines.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup>Ibid., July 21, 1898.

<sup>19</sup>News article, Ibid., June 16, 1898.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., June 30, 1898.

It Was a Farce  
 J. W. Warf and Alpha Ballinger are Pronounced by J. Tom  
 Fitch Guiltless of Assault

"Clothe sin in gold and the barbed lance of justice  
 hurtless breaks:  
 Arm it in rags--a pigmy straw will pierce it."<sup>21</sup>

The story included the account of the malicious beating  
 of a fifty-nine-year-old man named Watson by Warf and Ballinger  
 and their release by the court. The story was concluded with a  
 quotation from Shakespeare:

Man, vain man,  
 Dressed in a little brief authority  
 Most ignorant of what he's most assured,  
 Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven  
 As make the angels weep!<sup>22</sup>

Less than two months after Watson's beating and just  
 after his convalescence, Warf met him on the street one Sunday  
 morning and killed him. Warf was later acquitted by the Helper  
 Justice.<sup>23</sup>

The fact that Marsh refused to suppress certain news and  
 continued to expose the criminal element did not set well with  
 his enemies, but he remained steadfast in his purpose in spite  
 of threats made against him. In July he wrote:

Some talk is being indulged by some underbred monkeys  
 about opening the local ring batteries upon the Advocate,  
 and putting a stop to our truthful descriptions of the  
 depraved displays of some important alecks of Castle  
 Valley. We have no fear from such sources and will

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<sup>21</sup>Ibid.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid., August 4, 1898.

continue to boom up every crane-necked lubber who pays tribute to the gang from the capital of his honor. In fact, we intend shortly to portray to our readers something of the moral swamp prevalent in so-called high quarters of Price. We shall try in our weak way to invoke the assistance of parents and law-abiding citizens to put a stop to the peccadilloes of certain rams about this burg who in the past have showed little regard for virtue, the young being their special victims. . . . If there is any gang in this county with pull enough to suppress the truth while such practices are indulged, they will have to show it to the Missourian in charge of this sheet.<sup>24</sup>

Early in August, Marsh announced plans for several changes to be effected in his newspaper. His plans did not materialize, however, since this was the last issue of the paper to be published by him. Although there is no concrete evidence to substantiate the theory that he was forced out of his business by the corrupt forces, one is almost forced to assume that this is what happened. His name was dropped from the masthead in the March 11 issue.

The March 25, 1898, issue stated that "Mark P. Braffet, Clarence Marsh, and Judge Lochrie were arrested here last Thursday on the charge of criminal libel preferred against them by Justice of the Peace Simmons of Spring Glen."<sup>25</sup>

They were taken before Justice Fitch at Helper where the case was dismissed. This was the last report of Marsh.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>24</sup>Editorial, Ibid., July 21, 1898.

<sup>25</sup>News article, Ibid., August 25, 1898.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid.

The issue of August 18, 1898, listed the names of R. W. Crockett and John A. Crockett as editor and business manager, respectively.

The new editor announced that he:

. . . didn't always expect to be right . . . will attempt at all times to be as near just as possible . . . if we cannot have a good word to say of the individual or the people in general, we shall not resort to harsh abuse. Politically the paper will be independent. . . . If the people of Price and the surrounding territory want to do business on this basis, then well and good. If not, then we'll probably change our residence. One dollar a year in advance and all kinds of job work on short notice.<sup>27</sup>

R. W. Crockett was born in Boonville, Missouri, May 10, 1864. His early manhood was spent in Nevada, Missouri, where he acquired his knowledge of the printing trade. He practiced his trade in Denver, Colorado, serving as a reporter on the Denver Republican. For a number of years he published the Aspen Times at Aspen, Colorado. Later he went to Salt Lake City where he was employed on the Salt Lake Herald and Tribune.<sup>28</sup>

Mr. Crockett came to Price from Salt Lake City. He was the first of the editors to remain longer than three years in Price. With the help of his brother, John A. Crockett, the Eastern Utah Advocate flourished. At the end of six months he wrote:

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<sup>27</sup>Editorial, Ibid., August 25, 1898.

<sup>28</sup>News item, The [Price, Utah] Sun, February 27, 1930.



The man at present in charge of the Advocate has been here six months, doesn't owe a cent that he can't pay on demand, and besides he has a few dollars in the bank. The fellows who preceded us and worked for glory have gone out of town on their uppers. When the time comes for our departure, we're going in one of the late Mr. Pullman's best.<sup>29</sup>

At the time Mr. Crockett came to Price he was thirty-four years of age and evidently unmarried, for in September he wrote:

Until the editor of this "great independent moral and religious weekly" finds some girl who will so far overlook her best interests as to take him "for better or for wuss" [sic] no turnips, cabbage, fodder, alfalfa or potatoes will go on subscriptions. However, a few loads of coal will be the same as cash.<sup>30</sup>

Crockett's wife, whom he married later, was the younger sister of his brother John's wife. She was a young school teacher from Missouri who came West to visit her sister.<sup>31</sup>

The Advocate made some improvement under the Crockett regime. By early 1900 the seven-column, four-page paper no longer used advertising on the front page. Boilerplate was still used but thirty dashes separated the items in columns. The journalistic efforts were still crude by today's standards. Such articles as the following are typical of the front page news stories:

James B. Lockwood, the proprietor of a 5 cent barber-shop in Salt Lake City has been sentenced to five years

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<sup>29</sup>Editorial [Price] Eastern Utah Advocate, January 12, 1899.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid., September 8, 1898.

<sup>31</sup>Interview with Mrs. J. W. Hammond, August 25, 1961.

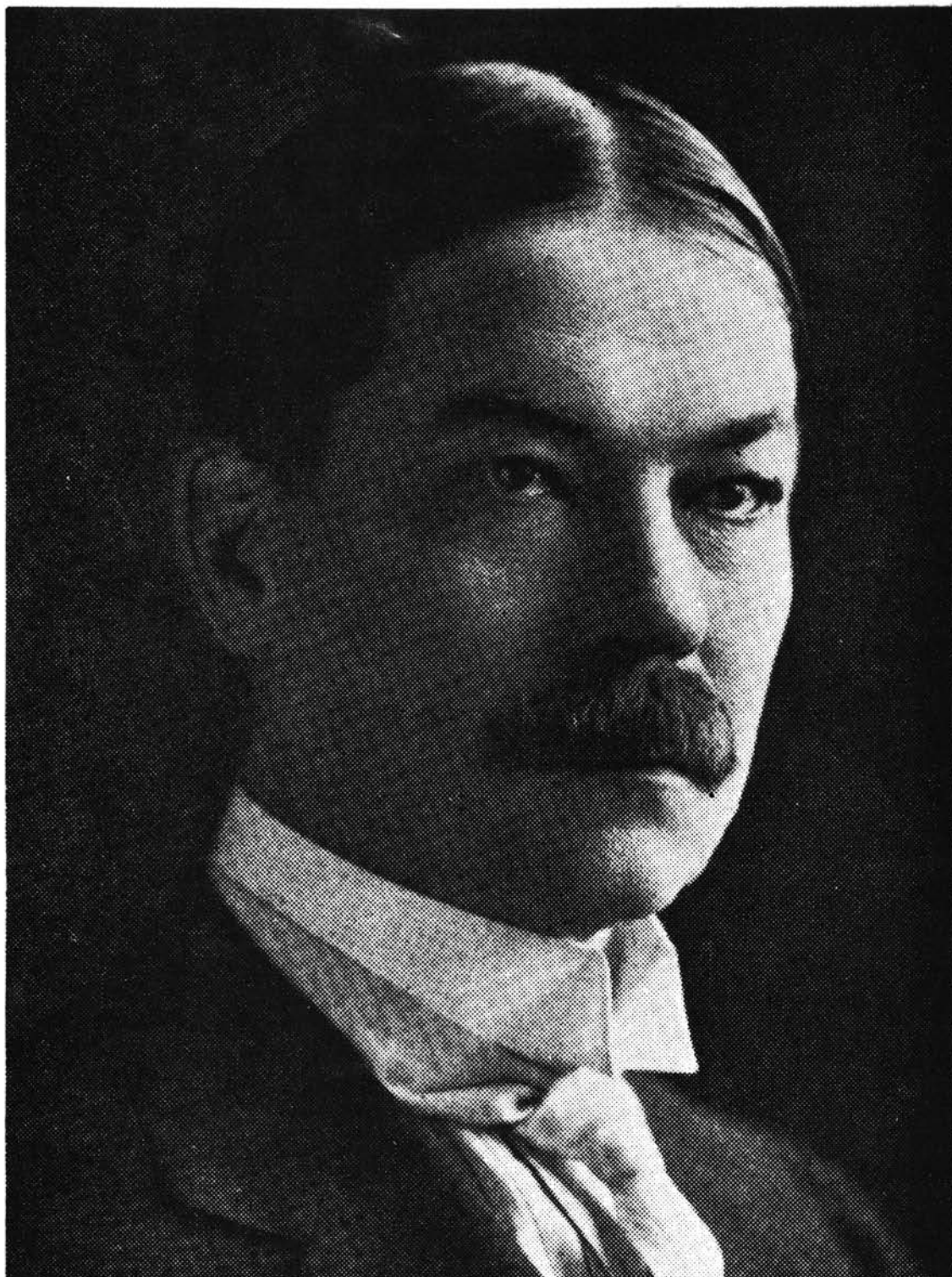


FIGURE 2

R. W. CROCKETT  
EDITOR OF EASTERN UTAH ADVOCATE AND THE SUN

imprisonment in the state pen, having pleaded guilty to the charge of enticing a 15 year old girl to his shop and ruining her.<sup>32</sup>

Crockett's promise not to abuse people and to say nothing if there was nothing good to say about them was evidently soon forgotten. In February he wrote:

Druggist Hepburn--he of the chloroform agency, a chronic bellyache, and a burning desire to attend to everybody's business but his own left town Sunday night between the two suns--Hepburn told friends he would locate in Moab. He is the same crummy individual who a few weeks ago proposed a boycott on "the great moral and religious" [Crockett's pet name for his newspaper]. Most any community is better off without him, and if the people of Moab are unfortunate enough to have him locate among them, they are to be condoled with.<sup>33</sup>

Outlaws were still running rampant in Castle Valley in 1897. On April 22, 1897, the Advocate told the story of a brazen holdup in Castle Gate which is just a few miles west of Price. Seventeen thousand dollars in payroll gold was stolen from the Pleasant View Coal Company as the company's paymaster was preparing to pay its employees. The robbers escaped unharmed into the uninhabited vastness of the San Rafael country.<sup>34</sup>

The affair caused the most intense excitement all over the country and will likely be the means of drawing the attention of state officers to the necessity of concerted

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<sup>32</sup>News item in the [Price] Eastern Utah Advocate, January 25, 1900.

<sup>33</sup>Editorial, Ibid., February 8, 1900.

<sup>34</sup>News article, Ibid., April 22, 1898.

action in obliterating these gangs of audacious outlaws who reign supreme in Robbers' Roost.<sup>35</sup>

The coal company offered a reward of \$2,000.00. In spite of this offer, the sheriff's department of the small county was unable to cope with the problem. It was understaffed and inadequately equipped. The newspaper quoted two stories from other newspapers which seemed to summarize the situation:

The Castle Gate robbers seem to be secure in their mountain fastnesses. It will be a great pity if these desperadoes succeed in making good their escape.

Salt Lake Herald

It will indeed be a pity, but a small county like Carbon cannot send officers into that country and bear expenses and Salt Lake citizens always fight having the state bear the criminal expenses.

Provo Enquirer<sup>36</sup>

The last posse returned on May 6 from an unsuccessful eleven-day search for the criminals in the wild San Rafael country. The robbers were thought to be George Fowler, alias "Butch Cassidy," and Louis M'Carty, alias "Tom Gillis."

The peace officers continued to be plagued with other problems. Cattle stealing, re-branding, murder, and knifings were all a part of each issue of the newspaper. In May, 1898, news reached Price that Butch Cassidy and Joe Walker of Robbers' Roost notoriety had been killed by Sheriff Allred and a posse from Price. The criminals were surrounded while they

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<sup>35</sup>Editorial, Ibid.

<sup>36</sup>Ibid., April 29, 1897.

slept. The two were killed in their efforts to get away, the report stated.

The bodies were taken to Price for burial. Investigation proved, however, that the bodies had been erroneously identified. They were not the robbers, Cassady and Walker.

The account of the fight as presented by the Eastern Utah Advocate was ludicrous.<sup>37</sup>

Joe Bush [Tribune correspondent] reported to the Tribune that the fight was of short duration. Members of the posse say that "Bush the brave" did not show up until after Walker and Cassady had been killed.

. . . it is likely that Bush was not as much concerned about the flying bullets as he was to preserve his cowardly hide.

The credit for the capture is due solely to the Price boys, everyone of whom were at the front pumping lead into the outlaws. Windy Bush is all right in an interview but the Salt Lake reporters are soft snaps.<sup>38</sup>

Bush later demanded and received a retraction of this story from the Eastern Utah Advocate.<sup>39</sup>

Carbon County was rocked with the news of a mine explosion in the number 4 mine at Winter Quarters on May 1, 1900, in which 199 miners were killed. The Advocate printed the story on an inside page with a twenty-four point, double deck headline. "Horrible Mine Explosion. Every Underground Workman

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<sup>37</sup>Ibid., May 19, 1898.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid.

<sup>39</sup>News item, Ibid., June 24, 1898.

in Scofield Mine Mangled or Suffocated by Explosion--Loss of Life Over 300 [ sic ] --Most Disastrous Explosion That Ever Occurred in the United States."<sup>40</sup>

There was no follow-up story to announce the names of the dead or to give any of the later details. In spite of the inadequate coverage of the story, the event had wide repercussions in the Carbon County economy. Four mines were in operation in the vicinity and production was at a high peak. The explosion naturally served to instill fear in the other miners, since the Winter Quarters mine was considered to be the safest mine in the western coal fields. An inquest into the cause of the explosion resulted in the verdict that "death was caused through an explosion in number 4 mine . . . which was caused by a heavy shot igniting the dust."<sup>41</sup>

One hundred ninety-nine men were killed and seven were injured. Only one man escaped uninjured. This left a total of 107 widows and 268 orphans in the county. In addition, the breadwinner in other homes was taken.<sup>42</sup>

The terrific blast was the means of greatly increasing mine safety precautions.

Prior to this accident coal dust was not considered dangerous unless in the presence of a certain proportion of explosive gas. No explosive gas had ever been found.

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<sup>40</sup>Madsen, op. cit., p. 49.

<sup>41</sup>Centennial Echoes, op. cit., p. 15.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid., p. 155.

in Pleasant View; nevertheless a disastrous coal explosion occurred. This incited the origin of the sprinkling system with the Pleasant View Coal Company as well as with other coal companies all over the United States. In fact, sprinkling is now compulsory by law.<sup>43</sup>

The one-hundred fifty new graves in the little cemetery hanging on the brow of a hill overlooking the town of Scofield was to serve as a grim reminder of the necessity for greater safety precautions for many years to come. Forty-nine of the dead were removed to other areas for burial.

Economic conditions in the county began to tighten early in 1908. The Advocate warned that the outlook for the coal and coke industry was precarious. Men were laid off in all of the mines. The January 20 issue of the newspaper stated:

Recently as many as a hundred foreign persons left Sunnyside for "the old country" while at the upper camps the hegrira has been in proportion to the number employed. Number 5 mine at Sunnyside is entirely idle. Reasons assigned--the closing of smelters in Montana and Utah and the mild winter.<sup>44</sup>

Every issue of the newspaper reported unemployment and layoffs. In spite of the facts, the Advocate was optimistic about the future of Carbon County. Water projects that were underway were expected to have great impact on the economy.

During the past year the Utah Irrigation and Power Company, at the head of which are local and Chicago capitalists has spent over \$135,000. in the building system which will reclaim to the south of the town of Price more than 35,000 acres of land. \$250,000. will be spent during the year 1908 in completing the system of canals and

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<sup>43</sup>Ibid., p. 38.

<sup>44</sup>News item, Ibid., January 30, 1908.

reservoirs for storing water. These lands are to be put on the market at reasonable prices, and on long time payments. They are adjacent to the great coal camps of Sunnyside, Castle Gate, Scofield, Winter Quarters, and Kenilworth, where more than \$300,000. monthly in gold is paid out to miners, to say nothing of the markets of all Utah to the west and Colorado to the east. Peaches and all other fruits grow here in abundance. New mines are opening in every direction by independent coal operators and by the close of 1908 the production of coal and coke should more than double. Eastern Utah is not only blessed with mineral wealth but is one of the greatest agricultural and livestock sections in the entire West.<sup>45</sup>

The Eastern Utah Advocate had greatly improved its format by 1908. The tiny front page headlines had been replaced by larger heads. The seven-column news sheet of four pages had been reduced to a tabloid of eight pages. An average of at least thirteen columns of advertising was carried in spite of competition from the new weekly organized by Dexter Smith. Headlines were used on all stories. Columns of news from Carbon County communities had been added. Subscription price was now \$1.50 a year. Cards of thanks, obituaries, and resolutions were offered for half the regular reading rate notices. Locals and legals cost ten cents for the first line and five cents for each additional line. Castle Gate Hotel advertised rooms for \$2.00 and Price Trading Company, one of the earliest stores to operate in Carbon County, advertised cashmere dress goods for 33 cents a yard; gingham, 15 cents; lace curtains,

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<sup>45</sup>Ibid., January 9, 1908.



\$1.32 a pair; ladies' underwear, 48 cents; boys' underwear, 29 cents; and percale, 11 cents.<sup>46</sup>

Columns of news from all of the larger towns in Sanpete County--Mt. Pleasant, Manti, Fairview, Ephraim, Moroni, and Spring City--were featured in prominent positions in the front pages of the newspaper.<sup>47</sup>

Headlines were still ludicrous.

Oldest Mormon Woman No More.  
 Story of Money on Suicide at Clark Hotel Only a Pipe Dream.  
 Truth and Gossip  
 Remains Brought Home for Burial.<sup>48</sup>

By 1910 the Carbon County News had become a real competitor to the Eastern Utah Advocate. Another Smith, Heber C. Smith of Price, had come into editorship. Since no files were kept during the period that Dexter Smith operated the paper, little is known of the paper from July 21, 1898, when Dexter Smith assumed control until it is again mentioned and files are available beginning with the September 4, 1908, issue, with Hector T. Evans listed as temporary editor.

Heber Smith continued the earlier trend to abuse or heckle R. W. Crockett. In one issue he complained in his newspaper that all of the 1910 Republican nominees for county offices were employees of the Utah Fuel Company.<sup>49</sup> Crockett,

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<sup>46</sup>Ibid., January 30, 1908.

<sup>47</sup>Ibid.

<sup>48</sup>Ibid.

<sup>49</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah] Carbon County News, September 30, 1910.

in spite of his neutral policy in politics, was quick to reply:

. . . Smith characterizes the Republican ticket as a Fuel Company ticket, and this, notwithstanding that but four out of the nine Republican candidates are employees of the Utah Fuel Company. When it is remembered that Utah Fuel Company and its allied interests pay about seven-ninths of the taxes collected in Carbon County, and give employment to a majority of the voting population of the county, it is difficult to comprehend how any fair-minded person could object to such a representation. . . .

Prior to his election to the office of county clerk four years ago, this same Smith held the position of chief clerk of the Utah Fuel Company at Castle Gate and certainly received the helping hand of the Utah Fuel Company when he aspired to and was elected to the office of clerk and recorder.

Can Smith be so dense as to . . . deny the Fuel Company the right to be represented by its employees on the official roster of Carbon County?

Smith will have more or less difficulty in convincing the men who toil . . . that their rights in this respect are inferior to those possessed by him . . . As a matter of fact, there are any number of coal diggers . . . who could operate a better newspaper than Smith is putting out, while it is a "leadpipe cinch" that Smith does not possess ability to mine coal enough to operate a kitchen stove. . . .

What the intelligent coal miner will do to Smith on election day will undoubtedly cause that gentleman (?) to sit up and take notice when the returns come rolling in after the polls are closed.<sup>50</sup>

When Smith complained that the Eastern Utah Advocate received the lion's share of the county's printing business, Crockett roared:

All the frightful howl by Smith (Democratic nominee for county clerk and recorder) of the Carbon County News and

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<sup>50</sup>Editorial, Eastern Utah Advocate, November 3, 1910.

others amounts to nothing. Their only grievance is that they have not had everything, as when Smith was county clerk and gave all the work to the paper in which he was financially interested as one of the owners thereof.

