

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE: 18 C Tuesday, June 10, 1947

**OWN INVENTIONS
GIVE PRODUCTION
LEAD TO TRIBUNE**

System of Continuous Presses Widely Copied

Thru a brilliant succession of inventions and mechanical developments, many of them attained thru the ingenuity of Tribune personnel, THE TRIBUNE has maintained a leading position in the field of newspaper production. These developments cover every phase of production from the felling of giant trees for pulpwood to the flexible unit press arrangement which now is used in every modern newspaper plant.

The idea of arranging a number of press units in a continuous line, so that all could be operated together, occurred to Col. Robert R. McCormick, editor and publisher of THE TRIBUNE, during construction of the present pressroom in 1920. Until then five or six presses and one folding machine constituted a separate press group which always was used independently. In that year 25 new presses and six folding machines were placed in one line, and now there are two lines of 32 units each, capable of turning out more than 1 million 40 page papers an hour. By 1927 Col. McCormick had been granted three patents dealing with various features of this development, and today every modern newspaper in the world uses the McCormick press.

Folding Machine Bottleneck

Altho this has been probably the most important of THE TRIBUNE's many contributions to pressroom technique, it was by no means the first. In 1879 Conrad Kahler, pressroom superintendent, determined to end the bottleneck which developed at the folding machine whenever the paper exceeded four pages. Kahler arranged the folder so that the sheet to be inserted was deflected and laid above the outside sheet. Both sheets, after being cut, could then be drawn thru the folding rollers together, delivering an eight page paper. Kahler obtained a patent on this development, but it was later outmoded by speed folders capable of operating while the paper was in motion.

The Tribune presses were the first to be exclusively operated by electricity. Electricity had been installed in 1893, but steam power was retained as a safeguard until 1901.

Invented in England

Rotogravure printing, invented in England and adapted to newspaper use in Germany, made its debut in the middlewest in THE TRIBUNE's pressroom in 1915.

In 1918 John Yetter, then superintendent of the rotogravure department, suggested that color be applied to rotogravure. With Otto Wolf, assistant production manager, he designed a press upon which a continuous web of paper could be printed in multiple color, and in March, 1920, an experimental print was made of two young girls, each holding a bouquet of roses. Col. McCormick approved the results, and the first color section appeared April 9, 1922. Patents were issued to Yetter and Wolf.

Wolf, in 1922, invented an additional means of controlling the paper in the rotogravure press, thru a differential drive mechanism.

Col. McCormick in 1925 designed an alternate press arrangement in which the folding machines were placed above the presses, thus saving considerable space. He obtained a patent on it, but there has as yet been no need to use this arrangement in THE Tribune plant.

In 1926 Col. McCormick applied for a patent on a rotogravure press arrangement similar to the flexible unit press which he developed in 1920. The patent was granted in 1930, and this press is still in operation at THE Tribune rotogravure plant.

Control Made Easy

Until 1931 the presses were driven by group motors, each serving up to eight press units.

By experiments in THE Tribune plant, the Cline Electric company found that individual motors attached to each press not only saved space but afforded more uniform operation.

Also in 1931 Otto Wolf found that by dividing the ink fountain on a press into separate troughs, each the width of one page, it was possible to print different pages in different colors at the same time and on the same press. This process was used until outmoded several years later.

