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The Davenport Times

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The Davenport Times

When A. W. Lee acquired his second Iowa paper — the Davenport *Daily Times* — he followed the Ottumwa pattern: buy the weakest paper, establish business principles, and build it into the strongest paper in the community. Eighteen months later, to insure the success of the *Times*, he chose E. P. Adler to head up his new venture.

When Adler arrived in Davenport on January 19, 1901, he found the *Times* one of ten daily papers then being published in what is now known as the Quad-Cities. Davenport alone possessed five struggling newspapers. The stalwarts were the *Democrat*, a pioneer product of the Richardson family; and *Der Demokrat*, spokesman for the large German population of the area.

Humble had been the beginnings of the *Daily Times*, stemming as it did from the *Blue Ribbon News*, a temperance journal launched in 1878. A year later E. W. Brady bought it and renamed it the *Northwestern News*. It was a weekly until 1886 when Brady and his sons converted it into the Davenport *Daily Times*.

The four-page sheet of that time, confined largely to local news, a few advertisements, and some telegraph items which came to the office in

plate form, seems insignificant, indeed, compared to the *Daily Times* of today with its average of 32 pages, its wealth of local, national, international news and features, and its advertising running more than 1,100,000 lines a month.

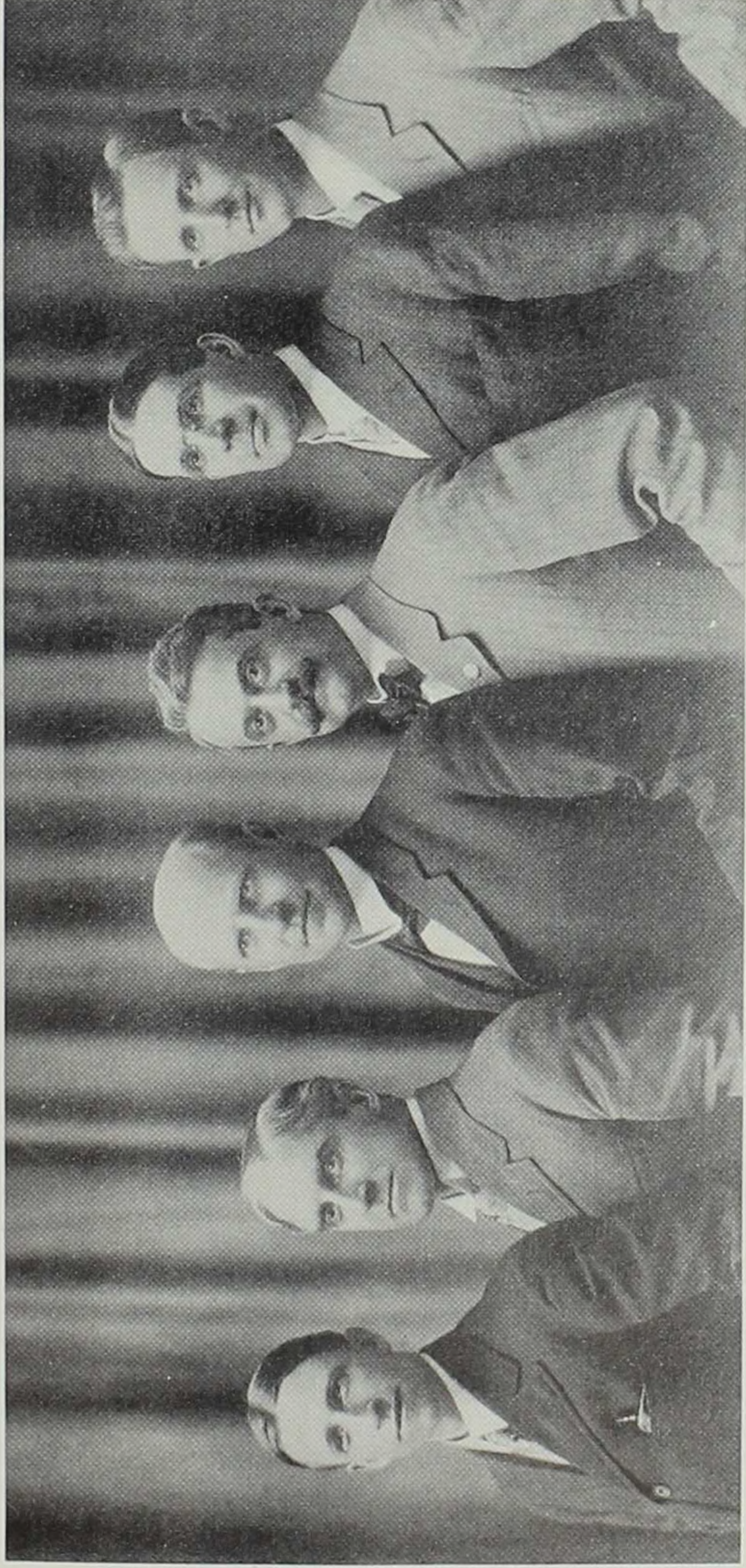
In spite of competition, the *Times* managed to keep its head above water and even outgrew its river front location and had moved to Brady Street between Second and Third when Lee and Charles D. Reimers, his managing editor, bought the paper in June, 1899, for \$20,000.