Smith's election is the desire of a few disgruntled Republicans at Price, who hope in such event that with the county work (printing) for the coming two years he will be able to pay off at the expense of the taxpayers of Carbon County the \$1500. mortgage on the plant of the Carbon County News that is held by "Tobe" Whitmore and one F. F. Fisk.<sup>51</sup>

Labor reared its head for a bout with management in June of 1913. Approximately 750 laborers who were working for subcontractors on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad went out on strike. The Advocate in reporting the story explained that the miners "had been getting \$2.50 for ten hours, but want time cut to nine hours. They are also asking for bathtubs from employers along the line of the railroad grade."<sup>52</sup>

Guards from Salt Lake City were brought into the area and stationed along the work route to protect workers who desired to continue working. The persons responsible for the strike were said to be Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.'s).<sup>53</sup>

Sheriff East of Utah County arrested five persons who were believed to be leaders of the strike. They were booked on open charges.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>51</sup>Ibid., September 30, 1910.

<sup>52</sup>News item, Ibid., June 12, 1913.

<sup>53</sup>Ibid.

<sup>54</sup>Ibid.

One week later the Advocate stated that the strike had been broken. Men were arriving daily and the work was going ahead. When A. H. Christensen, company personnel director, was asked how he could be sure he was not hiring more I.W.W.'s, he replied, "There is nothing easier. All we have to do is look at their hands. There are no full-fledged I.W.W.'s with rock callouses on their hands."<sup>55</sup>

Carbon County Sheriff Tom Kelter warned that "Agitators will be shown out of the county at the first sign of violence. Carbon County has no use for the bunch [I.W.W.'s], and they will not be tolerated for a minute."<sup>56</sup>

I.W.W. leaders later made repeated requests to be allowed to hold street meetings in Helper, but they were refused. Eventually the leaders sent word to the city officials that their orators would talk without permission, but the meetings failed to materialize.<sup>57</sup>

The name of Fred L. Watrous as editor appeared in the July 3, 1913, issue of the Advocate. Publisher Crockett in his farewell editorial wrote:

The business, the plant and the good will of the Eastern Utah Advocate, owned by the Advocate Publishing Company, on the first of the month passed to Mr. Fred L. Watrous of Myton, this state, the sale having been closed and the papers passing on this date. . . .

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<sup>55</sup>Ibid., June 19, 1913.

<sup>56</sup>Ibid.

<sup>57</sup>Ibid., August 14, 1913.

With this issue the writer has put in 15 years in Price and nearly 36 years in the newspaper profession. At times the work has been most pleasant. At other times it has had its rough places, but as a whole, it is looked back to with much pleasure by this writer. The deal with the new owner has been in process of incubation for a year or more.

The late owners got their price for the property and that is about all there is to be said. The Advocate is perhaps the best paying "country newspaper" in Utah, and brings a figure in excess of anything hoped for by any like proposition in the state. With the prospects ahead for Price, Carbon County, and all Eastern Utah, the Advocate will continue to grow and stay in the lead of all publications in this territory.

To those good friends whose loyalty the Advocate has had in the past, the writer extends his sincere gratitude. It is they who have made the Advocate a dividend payer. Mr. Watrous is a capable journalist and business man, and in retiring, we wish to commend him to the Advocate family in particular, and the newspaper public in general. He will do his part in helping to build up the city, county, state and country generally. . . .

Au revoir but not goodbye  
R. W. Crockett<sup>58</sup>

In another small editorial Crockett wrote of Watrous, "He is of the Republican brand of politics."<sup>59</sup>

Just why Crockett elected to sell his profitable business is not clear. He had been the target for scurrilous attacks by all of the editors of the opposition newspaper. Jealousy of his thriving business was obviously the reason for these attacks. Strangely, he ignored most of the personal attacks with no indication that he had even read them. Such epithets as "hog," "drunkard," or "dog in the manger" are but

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<sup>58</sup>Editorial, Ibid., July 3, 1913.

<sup>59</sup>Ibid.

a few of the vile names that were hurled at him at various times. Crockett himself was capable of using invectives against his enemies when he chose to do so, but he did not make a regular practice of this procedure.

He was owner of other business interests and remained in Price after disposing of his newspaper. He served as U. S. Commissioner, District of Utah, and as an abstractor for Carbon County.

Under the management of Watrous the format of the newspaper took on a new look. He changed the format which was now a tabloid, to a six-column paper with a handsome Old English masthead. In the middle of the front page he used a cartoon in each issue. The columns of news from Sanpete County were dropped. The inside pages again were predominantly made up of boilerplate.

In spite of the changes Watrous made, the opposition newspaper, Carbon County News, continued to improve and soon presented an imposing appearance as well as an improved content and Watrous was soon to feel the pinch of the stiff competition from another newspaper in a town of under 2,000 population. His payments to Crockett could not be met, and in less than two years, Crockett sued Watrous for breach of contract. Crockett tells the story:

Not quite two years ago the owner of the Eastern Utah Advocate sold the plant, good will, and business of the newspaper, but the buyer, having made a complete failure of the proposition, it has been found necessary by the owners of the plant to take the Advocate presses back

under mortgage and these are in the control of Carl R. Marcusen, as receiver for the owners.

. . . in the litigation that has come with the recovery of the Advocate plant one Watrous, by court decision, retains the name and good will (if it has any under his management and methods) of the Eastern Utah Advocate. However, the receiver of the Advocate controls the mailing list and the subscription book.<sup>60</sup>

Crockett failed to mention the fact that his attorney, through an oversight, had failed to include the name of the newspaper in the mortgage contract. The name, Eastern Utah Advocate, was subsequently awarded to Watrous who planned at first to publish an opposition newspaper. He was unable to make the venture pay and in a very short time he sold the name to the Carbon County News. Crockett received the plant but had no name for his paper. He selected a new name, The Sun. The Carbon County News promptly changed its name to the News-Advocate and each newspaper declared itself to be the original descendant of the Eastern Utah Advocate.

When Crockett was ready to publish his paper, he found that he had no linotype machine, Watrous having taken the Model Five Mergenthaler machine with him when he moved from the Advocate building. Crockett contended that the machine, which cost \$2500.00, had been purchased in his name as trustee and that it belonged to him. Watrous refused to let Crockett have the machine but it was "replevined by Crockett under a

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<sup>60</sup>News item in the [Price, Utah] Sun, June 4, 1915.

\$5,000.00 fidelity bond."<sup>61</sup> Two days later "Watrous executed a redelivery bond with personal securities,"<sup>62</sup> which left the court to decide who was the legal owner. The decision could not be made for several months.<sup>63</sup>

Three weeks later Crockett reported that:

"Tobe" Whitmore and the five other persons who went on the bond of Fred L. Watrous for \$5,000.00 . . . had contracted a most severe case of "cold feet" after they had time to reflect what the suit meant to them. . . . They sent their attorney to Crockett's attorney, E. E. Woods, and proffered the delivery of the machine to Crockett if the latter would agree to release them of any liability under the redelivery bond. The matter was thus adjusted and the machine was brought over . . . where it is now a part of the Sun's plant.

The excuse of the bondsmen was that Watrous had failed to get out the Advocate for the week ending June 11th. He had also left town and the intimation was that he was not "toting fair with the bunch that had come to his rescue."<sup>64</sup>

Crockett published his first issue of the Sun on June 4, 1915. He said: "The Sun is Republican in politics, but its aim at all times will be for the upbuilding of Price, Carbon County, and the empire of Eastern Utah."<sup>65</sup>

At the time that Crockett lost his linotype machine, he stated that nothing would thwart him in publishing his paper. He was in business to stay. In lighter vein he wrote:

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<sup>61</sup>Ibid.

<sup>62</sup>Ibid.

<sup>63</sup>Ibid., June 25, 1915.

<sup>64</sup>Editorial, Ibid., July 16, 1915.

<sup>65</sup>Ibid., June 4, 1915.



Fred L. Watrous was boastfully telling a Price business man the other day how he had skinned the editor of the Sun. The editor of the Sun admits he was an easy mark in at least one instance. That was when he furnished Watrous the coal that kept his wife and babies warm and helped to cook their food for the greatest part of the past winter. The coal bill is still unpaid.<sup>66</sup>

Watrous replied, "In Crockett's announcement that he is going to stay, the old adage that it is an ill wind that blows no one any good is verified. Price's loss is some other community's gain."<sup>67</sup>

Fred L. Watrous published the last issue of the Eastern Utah Advocate on July 2, 1915. In this issue he stated:

This is the last issue of the Eastern Utah Advocate under its present name and management, the paper having been sold to a syndicate of Carbon County business men, who take charge next week. The Advocate will be consolidated with the Carbon County News and issued under the name and title of News-Advocate, the same parties having purchased the News as well.

. . . W. C. Benfer, the present publisher of the Carbon County News will manage the business of the new company.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>66</sup>Ibid., June 4, 1915.

<sup>67</sup>Eastern Utah Advocate, June 18, 1915.

<sup>68</sup>News item, Ibid., July 2, 1915.

## CHAPTER V

1898 - 1915

### COMPETITION IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

A record of the earliest opposition newspaper in Carbon County is contained in the book, Early Utah Journalism by J. Cecil Alter, which quotes the Nephi Blade, July 27, 1895, as stating: "Volume I, Number I, Castle Valley News is on our table."<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Alter quotes the American Newspaper Directory of 1898 as giving the following description of this paper: "Republican, established 1895, 4 pages, 18x24, \$1.50. Circulation 420. John V. Long, editor and publisher."<sup>2</sup>

No files of this paper have been kept, but occasional references to it are made in various newspapers. J. Dexter Smith, editor of the Eastern Utah Advocate at this time, complained that the editor of the Castle Valley News irritated him with his constant vitriolic attacks. He said:

If the gentlemanly (?) gentlemen who preside over the destinies of the weakling known as the Castle Valley News, and which by the way fails to pass muster as a newspaper, would let up on the phrase "our loathsome contemporary," it would appear less like the "Have to keep it up" business; besides, a much nauseated and long-suffering community

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<sup>1</sup>J. Cecil Alter, Early Utah Journalism (Salt Lake City: Utah Historical Society, 1938), p. 197.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

would feel a great relief. It would be a source of much gratification if that filthy rotten sheet would for one single issue confine its columns to legitimate news gathering.<sup>3</sup>

The fact that Mr. Smith was the scapegoat for savage attacks at the hands of the editors of this and others of the early newspaper family is given further credence in a quote from the Logan Journal which was reprinted by Mr. Smith. The article berated the newspaper for its frequent attacks on Mr. Smith and described the stories:

They are not only foully insulting but positively indecent and a disgrace to the paper publishing them. The terms used and the foul epithets applied to Editor Smith would almost justify him in killing the editor on sight. We are not acquainted with either editor, but the Pioneer man certainly stamps himself as unworthy of the name of gentleman or the profession of journalism.<sup>4</sup>

J. Dexter Smith left his post as editor of the Eastern Utah Advocate one week after the publication of this article. As has been previously stated, he was succeeded by Clarence Marsh. The July 21, 1898, issue of Marsh's newspaper reprinted an editorial from the Wasatch Wave (Heber City). The Wave acknowledged receipt of a copy of the Carbon County News, a new paper published in Price, Utah. The Wave editor evidently assumed that this paper was the successor to the Eastern Utah Advocate<sup>5</sup> since he wrote: "The Carbon County News is a new

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<sup>3</sup>Editorial in [Price] Eastern Utah Advocate, March 11, 1897.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., June 2, 1898.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., July 21, 1898.

venture in the field of journalism. It will succeed the Eastern Utah Advocate."<sup>6</sup>

Marsh, in reprinting the article, stated that the editor was in error. He explained that Dexter Smith, former editor of the Advocate and now editor of the Carbon County News, because of his "journalistic inaptitude couldn't run his newspaper and has opened a patent sheet"<sup>7</sup> which will be printed in Salt Lake City and mailed in Price. Marsh surmised that this new journalistic effort of Dexter Smith, which would take the place of the Castle Valley News, wouldn't amount to much. "The abject substitution for a newspaper which Mr. Smith is fathering cannot long survive," he stated.<sup>8</sup>

This is the only record that remains of the termination of the Castle Valley News. The new Carbon County News, contrary to Marsh's prediction, grew and improved.

No files for the early years of the Carbon County News have been kept. Just how long Dexter Smith served as its editor is unknown.

Early Utah Journalism, quoting the American Newspaper Directory, lists the Carbon County News as beginning "Volume I, Number I, April 26, 1907. Carbon County Publishing Company,

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<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

Incorporated. J. H. Nelson, Manager, published every Friday."<sup>9</sup> This entry fails to substantiate the information contained in the early papers that Dexter Smith published the first Carbon County News in 1898.

On July 5, 1907, a new masthead on the Carbon County News listed J. H. Nelson as manager and Carl R. Williams as editor, but the August 16, 1907, issue dropped Nelson's name and the November 29, 1907, issue dropped the name Carl R. Williams.

B. R. McDonald and J. B. Middleton were listed as editor and manager in the May 15, 1908, newspaper. These two names had appeared often in the advertisements in the earlier issues of the papers as agents for "the best insurance on earth,"<sup>10</sup> and for real estate plans and specifications. The Eastern Utah Advocate carried an article in its October 30, 1902, issue which stated that McDonald had been endorsed as candidate for State Senator in Twelfth Senatorial District by the Socialist Party. At that time he was employed as agent for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

Apparently this combination did not work out well, for by September 4 of the same year the name of Hector T. Evans was listed as editor on a temporary basis. This name was

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<sup>9</sup>Alter, loc. cit.

<sup>10</sup>News article in the [Price] Eastern Utah Advocate, October 30, 1902.

replaced January 1, 1909, by those of Charles H. Keith and E. A. Phillips as manager and editor.<sup>11</sup>

Mr. Keith had been employed by the Carbon County News for six months before he purchased his interest. Previous to this time he had been employed on the Republican in Salt Lake City. Mr. Phillips resigned as telegraph editor on the Salt Lake Evening Telegram to work as a partner with Mr. Keith.<sup>12</sup>

The new editors wrote:

We stand for every principle of Right, Justice and Decency . . . that we will look for good in all men and things, and will never become so petty-brained and small-souled as to judge man simply because he differs with us in opinion. Let us then reason together, men and brethern.

Every man has a right to pursue happiness in any way he chooses, provided he does not interfere with his neighbors.<sup>13</sup>

Whether or not Mr. Phillips believed his own editorial comment is questionable; that he entered the newspaper business with a chip on his shoulder is evident. In the same issue in which he stated his policy of "live and let live" he savagely attacked R. W. Crockett, editor of the opposition newspaper, in an editorial:

How Long Will You Stand For It?

A problem confronts the people of Price, of Carbon County, and of eastern Utah. It is a problem which must

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<sup>11</sup>News article in the [Price, Utah] Carbon County News, January 1, 1909.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Editorial, Ibid.

be met and solved before there can be an unanimity of spirit in the already popular effort to bring this section of the state to favorable attention of the outside world. . . .

There is a snake in Carbon County which has wound its slimy fold about a few of the prominent men and women. It has been the business of the human viper to crawl into secret places to spy out and preserve doings of those whom it proposed from the start, and proposes for the future to rule or ruin.

This wretch could be kicked into obscurity in a tenth of a second. He has been permitted to acquire newspaper property which he flaunts in the faces of hapless persons who foolishly fear him. . . .

Chuckling in glee he levies new tribute from those who fear noisome notoriety. . . . How long are you going to stand this, It's up to You?<sup>14</sup>

The first important undertaking of the new owners was a campaign to boost Price. Front page articles and editorials in every issue accelerated the project. At times the reading was monotonous to the point of boredom. A dish of juicy gossip about Crockett or a few vicious attacks on him sparked the editorial page in almost every issue. His movements, motives, and short-comings were minutely recorded and interpreted.

In February, Phillips and Keith admitted that they had made a serious faux pas. In assuming their ownership posts, they failed to announce their political policy. They had inferred, they stated, that the policy of the newspaper was Republican when actually they had now learned that it was

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<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

Democratic.<sup>15</sup> This announcement seemed paradoxical in view of the fact that Phillips had been employed by the paper for six months prior to the time that he purchased his interest in it.

To set itself and the record straight, the editors asserted that "this paper is out and out, and uncompromisingly Republican. It believes in the principles of that great party and no one connected with this paper has ever voted another ticket."<sup>16</sup>

The same copy of the newspaper carried another editorial directed to Crockett which probably reached an all-time low in journalistic practices. It stated:

#### The Human Hog

Cultured men, refined and polite flee from the Human Hog, as from a Pestilence. He spoils their dinner, he eats with his knife. His conversation is for the most part composed of "I" and "Me" and he bawls bad grammar<sup>17</sup> across dining rooms and offices and streets, unable to understand why people waste their time with music and poetry and flowers and birds and charity and--other nonsense. Such is the Human Hog. Why doesn't society abate him?<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>15</sup>Ibid., February 27, 1909.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid.

<sup>17</sup>Mrs. J. W. Hammond, long-time Price resident and personal friend of Crockett, stated in an interview that Crockett was an astute grammarian. At one time he offered a reward of \$1,000.00 to any person who could find a grammatical error in his newspaper.

<sup>18</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah] Carbon County News, February 27, 1909.



Keith and Phillips managed to hold their positions barely two months. On March 6, 1909, C. H. Keith's name was dropped from the masthead, and the next week the name of E. A. Phillips was missing. Although no mention was made of their leaving, the implication is clear--they failed to uproot the established Crockett, who, in spite of his drinking, seemed to be held in high esteem by his fellow citizens.

The name of J. David Larson was listed as editor in the April 15, 1909 newspaper. Sid J. Whitehead was listed as manager.

J. David Larson came to Price from Provo, Utah, where he had recently been promoted to the editorship of the tri-weekly, the Utah County Democrat. The Carbon County News had carried the story earlier in the year. It stated, "Since Christmas Day Mr. Larson has not only been editor but also owner and proprietor of the hustling tri-weekly of which he has had charge for the past nine months."<sup>19</sup>

Mr. Larson stated that his policy was one of absolute independence in politics. "Whatever the discouragements of our predecessors, we hope to be able to overcome all of the problems."<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup>News article in the [Price, Utah] Carbon County News, January 1, 1909.

<sup>20</sup>Editorial, Ibid., April 15, 1909.

The new editor seemed to be energetic, capable, and a gentleman. The attacks on Crockett ceased. Changes in the paper and in its tone were evident. He inaugurated a 4 p.m. delivery service. Subscribers were asked to listen for the whistle. The paper was still sold for \$1.50 a year. More home news was substituted for boiler-plate. News columns from most of the Emery County communities were inserted--Emery, Castle Dale, Huntington, Cleveland, Ferron, and Orangeville. The eight-page news sheet continued the same format, but the headlines were greatly improved.

In keeping with his promise to improve his newspaper, Larson published on fine white newsprint a special edition. A large colored picture of the new courthouse, which was nearing completion, served as the cover. Pictures of all schools in the county were included along with informative articles about each one. Some of the most attractive homes, the business district, and local scenes were also pictured. Advertising was used to complete the edition.

J. David Larson's name disappeared from the masthead on April 29, and on July 9, 1909, the names of H. C. Smith and E. J. Dunn appeared. Although no mention was made of Larson, the evidence was clear. He had made a valiant effort to surmount the obstacle--the opposition newspaper--but had been forced to tread the now beaten path of his predecessors, all of whom failed to operate a newspaper that could survive the competition of the inexorable Crockett.

Under the direction of Larson the Carbon County News had progressed. Conditions in the county were improving. On April 12, 1909, Larson noted that there would be "no more boozing on Sunday. Dry is the word. Every saloon and liquor dispensary in Carbon County must close on Sunday. The law will be enforced."<sup>21</sup>

Sheep raising, cattle ranching, and farming were increasing. In 1909, twenty-five acres of sugar beets were contracted with Carbon County farmers. Six hundred acres of beets were grown in the county in 1919.<sup>22</sup>

H. C. Smith, the new editor of the Carbon County News, was a highly respected citizen of Price and a staunch Democrat. For many years he held elective offices in the city and county, often winning his office when the papers showed a Republican landslide for all other candidates.

He was born January 31, 1864, in Gainsville, Georgia. Later he moved to Kansas where he began his career as a railroad man. Few people in Price remember Mr. Smith as a newspaper man. Many expressed surprise that he had ever owned a newspaper, but all who had known him remembered his status as a gentleman of distinctions. "He cared more about making friends" or "He was interested in you" was a typical comment.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>Ibid., April 12, 1909.

<sup>22</sup>Centennial Echoes, op. cit., pp. 68-69.