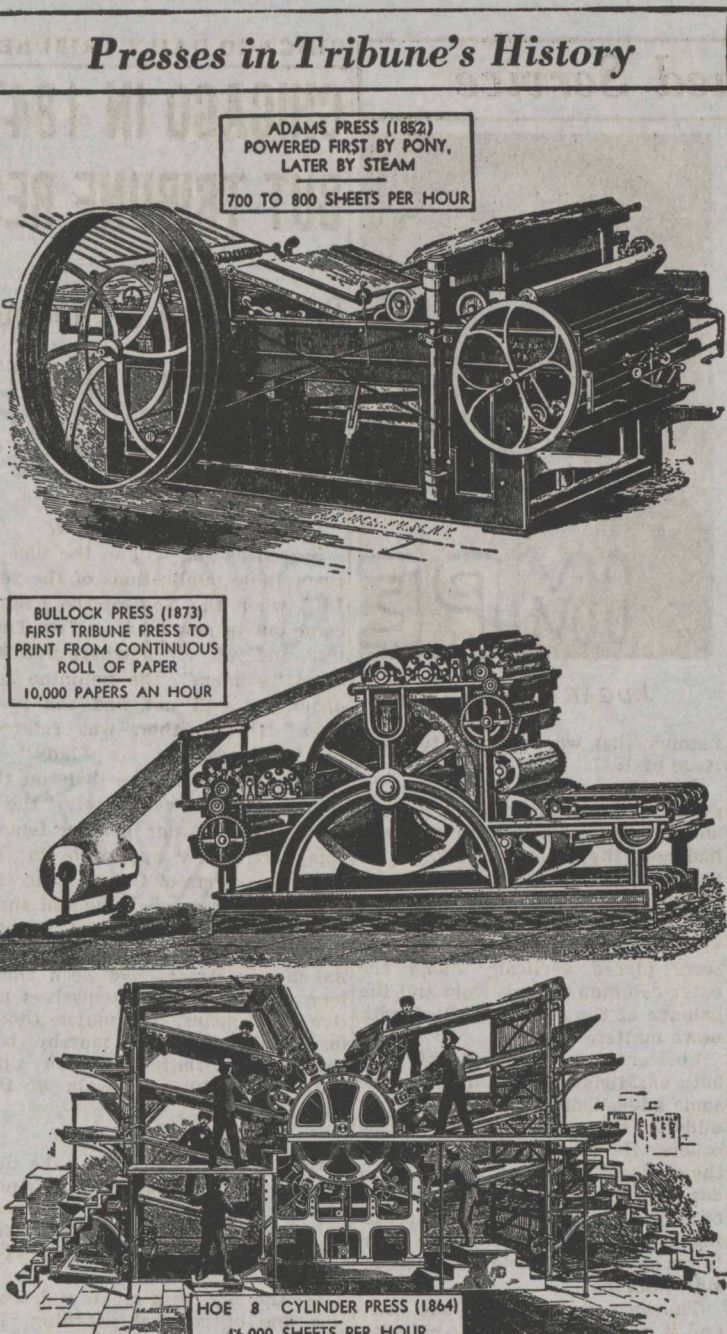
By 1935 Wolf had supplemented the last development with an adjusting mechanism, whereby the flow of ink to be used on one page, or even a part of a page, could be controlled independently. This mechanism was patented but was superseded by a newer device before it was put in operation.

Pasting of Newsprint

In 1936 a system for mechanically pasting an expiring roll of newsprint to a new roll, at medium speed without stopping the presses, was developed at THE Tribune plant by the Cline Electric company. This system has since been improved to operate at high speed.

By the same year W-G-N had begun to broadcast from its new studio directly above part of the pressroom. The vibration of the presses was found to interfere with the broadcasting. This presented an entirely new problem and THE TRIBUNE experimented by raising the presses and inserting rubber padding between their supports and the building structure. This was soon replaced by a cantilever spring mounting and sound-absorbing insulation system which has been used under all presses installed since that time.