Out of Adler's brain and heart and energy the new *Times* was erected on a firm foundation. The beams of that structure were strong, weathering many a storm in those early days, and as the years passed and the *Times* grew and prospered, the strain diminished.

Meanwhile a partnership was being formed, recognized but unwritten, the partnership of a newspaper and a community, each serving the other in a relationship based on mutual respect and honor. A city, a journalistic enterprise, and a man had spread roots together, mindful of the heritage of the past, fulfilling obligations of the present, looking confidently to the morrow's challenge.

As the new management began to plow money into the venture, installing the newest and best equipment available, in conformity with its pledge to provide "the best newspaper that can be published at a profit," the seeds planted by A. W.

PUBLISHERS OF LEE PAPERS AT OTTUMWA MEETING IN 1907



Left to Right: FRANK H. BURGESS, La Crosse; JAMES F. POWELL, Ottumwa; A. W. LEE; E. P. ADLER, Davenport;
FRANK D. THROOP, Muscatine; W. J. HILL, Hannibal.

SOME EARLY FOUNDERS AND EDITORS



E. P. ADLER



JOHN MAHIN



JAMES F. POWELL



D. N. RICHARDSON



J. J. RICHARDSON



RALPH CRAM

PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS OF THE LEE PAPERS IN 1950

Mason City



LEE P. LOOMIS

Davenport



PHILIP D. ADLER

Davenport



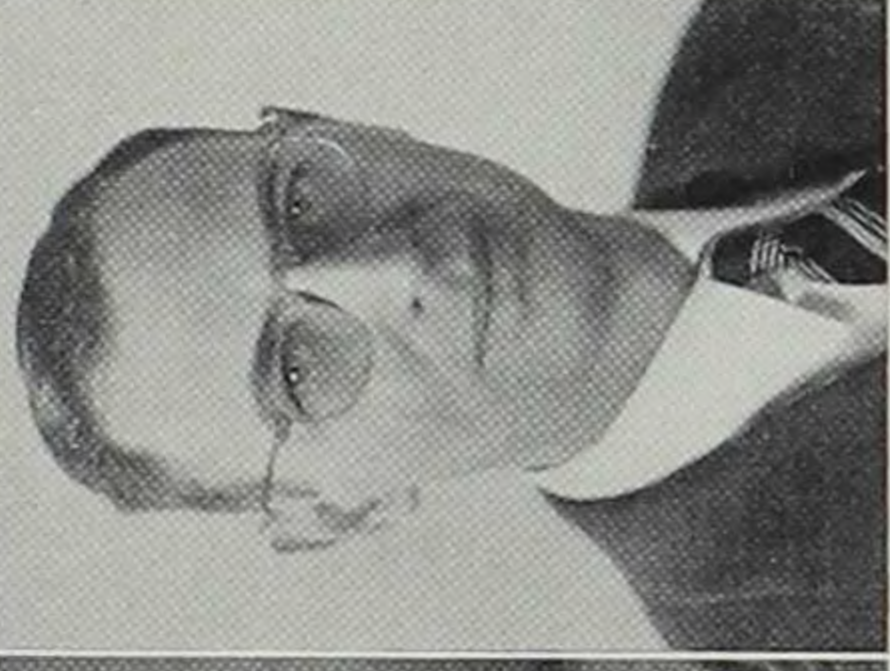
LELAND M. TURNBULL

Ottumwa



JOHN HUSTON

Muscatine



C. LLOYD BUNKER

W. EARL HALL



RALPH J. LEYSEN



HUGH HARRISON



CLARENCE S. JOHNSTON



WALTER RUSSELL



Ottumwa Daily Courier

43d Year

OTTUMWA, IOWA, TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 1, 1890.

A. H. HAMILTON, Editor and Proprietor

THE LEAVE-TAKING.

August 1st, 1869, I bought a half interest in the COURIER, the late General J. M. Hedrick being my partner, and owning the other half interest. We continued together as proprietors and editors until January 1st, 1878, when I bought the other half interest and continued up to the present, the sole proprietor and editor. I have therefore been twenty years and nine months giving my views and thoughts to the COURIER readers and for twelve years and three months have been alone responsible for its editorial columns.