<sup>23</sup>Interview with Mrs. Clea Sumner, Price, Utah.

H. C. Smith was the father of five children; only one, a son Ira, is still living. One daughter-in-law, Mrs. Helen Wadleigh, resides in Price.

He first came to Price in 1891 as a telegraph operator for the Denver and Rio Grande Railway Company. Later he served as a clerk with the Utah Fuel Company, as county clerk, as postmaster, as treasurer of Carbon County, and as a school board member.<sup>24</sup>

Under the management of H. C. Smith the Carbon County News lost ground for the first six months. Local news disappeared and more boilerplate was used. Advertising appeared on the front page again for the first time in several years. On July 16, 1909, only one and one-half columns of the front page were devoted to news, the rest being used for advertising. Editorials were scattered and infrequent. Heads reverted back to labels.

That Mr. Smith and his editor were novices was evident. Smith repeatedly appealed to his public to "bear with him" until he could adjust to his new position. "It is the intention of the present management to make every possible effort to retrieve some if not all of the faults of the parties under whose management the last issue was published," he wrote.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup>Interview with Mrs. Helen Wadleigh, Price, Utah.

<sup>25</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah] Carbon County News, July 9, 1909.

On July 30, 1909, less than a month after he had taken over the management he wrote: "An esteemed correspondent asks, 'Will the present attempt to continue publication of the Carbon County News end in as grand a fizzle as previous attempts?'"<sup>26</sup>

Smith answered:

No Sir! Not until the progressive spirit of Carbon County citizens become stupified . . . we expect to promote the welfare of every citizen, boost industry, persuade enviable enterprises to locate in Carbon County. Our chief object for existence is to fill the pockets of whoever happens to have control.<sup>27</sup>

Promises that with prospects of more help the paper would improve were made by Smith. That he had his problems is evident. By September 9, 1910, the name of Dunn had been dropped and V. V. Tennant appeared on the masthead as editor with H. C. Smith listed as proprietor.

Eastern Utah Advocate carried a news story on September 8, 1910, which was of interest to subscribers of this paper:

Last Saturday the plant of the Carbon County News was sold under a chattel mortgage held by "Tobe" Whitmore, principal and interest amounting to \$1,716.00. There were two bids for the plant which was knocked off to H. C. Smith for \$1,6500.00. . . .<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>26</sup>Ibid., July 30, 1909.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid.

<sup>28</sup>News story in the [Price] Eastern Utah Advocate, September 8, 1910.

# CARBON COUNTY NEWS

PRICE, UTAH, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1912

NO. 9

## Two Fatal Accidents During Past Week

### Cars Kill One Man and Another Meets Death Under a Wagon.

#### Edward Davis Killed

Edward Davis, a man just fifty years of age, and living at Spring Hill, received injuries from a D. & R. G. freight train to the local yards last Sunday morning that resulted in his death at 4 o'clock that afternoon.

Davis came to Price, Friday afternoon, and it is reported on reliable authority, although freely in strong talk. Daily Sunday morning he was seen by railroad men going past the D. & R. G. passenger depot, evidently under the influence of liquor. At 7:50, when east-bound freight No. 64, drawn by engine No. 101, was doing some switching east of the depot, the engine ran over the body of a man who had been lying across the main line tracks. Recognition by the train crew caused the train to be halted. He was before when found, but his right leg was badly crushed and severed above the knee, and his left leg and foot were completely crushed. He was picked up at once and taken to the county court house, where Drs. Johnson and Fife of this city, and Dr. Doyd of Sunnyside made an examination of his injuries and decided that he was too weak from loss of blood and the shock of the accident to stand the operation of the injured limb.

The injured man's wife and children, two brothers and a sister were by his bedside for some time before the body was taken to the morgue. He was laid out and taken to his home, beside his wife, his two children and a number of other relatives.

The body was taken to charge by relatives, conveyed to Spring Glen cemetery and was buried at that place Monday.

As far as the News can learn, no one was to blame for the death of the unfortunate man except himself. The members of the train crew were doing switching and chain they did not know the man on the track.

#### Adrian Monroe

The second accidental death to occur within the past three days occurred at about 3 o'clock Monday morning when Adrian Monroe, 30 years of age, was killed by being run over by a wagon loaded with lumber. Monroe was employed by M. M. Brown as a teamster, and was engaged in loading lumber for the Sherrill lumber company. He was driving the D. & R. G. tracks with a heavy load going south at the time when the Commodore all wheels when his load began to slip and he was thrown under it. He fell on the sudden, gasping in the arms of his horses. He fell on the head and back which on the right side of the wagon passed over his head, so when moving over his head and the other side his stomach. Monroe, Adolger and Hubbard Brown, who were at the wheel,

witnessed the accident and hurriedly picked up the injured man. J. M. Whitmore came along in his auto and took the injured man to Dr. Fisk's office, where he lingered for about 30 minutes before succumbing to his injuries, which were mostly internal. Before passing away he stated that his wife, Annie Monroe, lived at Vernal.

The body was turned over to the Eastern Utah Undertaking company, and Mrs. Monroe was notified of her husband's untimely ending. It is said he has three children living with the mother at Vernal.

Deceased, who was about 50 years of age, had been in Price about three weeks, coming here from Vernal in search of work. He formerly lived at Grand Junction and people from that place say he was a sober and industrious citizen, but appeared to have his share of the ill luck which follows some men through life. For this reason he was not very well fixed financially. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and was at one time a member of the carpenter's union, but whether in good standing at the time of his death, none of his friends appear to know. He had just gone to work the morning of the day of his death.

The body was buried in the Price cemetery Wednesday evening.

## Brown Jury Says He's "Not Guilty"

After hearing the evidence of witnesses, listening to the arguments of the lawyers and the instructions of the jury, the jury trying John E. Brown of Mound, retired for deliberation at 11 Monday night and reached a verdict at 3 Tuesday morning. This verdict, finding Brown not guilty of the murder of James A. DuBois, his son-in-law, was given to the court at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning.

The case was bitterly contested by both sides and, while there was no doubt that Brown killed DuBois, when the latter was unarmed, and killed him intentionally, the attorneys for the defense were able to convince the jurors that Brown felt that his life was in danger when he fired the fatal shots. Brown had gone to his home, some distance from the scene of the killing, according to Winchester rifles, and met DuBois on the road. The first shot Brown fired went through the body of DuBois wife. Brown's own daughter, and proved fatal, the shot also striking DuBois. Brown then fired at least one more shot into DuBois' body, killing him.

Shortly after the verdict was rendered, Deputy Sheriff Peterson notified Jack DuBois, a brother of Brown's victim, standing outside the court room door with his hand in his pocket. Suspecting from previous experience and rumor that Jack meant harm to either Brown or some one connected with the case, Peterson seized DuBois' arm and disarmed him, finding the weapon to be a .38 caliber automatic pistol. The man was locked up, but later released on

his promise not to cause any disturbance. Sunday night DuBois came to the jail window and asked one of the prisoners where Brown was sleeping, and since that time the sheriff's force has been on the alert for some move to injure the prisoner. Those who know the parties to the controversy expect more trouble in Grand county.

Brown and his friends left for home Tuesday evening, the freed man expressing appreciation of his treatment at the hands of the Carbon county officials while here.

## Democrats Select Wilson and Marshall

Baltimore, Md., July 3.—Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey was yesterday nominated as democracy's choice for president and early this forenoon Governor Thomas B. Marshall of Indiana was nominated for vice president.

The convention adopted W. J. Bryan's platform, and that gentleman is pleased with the candidates.

## A Pretty Sunday Wedding

Bishop Albert Bryner officiated at 4 o'clock last Sunday afternoon at the wedding of two of Price's most popular young people—Miss Nora Harsley and Mr. Samuel L. Williams, the wedding ceremony being performed at the home of the bride's parents in this city. Miss Tillie Ryland was bridesmaid, while Albert Harsley, brother of the bride, was groomsmen.

The bride is the third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Harsley, pioneer residents of this city, and is a young lady of many socially accomplishments, numbering her friends by the hundreds.

The groom is night operator at the D. & R. G. depot and is a young man of much promise, enjoying the friendship of a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams left on Sunday evening's west-bound train for Salt Lake, where they will visit friends and enjoy a brief honeymoon, after which they will return to Price and make their home in a cozy cottage the groom has prepared for his bride.

## A Fine Tract Added to City

As stated elsewhere in this issue, another fine tract of residence property was added to the city Tuesday night by the city council accepting High School Sub-division to the incorporated townsite. The plot is owned by the McDonald Real Estate & Investment company and is close in, being one block east and two blocks north of the City Hall. It was formerly known as "lots 6, 7, 8 and 10, block 11, of Tidwell's survey of Price townsite," but was only recently cut into lots, with streets and alleys, and was placed on the market Wednesday morning. There are 100 city lots in this tract.

The addition here will below the Price canal and just far enough from the business center to make an ideal residence section.

Dr. Doyd of Sunnyside was the first purchaser of a lot, making his purchase early Wednesday morning, as soon as he heard the lots were for sale. A large ad advertisement on page eight of this issue gives prices and terms.

## Throngs Gathering for Big Jollification

### "Dads" Transact Business

The city council met in regular session Tuesday evening, and transacted considerable business, with all members being present, and Mayor Olson presiding.

The council authorized the payment of \$4,275 toward paying for the new sewer system, accepted a plot of 13 acres, designated as High School subdivision and owned by the McDonald Real Estate & Investment company, as a part of the city, fixed the levy for municipal purposes at fourteen mills per dollar, and allowed about \$3,000 worth of bills.

Sam Lykes called attention to the need of another engine and boiler at the power plant, and offered to furnish the same and pay all expenses of running the plant for \$1,000 a month, the contract to run for five years, at the end of which time the city might renew the contract or purchase from him all improvements he had made at the plant. The proposition was briefly discussed and will probably be acted on, one way or the other, at some future meeting.

The water commissioner was instructed to notify water users that lawn hydrants were not for farm and garden irrigation and if the practice is not discontinued some of the water hogs will find their water shut off.

## Prompt Action Prevents Wreck

Last Thursday morning prompt action on the part of the D. & R. G. dispatcher at Helper and Agent Robinett of this city, averted what might have proven a disastrous wreck, with the possible loss of many lives. Two car loads of cinders got beyond control in the Halper yards and ran wild, gaining speed in their race toward this city. Shortly before they were dug to reach this city the wires flashed a warning from Helper and Agent Robinett rushed to the safety switch, opposite the Kentucky Liquor House, and reached the switch in time to derail the runaway. The cars left the switch at terrific speed and smashed things up quite badly.

No. 5 was late, owing to a hot box, and had the runaway cars got past Price, there would have been an awful collision some where between this city and Wellington.

## Expecting Big Business

A member of the Western Lumber company this morning informed a News reporter that the company has recently purchased and now has on the way more than 400,000 feet of high-grade lumber for the Price yards. As soon as the company gets located in its new quarters, west of the postoffice, it expects to keep on hand a large stock of lumber, hardware, paints, oils and glass than ever before.

Work will be started in about ten days on the handsome business block the company is to erect on the present site of its lumber office and hardware store.

Wm. McIntyre of Bonita is visiting his brother and sister in this city.

## Some Fast Horses Here for the Races---Program a Good One.

At 5 o'clock Wednesday evening, as the News is being printed, the prospects for a fast and furious three-day celebration of the nation's birthday anniversary could not be better, and the prospects are that Price will be called upon to do her utmost to house and feed the amusement loving people who will gather here during the next three days.

Already a hundred or more strangers are in town to take part in the various events, and to enter to the wans of the throng.

Miss Edith Jones of Coatic Gate, the duly elected Goddess of Liberty, is in the city having her costume made and will sing "The Star Spangled Banner," as a part of the program of Thursday morning.

The boxers for Thursday's big event—Kid Davis and Chalky German—are in excellent condition and both will try and win the decision in the 20-round bout.

Four auto owners—Dr. Dowd of Sunnyside, and Dr. Fisk, E. G. McWhinney and Green Bros.—have entered their machines and paid the fees for the race from Wellington to Price.

Three motorcyclists have paid entrance fees for the Wellington-Price cycle race.

There are fifteen horses entered for the horse races, some of the animals coming from the reservation county, where they keep good horses.

Several members of the Salt Lake Gun club have reserved rooms at the local hotels, so there is no doubt about their coming.

Not less than a dozen business houses will have pretty and elaborate floats in the parade of Thursday morning. There is considerable rivalry as to who will have the best float, and some excellent ones will compete.

Judge Wm. King of Salt Lake will deliver the oration at 10 o'clock Thursday morning.

The exercises will close with a mask street carnival Saturday night. While the throwing of confetti will be permitted, any attempt to throw flour, sand, soil, or other dirty material will be prosecuted. Howdyism will not be permitted under any circumstances. Bells and music for the carnival will be for rent at the court house after 5 o'clock Friday.

The city has been denied in flags and bunting until the least supply is exhausted, and by tomorrow morning Price will present an appearance rivaling that of the proud peasant.

Word has been received that a considerable portion of the population of the sister county of Emery will be here during the three days.

The complete program of events will be found on page 8 of this issue.

Those who have bills against the celebration committee should present itemized statements as soon as possible.

FIGURE 3

Six weeks after Smith purchased the plant the name of Tennant was dropped from the masthead. H. C. Smith, proprietor, was the only name listed.

The county at this time was still troubled with criminal elements and unscrupulous politicians. The Carbon County News told the story of the killing of C. L. Maxwell, the notorious bank robber, in August, 1909. Bold headlines announced that "Maxwell Gets Just Deserts. Comes to Price to Shoot an Officer and Gets Killed Himself. Ed Johnston Carbon County Sheriff Was Too Watchful and Quick for Him and Plugs Him Twice."<sup>29</sup>

The newspaper stated that Sheriff Ed Johnston was completely exonerated of blame in the killing, and that the county was well rid of Maxwell whose name had often appeared in earlier papers. The implication was that he had a following among the criminal element. He was the gunman who held up a Springville, Utah, bank in 1897.<sup>30</sup>

Smith and Crockett bantered back and forth in their respective papers during the early part of Smith's period as editor of the Carbon County News, but there was no vicious tone in the exchanges as there had been in earlier days. In a town of this size it is evident that they probably saw each other every day. As Smith began taking a more active roll in

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<sup>29</sup>News article in the [Price, Utah] Carbon County News, August 27, 1909.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid.

political events, however, he used his newspaper as his tool. Crockett was irritated. The battle was on, and it continued without interruption.

In December, 1909, H. C. Smith, a life-long Democrat, announced that his paper would start the new year by declaring itself Republican in politics.<sup>31</sup>

This announcement came as somewhat of a shock for which there was no word of explanation until the following November when Editor Smith, smarting from one of Crockett's biting editorials, wrote:

Boozy Bob devoted two-thirds of the first page of his paper this week to the interest of H. C. Smith as candidate for the office of clerk and recorder of this county on the Democratic ticket. A knock from Boozy Bob is a boost, and he is too well known in the coal camps to prejudice the coal miners against H. C. Smith.<sup>32</sup>

In still another editorial (one of seven in one issue) which referred to Crockett, Smith further explained the situation:

Since Boozy Bob has deserted the Republican Party and made his "great moral and religious" sheet a non-partisan paper, it is clear to be seen what he is figuring on. He knows that the Republican Commissioners can not be elected and he is trying to get the favor of the Democratic Commissioners so as to get the county printing for the next two years. They will turn him down.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>31</sup>Ibid., December 31, 1909.

<sup>32</sup>Editorial, Ibid., November 4, 1910

<sup>33</sup>Ibid.



The November elections results supported Smith's predictions. The only Democrats elected were the commissioners, the sheriff, and the treasurer.<sup>34</sup>

The January 21, 1910, issue of Smith's paper stated that his paper had the largest circulation of any newspaper in the county. "The News is prepared to verify the statement made concerning its circulation and we are willing to show our subscription list to any advertiser who wishes to test the accuracy of our claim," he said.<sup>35</sup>

During these years Carbon County was the scene of many improvements. Price City voted to bond citizens for electric lights,<sup>36</sup> Carbon Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was created from part of Emery County,<sup>37</sup> and by the end of 1910, Price had grown sufficiently to be ranked as a third class city.<sup>38</sup> Cement sidewalks were constructed, a new city park was in the planning stage, and the Mormon Church had authorized the building of a Stake Tabernacle.<sup>39</sup> Population of Price was listed at approximately 1700.<sup>40</sup>

The Carbon County News, now a tabloid size printed in eight-point print, was an interesting and informative paper.

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<sup>34</sup>News article, Ibid., November 11, 1910.

<sup>35</sup>Editorial, Ibid., January 21, 1910.

<sup>36</sup>News article, Ibid., February 18, 1910.

<sup>37</sup>Ibid., May 13, 1910.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid., December 2, 1910.

<sup>39</sup>Ibid., April 7, 1911.

<sup>40</sup>Ibid.

True to his word, Smith had produced a paper that could cope with Crockett's best efforts.

The paper varied from four to twelve pages. As it increased in size, more boilerplate was used. The advertisements were neatly laid out and contained advertisements for typewriters, garden products, professional services, livery barns, embalmers, banks, and coal products. One advertisement states that three fast trains left Price daily; another that regular dinners were served at the Price Cafe for twenty-five cents. Two columns of choice local news added so much interest after forty years that it was almost impossible for the writer to stop reading.

H. C. Smith was appointed postmaster at Price in 1912. He held this position until 1916. In January of 1912, he sold his paper to W. C. Benfer and Company. J. Holland Starbuck was editor for Mr. Benfer.

The masthead stated that the paper sold for \$1.50 a year. In an editorial Benfer stated: ". . . this paper is independent in all things and especially are we too independent to be caught by the old gag of free plate to further the political operations of anyone. . . ."41

W. H. Benfer seemed to be a man of high principles. His editorials implied that he stood for what he thought was right without fear of recrimination. Few people in Price

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<sup>41</sup>Editorial, Ibid., March 29, 1912.

dared to oppose Crockett, but Benfer accepted the challenge and reported the news as he saw it.

In April he reported that Crockett had spent a night in jail after insulting Dr. F. F. Fiske (a Price physician) and intimidating both Deputy Sheriff Ed Johnston and Dr. Fiske with a gun. Later Crockett was released on a \$200.00 bond.<sup>42</sup>

In view of the fact that Benfer was a newcomer to Price, little is known about his early life. In one issue of the News he reprinted a story from the Lead (South Dakota) Daily Journal which stated:

When Mr. Benfer assumed control of the News it was a sickly looking sheet but Ben has brought her up to the highway of success. This will prove pleasing to Benfer's legion of Black Hills friends.<sup>43</sup>

From the beginning of Benfer's reign as editor of the Carbon County News, Crockett berated him unmercifully about his sympathetic attitude toward members of the Socialist Party. When Benfer sold space in his paper to the Socialists, Crockett accused him of catering to them.

In July, 1915, Benfer announced that he had sold his interest in the name and title of the Carbon County News to a new company which would be operated under the name, News-Advocate Company. This company had purchased the name, Eastern

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<sup>42</sup>News item, Ibid., April 29, 1912.

<sup>43</sup>Editorial, Ibid., May 29, 1912.

Utah Advocate from Watrous after his unsuccessful attempt to organize a third paper in Price.

The News-Advocate Company planned to merge the Eastern Utah Advocate name and the Carbon County News to form a new newspaper. In his last issue of the Carbon County News Benfer stated:

. . . the next issue of the News and the Advocate will be combined under one publication under the name News-Advocate. A company is now in the process of formation to publish the News-Advocate and make it the best newspaper in Eastern [sic] Utah. . . . The plans include the purchasing of a new newspaper press and linotype which will enable the plant to handle any job. . . .<sup>44</sup>

As manager for the new company, Benfer stated he would do his utmost to deserve his friends and patronage.

Crockett was ready to fire the first shot at the new company. He wrote that C. H. Stevenson, chairman of the "bull moosers" organization in Price, had threatened Crockett's paper over two years before with an opposition paper unless Crockett saw fit to espouse the cause of Stevenson's progressive party (a group of Republicans who had left the party ranks). They had been dubbed "bull moosers" by Crockett.<sup>45</sup>

Crockett refused the suggestion, he said, and as a result, Stevenson and his crowd purchased "Benfer, the social-

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<sup>44</sup>News item in the [Price, Utah] Sun, August 20, 1915.