In 1938 Wolf constructed a sheet metal housing to enclose the printing cylinders and ink roller system of each press. This casing has been patented by Wolf and has been adopted by press manufacturers. It "Words additional production from



**HERE'S WHAT IT TAKES
TO PRODUCE TRIBUNE
FOR JUST ONE YEAR!**

Here are some of the major items used in producing THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE in a single year:

MAN POWER

Mechanical department employees	1,381
Business offices	338
Advertising department	307
Editorial department	430
Circulation department	639
Building department	186

MATERIALS

Tons of newsprint	168,331
Pounds of ink	8,500,000
Kilowatt hours of power	13,200,000
Gallons of gasoline	360,000
Tons of coal	8,300
Pounds of brass	50,000
Pounds of copper	10,000
Pounds of replacement type metal	380,000
Pounds of stereotype metal	96,000,000

EQUIPMENT

Press units and material machines	145
Shines	102
Stereotype department machines	36
Trucks and automobiles	117
Typewriters and business machines	700
Telephones	1,135
Paper carrying lake ships	6

OUTPUT

Printed pages	21,600,000,000
Advertising lineage	32,851,982
First color section composed	73,994,000
Square inches of engraving	6,151,000
Matrixes for press plates	256,000
Stereotype plates	1,379,000
News stories	700,000
Photographs	61,000

This tabulation does not include the vast resources of THE TRIBUNE's Canadian properties, used in producing newsprint.

accidents and reduces the ink misting of the pressroom atmosphere.

Comic Book Production

Wolf's next creation, in 1941, was a means of turning out comic books, perforated and folded in book form, on the regular color presses. This also was patented.

The following year Wolf developed an adjustable letter arrangement which was patented last year and now is used on all Tribune presses.

In 1944 Richard Fies, assistant chief electrician, improved the stuffing machines by inventing a more efficient device to open the outside sheet so that other sheets can be inserted.

Three pressroom developments of the last year have not yet been put into use. One is an improved method of printing color in the regular presses, designed by Wolf; another is an improved technique for etching the rotogravure cylinder, perfected by Gordon McDonald, superintendent of the rotogravure etching plant, and the last is a long sought means of preventing ink left on a roller by one side of a sheet from coming off on the other side of the sheet, where both sides of a sheet come in contact with the same roller. This was invented by John W. Park, production manager.

First in the Middle West

In 1902 THE TRIBUNE installed the first automatic stereotype plate casting machine to be used in the middle west.

In 1920, after linotype machines had been in use for more than 20 years, the Cutler-Hammer company of Chicago, equipped all THE TRIBUNE's machines with electric pot heaters to keep the type metal molten. THE TRIBUNE was thus the first paper to discontinue completely the use of gas, which made it necessary for each machine to have its own little stovepipe and constituted a continual fire hazard.

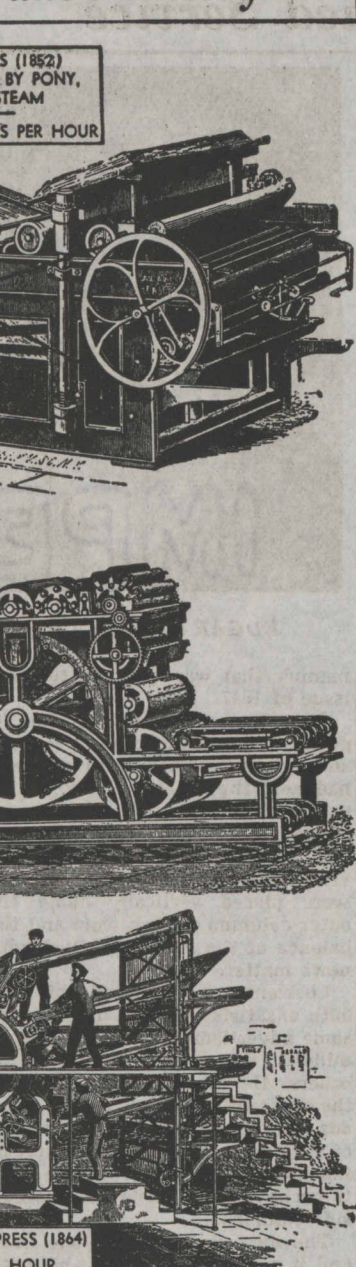
The late Sylvester J. Sennet, while chief machinist in the composing room, invented in 1929 and patented the Sennet positive assembler, a mechanism which prevents transposition of letters in a linotype machine.