I regard the family newspaper as a most potent teacher. I believe, judging from my own experience in life, from youth to manhood, that there is no teacher outside the home circle more powerful for good or ill than the newspaper. As I now recall my own boyhood days I feel confident that aside from the guidance of my parents I know of no other one thing that so gave bent and tone to my mind as the reading of the old welcome newspaper which for many years under one management came into my boyhood home. Now

There was never a more wanton disregard of proper judicial punishment for crime than has been meted out by a judge of New York City in sentencing Sheriff Black of that city and his co-workers in crime. His and their offenses were of the most heinous character. But he was a leading member in the Tammany crowd and the judge only sentences him to two months in jail and fines him \$500. The sentence bears no comparison to his crimes. In his case "offenses gilded hand shoves by justice." In that great city where a democratic majority of from fifty to seventy-five thousand reigns and controls affairs, exists the most corrupt and rotten government on the face of the earth.

Take out of national elections such corrupting sinks of iniquity and a national triumph for democracy would be an utter impossibility. In the name of democracy that party is simply a mighty menace on free government and our national existence, nearly as much now as it was when the solid southern portion of it was in arms to establish the confederacy.

MAJOR LACEY'S WORK.

Japanese napkins at Worcester's. If

Get your pictures framed at Rheem's. Money to loan on real estate security at 5 percent interest. Write O.M. LADD.

Burton & Jaques have removed their law office to 107 North Court street. See those Boy's Unlaundered Shirts for 43c at the 3c Store.

Mrs. Briggs has just returned from Chicago with a fine large stock of millinery.

For nice dry stove wood, oak and Hickory chunks. Call on us. OTTUMWA FUEL CO.

Shiloh's Catarth Remedy—a positive cure for Catarth, Diphtheria and catarth month. Sold at People's Drug Store.

Shiloh's Cure will immediately relieve Croup, Whooping Cough and Bronchitis. Sold at People's Drug Store.

No sham about our closing out sale. Everything must go and all goes at bargain. Don't fail to see us before buying. BACHMANN'S.