<sup>45</sup>Editorial, Ibid., August 20, 1915.

ist, with the promise of "bull moose" and democratic patronage."<sup>46</sup>

Crockett contended that Benfer was an unhappy and disillusioned man after he accepted the yoke (a Socialist with a Democratic harness) and that he was now attempting to initiate the formation of a new company so that he could "dump his business" on the new company.<sup>47</sup> In wishing Benfer good luck in his undertakings, he wrote:

Any man that is able to put up with a crowd such as the local "bull moosers" and the Democrats that dominate Benfer is surely entitled to the best that may come from a successful unloading of a distasteful and political alliance. If the crowd purchasing the News-Advocate is able to hold together six months it will be a surprise.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>46</sup>Ibid.

<sup>47</sup>Ibid.

<sup>48</sup>Ibid.

## CHAPTER VI

1915 - 1932

### A FAMILY AFFAIR

Robert W. Crockett and his brother, John A. Crockett, purchased the assets of the Eastern Utah Advocate in May, 1915, for \$5500.00 at a sheriff's sale. Loss of the name of the paper through a careless error on the part of their attorney and its subsequent sale to the rival newspaper, the Carbon County News, by Watrous, was a bitter blow to the Crocketts. Their attorney had failed to include the name of the paper in the bill of sale.

When Watrous, who bought the business from the Crocketts two years before, failed to make his payments, Crockett sued for recovery of his newspaper. Watrous retained the name of the paper, but lost the physical plant. After an unsuccessful attempt to start a new paper without a local plant, he sold the name to the owners of the rival newspaper, the Carbon County News. Result of this action was that both the Carbon County News and the new paper initiated by the Crocketts claimed to be the successor to the original Eastern Utah Advocate.

Armed with a newspaper plant and all the facilities needed for the publication of the newspaper but a name, the

Crockett brothers selected the name, Sun, for their second newspaper venture.

The two brothers worked well as a team. John, the shy, retiring younger brother, developed the business and mechanical ends of the organization, while Robert, outspoken older brother, was the mouthpiece for the organ.

In the first edition of the Sun, the editor, R. W. Crockett, stated:

With this issue the Sun makes its bow before the newspaper readers of Eastern Utah. The reason for its appearance is the belief of the owners of the Sun that there is a field at Price for such a publication as it is proposed the Sun will be. The Sun is Republican in politics, but its aim at all times will be for the upbuilding of Price, Carbon County, and the empire of eastern Utah as a whole. Believing that anything that is to redound to the betterment of this section of Utah will be good for the Sun, it will shine for all. . . .

In conclusion, the Sun desires that the publication is to be made the best in eastern Utah. The editor and manager of the Sun has been in the newspaper business at Price for more than 17 years. Most of the people hereabouts know him and his efforts of the past. The Sun will have a complete job printing plant and stationery . . . the Sun this week will shine in 1500 homes, business houses and places where newspapers are read.<sup>1</sup>

Editor Crockett early began to appreciate the possibilities of the new name. Each issue carried a quotation from the Bible which in some way enhanced the paper as an organ of virtue, light, or intelligence. His conscientious use of the Biblical quotations was to be the source of much humorous comment by the opposition newspaper staff who contended that

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<sup>1</sup>The [Price, Utah] Sun, June 4, 1915.

promiscuous use of liquor and Bible reading seemed to be strange bedfellows.

The years of journalism experience seemed to have exacted their toll from Crockett. In his new venture he seemed unable to cope with the increased severity of the impetuous attacks to which he was subjected by his opposition. The tone of his own paper became increasingly harsh and hysterical, and at times his conduct was intolerable.

Less than one month after he published the first issue of the Sun, he was the subject of a bitter front page article in the Carbon County News:

#### Indignant Citizen Wallops Editor

Driven to desperation by the continued jibes directed at himself and members of his family by the Price Sun, County treasurer Alpha Ballinger last Sunday afternoon seized the editor, R. W. Crockett, threw him to the ground, and gave him a sound thrashing. Crockett later stuck a knife blade into Mr. Ballinger's abdomen and that gentleman has been confined to his bed on order of his physician.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Ballinger stated that for fifteen years he had feared Crockett because he had assisted in financing a rival newspaper at one time. He stated that he had warned Crockett to desist mentioning his name but Crockett grew more bitter and insulting. When he accidentally met Crockett this Sunday morning, his resentment overpowered his love of peace and he

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<sup>2</sup>News article in the [Price, Utah] Carbon County News, July 2, 1915.



chastised Crockett for trying to belittle him in the eyes of his community.<sup>3</sup>

In the same issue of the Carbon County News, the editor, W. F. Benfer, wrote a long editorial which seemed to epitomize his own position as an editor:

While the editor of the News believes that the framers of the Constitution of these United States acted wisely in providing that the people of America should enjoy the right of free speech, he does not believe that it was ever intended that editors should have any more license to slander peaceable and law-abiding citizens than is accorded the butcher, the baker, or the candlestick maker.

But in many communities there are editors who believe the possession of a printing outfit gives to them the right to slander and villify anybody they do not like. This is not true nor should it be permitted. Laws have been passed to protect citizens from slander either by word of mouth or by publicity, and when an editor gets too vicious, the laws should be invoked against him just as they should be used against any other slanderer.

Sometimes a citizen is goaded by printed slurs until he forgets the law and becomes a law unto himself. This happened in Price last Sunday and, as a result, the offending editor got a thumping and the thumper got a knife stuck into his body. While both of these men undoubtedly acted unwisely, the editor is most to blame, for he incited the other man's passion by abusing and ridiculing him in season and out of season. There is no political campaign on at the present time, and the editor can not plead he was working for the public good in attempting to defeat an unworthy candidate. It was merely a case of venting a personal spite on a man the editor did not like.

It is to be hoped the deplorable occurrence of last Sunday has taught at least one editor to respect the feelings of other people. "Do unto others as you would be done by."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Editorial, Ibid., July 2, 1915.

In the very same issue that reported the story of the Ballinger and Crockett fracas, Crockett's opposition launched a stepped-up series of sensational and scurrilous criticism of him. Much of it was written as doggerel verse and appeared on the front page under the non de plume, Mrs. Grundy. Typical of the attacks was this "poem":

#### A Newspaper Reminiscence

There once was a rag called the "Sun"  
Whose editor carried a gun;  
His paper was tough  
But he put up a bluff,  
So we called it the Sun of a Gun!

This editor never would shrink  
If anyone stood him a drink;  
But when his turn came  
To get in the game,  
Away the poor piker would slink.

Still sometimes a sucker he'd find  
Who'd fill him until he was blind;  
Then he'd skulk to his den  
And take up his pen  
And write down the filth in his mind.

We forgave the white trash a whole lot  
Because he was such a low sot;  
We knew that a skunk  
Smells--sober or drunk,  
So we really never got hot.

Sometimes a satirical bit  
In a newspaper makes quite a hit;  
But the scurrilous rot  
Written up by this sot  
Contained not the least spark of wit.

He was owned by a discarded king  
Who paid for the smut he could fling;  
He never went after  
A king-favored grafter  
Because he was one of the ring.

Each one of us thought he could brag  
 If he found himself cursed by the rag;  
 For then it was sure  
 His morals were pure  
 And that he's had none of the swag.

We stood this for quite a long while  
 Till the hireling stirred up our bile  
 By using a knife  
 To take a man's life  
 In a manner so viciously vile.

We thought we would put him in jail  
 But reckoned he'd get out on bail;  
 So with feathers and tar  
 We gave him a jar  
 And rode him right out on a rail.

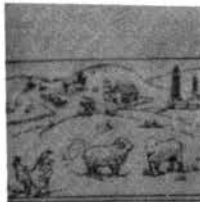
Why didn't we hang the durned hound?  
 Why, stranger, this reason was found;  
 If we'd cut off his air  
 And buried him there,  
 By heck! He'd have Poisoned the Ground!<sup>5</sup>

The first issue of the Sun, Crockett's newspaper, appeared in June and the first issue of the News-Advocate, the opposition newspaper, appeared in July. In a way the papers were twins since they started at the same time, carried practically the same news, and were terminated the same day when both were purchased by the man who effected a merger of the two papers; from the beginning a battle raged between the two since each began its career with the proverbial "chip on its shoulder."

The battle began over subscription lists. Each accused the other paper of attempting to entice subscribers. The long-suffering public was brought into the issue time after

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<sup>5</sup>Ibid., July 2, 1915, p. 1.



# THE NEWS-ADVOCATE

BEING A CONSOLIDATION OF THE CARBON COUNTY NEWS AND THE SALT LAKE UTAH ADVOCATE

Carbon County News, Vol. 13, No. 22

PRICE, UTAH, April 23, 1925

Eastern Utah Advocate, Vol. 31, No. 18

## RICE POST OFFICE ROPES WANE AS FACTS ARE TOLD

Representative Hon. B. Colman Adams... Meeting of Price Merchants

Price is one of more than thirty... Rice post office ropes wane as facts are told.

## PRICE MERCHANTS HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR LECTURER

Dr. F. P. Shurt to Address Banquet... Clean-up Campaign Soon

Dr. F. P. Shurt, of the University of Utah... Clean-up Campaign Soon.

## REMODELING AND RENOVATING FORMER WILSON STORE TO TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY

Remodeling and Renovating Former Wilson Store to Take Place Immediately.

## PRICE TO HAVE ONE OF PIGGLY WIGGLY CHAIN STORES SOON

Remodeling and Renovating Former Wilson Store to Take Place Immediately.

## NEW EQUIPMENT FOR PLAYGROUNDS ARRIVES IN PRICE

Equipment for playgrounds... Arrives in Price.

## SOMEWHERE OUR PAPER AIN'T NO APPROPRIATE

SOMEWHERE OUR PAPER AIN'T NO APPROPRIATE.

## GEORGE A. STORER GAME TO BE TAKEN TO UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

George A. Storer game to be taken to United States Supreme Court.

## KEMILWORTH STRIKERS CONTINUE STRIKE TAKEN AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Kemilworth strikers continue strike... Taken at last week's meeting.

## ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF SCHOOLS IN CARBON TO BE HELD MAY 11

Scholastic and Athletic Contests in Schools to Feature Week of Exhibit, Ending May 16.

## CITY EMPLOYEE IS ELECTROCUTED BY FALLEN LIVE WIRE

Pierre Robb Picks Up Secondary Line Crossed with Another Line in Tree.

## ONE-SIXTH OF SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT IS ABSENT WITH FLU AND COLDS

One-sixth of schools enrollment is absent with flu and colds.

## TREES AND SHRUBS SET OUT THIS WEEK IN MEMORIAL PARK

Trees and shrubs set out this week in Memorial Park.

## ENDOWMENT FUND CHAIRMEN NAMED FOR LEGION DRIVE

Chairmen named for Legion drive... Endowment fund.

## EASTERN STARS OF PRICE CELEBRATE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Eastern Stars of Price celebrate 10th anniversary.

## ROBBERS SECURE \$109 IN SERIES OF MIDNIGHT THEFTS

Robbers secure \$109 in series of midnight thefts.

## UQUIN BARRY FULLER DIES IN HAVANA WHILE ON VACATION FOR HEALTH

Uquin Barry Fuller dies in Havana while on vacation for health.

## PIERRE ROBB PICKS UP SECONDARY LINE CROSSED WITH ANOTHER LINE IN TREE

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## ONE-TWENTY-THIRD OF SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT IS ABSENT WITH FLU AND COLDS

One-twenty-third of schools enrollment is absent with flu and colds.

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## PRICE ROTARIANS REPORT REGIONAL POCATELLO MEET

Price Rotarians report regional Pocatello meet.

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Figure 4

time. When one paper published names of its new subscribers, the other accused it of theft. Crockett wrote, "Benfer, the socialist, with anarchistic tendencies, and the bunch that back him have no policies except to keep up the strife and discord. . . ."6

In a front page article Benfer challenged Crockett to start a law suit against him to recover anything that belonged to him.7

Crockett failed to start suit.

Although he had changed his first paper from a Republican to a non-partisan paper (the opposition pointed out that it was to gain favor of the Democratic commissioners) Crockett had not achieved his apparent object--to get the contract for the county printing job.

His rancor increased and he began an assault on the Democratic commissioners via the editorial route. He announced in the first issue of his new paper that "politically the Sun is Republican 'without defalcation or discount.'"8

With a November election date in the offing, Crockett published a series of articles which lauded the qualifications of the Republican candidates for office. He lashed out at the

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6Editorial in the [Price, Utah,] Sun, August 13, 1915.

7Editorial in the [Price, Utah,] News-Advocate, July 28, 1915.

8Editorial in the [Price, Utah,] Sun, June 4, 1915.

Democrats, Socialists, and "Bull Moosers" alike, declaring that the county administration was now "worse than broke," extravagant, and incompetent. "Bull Moose administration is the limit," he wrote. "Barboligio's bank at Helper holds the county funds, upon which it pays no interest, at the same time loaning the money back to Carbon County at 8 per cent."<sup>9</sup>

From time to time he continued his attacks upon the "Socialist, Benfer," declaring that Benfer would be "fired" by his unscrupulous bosses.

Benfer remonstrated that the Socialist party had no desire to "be dragged into the fray between the editors"<sup>10</sup> and that he was not a member of the Socialist party. He tolerated the repeated jibes, but gave no indication that there was any truth to the accusations; the criticism demanded an answer, however, and eventually he wrote:

It is no doubt true that there are a few disgruntled politicians--friends and henchmen of Mark Braffit<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Ibid., August 20, 1915.

<sup>10</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah,] News-Advocate, November 12, 1915.

<sup>11</sup>Interview with Gomer Peacock, July 6, 1962. Mr. Peacock is a long-time resident of Price, Utah. He stated that Mark Braffit, undisputed political leader of Carbon County for several years, controlled both the Democrat and Republican parties because of his unique position as attorney for the Utah Fuel Company and as counsel for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. At times he ran the same candidate on both tickets. Benfer incurred the wrath of Braffit and Crockett, his strong supporter, by supporting the efforts of the "Bull Moose" party in its all-out campaign to topple Braffit and his "gang" in the recent election. Election results ended in the downfall of the Braffit regime.

who would not grieve if there were a change in the editorial chair of the News-Advocate.<sup>12</sup>

Late in December of 1915, Benfer's paper carried a social item on the front page of his newspaper which stated:

Friday night after the session of the Rebekah Lodge had come to a close, the members of that order, the Royal neighbors, and the Odd Fellows joined hands in pulling a surprise party in honor of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Benfer and Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Benfer who leave on the first of the year for Forest Grove, Oregon . . . The guests of honor were presented with several nice pieces of handpainted china to remind them in after years of their friends in Price.<sup>13</sup>

There was no other word of Benfer's leaving in any other issue of the papers. That he was dismissed seems to be the only plausible explanation. An editorial in the December 24 issue of his own paper seemed to substantiate this theory. It was written by the new editor, Harry W. Cooper.

Ex-Editor Benfer was bemoaning the fact a few days ago on Main Street to one of his kind, in a very hostile manner, that the News-Advocate was turned over to a man who is not a newspaper man, business man, or anything else. Never mind, Bennie, there are two west bound trains each day of the week which you can catch on your way to Oregon. . . .<sup>14</sup>

This was the introduction to the News-Advocate's new editor and manager, Harry W. Cooper. It was also the time for Crockett to gloat over one more vanquished enemy.

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<sup>12</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah] News-Advocate, November 12, 1915.

<sup>13</sup>News item in the [Price, Utah] News-Advocate, December 17, 1915.

<sup>14</sup>Editorial, Ibid., December 24, 1915.

The newspaper during Benfer's three years as editor progressed. He emphasized local news and the editorials were timely. He constantly pushed the building of good roads into the area. He preached and practiced the principles of honest local government free from political "bossing." The fact that he supported a political party whose principles he endorsed brought criticism from Crockett and his Republican supporters but Benfer held firmly to his cause.

Benfer participated in community projects and government; Crockett took little part in anything that was not directly connected with his work. The fact that he was a potent factor in unseating the Braffitt dictatorship was probably the greatest of Benfer's accomplishments during his three years in Price.<sup>15</sup>

Harry W. Cooper, the new editor of the News-Advocate, was thirty-seven years of age at the time he came to Price. He was born in Philadelphia, but moved to Iowa with his parents where he attended schools. He was a student of journalism.

Mr. Cooper came to Colorado in 1907 where he served on newspapers in Sterling and Fort Morgan; later he worked in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Pocatello, Idaho.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup>Interview with Gomer Peacock, Price, Utah, June 20, 1962.

<sup>16</sup>News article in the [Price, Utah] News-Advocate, August 16, 1923.



Mr. Cooper and his wife, Grace A. Cooper, published the first edition of their new paper on Christmas Eve in 1915.

Mr. Cooper's greetings were friendly:

Howdy do Folks,

A new name is found today at the head of this column. It would not be there if the writer did not believe after investigation that he has found a good town and county with excellent people and a great future. . . .

. . . he asks only that he be given assistance in finding the news. It is difficult for the first few weeks to know where to look for all the interesting items. . . . The news columns have no denominationalism, no politics, no race, and no caste. . . .<sup>17</sup>

At the time that the Coopers came to Price, Utah, the county was expanding. During the first year (1916), his newspaper reported many events and items which gave credence to this idea. Seven attorneys carried advertisements in his paper; there were also three physicians, three dentists, several taverns, hotels, restaurants and stores.

A new 12-room grade school was completed in February at a cost of \$40,000. There were thirty seats in each room.<sup>18</sup>

Over one hundred new books were added to the new library which opened March 8.

Announcement of a lyceum course of five numbers for the next season attested to the cultural development of the area.

Cooper used his first banner headline to announce a circulation contest which began in October. One thousand

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<sup>17</sup>Ibid., December 24, 1915.

<sup>18</sup>News article, Ibid., February 4, 1916.

dollars in prizes was awarded to persons who secured the largest number of new subscriptions to the paper. Exciting articles which described the prizes in great detail were front page subjects for four weeks.<sup>19</sup>

In December Cooper announced that the contest had proved to be a great success. The News-Advocate had its greatest number of subscribers.<sup>20</sup>

The editorials written by the Coopers were praiseworthy. The news articles were well-written. Occasionally they were humorous: "Cupid Crumples in Divorce Mell. Frank DeRosa was given permission to let Antoinette shift for herself and Eva Humphrey will no longer be compelled to cook for T.J."<sup>21</sup>

The paper under direction of the Coopers was unique in several ways. In 1921, it was an eight-page, six-column paper with "newsy" columns of news from most of the outlying communities. The writer's originality was noticeable in the labels he used. Some of them were Helper Hand-outs, Rains Rumbblings, Ewell Etchings, Scofield Sophistry, Clear Creek Ripples, Hiawatha Bubbles, and Sunnyside Reams.

The sudden death of Harry W. Cooper at his home on August 13, 1923, came as a great shock to his many friends.

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<sup>19</sup>Ibid., September 28, 1916.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., December 14, 1916.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid., June 30, 1916.

Almost the entire front page was included in the front page article and picture edged in black which announced the death:

Harry Wilbert Cooper, editor and manager of the News-Advocate died at his home . . . Monday, August 13, aged 44 years, 7 months, and 29 days. The news of his death came as a shock to the entire city in spite of the fact that he had been in poor health for many years. He was at the News-Advocate office Thursday although he appeared weak and sick. . . .

. . . To those who have been intimate with Mr. Cooper, it was apparent that he had been in a serious condition for a long time but the indomitable spirit of the man deceived many of his closest friends. . . .<sup>22</sup>

The paper continued publication until the end of the year with no name carried on the masthead. Mrs. Cooper elected to continue publication of the paper after her husband's death. After the beginning of the new year, the new masthead carried the name, G. A. Cooper, Managing editor.

During the Cooper's reign the war with Crockett subsided and largely disappeared. Long columns of society news appeared, and larger, bolder heads were used. Two changes were made the first year--publication day was changed from Friday to Thursday and use of boilerplate was discontinued.

The price of the paper was raised to \$2.00 in 1925. Advertising sold for forty cents a column inch. Crossword puzzles, national columns, and a local column, "Just About Folks," added color. Boilerplate was again added to the contents.

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<sup>22</sup>Ibid., August 16, 1923.

In January, 1929, Mrs. Cooper announced that she would leave during the month for Salt Lake City to represent Carbon County in the Utah State Legislature. During her absence the paper would be carried on by the staff members, she reported. P. K. Nielson was listed as foreman and L. A. Hills as advertising manager.<sup>23</sup> It is of interest here to note that Mr. Hills was one of the few Utahns to be awarded the Pulitzer prize in his later journalism career.

"In Retrospect" by Mrs. Cooper appeared in May, 1929.

She stated:

. . . Thirteen years in one place and spent during the prime of one's life, in accordance with human events, include all the vicissitudes that make up life.