Otto Wolf, assistant production manager, extended his efforts to the composing room last year and developed an enclosure and ventilation system which makes it unnecessary to remove the top of the stereotype metal pots while the metal is hot.

ROUTE OF FIRST RAILROAD

Chicago's first railroad, opened in December, 1848, followed the line of Kinzie st. west from about State st. on the north bank of the river. It was the Galena and Chicago Union, later a part of the North Western.

Presses in Tribune's History



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**FROM HAND UNIT
TO GIANT PRESS:
A TRIBUNE STORY**

1847 Output: 400 Copies
in 4 Hours

One hundred years ago today, the first 400 copies of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE were run off on a Washington hand press on the third floor of a wooden building at the southwest corner of Lake and La Salle sts.

Any implication of speed in the phrase "run off" should not be taken seriously. At full speed, it would have taken the pressman four hours to print the 400 copies of the first TRIBUNE. The press had a capacity of 200 sheets an hour printed on one side, and newspapers are printed on both sides.

Two newspaper pages were printed on each side of a sheet and it was folded down the middle, making a four page newspaper, standard with THE TRIBUNE and all newspapers until after the Civil war.

Efficient for Its Time

Crude as this first Tribune press may sound today, it was thoroughly efficient for its time. The Washington press was the "work horse" of the printing industry 100 years ago, standard in almost every newspaper and job shop. This is how it operated:

Copy for the first TRIBUNE was set by hand by printers who picked the individual metal type letters out of a case and placed them side-by-side to form the words in each newspaper line. For this, they used a "stick," usually a small wooden tray held in one hand. For the next 48 years, until the introduction of linotype machines in 1895, every word printed in THE TRIBUNE was set in the same way.

The type for two pages of this first TRIBUNE was locked into a chase, a rectangular iron form, so tightly that it could be handled without danger of the individual pieces of type becoming pried-falling together in a tragic mass. This chase was moved to the bed of the press.

Nine Hand Operations

Then came nine separate hand operations for every sheet printed—18 operations when the sheet had to be printed on both sides. Ink was applied to the type with a "dabber," a sheepskin device stuffed with horse hair or wool, resembling in shape a boxing glove.

The pressman inked the dabber by rubbing it on an ink ball, then he spread the ink as evenly as he could over the type in the chase.

Next, he laid a sheet of clean, white paper on the tympan, which was a surface interposed between the type and the platen. The platen was a permanently fixed plate which, on being pressed down, forced the paper against the inked type.

The paper was affixed to the tympan with a framework called a frisket, and the fourth operation was called "flying the frisket"—folding both frisket and tympan down on the chase or form. Then, by means of a hand lever attached, the platen was forced down upon this combination to make the impression.

Folded by Hand

Then the form was run out from under the platen by means of the same hand crank by which it had been shoved in. Next, the tympan and frisket were lifted off, and the ninth operation was to remove the printed sheet. Sheets printed on both sides were folded by hand.

THE TRIBUNE purchased a second Washington hand press in 1850. By this time this newspaper was located above a grocery store on the northwest corner of Clark and Lake sts., having been burned out of its original quarters in 1849.

In 1852, THE TRIBUNE moved to the Evans block, a brick building on the east side of Clark st. between Randolph and Lake sts., and at the same time it purchased a Hoe cylinder press and installed it in its new establishment, retaining the two old Washington presses. The Hoe was a real advancement. It had a self-inking attachment. It printed direct from a flat form or chase, and the sheets were hand-fed to the impression cylinder, but they were delivered automatically to a sorting table after they had been printed.

A Synchronized Movement

This was the first power driven Tribune press. Steam to run its engine was drawn from the plant of the Democratic-Press, next door. The revolving cylinder which made the impression remained stationary, and the chase, which was set upon the press bed, moved backward and forward beneath the cylinder, in synchronization with its revolutions.

