



COL. R. R. McCORMICK
Chicago Tribune Chief Dies
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McCormick Dead at 74

Chicago Tribune Editor
Had Colonial Army,
News Career

CHICAGO, April 1 (AP)—Col. Robert R. McCormick, editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune and one of the nation's most prominent newspaper executives, died today. McCormick, who was 74, died in his sleep at 3:47 a. m. at his farm home near suburban Wheaton. The veteran colorful newspaper publisher had been ailing since April, 1953. He underwent an abdominal operation last Jan. 19. A circulatory ailment and a rapid decline in his liver function made him weaker. His doctor said he died peacefully.

McCormick, who gained the title of colonel from World War I service, was the key man in a publishing organization which owns the two newspapers with the largest circulations in the United States—the Chicago Tribune and the New York Daily News.

McCormick also was chairman of the board of the New York Daily News, founded in 1919 by the colonel and his cousin, Capt. Joseph M. Patterson, who died in 1946.

SHAPED PAPER POLICIES

Several years ago McCormick began making preparation for the future management of the Tribune and its properties in this country and Canada. He discussed this problem with his directors, telling them his objective was to make sure that the Tribune and its properties continued under a management which had grown up with him, had been trained by him, and had his confidence.

Details of the colonel's plans for the management of the Tribune will be announced after the funeral by Weymouth Kirkland, a lawyer and McCormick's former law partner.

The tall (six-foot-four) colonel shaped the Tribune's policies and frequently they were provocative. It fought federal prohibition, ferreted out medical quacks, argued against foreign involvements and opposed entry of the United States into World War II right up to Pearl Harbor.

The Tribune was a constant critic of the Democratic administrations of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman—and it brandished its broadsword at many Republicans, too.

Col. McCormick was president of the Tribune company. The company owns the Chicago Tribune, New York Daily News and the Ontario Paper, company of Thorold, Ont.

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The Ontario firm, in turn, owns the Quebec North Shore Paper company and the Quebec Ontario Transportation company, operator of a fleet of boats.

The company reported its 1953 gross income was approximately a quarter billion dollars.

WAS PERSHING AIDE

He was a director of The Associated Press from 1927 to 1948.

McCormick began his military career in 1915 when he joined the Illinois National Guard as a cavalry major. A year later he accompanied his regiment to the Mexican border to help restore order from the havoc created by the famed Pancho Villa's raiders.

Shortly after America entered World War I, McCormick was assigned to the staff of Gen. John Pershing in France. In reply to a request for action, McCormick was given command of a field artillery battalion 11 months before the armistice.

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