. . . we have seen the town grow, progress rapidly then seemingly stand still; again taking on new impetus. We have believed in Price and its future. We have loved its people.

. . . we are glad to introduce a new character . . . one who will make a good friend. To him be not only kind but generous. And so we say Au Revoir.<sup>24</sup>

With this message Mrs. Cooper closed her career as a newspaper woman in Price. She sold the newspaper to William Ingleheart. Mrs. Cooper's friends stated that ill-health was the cause of her retirement from the newspaper business.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup>Ibid., January 12, 1929.

<sup>24</sup>Editorial, Ibid., May 24, 1929.

<sup>25</sup>Interview with Clea Sumner, June 30, 1962.

William T. Engleheart published his greetings on May 31, 1929. He said in part:

. . . the News-Advocate has no axes to grind. It is under no obligations financial, political or otherwise to any individual or group. It is simply and solely a newspaper, a public institution pledged to promote the institution of the people of South Eastern Utah. . . .<sup>26</sup>

Mr. Engleheart owned the newspaper slightly more than one year. During this time it appeared to deteriorate. He reverted back to the use of large sections of dull boilerplate. The long columns of local and society news were greatly lessened. Under the Coopers the paper had compared favorably with the Sun, but Engleheart's sheet was no match for the more vivacious and loquacious Sun.

It is apparent that Engleheart lost his paper since the News-Advocate stated that P. K. Nielsen had purchased the News-Advocate at a sheriff's sale in July, 1930. The masthead stated that William T. Engleheart would serve as managing editor for Mr. Nielsen.<sup>27</sup>

On February 27, 1930, the Sun announced the death of Robert Crockett, its editor and manager. Mr. Crockett died at his home after residing in Price for thirty-three years. Services at the Masonic temple were followed by burial in the Price city cemetery.

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<sup>26</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah] News-Advocate, May 31, 1929.

<sup>27</sup>News article, Ibid., July 2, 1930.

Mr. Crockett had long been a controversial figure in Carbon County. An eulogy written by L. R. Eldredge, one of his life-long friends, perhaps best expresses the feelings of the people who knew Robert Crockett intimately.

. . . From his pen came the community news. He wrote of the trivial going and coming of each individual, of deaths and births, marriages and divorces, news that was sensational and news that was sordid. Sometimes his pen moved with a caustic vein censuring and fighting an issue he believed to be wrong, but always unafraid, and the work of his pen was his heart's conviction of truth and righteousness.

Bob's shrine was his home. The benedictions of his fireside and affection of those near to him far outweighed the other values of life and for this we remember and revere him. . . .

From the masthead of his paper floated the banner and creed of the man--a quotation from the scriptures with each issue. He found a strength in these passages and so passed them on to his friends. "Bob" was a disciple of the old school of journalism and a patron of the Art Preservative. He was proud to be called a "print" and the romance of the "handset" days was enshrined in his memory.

It was the writer's privilege to have brushed away the veil of brusqueness--there to find a friend who did not capitulate a friendship, a friend of the heart as well as of the hand. And with deep reverence this tribute is paid. . . . 28

A second tribute which seemed particularly appropriate was one written by the editor of the opposition newspaper, William T. Ingleheart, and carried in the News-Advocate in a long column edged in black. It seemed a fitting culmination to the long years of "warfare" which had existed among the

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<sup>28</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah] Sun., February 27, 1930.

editors of the earlier newspapers, and perhaps a forerunner of the coming merger of the two newspapers.

Mr. Ingleheart wrote:

Our dear friend Bob Crockett has gone to his rest. We call him thus familiarly because everybody in Eastern Utah knew him as Bob. The writer knows of no one who has lived in Price for thirty years who has served his community as well.

The tributes of his friends paid at his last rites told better than words how many knew and loved him and his family. Having known Bob for twenty or more years, when we came to Price we knew that he would make us welcome. He did . . . isn't that . . . more than most competitors do? Isn't that as clear an indication of [sic] Bob's nature was big.

We have long admired the spiritual quality Bob had in his make-up. Perhaps it was somewhat obscure. But he was as deeply religious in the purely spiritual sense as anyone we have known.<sup>29</sup>

In January, 1962, Robert W. Crockett was named to the first Utah Newspaper Hall of Fame which is sponsored by the Utah State Press Association. The Presentation stated in part:

Mr. Crockett was a forceful newspaper man and in every sense a public-spirited citizen. Personally or through his paper he took a constant part in advocating and promoting matters connected [sic] with the general welfare. . . .

The last "take" from the book of life has come to Bob; in the vernacular of newspaperdom it is described as "thirty" which means finis, but to those who knew him there remains outstanding the memory of a lovable character which has enriched and benefited his fellow men."<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah] News-Advocate, February 27, 1930.

<sup>30</sup>"The Utah Newspaper Hall of Fame" (Sponsored by the Utah State Press Association).

After the death of R. W. Crockett, no name was carried on the masthead for the remainder of the year 1930, although the paper was taken over by his son, Robert Crockett, Jr., who operated it until it was sold on January 8, 1932, to J. F. Asbury of Richfield, Utah.

Young Robert Crockett, Jr., was attending journalism school at the University of Missouri at the time his father died. No mention is made of his plans for the paper, but the October 1, 1931, issue announced his marriage to a young journalism student whom he met while both were enrolled as students in Missouri.<sup>31</sup>

Robert Crockett, Jr., gave no reason for selling the newspaper. His mother continued to reside in Price until her death in 1961. His last message simply stated:

This week the Sun has been merged to form a bigger, more influential paper. Your new editor will be Joseph F. Asbury of Richfield, Utah . . . the people of Price should feel complimented when such a man spends a small fortune investing in the belief of a future for this city. . . .

"Farewell; For in that word--that fatal word--howe'er we promise--hope--believe--their breathes despair."

When Byron wrote these immortal words in "Corsair," his mind and soul must have surged with that sadness, vacuous and unwordable, which attends parting. You will bear with me in this, my last article for Price. It is doubly hard to write when I feel I must, in a small measure, express the views of those who give up a cherished possession, one which has been their life and soul for over thirty years. I must also express the views of the

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<sup>31</sup>News article in the [Price, Utah] Sun, October 1, 1931.



former editor of this newspaper who had no opportunity to write his farewell.<sup>32</sup>

Robert Crockett, Jr. assumed a new position in Salt Lake City where he died of a heart attack soon after leaving Price.

General Content. The years from 1920 to 1930 were packed with events that weighed heavily upon the county's economy and produced vast repercussions.

In April, 1922, a group of labor rioters opened fire on a train which was being sent to Scofield, Utah, with guards aboard who were to be stationed there to prevent laborers from unionizing. The News-Advocate carried the story with these bold headlines: "Federal Troops Ready to Come Here Following Riot."<sup>33</sup>

Since a majority of the laborers were foreigners, many of the American citizens resented the action. Sentiment against the strikers ran high. The general opinion was that the foreigners, regardless of their grievances, enjoyed far better living conditions in America than they had enjoyed before they came to this country.

The newspaper stories were all slanted in favor of the employers. Today such an event would be recognized for what it was--an attempt on the part of labor to unionize and an

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<sup>32</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah] Sun-Advocate, December 8, 1932.

<sup>33</sup>News article in the [Price, Utah] News-Advocate, April 22, 1922.

attempt on the part of the company to resist unionizing by its employees.

The June 29 edition of the News stated:

Is Carbon County a part of the state of Utah or is it a South European dependency? Hundreds of red-blooded Americans with families want to know why they have to submit to the blatant, lawless effrontery of South European domination?<sup>34</sup>

The editor quoted an article from the Sugarhouse Times which he offered as proof that the state was concerned about the situation which had developed in this county. The article stated:

Things have come to a pretty pass in this state of ours when indiscriminate groups of unnaturalized foreigners who have been receiving twenty times more money per day . . . can block the public highways of an American country . . . this problem can be shortly solved if the foreign element is forthwith given to understand that Utah is still the forty-fifth State. . . .<sup>35</sup>

Troops were subsequently sent into the county to quell the disturbance.

On March 8, 1924, an explosion in the number 2 mine at Castle Gate took the lives of 175 [sic] men.<sup>36</sup> Mine bosses had reported the mine was free from gas and were working with the men in the mine. Shortly after 8 o'clock in the morning

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<sup>34</sup>Editorial, Ibid., June 29, 1922.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid.

<sup>36</sup>Interview with L. L. Arnett, State Mine Inspector, who confirmed the figure 171 as the correct number of men killed.

two blasts shook the mine which was said to be the show place of the holdings of the Utah Fuel Company.<sup>37</sup> The Sun reported:

The mine of course was filled with deadly fumes and gases after the blast . . . that the second explosion-- heavy as it was--is considered small compared to the first, may be gathered from the statement of one of the engineers that the debris shot in the last blast shot "out only five hundred feet."<sup>38</sup>

Aftermath of the unfortunate disaster showed that 417 dependents were left; 114 of the dead men were married and left a total of 266 children and 25 expectant mothers. Five of the families had seven dependents; fifty-seven single men were killed.<sup>39</sup>

Nationalities of the miners were listed as: Americans, 74; Greek, 49; Italian, 22; Japanese, 8; English, 7; Austrian, 6; Scotch, 2; Belgian, 1; and Negro, 2.<sup>40</sup>

No income or assets was left by 143 of the dead miners. One was the owner of a small home; one was married to a school teacher; no information was available for twenty-six.<sup>41</sup>

Cause of the blast was listed as an accumulation of methane gas. In spite of the fact that electric lamps had been ordered and were in stock at the time of the explosion, they had not been placed in service and the miners were working with open lights in dangerous regions. As was the custom in

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<sup>37</sup>News article in the [Price, Utah] Sun, March 14, 1924.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid.

<sup>39</sup>Ibid.

<sup>40</sup>Ibid.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid.

all open light mines, miners were allowed to carry matches and smoking materials underground.

As a result of the disaster, recommendations were made by mine safety experts that "all coal miners must be compelled to use nothing but closed lights; that the lamps be suitably inspected . . . and approved by the U. S. Bureau of Mines."<sup>42</sup>

In February of 1930 a second mine explosion in the county claimed twenty-three more lives. This tragedy occurred in the Standardville mine. Nine men escaped death.<sup>43</sup>

The explosion occurred in the number 3 mine. Sparks from a cutting machine were the apparent cause of the blast. Although this mine had been a leader in exercise of safety precautions since the Castle Gate explosion, and water had been used on all cutting machines to eliminate sparks, the accident served to emphasize the need for increased safety measures in mines.<sup>44</sup>

Carbon County, during the 1920's, was still having its problems with the criminal element. A complete survey of crimes as reported in the Sun for the year 1925 showed that a large portion of the crimes were perpetrated by the foreign element. The reports showed that such crimes as beatings, rape, murder, robbery, theft, shootings, Mann Act Violations

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<sup>42</sup>Ibid., April 4, 1924.

<sup>43</sup>Ibid., February 13, 1930.

<sup>44</sup>Ibid.

were committed. Negroes, Mexicans, Italians, Japanese, Basques, and Austrians were convicted of the major share of these crimes.

In June, 1924, the Sun carried the story of the lynching of a Negro who killed J. M. Burns, police officer of the Utah Fuel Company. This was the third lynching ever to take place in the state of Utah, and it caused considerable excitement in the area. Impact of this act was felt throughout the entire state.

The story, as reconstructed by the Sun, was that Mr. Burns, town marshall and night policeman for the Fuel Company, was shot and killed by Robert Marshall, a miner who had been in the vicinity for only five months. Marshall had previously been involved in trouble with the police officer and was seeking revenge. After firing five shots into the body of the marshall, the Negro jumped on his prostrate body and beat him over the head with his pistol.<sup>45</sup>

A posse was formed to search for the slayer who was apprehended early the next morning and lynched by a crowd of approximately fifty citizens.<sup>46</sup>

Crockett's front page editorial was depressing:

Lynched by a mob. Readers, just what does that convey to your mind. . . . Usually one associates this word with a crowd of strangers--disorderly, violent undesirables bent on committing acts from which the "decent" people of the community withdraw, and which are disparaged by all

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<sup>45</sup>Ibid., June 19, 1924.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid.

"reputable" citizens. But one glance over the assembly whose members took by force the negro slayer . . . you would have seen your neighbors, your friends, the tradespeople with whom you are wont to barter day by day, public employees, folks prominent in the church and social circles. . . . No attempt at concealment was made by any member of the lynching party. In fact, participation in the affair seemed to be a matter of boasting. . . .

Among the crowd . . . was to be noticed quite a sprinkling of women--the wives and mothers of the good folks of the town. And then, too, there were even some children.<sup>47</sup>

In a follow-up story the Sun reported that eleven men were arrested as participants in the murder of Robert Marshall. Sentiment in the county was definitely against any form of punishment for the participants.<sup>48</sup>

Outside papers editorialized about the regrettable affair, implying that such events did not take place in more enlightened societies. Crockett wrote that the last lynching had taken place forty-two years before in Salt Lake City.<sup>49</sup>

The eleven suspects had all been released by July 3.

A short time later a Grand Jury was called to probe the lynching. They impaneled the last man by the end of July. After calling 125 people, the Jury was unable to find the lynchers and was adjourned.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>47</sup>Editorial, Ibid.

<sup>48</sup>News item, Ibid., June 26, 1924.

<sup>49</sup>Editorial, Ibid.

<sup>50</sup>News item, Ibid., August 21, 1924.

Circulation, format and advertising. In April, 1927, the Sun undertook a modernization program. They purchased a Kelly Automatic Style B Press which they labeled the "most modern machine of its class that is in use today . . . its cost as it stands is \$4500."<sup>51</sup>

The Sun, by now a six-column, eight-page paper, contained a variety of news. Columns of news from nearly all the cities in Sanpete County as well as Carbon County were carried each week. Every issue carried a long article on coal production on the front page and in the earlier issues the editor used a cartoon on the front page each week.

When an especially appropriate article was printed in another weekly, the editor usually reprinted it and underneath added his "Editors Note."

A column "Twenty Years Ago" added interesting items to the reading. Price of the paper in 1924 was \$2.00, and advertising was sold for forty cents an inch.

Advertising seemed plentiful in both papers. In some issues over 65 per cent advertising was used. Every page but the first page carried advertising.

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<sup>51</sup>Ibid., April 1, 1927.

## CHAPTER VII

1932 - 1948

### "THE INCURABLE ITCH OF WRITING POSSESSES MANY"

The present award-winning and progressive newspaper, The Sun-Advocate, drew its first breath December 8, 1932. Joseph L. Asbury, Richfield, Utah, editor, published the first edition.

The merger of the two opposition newspapers, the Sun and the News-Advocate, was undoubtedly an intelligent act on the part of the new editor. Two newspapers in a town of under 6,000 population was neither practicable nor wise. Editors were constantly duplicating news, advertising, and making enemies among subscribers.

Mr. Asbury's plan was to publish one larger and better paper which he hoped could operate on a more profitable basis. He planned to publish a semi-weekly as soon as reorganization processes could be effected. P. K. Nielsen, former editor of the News-Advocate, was hired to supervise the mechanical department for the new owner.<sup>1</sup>

The Sun office was selected as home for the new business venture, and equipment owned by the News-Advocate was sold. In his first issue Mr. Asbury stated:

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<sup>1</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah] Sun-Advocate, December 8, 1932.



We have come here to make our home with you. We have already heard much about the splendid spirit and people of Price and our brief sojourn here bears out this reputation. You will find us eager and ready to do everything humanly possible for the best interests of Carbon County and an unlimited booster for "Price, the Biggest Little City in the World."<sup>2</sup>

The new owner undertook a task in the merging of the two newspapers that required a great deal of newspaper skill and finesse. One paper had operated as a Democratic mouth-piece and the other actively supported the Republican party. Since the new editor was not a native Utahn, he faced the additional task of learning to know his publics, the Mormon population and the many different nationalities represented among the first and second generation foreigners.

Although Mr. Asbury was born in Farmersburg, Indiana, on July 31, 1887, he came to Utah from the Northwest. In 1928 he purchased the Richfield Reaper and in 1932 he purchased the Sun and the News-Advocate. He combined the two papers and gave the new newspaper the name, The Sun-Advocate. Mr. Asbury was also the owner of the Johnson Hotel in Richfield.

Mr. Asbury's expanding business interests in Richfield made it increasingly difficult for him to spend time in Price. After only a few months of operation he decided to sell an interest in the newspaper in Price to Val Cowles and Hal MacKnight, both of whom had been employed by him since he purchased the business. Mr. Cowles was currently serving as his

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

editor and Mr. MacKnight as his shop foreman. Mr. Asbury wrote about the transaction:

Mr. Cowles is a man of rare ability, much newspaper experience, and an asset to the community . . . Mr. MacKnight was employed on the Sun for ten years. He has lived in Price all his life.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. MacKnight and Mr. Cowles operated the newspaper for over a year under the partnership arrangement with Asbury, but apparently he still had more responsibility than he could handle, for in January, 1935, he sold the entire newspaper interest to the two young newspapermen. Mr. Asbury stated that he intended to devote his entire time to the operation of his hotel in Richfield.

Approximately five years after leaving Price, Mr. Asbury moved to California. He owned residences in Holtville, Palm Springs, and Live Oak, California. He died in Live Oak in June, 1962. He is survived by two sons, J. Lestor Asbury, an Air Force Major who is currently stationed in Alaska, and William F. Asbury, Weaverville, California. Mrs. Asbury died the day before her husband who suffered a heart attack after learning of her death. The Asburys were buried in Holtville, California.

Mr. Asbury was seventy-four years of age.

The new owners wrote:

The Sun-Advocate will continue operation with the same policy as previously prevailed. Under this management, a

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<sup>3</sup>News item, Ibid., August 24, 1933.

strictly independent and community-representative newspaper. No personnel changes will be made and every effort will be put forth to make this newspaper one of worthwhile qualities and a welcome weekly visitor in the homes of its hundreds of subscribers in the district which it serves.<sup>4</sup>

Mr. Cowles and Mr. MacKnight operated the paper as a partnership for eleven years. The relationship was congenial and the partners made every effort to keep up with the times. The masthead proclaimed the aim--"This publication-a real mirror of community affairs."<sup>5</sup>

Mr. Cowles came to Price from Enumclaw, Washington. He was married and was the father of one daughter, Loraine.

He was a veteran of World War I. During his years in Price he was elected to the State Legislature as representative from Carbon County. He was well-known as an organizer and was instrumental in inaugurating the Robbers' Roost Roundup, an annual event since 1937 and the largest celebration held each year in Price. He was a member of the American Legion, the sponsoring organization of the Roundup.

In 1945 Val Cowles, because of the health condition of his wife, found it necessary to move to California. The Sun-Advocate announced the new arrangement of ownership in the April 19, 1945, issue. It stated that Val Cowles had disposed of his interest to Hal MacKnight and Mr. MacKnight had disposed of his interest to John Vlahovich of Renton, Washington.

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid., January 24, 1935.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

The change marked the beginning of a third partnership for Mr. MacKnight.

The new masthead carried the names, Hal G. MacKnight and John Vlahovich, Publishers. The slogan was "One newspaper, one coverage, one cost." Price of the newspaper was \$2.50 a year.

The Sun-Advocate of August 5, 1948, dropped the name of John Vlahovich. No mention was made in the newspaper of the severance of his relationship with the paper. A simple statement by Mr. MacKnight, "I bought him out and he left town immediately,"<sup>6</sup> was the only explanation given.

At the time that Mr. MacKnight and Mr. Cowles assumed ownership of The Sun-Advocate in 1935, Carbon County was in the throes of the greatest business recession of its history. A state of great turmoil and unrest, caused by lack of employment and extreme poverty, was a statewide condition. The Sun-Advocate reported in January, 1935, that, based on an estimated population of 18,749, the county had a total of 14.4 per cent of its population on relief. A total of 2,725 persons was enrolled on the F.E.R.A. (Federal Emergency Relief Association) rolls. Families numbered 516 as compared to 138 single persons; Wellington suffered severely with 76.6 per cent of its population listed; Price suffered less with 27 per cent

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<sup>6</sup>Interview with Hal G. MacKnight, June 30, 1961.