The Democratic-Press was absorbed by THE TRIBUNE in 1858, but five years before that THE TRIBUNE and Democratic-Press printing establishments were combined. The latter was a newspaper owned and operated by Joseph M. Patterson, who had been cut to build the Second Presbyterian church in 1849. The tar oozed out in summer time, giving the building a speckled appearance.

All other building stone was imported, carried in hulls of Lake Michigan ships as ballast, most of it from New York state. When the Illinois and Michigan canal was opened in 1848, great blocks of limestone were quarried from its bed, but this at first was thought too soft for building use. For years, it lay beside the canal weathering, until some 10 years after it was rediscovered as "Joliet marble." John Wentworth, early Chicago congressman and publisher, tells the story:

"It was found to become very hard when seasoned, and pronounced a 'marble' by President Hitchcock of Amherst college. It soon came into general use."

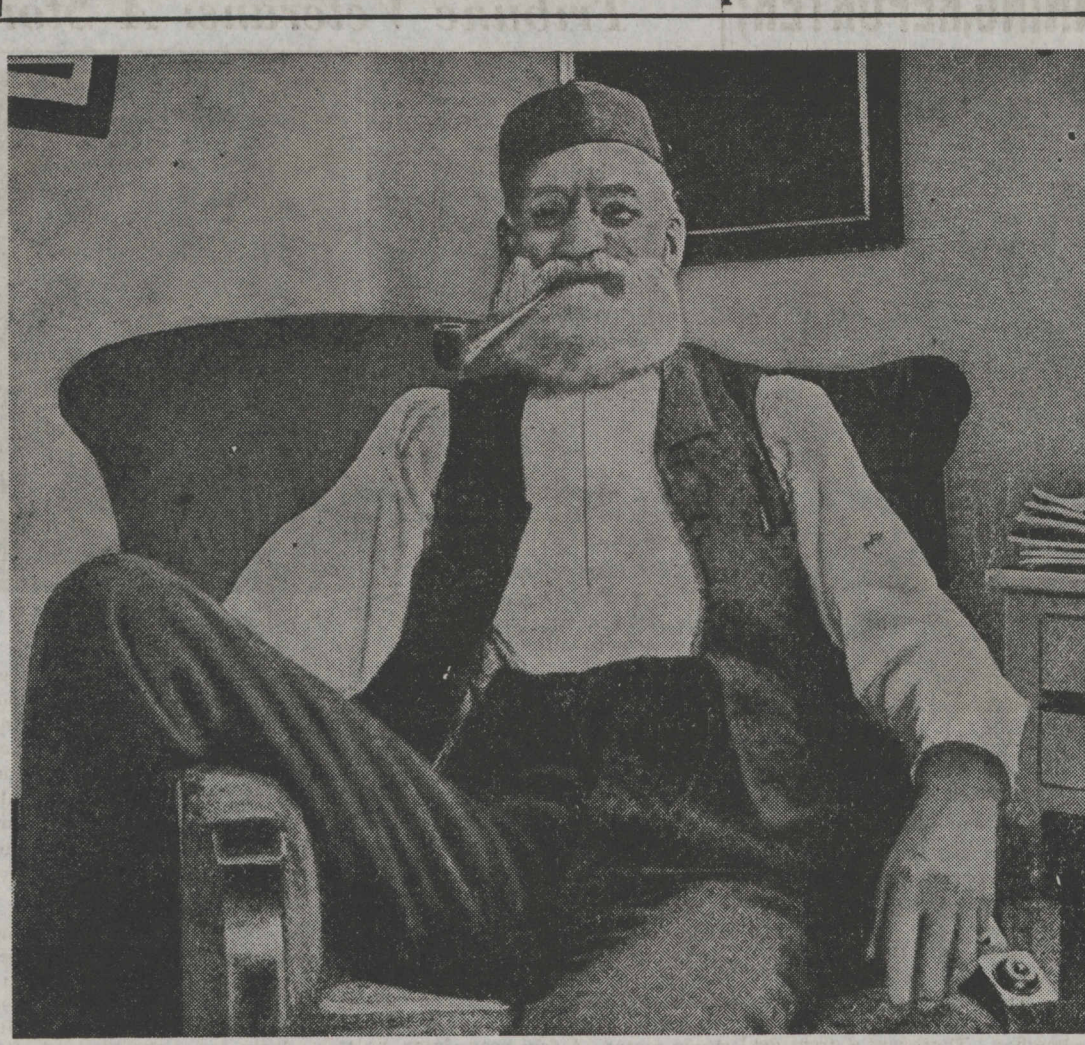
**A VITAL FACTOR
IN CHICAGO: CITY
NEWS BUREAU!**