"Hackmatack," a lasting and fragrant perfume. Price 25 and 50 cents. Sold by People's Drug Store. New Carpets, new Carpets—Extra. We begin today a TRADE

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April 15th,

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**MORE
WIDEAWAKE
Than Ever**

Our full line of
New Boys and Child
The Purchases are
ever before, and the Sal

If any Boys, big or lit

MODEL C
this season, it will be on
have not looked into our

Unapproachable Stock

To enable every boy to a
BRAND NEW
We begin today a TRADE

Major A. H. Hamilton Announces Sale of Ottumwa Courier to A. W. Lee.

Lee began to bear fruit. The paper's circulation grew with each new linotype machine, and when announcement was made of the installation of a "monster three deck" press in February, 1904, the *Times* had boosted its circulation fivefold. It was definitely on the march; in that same month it was able to accept a minimum 12,000-inch advertising contract from the city's largest department store as recognition of its leadership in the field.

The secret of the growth of the *Times* (as well as other Lee papers) was that of men as well as equipment. Of the papers edited by these able, loyal, and courageous men, Adler once wrote: "Published in their own buildings, with the best mechanical equipment, they are newspapers in the best sense of the word, fearless, straightforward, fighting fairly and steadfastly for the best interests of the communities in which they are published, and publishing all the news, especially the local news, all the time."

The deep sense of responsibility to the community which supported them has been a distinguishing mark of the Lee papers. Nowhere was this spirit exemplified more impressively than in Emanuel Philip Adler's record of public service during the half-century he shaped the destinies of the *Daily Times*. When Adler died on March 2, 1949, he was mourned as Davenport's "First Citizen" and the monuments to his memory will stand for many years in structures of steel and stone.

The contributions of E. P. Adler to the city that had been good to him were many and bountiful. The Visiting Nurses Cottage was in memory of his sister, Betty Adler Waterman. His financial aid pioneered Cram Field and Municipal Airport — named in honor of Ralph Cram, the beloved “Flying Editor” of the Davenport *Democrat*. He helped sponsor the committees which laid the foundations of the city’s industrial growth, climaxed by bringing both Alcoa and Case plants to the Davenport area. When St. Ambrose College announced a \$400,000 building campaign, his leadership led to the raising of \$60,000 among the non-Catholic friends of the institution.

At the age of seventy-five Adler unselfishly assumed the chairmanship of a drive to expand St. Luke’s hospital, an Episcopal institution. Its original goal of \$650,000 did not measure up to the thinking of E. P. Adler, nor his capacity to do big things, so he set about personally to secure subscriptions in such amounts as to spark and inspire an effort which doubled the original goal. Always the most generous giver to any community project, E. P. Adler was never content except as his personal effort matched his check.

The test of his courage and resourcefulness came with the failure of the state’s largest bank and the leadership he gave to organize a new institution, which, with assets of \$12,000,000, was able to meet the financial needs of the community when

President Roosevelt declared the national bank holiday in 1933. Today the bank he organized in the depression has resources of over \$80,000,000.

Adler always modestly attributed any success he may have had to the faith in him of one man — A. W. Lee. He had been no less true to a personal code learned in his Ottumwa home from his father, who acted as lay rabbi on Jewish holy days. It was the heritage of the sons of Meyer Amschul Rothschild, from the old patriarch of that great family of Frankfort: "To walk with dignity, to deal fairly, and to live with honor." This E. P. Adler did throughout a long life.

As on the *Ottumwa Courier*, so on the *Davenport Times*, Adler surrounded himself with able lieutenants. Born in Muscatine in 1888, Ralph J. Leysen worked on the *Muscatine Journal* from 1906 to 1922, when Adler brought him to the *Davenport Times* as managing editor.

When Philip D. Adler succeeded his father as publisher of the *Times* in 1949, he came with many experiences and honors. At the University of Iowa he was editor of the *Daily Iowan* and president of the Western Conference editors. Following his graduation from college in 1926 he became editor-publisher of the *Kewanee Star-Courier*. In the brief time that he has served the Davenport community, Philip Adler has demonstrated qualities of unusual ability and leadership.

RALPH J. LEYSEN