FIGURE 5

HAL G. MACKNIGHT  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF THE SUN-ADVOCATE

listed. Strangely, Columbia, Harper, Clear Creek, Consumers and Latuda had no residents on relief.<sup>7</sup>

Ironically the newspaper announced that school teachers would be given a 5 per cent increase in salary during the coming year.<sup>8</sup>

The United States government, in its efforts to eliminate some of the countrywide suffering and unemployment, brought a CCC Camp into Carbon County in 1935. Two hundred enrollees began the first project, the fencing of "48,000 acres of grazing land which were mostly Public Domain land lying directly to the northeast of Price." Erosion control work projects followed the completion of the fencing project.<sup>9</sup>

Over a period of seven years, with a continuous enrollment of two hundred boys, approximately 2600 boys were enrolled and trained. Ages of the enrollees ranged from seventeen to twenty-three. Many of the boys who were unable to read or write at the time of entry were trained in a vocation and were able to read and write when they left.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>News item in the [Price, Utah] Sun-Advocate, January 1935.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., February 14, 1935.

<sup>9</sup>W. W. West, "History and Accomplishments of Price CCC Camps," Centennial Echoes from Carbon County (Price, Utah: Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Carbon County, 1948), p. 131.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

Labor problems in the county during this period were serious. Strikers from four local branches of the National Miners' Union went on strike in 1933, because company officials refused to improve certain working conditions and failed to recognize the union locally. The strike was opposed by the United Mine Workers of America (UMW) who declared that the National Mine Union was Communist-inspired. Union organizations in Spring Canyon, Gordon Creek, Consumers and National were said to be the infiltrated unions.<sup>11</sup>

UMW demanded that the State Industrial Commission investigate the unions and remove and penalize the Communist leaders.<sup>12</sup>

The Sun-Advocate reported that leaders of the union had been arrested and strike lines had been broken. Three-hundred strikers in four camps were jailed. Since 130 of them were aliens, deportation proceedings were to be filed against them.<sup>13</sup>

The Public Forum printed letters which revealed the feelings of the public. The fact that 400 strikers met in Helper, transported themselves to Price where they staged a demonstration on the Main Street of Price before officers

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<sup>11</sup>News item in the [Price, Utah] Sun-Advocate, August 24, 1933.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., August 31, 1933.

routed them with tear gas bombs and fire hose added to the ill feelings of the citizenry.<sup>14</sup>

Three of the organizers of the union, which was established in 1927, were found to be members of the Communist Party. The marchers were protesting the incarceration of their leaders.<sup>15</sup> As a result of their actions, civilian martial law was declared throughout the county.<sup>16</sup>

In September, 1935, more strike troubles plagued the county, and strikers brought Carbon County mines to a standstill. Strikers demanded an increase in wages of ten cents a ton on coal. Management offered only seven and one-half cents a ton. An agreement was finally reached in October in which a compromise was effected. A final settlement of nine cents a ton was won by the miners.<sup>17</sup>

This settlement was regarded as a signal victory for labor. It marked the first significant victory for western miners and was hailed as the beginning of a new era in labor-management relations in Carbon County.<sup>18</sup>

Education made rapid strides during the 1930's. The Sun-Advocate reported that the Brigham Young University of

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<sup>14</sup>Ibid., September 7, 1933.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., September 26, 1935.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., October 3, 1935.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.



Provo, Utah, had stated that on the basis of records made by Carbon graduates at the Provo school, that Carbon High School was one of the six best prep schools in Utah.<sup>19</sup> Records showed a total of 4800 students enrolled in the Carbon School District.<sup>20</sup>

Agitation for a college in eastern Utah began about 1928, but no definite action was taken until May, 1936, when delegates of the Associated Civics Clubs of Southern Utah pledged unqualified support for a junior college to be established in eastern Utah.<sup>21</sup> The Sun-Advocate reported late in November that fifteen counties supported the establishment of a branch of the University of Utah in Price, and by December the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, Chamber of Commerce, Board of Education and County Commissioners had taken up the project and had organized a campaign to establish a junior college in the county.<sup>22</sup>

Senator G. G. Lindstrom, Spring Canyon Democrat, introduced the bill for the establishment of a branch of the University of Utah but later withdrew the original bill and introduced a substitute bill which called for the establishment

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<sup>19</sup>Ibid., April 4, 1935.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid., May 22, 1936.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid., July 16, 1936.

Price-Courier

CIRCULATION THIS WEEK 3630

12 Pages

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER—A CONSOLIDATION OF THE SUN AND NEWS-ADVOCATE

PRICE, CARBON COUNTY, UTAH, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1935

VOL. 42, NO. 1

NUMBER 2

CARBON RESIDENTS TO PAY TRIBUTE TO ROOSEVELT AT BALL.

Dance Commemorating Birthday Anniversary of Nation's Head Set January 30

One of 1936 similar affairs to be held throughout the nation, the second annual Roosevelt birthday ball will be held at the Elks Club on Monday, Jan. 30.

According to Mrs. E. W. West, chairman of the committee in charge of the ball, the proceeds will be used for the rehabilitation of handicapped children within the county.

At the present time 19 orthopedic hospitals, recognized by the American Medical Association, carry the load of giving treatment to the 200,000 persons in the country who have the handicap of the disease.

THE USE of funds to fight the disease is shown by the fact that infidelity paralytic annually costs the country some \$30,000,000 in impaired industrial earnings and hospital care.

THREE WOUNDED IN GUN AFFRAY

Fred Martinez, 34, who allegedly shot and wounded three men in a fight at a Standardville bar last Saturday night, will be charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

Martinez, according to Sheriff H. Martin Hill, was taken to the establishment and said to Harmon Adley, 36. "You won't laugh at me any more," Martinez then allegedly fired at Adley, who was wounded in the left shoulder.

Large Amount Spent Locally For Relief Past Eight Months

Federal, state and local relief committees in Carbon county during the eight months ending December 31 amounted to \$231,925.96, according to a report received Thursday by Frank Young, Carbon P. E. A. secretary.

Carbon Union To Aid Legislation Favoring Labor

Carbon county United Mine Workers of America will carry on an active campaign during the present session of the state legislature for the passage of measures favorable to labor.

FARCE COMEDY TO BE SPONSORED BY PRICE AUXILIARY

"Charry's Trial" a farce comedy played with laugh from beginning to end, will be presented by a local cast Tuesday and Wednesday in the high school auditorium.

THE JUDGE was every minute during the play in rapid motion, and the court went along at a fast pace that held the attention of the audience every minute.

Union Head Reports Code Survey Planned

Frank Rosencrutz, local representative of the United Mine Workers of America, has received word from the western division N. E. A. headquarters in San Francisco.

CONDEMNERS TO MERE... Members of the new Carbon relief committee will hold their second regular meeting Monday at 7:30 p. m.

Price City Again to Conduct Intermountain Music Contest

That Price city's famous intermountain music contest project will be continued was assured Monday evening when the city council, at its regular meeting, appointed a general committee to have charge of arrangements for the 1935 tournament.

Plans for Unique Decorations Made By Ball Committee

Sixteen couples to take part in the demonstration; Queen Contest To Be Feature

TAX COLLECTION COSTS REPORTED FOR SIX MONTHS

A report prepared by County Clerk B. H. Young reveals that the cost of collecting taxes in Carbon county during the last half of 1934 amounted to \$127,119.

Assessment Work In County Progressing

Personal property tax collections for 1935 are showing in better shape for several years, County Assessor Hilda Rosner reported Tuesday.

Postal Report Indicates Upward Trend in Business

Receipts of the Price postoffice from the sale of stamps and stamp paper showed an increase in 1934 of \$2468.82 in comparison with the previous year, according to Postmaster Carl W. Moore.

C. C. C. Proposal To Be Discussed At Meeting Here

J. W. Humphreys, secretary of the Monticello national forest, will attend a meeting to be held here Thursday for the purpose of discussing the proposed establishment of a C. C. C. camp near Scofield.

WORK STARTED ON EXTENSIVE STREET PROJECT IN PRICE

Virtually All Unpaved Avenue of Travel in City To Be Graded, Graveled

PRICE BUILDING ACTIVITY SHOWS GAIN PAST YEAR

Building activity was more than doubled in Price during 1934 than for several years past.

LARGE NUMBER HELPED BY HELPER TRANSIENT OFFICE

Since its establishment several weeks ago, the transient relief office at Hilder has helped a large number of transients.

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TALK SCHEDULED TUESDAY

Ray H. Adams of Salt Lake, extension placement officer for Utah, will explain proposed unemployment insurance legislation at a meeting in Price at the court house Saturday at 7:30 p. m.

KIWANIS CLUB MEETS TALK ON SCIENCE OF THINKING

Members of the Kiwanis Club met for their regular meeting Monday evening at the Elks Club.

ANNIVERSARY FETE PLANS ANNOUNCED BY KIWANIS CLUB

Special Ladies' Night Program Planned By Organization For January 23

Price Kiwanians will observe the twentieth anniversary of the founding of Kiwanis International during the week of January 22 to 26.

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Carbon E.R.A. Makes Good Safety Record

An excellent safety record was made by the Carbon E.R.A. during the year ending December 31.

of a junior college which his constituents advised him would serve his community more effectively.<sup>23</sup>

Senate Bill Number Six passed February 11, 1937, and went into effect February 20, 1937. By February 28 work began on Carbon Junior College.<sup>24</sup>

Instruction began in September, 1938, with a total of 731 students enrolled. Upper division enrollment was 146; lower division enrollment was 585; the first graduating class numbered 39. A survey conducted in 1940 showed a total of 31 nationalities enrolled.<sup>25</sup>

The Sun-Advocate reported that educators had problems, however, in that only 41.4 per cent of the teachers were certificated in 1947. Blaine Winters, certification officer for the state, announced that Carbon County was in thirtieth place in the state. Logan was highest with 87 per cent of its teachers certified.<sup>26</sup>

The major news stories carried in The Sun-Advocate in the early 1940's were war stories. The army began induction in 1941. Rationing of food began in 1943. Letters from

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<sup>23</sup>News article in the Helper [Utah] Journal, January 8, 1937.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid., February 28, 1937.

<sup>25</sup>"This is Your College," Centennial Echoes From Carbon County (Price, Utah: Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Carbon County, 1948), p. 136.

<sup>26</sup>News article in the [Price, Utah] Sun-Advocate, March 20, 1947.

soldiers, pictures of soldiers, bond drives, paper drives, clothing drives, and more food rationing were all a part of the war picture which the newspaper reported with unfailing devotion.

Dragerton, a completely new town, was built in 1942. Six-hundred new homes were constructed and a school which registered 435 children the first year.<sup>27</sup>

In 1939 a new municipal building with gymnasium and civic auditorium was completed, and Price was rapidly winning a reputation as a convention city, having hosted eight major conventions during the year.<sup>28</sup>

The Sun-Advocate devoted one full page to pictures and articles which described the Centennial Pageant and celebration in July, 1947. Approximately 400 people participated in the pageant and an estimated 20,000 people lined the streets to view the colorful parade.<sup>29</sup>

During the 1930's and early 1940's the Sun-Advocate's front pages were filled for weeks with glowing stories of some of the most colorful events in the history of the county. Under the direction of E. M. Williams, capable and unusual music instructor in Carbon County schools, Carbon bands won

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<sup>27</sup>Ibid., November 22, 1942.

<sup>28</sup>Ibid., December 20, 1939.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid., July 23, 1947.

national recognition in band events which were at their peak at this time.

The Western Divisional Contest--superior bands from Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico--were guests of Price city in 1935. Twenty-two bands participated.<sup>30</sup>

Carbon County residents worked zealously to secure housing for the hundreds of young musicians who participated. Hundreds of local patrons and visitors viewed the exciting spectacle as the uniformed youngsters paraded in their intricate and high-stepping routines.

In 1936, three Carbon County bands were adjudged highly superior in the Western Regional Contest in Grand Junction, Colorado, but the 1937 events climaxed all previous music festivals with thirty-seven bands registered and 1600 students housed free by the Price community. Carbon High School band was one of the six bands to be rated highly superior. Henry Fillmore, noted Cincinatti composer and band leader, who was chief judge of the contests, stated:<sup>31</sup>

I have never seen anything of its kind to equal the festival you have staged here in Price. In my opinion the Chicago district is the only one in the nation which rivals your community as a center of music for schools.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>30</sup>Ibid., April 25, 1935.

<sup>31</sup>Ibid., May 20, 1937.

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

Greatest of the thrills that came to Carbon County music lovers, however, was the rating accorded the Carbon High School band in national competition in Chicago, Illinois, in 1933, in which it won first place in the nation in parade competition and second place in concert contest competition.<sup>33</sup>

As the decade ended, the music festivals lost some of their glamour and after the early 1940's the giant contests were succeeded by contests which involved fewer bands. Today few contests are held on a competitive basis.

After Mr. Cowles and Mr. MacKnight assumed full control of the Sun-Advocate, the editorial comment of the paper became more comprehensive. The editor took a definite stand on issues. He lauded the new ruling which had just become effective in election procedure. "The direct primary brings election setup out into the sunshine where people may see it," he wrote.<sup>34</sup>

The sales tax was one of the editor's "pet peeves." He attacked it many times as an unfair "sales tax that cost each man, woman, and child in the states where this belly-robbing method is in operation about \$10 a year or \$35 for an average family."<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>33</sup>"Price History," Centennial Echoes from Carbon County, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers of Carbon County, 1948, p. 91.

<sup>34</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah] Sun-Advocate, August 26, 1939.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid., November 9, 1939.

The editorials of praise were noteworthy. The editor constantly mentioned people who performed a service for others or who had in some way achieved recognition. Organizations such as the Boy Scouts or the Red Cross were often given recognition for creditable performance.

At times the editor warned his readers to take more interest in affairs that affected their welfare. He exhorted them to choose their political candidates carefully and to pay higher salaries to their legislators. On the home front he urged them to keep their premises clean, to support home industry, to attend community functions, to support their schools, to smile oftener, and to drive carefully.

He pushed projects he felt were necessary for the community. At various times he pointed out the need for a swimming pool, a resuscitator, a fire department, and drivers' education. On the other hand, he lauded the demise of the OPA as a great saving of the taxpayers' money.

In a front page editorial in March, 1941, he scolded the local administration for their failure to attract more tourists to the city. The tourist industry, he said, should bring thousands of dollars into the county annually.<sup>36</sup>

In other editorials the editor talked about such things as bowling, parking meters, school lunches, Veterans' housing, ski meets, the bond-a-month plan, and vandalism.

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<sup>36</sup>Ibid., March 20, 1941.

In October, 1944, Price was the subject of a vitriolic attack in the pamphlet entitled "Morals and the Mayor." The pamphlet, which made its appearance shortly before election day, was obviously intended to defeat Mayor J. Bracken Lee of Price in his bid for the governorship of the state on the Republican ticket. The Sun-Advocate labeled the pamphlet "An Uncalled for Attack" and stated that the "material in 'Morals and the Mayor' had no place in a political campaign in the United States."<sup>37</sup>

Citizens of Price were highly incensed at the unprecedented attack on their city. A committee of representative citizens led by C. H. Madsen, chairman, and Mr. MacKnight, Sun-Advocate publisher, journeyed to Salt Lake City to meet with Governor Herbert B. Maw to seek redress.

Since Governor Maw was away, the group visited the Utah State Tax Commission. The Salt Lake Tribune carried the following story:

Carrying a vigorous protest against a recently issued political pamphlet entitled "Morals and the Mayor" which they declared is an "infamous smear" on the city of Price, a bipartisan delegation of 15 prominent Carbon County citizens called on state officials Saturday at the capitol.

. . . The group also visited offices of the state tax commission to inquire if state tax equipment had been used to address envelopes for mailing the pamphlets and were told by Chairman J. Lambert Gibson, "It's none of your business."

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<sup>37</sup>Ibid., November 2, 1944.



The group charged Governor Herbert B. Maw with causing the pamphlet to be written to aid and abet his campaign for the governorship.

"We protest the issuance of the said pamphlet as an infamous smear to the good name of the important industrial city of Price for the sole purpose of defeating your opponent. The timing of the distribution of the pamphlet just before election is evidence that the desire to aid the citizens of Price was not a motive, but indicates a certain political purpose to do harm to one political candidate at the expense and shame of every respectable citizen of Price and Carbon County.

"Not only is the pamphlet intended to injure your opponent (Lee). It does irreparable damage to the whole county of Carbon, to Price, to religious, educational, and industrial institutions located here. For years to come respectable people will hesitate to come to this county to live or to enter business because of the unfair statements made in the article. . . ."38

Governor Maw reported to the newspapers that he had been away and knew nothing about the pamphlet or its publication. Mr. Gibson, after thinking over his actions, submitted an apology to the Carbon County Committee in which he stated:

I want to apologize for the things said and my actions toward the committee which came to my office. I really didn't mean some of these things. . . .

I hate to have my name connected with any statement derogatory to Carbon County for I have many good friends there. . . .

J. Lambert Gibson<sup>39</sup>

Dr. Francis W. Kirkham, Salt Lake City educator and the apparent author of the pamphlet, tried to assume all blame for

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<sup>38</sup>News article in the Salt Lake Tribune, October 28, 1944.

<sup>39</sup>News item in the [Price, Utah] Sun-Advocate, November 2, 1944.

the publication of the pamphlet. He had gone to Price to gather the information for the brochure, he stated, "and from my own observation can say that the report is true and accurate."<sup>40</sup>

In a part of the brochure he stated that "Residents of Price state that there exists in that city a dangerous and ruthless political machine. It could not be otherwise. When a city goes into partnership with the underworld, the machine is already formed."<sup>41</sup>

In still another part of the brochure he gave his supposed reason for disclosing the facts he had gathered:

We feel justified in making this disclosure. It will reveal actual conditions today to the people of Price and Carbon County, and we hope again stir the community conscience. It will inform the parents of young men and women who go from all parts of eastern Utah to the Junior College at Price that Mayor Lee runs a wide open town where gambling houses and houses of prostitution operate on the main street of the little city, and it will suggest to them putting more pressure on enforcement officers to clean up conditions.<sup>42</sup>

Residents of Price took a dim view of the reasons Dr. Kirkham gave for publishing the pamphlet and said so in a three-column ad published by the Carbon County Committee in which they stated.

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<sup>40</sup>Francis W. Kirkham, "Morals and the Mayor," (Salt Lake City, 1944), p. Cover.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid., p. 6.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid., p. 3.

Does any fair-minded person believe that this man Kirkham was motivated entirely by wholesome intentions namely to improve conditions in Price? Does any fair-minded person believe that he would spend an estimated \$3,000. to print and distribute this pamphlet for the purpose of raising the moral standards in Price. If this crusader had such desires, why did he not pick out his own town to investigate . . . ?

The decent people of Price could not and would not allow such an unjustified attack to go unanswered. The people of Price believe in action. . . . <sup>43</sup>

Mr. Kirkham gave every indication that he wanted to answer the charges that were filed against him on their merits. His case was set for December 19, 1944, in Price, Utah. He was "charged with contempt of court. The case was halted as the result of a restraining order issued by the State Supreme court Friday."<sup>44</sup>

This was the last of the case as reported by the Sun-Advocate, but repercussions from the affair were of deep implication. Once again the small city of Price was made to suffer as a result of bad publicity which was beyond its control. Mr. Lee lost the election "by less than one-half of one per cent," the Sun-Advocate said, in its November 16 edition.

One of the most interesting articles to be printed by the Sun-Advocate during this period was a front page story which honored the paper on its golden anniversary in January, 1941. The editor reminiscently covered the years from the

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<sup>43</sup>Editorial in the [Price, Utah] Sun-Advocate, November 2, 1944.

<sup>44</sup>News item, Ibid., December 21, 1944.

beginning of the newspaper's history in such fascinating style that the writer could not refrain from quoting a part of the story:

During King's [the first editor] publishing career a rival paper was started, and from then until 1932 . . . there were two newspapers published in Price. From the first, one was Democratically inclined and the other upheld the doctrines of the Grand Old Party. If the Republicans won the county elections--which happened occasionally a few decades back--that paper fell heir to all the county printing, tax lists, and other such printing. The other paper "starved" until the Democrats got back into office.

This scheme of things led to bitter fights, physical fights, using revolvers, fists, and horsewhips.

Men took their politics seriously, their whiskey straight, and the fair sex was generally excluded from the masculine job of printing a newspaper. . . .

His [Crockett's] feud with the county's richest man, the late Dr. F. F. Fisk [the first real doctor in Price] grew to be a classic of invective lasting 20 years.

Crockett refused to capitalize any letters in Dr. Fisk's name. He wrote it f. f. fisk and never honored him by his title, Dr.

. . . . .