Since 1890 THE TRIBUNE's coverage of local news has been supplemented by that of the City News Bureau of Chicago, an agency operated by the city's six daily newspapers and the Associated Press, to each of which it furnishes up-to-the-minute reports by pneumatic tube. It is the oldest organization of its kind in the country, and is the only news service to which the Associated Press subscribes.

It was first known as the City Press Association of Chicago, and took over a private business which had been operating under various owners since 1881.

City Press, as it is still called, has proved a valuable training school for reporters, and of more than 600 who have passed thru its vigorous training, many have become prominent in journalism and allied fields. Its editorial staff now numbers 44, under the general management of Isaac Gershman. Its offices are at 155 N. Clark st.

The Tribune's First Composer



Joseph Wilson Franks, who was the first composer for The Tribune when the newspaper was founded in 1847.

An 18-year-old boy won the honor of setting the first "stick" of type on THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, 100 years ago today. He lived to tell about it on an historic occasion, the Golden Jubilee of THE TRIBUNE, June 10, 1897.

He was Joseph Wilson Franks, founder and at that time—50 years ago—still senior partner of the prosperous job printing firm of J. W. Franks & Sons, Peoria, Ill. He was the last indentured apprentice in the printing industry in Chicago, being "bound" to Ellis & Ferguson, an early-day printing firm.

Remembers It Very Well

"I remember very well the first issue of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE," Franks related in this old interview, printed in THE TRIBUNE's Golden Jubilee edition. "I had helped to unbox the type when it came to the office and aided in the arrangement

R. Ferguson & Co., New York, which the proprietors said "brought about a very tasteful appearance." By 1852, a new and beautiful press, printed in THE TRIBUNE's Golden Jubilee edition. "I had helped to unbox the type when it came to the office and aided in the arrangement

of THE TRIBUNE's two Hoe presses to New York to the factory for rebuilding. They came back, completely restored, in time to print the fire anniversary edition, in THE TRIBUNE's new building. These presses had an innovation, mentioned only casually in THE TRIBUNE's columns of that day, which revolutionized the newspaper printing industry. It was stereotyping.

These rebuilt presses were equipped to take a page-sized metal cast, shaped in the same curve as the old type-heavy "turtle." Few improvements ever have been as important to daily newspapers of large circulation as this one. It was a simple idea, but it had been tried on newspaper presses experimentally only a very few years when THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE adopted it.

Step Up Printing Capacity

The absorption of the Democratic-Press by THE TRIBUNE in 1858 brought a considerable amount of new type to this newspaper. With the Adams and Hoe presses, printing capacity was stepped up to 700 or 800 single sheets, or about 400 fully printed newspapers, an hour.

A Northrop steam press of about the same capacity also was added. Shortly after Joseph Medill purchased an interest in THE TRIBUNE, he obtained a three-revolution Hoe cylinder press and a new steam engine which came from Buffalo, N. Y., THE TRIBUNE's first independent source of power. The three-revolution press was similar to the old Hoe press, except it was faster. It could print 2,400 sheets, or 1,200 newspapers in an hour.

