

Fort Collins Newspaper History

from *The History of Larimer County* by Ansel Watrous, Courier Printing & Publishing Company, Fort Collins, Colorado, 1911, pp. 158-160

As already stated, the *Express*, founded by Joseph S. McClelland in April, 1873, was the first newspaper printed and published in Larimer county. It was started as a Republican paper and remained as such until 1896, when it espoused the politics of the Colorado Silver Republican party and continued to advocate those policies until 1900, when it returned to the Republican fold and became, and still continues to be an able and influential exponent of the principles of that party. It has passed through several changes of ownership and is now owned, controlled, edited and published by George C. and J. G. McCormick under the firm name of McCormick Brothers. In 1881 the *Express*, then owned by H. A. Crafts, began issuing an afternoon daily edition, which was continued until 1884, when the daily was suspended. On May 28th, 1907, McCormick Brothers began issuing a morning daily edition of the *Express* in connection with their weekly, and the publications have been important factors in the upbuilding of the home of its adoption. The next newspaper venture was the *Standard*, founded in March, 1874, by Clark Boughton, who died a few months later. After his death the *Standard* was published by H. L. Myrick and W. W. Sullivan until 1876, when it suspended, and the press and material was sold to John Oliver of Black Hawk.

The Fort Collins *Courier* was founded in June, 1878, by Ansel Watrous and Elmer M. Pelton and the paper is still being published. It was started as a Democratic paper and at once became the organ of the Democratic party of Larimer county, but after a change of ownership, in February, 1899, it became an advocate of the principles and policies of the Republican party and is still a rigid adherent of those principles and policies. In May, 1882, the *Courier* began issuing an evening daily edition, which, however, was suspended in June, 1883, after a little more than a year's experience. The publishers found the field too narrow to support such a daily as they were circulating and, after sinking more than a thousand dollars in the venture, decided to quit. The effort to establish a daily newspaper on a profitable basis was renewed in March, 1902, and this was successful. The *Evening Courier* is now nearing its ninth volume and is in a flourishing condition. It has been prosperous from the very start and is now considered one of the solid, substantial institutions of the city. The *Courier* is owned by the Courier Printing & Publishing Company, Carl Anderson, manager.

The *Reporter*, the first newspaper published in Loveland, was founded by G. N. Udell on August 7th, 1880. Two months later the *Reporter* passed under the control and management of Frank A. McClelland, eldest son of the founder of the Larimer County *Express*, and he sold the plant and subscription list to George W. Bailey and John Smart early in 1882. Since then the *Reporter* has had several owners, editors and publishers. At present it is owned and ably edited by Ira O. Knapp, who has established for it a reputation for reliability and a high regard for the right in all things, as well as in the manner of dealing with all subjects treated in its columns, which has given the *Reporter* a high standing among the best papers of the county. The *Reporter* is Republican in politics.

The Loveland *Leader* was started in 1883 by Horace P. Crafts, who discontinued its publication after a few months' experience in a field already well filled.

In 1885 S. W. Teagarden started the Larimer County *Bee* in Fort Collins. Two years later the *Bee* disappeared from the Fort Collins newspaper field. It was Republican in politics and was started for the purpose of driving the *Express* to the wall, but failed in its mission. Then came two other newspaper ventures, which had short but ill-fared lives. The Larimer County *Republican* started, in 1889 and the Fort Collins *Gazette*, which made its appearance in 1892. They came upon the stage of action to "fill a long felt want" and that want proved to be a newspaper grave. The *Argus* was started in 1899, and after passing through several mutations and changes of owners and name finally became known as the Fort Collins *Review*, under which title it is still being published daily and weekly. The *Review* is the leading Democratic paper in the county. It is ably edited by Edward D. Foster and is published by the Review Publishing company.

In 1903 the *Evening Star* appeared in the Fort Collins newspaper firmament under the editorial management of I. C. Bradley. It was small in size, but bright and snappy and its daily appearance was looked forward to with considerable interest for ten months, when it dropped below the horizon and passed out of sight.

Along sometime in the 90's, the exact date I am unable to give, Earl Harbaugh started the Loveland *Register*, which had a somewhat checkered career, finally passing off the stage of action in 1908. The Loveland *Herald*, Democratic, daily and weekly, was founded in 1907, and is still preaching the doctrines espoused and promulgated by Jefferson and Jackson in a sprightly and interesting manner. It has a large number of readers, an extra good advertising patronage and is steadily making money for its active, energetic and enterprising editor, Mark A. Ellison.

Two newspapers had their birth in Berthoud, the *Bulletin* and the *News*, only the first named surviving. The *Bulletin* is independent in politics and is a well edited and well managed local newspaper and is rendering excellent service in exploiting the resources, advantages and attractions of the Little Thompson valley, one of the richest and most prosperous agricultural sections of Colorado. J. S. Bailey is the name of the present editor and proprietor.

Though young in years, Wellington has given birth to two newspapers, the *News* and the *Sun*, the latter alone surviving. The *Sun* has changed hands several times, but is now owned and conducted by John E. Pope, an experienced newspaper man and practical printer, who is serving his clientage ably and well. It was founded in 1907, and has done much to advance the material, social and moral welfare of the far-famed Boxelder valley, of which Wellington is the commercial center.

In February, 1887, after Manhattan had become a booming mining camp with brilliant prospects, a newspaper called the *Prospector* was started to proclaim to the world the golden resources of its chosen home. The *Prospector* was published by the Manhattan Publishing company, of which Dr. M. A. Baker was president; I. R. Blevin, secretary, and F. A. McCarty, treasurer. The paper was short lived and passed out of existence within a year and the printing material was moved to Denver.

In 1906 Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Evans of Fort Collins launched the *Beacon*, a bright and sparkling literary weekly, which they continued to publish until 1909, when it was suspended. This completes the list of newspaper ventures in Larimer county, from which it appears that many were called and few chosen. The surviving papers are the Daily and Weekly *Express*; the Daily and Weekly *Courier*, and the Daily and Weekly *Review*, all of Fort Collins; the Weekly *Reporter* and the Daily and Weekly *Herald* of Loveland; the Weekly *Bulletin* of Berthoud, and the Weekly *Sun* of Wellington.