The pioneer days with editorialized news are over. Editorials are kept on the editorial page where they may be read or left alone, as the subscriber may choose. Principal objective of the newspaper is no longer to influence people politically or otherwise, but rather to present the news with as much accuracy as possible, as well as to publish advertising that benefits both advertisers and readers.<sup>45</sup>

By 1940 strikes and serious labor problems had largely subsided. The Sun-Advocate printed all labor stories without slanting the stories in favor of management. Labor organiza-

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<sup>45</sup>Ibid., January 9, 1941.

tions were now accepted by the press as a something that was here to stay. September issues were filled with pictures of Labor Day celebrations, celebrities, and union officials. An editorial in the January 4, 1940, issue, however, warned labor to be cautious in its labor practices and not take advantage of its new position.

The Sun-Advocate did not change its format to any great extent during the period from 1932 to 1948. During the 1930's the newspaper varied from twelve to sixteen pages. Its attractive front page with its handsome Old English nameplate was striking.

The newspaper, now a two section, six-column publication, had added a sports' page which was headed by a 60-point banner headline. A few pictures of athletes, group athletics, and coaches added interest to the page; however, it was not uncommon to see major sports events featured on the front page at this time. At least half of the paper was devoted to advertising, although no advertisements were ever carried on the front page. Two and three pages of news entitled "Price and Nearby" provided some of the choice reading material, and society items, neatly individualized with eight-point bold-faced headlines, gave one a very complete picture of the social set in the county. A "Twenty Years Ago" and a "Thirty Years Ago" column vied for interest with the "Price and Nearby" columns.

The front page was occupied with the usual small town news--deaths, school events, community happenings, county news, political happenings, economic conditions, and promotions.

In 1939 an interesting feature was inaugurated. During each month the editor reviewed events that had happened in that month in other years. He entitled the articles "Aprils of Other Years" or "Octobers of Other Years." These articles were more or less a summary or history and proved interesting reading, often bringing to one's mind a person or event he had forgotten. A representative issue during the 1930's carried advertisements for wine, gasoline, foods, whiskey, theaters, barber and beauty shops, insurance, garages, furniture, and dry goods. A survey of four randomly selected issues during the year 1940 showed approximately 50 per cent advertising in each issue.<sup>46</sup>

During the 1940's a "Woman's Page" was added to the paper. Included on this page were columns entitled "With the Stars," a column similar to that of Hedda Hopper of today; "Book Column," a column which reviewed from one to four books in enough detail to arouse interest; long columns of local society news; and news columns from towns in the county. During 1941 news columns were printed from Castle Gate, Scofield,

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<sup>46</sup>The issues used for the survey were January 4, January 11, January 18, and May 2.

Columbia, Clear Creek, Hiawatha, Wellington, Sunnyside, Kenilworth, Rains, and Spring Glen.

"Hospital Notes," "Farm News," and "Women of Our Town" were interesting additions to the Sun-Advocate during this period. "Women of Our Town," published each week, honored a deserving woman from eighteen to eighty. Pictures were used with most of the accompanying columns. Each week the Sun-Advocate sent a bouquet of roses to the honored person.

Styles that were depicted were similar to the styles of today. Dress lengths were almost identical, but shoulder padding added a slightly different appearance to the waists.

Small pictures, usually not larger than one inch wide by two inches long were beginning to be used on the front page. No pictures were used on the society page, however, and few pictures were used in advertising.

New advertisements that appeared during this period were automobiles, optical supplies, radio programs, lumber, jewelry, dry cleaners, heating plants, sheet metal, laundry, banks, poultry, and service stations.

## CHAPTER VIII

1948 - 1962

"ACT WELL YOUR PART; THERE ALL THE HONOR LIES"

Hal MacKnight began his independent reign of the Sun-Advocate in 1948. After working with three partnership combinations, he must have drawn a deep breath of relief to know that at last he was free to operate his newspaper as he saw fit.

Mr. MacKnight came to Price as a youngster with his parents. The elder MacKnight was appointed manager of the Consolidated Wagon and Machine Company, a new company in Price.

He was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, coming to Price in 1915. He attended schools in Price and was graduated from the Carbon High School.

Mr. MacKnight was well prepared for his new business venture. As a youngster he entered the print shop as a printer's "devil" under R. W. Crockett. During this period he learned every angle of the newspaper operation from the ground floor. He spent ten years under Crockett, "who treated me well," he maintains, "although most people were afraid of him."<sup>1</sup>

After his college days at Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah, where he studied journalism, Mr. MacKnight settled down to the serious business of journalism as his vocation.

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<sup>1</sup>Interview with Hal G. MacKnight, June 4, 1962.



In 1932 the Sun-Advocate had been sold to Joseph Asbury under whom Mr. MacKnight worked as shop foreman. When Mr. Asbury decided to sell an interest in the business to Mr. MacKnight and Mr. Cowles, his editor, in 1933, Mr. MacKnight took the first step toward the realization of a life-long dream--to own a newspaper of his own.

His subsequent purchase of the entire newspaper operation came when John Vlahovich, his third partner, sold his interest to Mr. MacKnight in 1948.

Mr. MacKnight sold a small interest in the business to L. E. Durrant of Castle Gate, Utah, in 1948.

During the years Mr. MacKnight has resided in Price, he has been active in civic and social affairs in the community. In 1949 he served as president of the Utah Press Association, and for ten years he served as a director. He has also served as president of the Price Kiwanis club, and the Carbon County club, and as a director of the Chamber of Commerce. He holds membership in several local clubs and organizations.

He is married to the former Earlene Durrant and is the father of three sons, John, Richard, and Scott.

Mr. MacKnight's editor and chief assistant is Alex Bene, Jr., native of Carbon County, and graduate of the School of Journalism of the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Journalism degree.

Mr. Bene joined the Sun-Advocate staff in 1941. In 1942 he entered the United States Army in the Medical Corps in which

capacity he served for four years. He returned to the Sun-Advocate as editor for Mr. MacKnight.

Mr. Bene was born in Sunnyside, Utah, but moved to Helper, Utah, with his parents where he attended schools and resided until he moved to Price in 1941. He attended schools in Carbon County and is a graduate of Carbon High School. He attended college for two years at the University of Utah before he transferred to the Missouri school.

He is married to the former Lillian Cannell whom he met and married in England while he was stationed there in the army. They are the parents of four children--Jolene, Carol, John, and Colin.

Mr. MacKnight and Mr. Bene are assisted in their \$105,000.00 a year business by a shop crew of ten and nine correspondents.<sup>2</sup>

The first year after Mr. MacKnight assumed ownership of the paper, his newspaper won a total of five awards. In 1946 it received a First Place in General Excellence from the Utah State Press Association in Class A division, and in 1947 it received five awards. Over a period of thirteen years the Sun-Advocate has received many awards in the various classifications. These awards are all in the Class A division.

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



FIGURE 7

ALEX BENE  
EDITOR OF THE SUN-ADVOCATE

<u>Award Title</u>	<u>Rating</u>
<u>1946</u>	
General Excellence	First
<u>1947</u>	
Best Printed Newspaper	First
Best General Advertising Layout	First
Best General Coverage	First
Best Front Page	First
Best Editorial	Second
Best All-around Weekly in Utah--Awarded by Brigham Young University Journalism Department	
<u>1949</u>	
Best Modern Front Page	First
Best Front Page	First
Best Use of Local News	First
General Excellence	First
Distinguished Service in Community Leadership Certificate of Merit--Awarded by USU Journalism Department (Utah State University--Logan, Utah)	
<u>1950</u>	
General Excellence in Typography	
National Newspaper Contest for Weekly Newspapers	Second
Distinguished Service in Community Leadership Certificate of Merit--Awarded by USU Journalism Department	
News Photography Contest Award Awarded by Men's Press Club--University of Utah	Second
<u>1951</u>	
General Excellence in Typography	Second
Best News Story	Third
Best Editorial	Second
General Excellence	Third
<u>1952</u>	
National Safety Council Public Interest Award for Exceptional Service to Safety	
Best Front Page	Third
General Excellence in Typography	Second
General Excellence	Second

<u>Award Title</u>	<u>Rating</u>
<u>1953</u>	
General Excellence in Typography	First
Best News Story	Second
Best Front Page	Third
General Excellence	Second
Exceptional Service in Community--Awarded by Utah State University	First
<u>1954</u>	
Excellence in Typography	First
Best Use of Illustrated Material	Second
General Excellence	First
Best Editorial	Second
Harrison R. Merrill Award for Best Front Page-- Awarded by Brigham Young University	
<u>1956</u>	
Best News Story	First
Excellence in Typography	First
General Excellence	First
Best Front Page	First
Harrison R. Merrill Award for Best Front Page-- Awarded by Brigham Young University	
<u>1958</u>	
Best News Story	First
Best Editorial	First
Distinguished Service in Leadership--Awarded by Utah State University	First
<u>1959</u>	
General Excellence in Typography	Third
Best Front Page for March	
<u>1960</u>	
General Excellence in Typography	First
Best Front Page	First
Best Editorial	First
General Excellence	Second
Harrison R. Merrill Award--Brigham Young University	

<u>Award Title</u>	<u>Rating</u>
<u>1961</u>	
Best Front Page	Second
Best Society Page	First
Excellence in Typography	Third
General Excellence	Second
Best Front Page for July--Awarded by Brigham Young University <sup>3</sup>	First

The Sun-Advocate announced a policy of non-partisanship in politics at the beginning of its career. Mr. MacKnight was familiar with the earlier policy of two newspapers in a community, one for each political party. He knew also that such a policy was impractical and financially unprofitable. He took a stand, however, against issues that he felt were clear-cut and definitely affected the interests of the area or its people, regardless of their political implications.

During the past thirteen years the editors have pushed many causes. Education, good roads, and civic enterprises have received major emphasis.

When Governor J. Bracken Lee, a native son and six-time mayor of Price, who was currently serving as governor of the state of Utah, exploded a bombshell in the laps of his fellow townsmen by proposing to abolish Carbon College in the interests of his famous "economy program," the Sun-Advocate entered upon the greatest campaign of its career.

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<sup>3</sup>All awards are exhibited on the walls of the Sun-Advocate Building.

"Frills that the taxpayer can do without,"<sup>4</sup> Mr. Lee had stated in explaining his three-pronged plan to save the taxpayers of Utah approximately \$1,285,000 every two years by abolishing Carbon College and turning its buildings over to the local school board for use as a high school building; turning three state-owned junior colleges--Snow College in Ephraim, Utah, Dixie College in St. George, Utah, and Weber College in Ogden, Utah--back to the Mormon Church, their original owners; and turning Salt Lake Vocational School and Central Utah Vocational School in Provo, Utah, over to the local districts to do with as they saw fit.<sup>5</sup>

Mr. MacKnight, in spite of his life-long friendship with the governor, was the first to alert the citizens of the county to the seriousness of the situation. In a front page editorial he wrote:

The basis for action seems to be the cost to the taxpayers.

.....

It [Carbon College] has advanced the cultural climate of this section's people. It has provided entertainment in the fields of art and sciences and athletics. It has literally brought back to this section state monies which left here and were never returned.

Governor Lee's attitude is amazing. He is a native citizen. He served this community as mayor and was probably its leading figure.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>News article in the [Price, Utah] Sun-Advocate, June 25, 1953.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Editorial, Ibid., July 2, 1953.

Mr. MacKnight pointed out that Mr. Lee had been misinformed and quoted incorrect figures in explaining the situation to his colleagues, but that he was within his legal rights to question and cut appropriations made by the legislature.<sup>7</sup>

Plans were made within the county to fight the issue. An organization was effected with Gomer P. Peacock, prominent business man, selected as general chairman.

Late in November Mr. Lee announced that he would call a special session of the legislature to convene December 1. He submitted to the press a list of the problems which were to be discussed. No mention was made of the Carbon College case.<sup>8</sup>

At the very end of a jam-packed and hurried extra session of the legislature, Mr. Lee's proposal was slipped in and voted upon and the bill passed which doomed Carbon College to extinction.<sup>9</sup>

Mr. MacKnight's editorial, carried on the front page of the Sun-Advocate, three columns wide and edged in wide black band, was a classic. He stated:

It is the reluctant duty of this newspaper to record the passing of Carbon Junior College as an institution established 16 years ago for the educational and cultural improvement of the people of Southeastern [sic] Utah by authorization of the Utah State Legislature. The Junior College was eliminated by the same authority, and the action was initiated by the governor of the state of Utah,

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>News item, Ibid., November 26, 1953.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., December 24, 1953.



a native of Price, whose motives, we believe in this case, originated in personal prejudice rather than as a necessary part of any economy program.

We do not believe from his statements that the governor has ever really studied relative costs to the taxpayers for education at Carbon College. For if he had, his beliefs could never have been based on the issue of economy in educating college students. The facts are available for those to know, however belatedly.

His recommendations were riddled from top to bottom by the lawmakers, except for the junior colleges, three of which will continue to function. In the case of Carbon, this victory can now stand as a monument, silent and alone, in the memory of the good people of his home community. . . .

It is enough to say that the people have been done a grave injustice--an injustice that should haunt the conscience of the members of the state legislature who voted it out as a matter of policy, consistency and petty politics during the last two hurried days of a special session.

Valiant efforts were made by most leading citizens here to save the college, including members of both political parties. All civic and service organizations, labor, women's groups, city and county officials had endorsed the stand taken for the school.

It would be amiss here not to mention one man--State Senator Marl D. Gibson--who went down the line bitterly opposing his long-time friend, the governor, eloquently and fearlessly fighting for what he believed was right. He has shown rare statesmanship.

As chief executioner, Governor J. Bracken Lee has done a memorable job in destroying our pride in a college; impairing the educational opportunity of the young people of this area; eliminating the only state institution in Southeastern [sic] Utah; centralizing educational advantages in the vast state capital city, and saving the taxpayers an infinitesimal amount, if any, in the process.

We have become the victim of inexorable events in the unpredictable field of political maneuvering.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>Editorial, Ibid.

This editorial appeared on the front page of the December 24, 1953, issue, which devoted its entire front page to the cause for which it had been fighting--to "Save Carbon College." In one article the president of Carbon College (in 1953), Dr. Aaron E. Jones, stated that "80 per cent of the 240 students now attending could not attend college if the school were closed."<sup>11</sup> Dr. Jones quoted figures to show that the cost per student for education at Carbon College was actually lower than that of any other university or college in the state.<sup>12</sup>

One other article suggested that a possibility remained for a referendum by the people. Such a course, the article pointed out, "would require notarized signatures on petitions of at least 10 per cent of those who voted in the last state election which would require about 25,000 [sic] names. It would postpone final disposal of the college properties until the people have had a chance to vote on the question."<sup>13</sup>

The Sun-Advocate had set the stage for the greatest fight ever to be carried on by the people of Carbon County.

Mass meetings, entertainments to raise campaign funds, and door-to-door canvassing were a part of the task of the hard-working committee members.

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<sup>11</sup>News article, Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

Since Mr. Lee was a member of the Republican party, and some of his fellow party members had been responsible for abolishing Carbon College, the Democratic party took up the issue as part of its platform in the coming election. Feeling was strong against Governor Lee, however, regardless of one's political creed.

The Sun-Advocate took up the cry "Save Carbon College" December 31, 1953, and for two months every issue carried the Carbon College story to the people. Forty-eight-point or thirty-six point headlines were used to attract attention to the front page story which meant life or death to the cause of higher education in Carbon County.

According to the law, petitions had to be filed within sixty days after the legislative session was ended, the Sun-Advocate stated, and 33,770 notarized signatures were necessary for the petitions.<sup>14</sup>

Gomer P. Peacock, general chairman, was equal to the task that had been assigned to him. Since the governor had seen fit to introduce unexpectedly the issue of withdrawing support from junior colleges in a special session of the legislature with little or no information available to legislators, the people were willing to fight for their college with every available tool.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>Ibid., December 31, 1953.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

Former Carbon residents who read the stories in the Sun-Advocate and other Utah papers volunteered to canvass their cities and towns for signatures. Contributions were sent to the newspaper to help the cause.

Since many Weber County citizens had little desire to see their college revert back to church ownership, Weber County and Carbon County citizens joined forces in the campaign. Each carried the other county's petition as well as its own and obtained two signatures which materially lessened the burden.<sup>16</sup>

The Sun-Advocate reported on January 21 that the drive was gaining impetus. Volunteer workers from both Carbon and Weber counties reported little opposition was encountered.<sup>17</sup> Deadline for signatures was set for February 19. Twenty-five hundred dollars in donations had been received in Price.<sup>18</sup>

On January 28, Alex Bene, Sun-Advocate editor, reported that the volunteer petition carriers were over the required number of signatures in nearly every county. The goal seemed almost at hand.<sup>19</sup>

Only three of Carbon County's allotted sixteen counties had failed to qualify for the referendum by February 11,<sup>20</sup> but signatures of 56,117 persons had been obtained by the next week. Approximately 32,771 signatures were needed.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>16</sup>Ibid., January 14, 1954.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., January 21, 1954.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., January 28, 1954.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., February 11, 1954.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid., February 18, 1954.

Early in October the Sun-Advocate began an all-out drive to remind every person of voting age of his responsibility to vote. Every week in October the stories were again told in thirty-six or forty-eight-point type headlines on the front page. The November 4 issue carried the long-awaited message in a five-column head which proclaimed to the world that "Carbon College Wins Battle for Survival."<sup>22</sup>

The Sun-Advocate reported that in Carbon County 6,873 people voted for the survival of Carbon College, and only 352 voted against it. Statewide there were 176,650 votes to save the college and only 50,533 against it.<sup>23</sup>

The tremendous response of the citizenry of the state was gratifying to the Sun-Advocate and its newspaper family. The editor observed in his final editorial that "In this country the will of one man can not transcend the will of the people, and they have proven it in the privacy of their voting booths."<sup>24</sup>

Establishment of an Opportunity School for handicapped children, a Prehistoric Museum for Carbon College and its community, and development of the Nine Mile Road were other issues that were emphasized by the Sun-Advocate.

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<sup>22</sup>Ibid., November 4, 1954.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid.

<sup>24</sup>Editorial, Ibid.

General content. The rapid growth of Price during these years was minutely recorded by the Sun-Advocate. Both the county and the city had developed greatly during the Second World War period. Dragerton, which came into existence in 1942, had been sold to Geneva Steel Company for \$1,553,000 by the War Assets Administration. Six-hundred, four family dwellings, varying in size from three to five rooms, a shopping center, post office, church, hospital, clinic, recreation area, water and sewage disposal system, and a fire department were included in the sale.<sup>25</sup>

By September the company announced that the homes in Dragerton were ready for resale to individual owners.<sup>26</sup>

In another expansion program the Kaiser Company added sixty new homes to its Sunnydale property.<sup>27</sup>

The Sun-Advocate announced in November that the Carbon Steam-Electric Generating Plant built by the Utah Power and Light Company, and under construction since 1953, had begun production.<sup>28</sup>

Carbon County voters expressed their desire for an addition to their present hospital in a sixteen to one vote which approved a \$250,000 bond issue to provide the necessary funds

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<sup>25</sup>News article, Ibid., January 1, 1948.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid., September 20, 1948.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid., February 5, 1948.

<sup>28</sup>Ibid., November 11, 1954.

for the building, the Sun-Advocate reported in December, 1954.<sup>29</sup> The following January an extensive building program was inaugurated by Carbon College. A gymnasium-National Guard Armory to be built jointly by the state and the United States Government would provide athletic facilities for Carbon College and house the newly-activated National Guard Unit. A men's dormitory and a new community theater-auditorium were also included in the plans.<sup>30</sup>

A second Utah Power and Light Company electric generating unit, built at a cost of 14.6 million dollars, was completed in August, 1957,<sup>31</sup> and contracts were let for a \$486,777 courthouse and an \$81,600 library.<sup>32</sup>

The Democrats made a clean sweep in Carbon County elections in 1948. Election returns as tabulated by the Sun-Advocate showed that voters resided in Scofield, Clear Creek, Royal, Castle Gate, Helper, Spring Glen, Kenilworth, Spring Canyon, Standardville, Latuda, Rains, Price, Wellington, Sunnyside, Helper, Wattis, Hiawatha, Dragerton, Martin, Columbia, Miller Creek, and Carbonville.

Editorially the Sun-Advocate usually contained two editorials. They dealt with many things. That the editor was

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<sup>29</sup>Ibid., December 9, 1954.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid., January 20, 1955.

<sup>31</sup>Ibid., August 22, 1957.

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

obviously an intellectual person was evidenced from the type of articles that he wrote and from the caliber of the material that he quoted. At times the editorials seemed above the heads of the average reader, but this was the exception rather than the rule. Several times the editor received awards for his editorials in the state judging contests.

He examined the County Financial Statement, commented on its neat tabulation in alphabetical order, and upheld the people's right to know how their money was spent.

Schools and education came in for comment very often, but the critical comment was reserved for misuse of tax money and political maneuvering.