THE TRIBUNE purchased its first lot of type from a Chicago firm in 1859 at a cost of \$3,000. The next year, it appeared in a completely new dress purchased from the same firm, the Chicago Type Founders company.

Outmoded Presses

The outbreak of the Civil war in 1861 caused such a spurt in circulation that all of THE Tribune presses were outmoded. Joseph Medill purchased a Hoe four-cylinder press, the most modern press of its kind, designed especially for newspapers and used by the larger English journals. All of THE TRIBUNE's previous presses had been designed for job printing. It took the newspaper out of the flat-bed press days for the first time, for its main feature was a cylindrical, revolving type form, the first true rotary press.

The type was placed in a specially designed curved chase or form called a "turtle." V-shaped lead "slugs" had to be used to hold the type in place on this curved surface, and the chase which marked the columns were curved, too. The type cylinder on which the "turtle" was bolted was much larger than the two-page cylinders of today's modern rotary news presses.

Speed Its Main Glory

Speed, again, was the glory of this new machine. The press had a capacity of 2,000 single printed sheets an hour at each feeding station—8,000 sheets or 4,000 newspapers an hour. In addition, it had delivery tapes and sheet flyers to send the printed sheets out to four delivery tables.

In 1864 THE TRIBUNE added a new Hoe press of the same type but with eight cylinders, doubling the capacity to 16,000 sheets or 8,000 newspapers an hour. For the first time, it installed hand-fed folding machines. Previously all TRIBUNE's had been folded and creased by hand.

THE TRIBUNE moved into a home of its own—its first—in 1869 when it built a four story building at Madison and Dearborn sts. An epic story of devotion to duty and unswerving loyalty was written into Tribune history by this newspaper's mechanical forces when the great Chicago fire of Oct. 9, 1871, destroyed that building.

Medill had sent the ruined frames

of the cases and other matters preparatory to the work of composition. "Among the compositors who assisted in the first edition were Hilram Woodbury, Warren Miller, and I think, Mort C. Misner. They are all dead now.

The proprietors of the paper at that time were Thomas A. Stewart, James Kelly, Joseph K. C. Forrest, and John E. Wheeler. I believe they are all dead. I suppose I am the sole survivor of THE TRIBUNE's first force.

"In those early days everything was operated by hand. There was no steam power. There was not even a machine press in Chicago."

Franks related that THE TRIBUNE's composing room 100 years ago—and its press room, editorial room, and

business office as well, for one room housed the whole—was a 20 by 25 foot wooden third-story loft, on the corner of Clark and Lake sts.

He also claimed the honor—disputed by the account of Forrest, one of the early publishers—of pulling the first issue of this newspaper from the Washington hand press upon which it was printed. Forrest said one of the four publishers did that job, but Franks insisted the task fell to him.

There was great rivalry among the compositors as to who should set the first type for the new newspaper, Franks said, and all of them waited anxiously at the elbow of Thomas A. Stewart, who was preparing the copy. By luck, Franks said, the first "take" of copy fell to him.

It was an ad for "Godey's Lady Book."

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130 Compositors by 1895

In the next 10 years, from 1880 to 1890, THE TRIBUNE's mechanical plant grew steadily and soundly. Seven new web perfecting presses were added by 1884, making a total of 10 presses. By 1895 THE TRIBUNE employed a force of 130 compositors.

In 1887, THE TRIBUNE formed its own engraving department, which really marked the beginning of this newspaper's development as a picture newspaper.

Great increases in TRIBUNE circulation in this period required even greater press speed, and in 1893, THE TRIBUNE negotiated with Walter Scott & Co., press builders, to design and build a press with eight double width web perfecting units—four pages wide—and a double folder, the first of its kind in Chicago. By using two deliveries, this press could turn out 48,000, 10, or 12 page newspapers an hour.

A second and then a third Scott press of the same type was installed in the next few years.

