

HE BEGAN his newspaper career in Morenci at the age of 14 and from that time until he retired in 1940, selling The Detroit Free Press to John S. Knight, he was never without the ownership of a newspaper. As a youth he was one of that glorious host of American frontiersmen known affectionately as "tramp printers," who carried the printed word into the wilderness, the forests and the vast plains.

But no matter where he might be in the world his heart was never far from Michigan. Once when asked why he had sold a prosperous paper in the Far West to return to Michigan he answered softly, "Because I was hungry for the sight of the trees—our trees."



HE BECAME the owner of the largest chain of theaters in the United States almost by accident, starting out from his newspaper office at Howell, Mich., as an adventure in a business about which he knew nothing, half humorously, to collect an unpaid printing bill owed by a stranded troupe.

The star of the company was billed as "Little Trixie," a child actress, who became famous as Jessie Bonstelle. His remarkable theatrical career and his impact upon the American stage and the galaxy of famous stars whom he guided to historic triumphs is told elsewhere.

His only real love was journalism and when he gave up most of his theater activities he bought The Detroit Journal and later The Detroit Free Press.



AND it was in these activities that Mr. Stair became one of the great builders of Detroit. The three requisites of success are vision, ability and courage. Mr. Stair had all three happily balanced. And his faith in Detroit, in Michigan and in America never wavered. For he had seen with his own eyes the conquering of a mighty continent and the creation of the greatest democracy the world has ever known.

In his older years relentless fate dealt him many cruel blows in the deaths of his wife and his son and the men who were his intimate companions of a lifetime. But he never lost his magnificent courage even as he never lost his faith in God.

Those of his generation who remain will remember him as a stern task master and a strict business man but, underneath all that, a gentle, trusting and loyal friend.

Michigan has lost a great citizen.

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HARRY T. McGRATH

Funeral services for Mr. McGrath, president and publisher of the Charlotte Republican-Tribune, will be held Saturday at 2 p. m. from the Burkhead chapel there. Interment will be in Maple Hill cemetery. In addition to his other activities, Mr. McGrath was president of the Eaton County Savings bank.

(Special to The State Journal)
SUNFIELD, Nov. 2 — Elizabeth May Sayer, 71, died Wednesday afternoon at a Lansing hospital after an illness of four months. Mrs. Sayer was born May 7, 1860. Charles and Elizabeth Sayer made her home in the areas of Hillsdale and Monroe counties until her marriage to Albert Sayers of Sunfield July 31, 1898. Mrs. Sayer spent one year in Pitts and Mrs. Sayer for Sunfield she was a member of O. E. S. Chapter No. 412 and a former member of the Rebekah lodge. Surviving, besides the husband, are one niece, Mrs. Harold Erickson, and several cousins. Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Stables funeral home, Sunfield. Rev. Donald Strode of the Sunfield Methodist church will officiate. Burial will be in Sunfield cemetery. Survivors are Albert Sayer, Ernest Sayer and Victor Stank.