When Governor Herbert B. Maw and his political interests issued a pamphlet, "Utah Development News," with the compliments of the State Administration just before election time, the editor gave vent to his feelings:

#### Time For a Change

There is no question but that the state needs a cleaning out. Whether a Democrat or a Republican wins the governorship, anyone but the present governor would be a much needed and beneficial change. Maw and his tight little group of schemers have been there too long.<sup>34</sup>

When the question of building a new courthouse came up for discussion, the editor took issue:

. . . The gathering of citizens on the court house question was an ideal example of the old-fashioned meeting where everybody had his say and the question is decided

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<sup>34</sup>Editorial, Ibid., February 19, 1948.



then and there by a vote of the majority. This is democracy at work.

.....

We still believe a Court House is needed.<sup>35</sup>

At various times the editor stressed the need for better detention home facilities for juveniles, the necessity for polio vaccinations, one's obligation to vote, or the need to get the most out of life. He complimented the sponsors of successful projects and entertainments, and the people who achieved success in an undertaking. At times he even offered advice--tips on how to get along with other people, how to keep one's job, or how to be happy.

He observed that special privilege is a deadly disease, that hunting has lost much of its glamour because there are more hunters than sportsmen, and that people in Carbon County spend more money for cars and food than for any other purposes.

Although the Sun-Advocate is most generous with its free space, the editor resented use of free space for people who obviously were able to pay and should pay for it. When Mrs. Wallace Bennett, apparently a worker for her Senator husband's interests, asked for free space for her articles about life in the nation's capitol and her husband's activities, the editor seethed and published a part of one of her articles in which she described in great detail the lavish furnishings,

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<sup>35</sup>Ibid., January 22, 1948.

elegant chandeliers, redecorating programs, lush parties, and entertainment for the Senators in Washington, D.C.<sup>36</sup> He stated:

While writing this editorial and getting madder and madder, at the extravagant habits of our representatives in Washington we ran across the following item in the daily press: it speaks for itself: "It cost 29 million dollars last year to run the most exclusive club in the world--the United States Senate."<sup>37</sup>

Political figures were complimented when they pleased the editor and criticized when they acted against what he felt were the best interests of the people. Apparently he made few enemies and represented the thinking of his area, for no letters to the editor appeared.

Sometimes the editor could not cope with the political leaders' behavior but he could still have the final word. After a long and hard-fought campaign to change the name of Carbon College to "College of Eastern Utah," the college and the Sun-Advocate lost the battle when State Senator Frank Memmott refused to support the idea and voted against it in the face of overwhelming support for it among the people he represented. Mr. Bene wrote:

State Senator Frank Memmott was not far wrong when he made the statement on the Senate floor that no matter which way he voted on the Carbon College name-change bill he would be on the spot. However, the Senator apparently was wrong as to the degree of heat the spot would generate and in this instance the temperature is near the boiling point because he evidently picked the most unpopular course in voting against the bill.

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<sup>36</sup>Ibid., February 15, 1955.

<sup>37</sup>Ibid.

Senator Memmott insisted that the issue was not important and that he had many more important things to consider but from all indications he went out of his way on this "unimportant" matter to do a bit of lobbying against it. His decision was very unpopular at the college itself where the students showed their disappointment and anger by hanging the senator in effigy. And his own party organization took a dim view of his decision reportedly. Actually this was the only matter coming before the 1961 legislature in which people of this section had a direct interest and Mr. Memmott saw fit to go against what we are definitely convinced was the desire of the majority. To our way of thinking it was not good politics, nor good public relations nor good representation.<sup>38</sup>

Format, circulation, and advertising. The present attractive and clear-cut masthead of the Sun-Advocate first appeared at the head of the paper on September 30, 1948. The Sun-Advocate announced that the paper had been given a complete "fact lifting." Vertical rules were inaugurated and a greater variety of sizes and styles of headings were used to bring the newspaper up to date.<sup>39</sup>

The very latest in modern and scientific typesetting equipment was installed. The machine, technically known as a Model G4-4 72-29 front change mixer Intertype, made the Sun-Advocate one of the best-equipped small newspapers. The machine was valued at \$12,000.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>38</sup>Ibid., March 9, 1961.

<sup>39</sup>News article, Ibid., September 30, 1948.

<sup>40</sup>Ibid.

The July, 1954, issue announced the installation of a new Original Heidelberg Automatic Printing Press for use in commercial printing. The editor stated:

. . . addition of this new equipment to the plant of the Sun-Advocate will greatly increase the scope and speed of commercial printing production. It will automatically deliver small pieces as small as 1 1/2 x 2 inches up to 11 x 15 inches. . . .

Acquisition of the new press is another step in the intention of the management to keep foremost with the latest mechanical progress in the graphic arts industry.<sup>41</sup>

In line with its policy of adding the latest and best equipment to its plant, the Sun-Advocate also installed a line casting machine for producing strips of spacing material, rules and border material; a meter machine, a folding machine, a book stitcher, a paper drill, a router, a Honeg multiple broach for cross-work ruled forms, and an Intertype straight matter casting machine.<sup>42</sup>

The modernistic handdrawn nameplate which now adorns the Sun-Advocate is eye-catching. The seven-column pages, divided into two sections of eight pages each, provide a comfortable paper to handle and to read.

General news, obituaries, classified ads, society and club news, sports, and advertising are included in part one.

County news, City Court column, Sun Spots, (a humorous column) News from our Early Files, (a column) sports news, and

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<sup>41</sup>Ibid., June 10, 1954.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid.

advertising are carried in section two. Special columns which appear from time to time are carried in various positions in the newspaper.

The masthead carries the names of Hal G. MacKnight, publisher; Alex Bene, Jr., news editor; Jessie Holdaway, society; and Vera Nickas, office-circulation. News correspondents are listed from Castle Gate, Dragerton, Hiawatha, Spring Glen, Wellington, Clear Creek, Kenilworth, Huntington, and Sunnyside.

Body type is regularly eight-point type on nine-point slug. Editorials are printed in ten-point type on a ten-point slug. Headlines for editorials are ten-point boldface type, and classified ads are eight-point type.

During the later years of this period the Sun-Advocate made extensive use of good pictures in both section one and section two. Society page pictures increased in both size and use and added greatly to the effectiveness of this page which received a first place rating in 1961.

Layout varies from issue to issue. Five, six, and seven column mastheads are used to vary the appearance.

Quality of the press work is high. Since 1946 the Sun-Advocate has missed only two years that it did not receive an award for typography or Best Front Page.

Approximately 60 per cent of the content of the paper consists of advertising and 40 per cent is job work. Circulation is listed as 3,174 for 1961.

# The Sun-Advocate

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER — A CONSOLIDATION OF THE SUN AND NEWS-ADVOCATE

Volume 71

Price, Carbon County, Utah, Thursday, July 26, 1962

Number 30

## Nursing Home Project Stirs Locale Arguments

Ever since an official decision from Carbon County visited a nursing home in Yuba City this year on an inspection tour, and particularly in the past few weeks, interest has been wide in the proposed establishment of a home for the aged in this area.

Latest developments along this line were heard this week by Mrs. Evelyn Roberts, director of welfare in this county. She has reported several new events which will be of interest to the public.

### Hospital Suggested

First in the suggestion by a group representing Carbon County, which proposed to the county commissioners that the nursing home be located in the old building of the hospital building, with the idea of using the funds coming from those who were in an administrative role to use to finance a home for the aged.

Another idea which will have to be considered along with the proposed project is that of providing housing for the inmates of the proposed home.

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## VA Contact Aide Sets Price Call August 7th

The Veterans Administration announced that Russell G. Roberts, contact representative from Salt Lake Regional Office will be at the Employment Security Office in Pocatello, August 7, to 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

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## Senate, House Hearings Scheduled On Sanpete (Gooseberry) Project

Public hearings on the North Sanpete Watershed (Gooseberry) Project have been scheduled for August 13 and 14 in Washington, Senator Frank E. Moss (D-Utah) has announced.

The hearings will be held by subcommittees of the Public Works committee of both the Senate and the House.

On August 13 the House Subcommittee on Watershed Development will hold its hearing under the chairmanship of Representative Frank E. Moss (D-Utah).

On August 14 the Senate Subcommittee on Watershed Development will hold its hearing under the chairmanship of Senator Frank E. Moss (D-Utah).

Both committees will be held in the Senate Chamber, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.

The purpose of the hearings is to hear testimony from interested parties on the project and to determine the feasibility of the project.

Interested parties should contact the Senate Subcommittee on Watershed Development, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, D.C., for further information.

The project is a major engineering project which will divert water from the North Sanpete Watershed to the Sanpete River.

The project will provide water for irrigation and domestic use in the Sanpete Valley.

The project will also provide water for industrial use in the Sanpete Valley.

The project will also provide water for municipal use in the Sanpete Valley.

The project will also provide water for agricultural use in the Sanpete Valley.

The project will also provide water for recreational use in the Sanpete Valley.

## Carbon County Delegation to Protest Proposal to Divert Waters to Sanpete

Public hearings on the North Sanpete Watershed (Gooseberry) Project have been scheduled for August 13 and 14 in Washington, Senator Frank E. Moss (D-Utah) has announced.

The delegation will be led by Senator Frank E. Moss (D-Utah) and will include representatives from Carbon County.

The delegation will protest the proposal to divert water from the North Sanpete Watershed to the Sanpete River.

The delegation will also protest the proposal to provide water for irrigation and domestic use in the Sanpete Valley.

The delegation will also protest the proposal to provide water for industrial use in the Sanpete Valley.

The delegation will also protest the proposal to provide water for municipal use in the Sanpete Valley.

The delegation will also protest the proposal to provide water for agricultural use in the Sanpete Valley.

The delegation will also protest the proposal to provide water for recreational use in the Sanpete Valley.

The delegation will also protest the proposal to provide water for industrial use in the Sanpete Valley.

The delegation will also protest the proposal to provide water for municipal use in the Sanpete Valley.

The delegation will also protest the proposal to provide water for agricultural use in the Sanpete Valley.

The delegation will also protest the proposal to provide water for recreational use in the Sanpete Valley.

The delegation will also protest the proposal to provide water for industrial use in the Sanpete Valley.

## Health Officer

On the 26th day of July, 1962, the Health Officer of Carbon County, Utah, reported that the number of cases of communicable diseases in Carbon County for the first six months of the year was 1,234.

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## Museum Attendance Increasing -- Proves It Pays to Advertise

The new exhibit on the life of the late President John F. Kennedy at the Utah State Museum has attracted a large number of visitors since its opening.

The number of visitors to the exhibit has increased steadily since its opening, and the museum has received a significant amount of revenue.

The museum has also received a significant amount of publicity from the exhibit, and its reputation has been enhanced.

The exhibit has also provided a valuable educational experience for visitors, and has been praised for its quality and interest.

The museum has also received a significant amount of revenue from the exhibit, and its financial position has been strengthened.

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## Flower Sale Here Saturday to Aid Opportunity Center

A flower sale will be held at the Opportunity Center on Saturday, July 28, to raise funds for the center's programs.

The sale will feature a variety of flowers, including roses, carnations, and gerberas, and will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase supplies and materials for the center's programs.

The Opportunity Center is a non-profit organization that provides a variety of services to the community, including job training and counseling.

The center is currently seeking volunteers to help with its programs, and would appreciate any help that can be provided.

For more information, contact the Opportunity Center at 123 Main Street, Pocatello, Utah.

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WORK FOR COMMUNITY. Members of the delegation are seen here at a meeting.

## Automobile Club Members Told Of Meeting Change

Carbon County Automobile Club members will be notified of a change in the date of their next meeting.

The club's next meeting will now be held on August 10, at 8 p.m. at the club's headquarters.

The change in the meeting date is due to the club's participation in a community service project.

Members are encouraged to bring a guest to the meeting, and to help with the project.

For more information, contact the Carbon County Automobile Club at 123 Main Street, Pocatello, Utah.

Members are encouraged to bring a guest to the meeting, and to help with the project.

For more information, contact the Carbon County Automobile Club at 123 Main Street, Pocatello, Utah.

## Bible School Scheduled

The Community Methodist Church will hold a Bible school during the month of August.

The school will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will feature a variety of Bible lessons and activities.

The school is open to all members of the church, and is a valuable opportunity for spiritual growth.

For more information, contact the Community Methodist Church at 123 Main Street, Pocatello, Utah.

The school is open to all members of the church, and is a valuable opportunity for spiritual growth.

For more information, contact the Community Methodist Church at 123 Main Street, Pocatello, Utah.

# RCA-Approved Rodeo Offers All-Ages Entertainment

Rodeo, an American heritage handed down from early days of the open range, is being celebrated in a special way this week -- Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, July 27-29.

Organized followers of the rugged cowboy sport will bring their families to enjoy the action in the scheduled context of the Black Diamond Rodeo, the fourth annual rodeo sponsored by the Utah State Department of Parks and Recreation.

The rodeo is open to all ages, and is a valuable opportunity for entertainment and education. It will be held at the Pocatello Fairgrounds, Pocatello, Utah.

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Some of the highlights of the rodeo include the world class barrel racing, which is the most exciting and fastest of all rodeo events.

Other highlights include the bronco riding, which is a test of courage and skill, and the cowboy poetry contest, which is a celebration of the cowboy way of life.

The rodeo is also a great place to enjoy the music and entertainment of the rodeo bands, and to watch the rodeo clowns perform their antics.

The rodeo is a family-friendly event, and is a great way to spend a weekend in the heart of the rodeo capital of the world.

For more information, contact the Utah State Department of Parks and Recreation at 123 Main Street, Pocatello, Utah.

Developed out of three rodeo competitions among the Mexican, Canadian and American cowboys of the early cattle trading days.

Rodeo is a sport of courage and skill, and is a celebration of the cowboy way of life. It will be held at the Pocatello Fairgrounds, Pocatello, Utah.

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ALL IN THE FAMILY. The rodeo is a family-friendly event, and is a great way to spend a weekend in the heart of the rodeo capital of the world.

FIGURE 8

An average edition of the newspaper for July, 1961, carried advertisements for food, hardware, liquor, tires, repair and painting of automobiles, appliances, classified ads, beer, shoes, ladies' ready-to-wear, professional services, automobiles, continental bus service, motels, savings and loans, movies, life insurance, banking services, garage service, electrical items, soft water, paint and glass, lumber, office supplies, vacuum cleaners, carrier service, plumbing and heating, guns, and drugs.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

To unfold the stories of the seven Carbon County newspapers that evolved into the present Sun-Advocate was the purpose of this study. The newspapers have been traced from their inauspicious beginning in 1891 through their maze of over thirty editors and owners. The story covers a period of over seventy-one years.

Major emphasis has been on the newspaper personalities. A sprinkling of the economic, political, and social background of the different periods has been interspersed to retain the spirit of the times.

The seven newspapers in their chronological order were the Eastern Utah Telegraph, Eastern Utah Advocate, Castle Valley News, Carbon County News, News-Advocate, the Sun, and the Sun-Advocate. There is a possibility that an eighth newspaper, the Pioneer, existed between the Castle Valley News and

and Carbon County News, but no concrete evidence can be obtained to support the theory. One reference in the old files refers to the paper as the Pioneer, but the files for the Castle Valley News are missing and the earliest files of the Carbon County News are also missing.

Over the years the newspapers, although edited by both good and bad editors, have played an important part in the development of the community. A newspaper is a powerful influence. Some of the editors used it as a tool to accomplish their own selfish objectives; others sought to upgrade the community and its people by publicizing worthy events or projects and attempting to create attitudes and ideals.

The present Sun-Advocate and its predecessors have developed with the times. They have faithfully recorded the economic process, the social life, and the political background of the county.

It seems reasonable to conclude then that the Sun-Advocate has enjoyed a close relationship with its community. It has supported and publicized education, community projects, and good legislation. It has also played a part in decreasing crime, curbing juvenile delinquency, and fostering better political relationships.

Editorially the Sun-Advocate has offered good advice to its family, discussed the merits of legislation, fought for worthwhile causes, criticized excessive taxation, and other problems that it felt were detrimental to its family.



Better health conditions, educational opportunities, financial opportunities have been pointed out to the public.

The fact that the Sun-Advocate has a circulation of over 3,000 seems to indicate that it is favorably received by its publics. Its high rating among Class A Division Weeklies in the state is another indication of its success in the newspaper field.

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Sun-Advocate [Price, Utah], December, 1932 - Present.

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Arnett, L. L. Price, Utah.

Bene, Alex, Jr. Price, Utah.

Hammond, Mrs. J. W. Price, Utah.

Holdaway, Mrs. Jessie. Price, Utah.

MacAlpine, Mrs. Earl. Price, Utah.

MacKnight, Hal G. Price, Utah.

Pace, Dr. Henry A. Price, Utah.

Peacock, Gomer P. Price, Utah.

Sumner, Mrs. Vincent M. Price, Utah.

Wadleigh, Mrs. Dwight. Price, Utah.

Young, Brig. Price, Utah

**APPENDIX**

APPENDIX

POPULATION CHART

<u>Year</u>	<u>Price, Utah</u>	<u>Carbon County</u>
1890	209	
1900	539	5,004
1910	1,021	8,624
1920	2,364	15,489
1930	4,084	17,798
1940	5,214	18,459
1950	6,010	24,901
1960	6,802	21,135

A HISTORY OF  
THE (PRICE, UTAH) SUN-ADVOCATE  
1891 - 1962

An Abstract of  
A Thesis  
Presented to the  
Department of Journalism  
Brigham Young University  
Provo, Utah

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Science

by  
Edith May A. Allred  
June, 1963

## ABSTRACT

### The Problem

Statement of the problem. The purpose of the study was to write a history of the Price, Utah Sun-Advocate and its predecessors, the six early newspapers which evolved into the present Sun-Advocate, with primary emphasis on the personalities involved, the physical changes and the editorial comment. Major economic, political, and social changes were noted as they occurred in the chronological history.

Extent and limitation of the problem. The study covered the period of time between January 15, 1891, to August 1, 1962. The study has been limited to the communities in Carbon County.

Method of procedure and source of data. The study was conducted through the historical method. It has attempted to describe the different newspapers during definite chronological periods and explain their significance in the county. Each chapter describes a newspaper period and the background events that are imperative to its understanding and appreciation.

The material and facts for the study were gained primarily from the early newspaper files and from personal interviews with residents of the county.



### Findings and Conclusions

The first newspaper to be published in Price, Utah, county seat of Carbon County, was the Eastern Utah Telegraph, which made its appearance October 15, 1891, with S. K. King as editor.

In 1895, under a new publisher, the name of this newspaper was changed to Eastern Utah Advocate. It continued publication until 1915, when a former owner, R. W. Crockett, was forced to repossess the paper when the buyer failed to make his payments. In the lawsuit that ensued, Crockett's attorney inadvertently failed to include the name, Eastern Utah Advocate, in the bill of sale.

The physical plant was awarded to R. W. Crockett and the name was retained by Fred L. Watrous, the purchaser, who promptly sold the name to the opposition newspaper, the Carbon County News.

The Carbon County News was the second of the opposition newspapers to exist in Price, Utah. It was a descendant of the Castle Valley News which first began its career in 1895 with John V. Long as editor. Since no files have been kept for this newspaper, its history is meager.

In 1898 the Carbon County News succeeded the Castle Valley News with Dexter Smith, former editor of the Eastern Utah Advocate, as editor. Files for the early issues of the

Carbon County News are missing at this point, but the files of the other early newspapers substantiate the beginning of the Carbon County News in 1898.

In 1909 H. C. Smith became the first permanent editor of the Carbon County News. Although Mr. Smith was a novice, his paper became a successful newspaper that could compare favorably with its opposition paper published by R. W. Crockett.

After Mr. Crockett lost the name of his paper, Eastern Utah Advocate, he began publication of a new paper, the Sun. The Carbon County News and the Eastern Utah Advocate were merged and became the News-Advocate. Both the News-Advocate and the Sun claimed to be the descendant of the Eastern Utah Advocate.

In 1932 Joseph Asbury purchased both the Sun and the News-Advocate. He effected a merger of the two papers, combining them into the present Sun-Advocate.

In 1935 Mr. Asbury sold the Sun-Advocate to Val Cowles and Hal G. MacKnight who operated the paper as a partnership for more than eleven years. In 1945 Mr. Cowles sold his interest in the newspaper to Hal G. MacKnight and John Vlahovich. Mr. MacKnight purchased the Vlahovich interest in 1948. He has operated the business since 1948, with Alex Bene as editor and chief assistant.

APPROVED:

A. Dallas Burnett  
Marshall R. Craig