Buy Battery of Linotypes

Another production improvement more revolutionary than anything yet attempted came in 1895 when THE TRIBUNE installed its first linotype, a battery of 12 machines, purchased from the Mergenthaler Linotype company. Before this, all Tribune type had been hand-set. Four more linotypes were added in 1897, and from then onward thru the years THE TRIBUNE grew to have the largest single battery of these machines on any newspaper in the world.

In 1900, THE TRIBUNE installed a new Hoe double-quadruple press which was the forerunner of all later Tribune presses in the method used to fold the newspapers. It had folders which operated entirely without tapes or other unwieldy devices and could produce 48,000 eight-page newspapers an hour. Three more of these presses, finally called "stupes" because they had eight printing cylinders, were soon placed in service.

First Big Skyscraper

The turn of the century saw all the mechanical departments of THE TRIBUNE moved to temporary quarters at 126 S. Market st. for a year while the newspaper built its first big skyscraper, a 17-story building at Madison and Dearborn sts., which stands there today.

The moving of this gigantic assembly of mechanical equipment was a herculean feat, but THE TRIBUNE did not miss an edition.

Electricity replaced all former power when THE TRIBUNE moved into its new 17-story loop home. No other printing plant in existence was so absolutely under electric control as THE TRIBUNE's.

In this modern, new building, THE TRIBUNE at first thought itself located for all time, but its enormous growth quickly effaced that dream. In 1919, THE TRIBUNE began to move its mechanical facilities to the sand prairies at the south end of "Streeterville," the area between Ontario st. and the Chicago river, east of Michigan av., where Tribune Tower stands today.

That was the beginning of further great Tribune progress in printing production.

[The story of the modern Tribune will be found on page 3.]

bles on Tribune presses with folders on which he was issued patents.

This was one of many Tribune improvements thru the years. Today, there is not a linotype or a printing press in a modern newspaper office in the world which does not have features, improvements, and inventions developed independently by THE TRIBUNE, perfected on this newspaper and given back to the printing industry as a gift.

LA story telling about the amazing inventions and developments created by Tribune men will be found in column 1.]

Space Is Allotted

At his conferences with the subeditors, the managing editor allots the space for every story in the paper, except small items. The result is a more careful and economical use of space than can be made by other newspapers with a smaller news department staff.

A check of a typical day's budget of news last month showed 16 1/2 columns devoted to local news, 2 1/2 columns of telegraph or domestic news, and a little more than 9 columns of cable or foreign news. In the same issue, sports occupied 16 columns and markets or financial news 15 columns.

Heavy Washington News

It is interesting from this table to note how the source of news varies with conditions. During the war, THE TRIBUNE frequently carried 30 columns of cable or foreign news in one issue. Most of the telegraph news comes from Washington, and in the years before the rise of the New Deal and bureaucracy in government news out of Washington seldom totaled more than four or five columns.

Today, with the Washington government a source of the domestic and foreign picture, a budget of 15 to 20 columns a day is commonplace.

THE TRIBUNE has 44 staff photographers, including men stationed in Europe and Hollywood. Each year they produce 61,000 pictures. More than 50,000 pictures are supplied each year by the Associated Press and Amos over telephone wires and radio.

Further, THE TRIBUNE receives 145,000 news pictures annually, of which 25,000 are printed.

Selection of the pictures to be used on the back page each morning is made at a conference of the managing editor, news editor, and picture editors, who have the best pictures of the day arranged for viewing on a huge board in the newsroom.

At present THE TRIBUNE has 19 foreign correspondents stationed in key cities of Europe and Asia. During the recent war, Tribune men were with the army and navy in every theater of operations.

Gathering Chicago News

The city editor, who directs the work of all employees, is in charge of gathering the news in the Chicago metropolitan area. The Sunday editor has a staff of 38, and there are 20 reporters and editors in the department which handles the Sunday Metropolitan sections.