

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY FEBRUARY 4



The Daily Mail-Charleston Newspapers building in 1964 showing addition (left) to the original structure built by Walter E. Clark, former governor of Alaska.

On February 4, 1950, Charleston Daily Mail owner and editor Walter Eli Clark died.

CSO: SS.8.25, ELA.8.1, ELA.8.31

Investigate the Document: (*Sutherland, Howard K. Papers; Charleston Daily Mail, February 5, 1950*)

1. Why was Walter Clark upset about the disruption of the mail service from Charleston to points east in the Kanawha and New River valleys? What did Clark believe would happen if the problem was not rectified?
2. To whom was Clark addressing his grievances?

Think Critically: How has the way the public consumes news changed over the past century? Is there bias in the media? How do we discern fake news from legitimate news? What is the role of media in our culture? Is it important to follow current events? Why or why not?

THE CHARLESTON MAIL ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHERS OF

The Charleston Mail

WEST VIRGINIA

WALTER E. CLARK
PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER

July 11, 1917.

My dear Sir:

Changes in the train schedules of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad, made effective on the 1st instant, have seriously affected the mail service between Charleston and points east in the Kanawha and New river valleys.

Train No. 6, which formerly left Charleston at 2:35 p. m. , was discontinued. Train 18, leaving Charleston at 3:55 p. m. , was continued as before. Train 6 carried local mail, distributing it (throwing it off) at all the small stations east of this city. Train 18, although a local train, carries only express mail - that is, mail for the large towns only, as Montgomery and Hinton. So, since the removal of Train 6, no mail is carried out of Charleston in the afternoon for any of the smaller places along the line of the C. & O. east. Indeed, there is only one train carrying mail for these places, and that train leaves Charleston at 8:15 in the morning.

It is too bad that, through failure of the Post Office Department to make any provision for the local mail which No. 6 carried, the residents of all the towns smaller than Montgomery and Hinton east of Charleston receive mail from this direction only once a day.

The effect on the business of this newspaper, as you will readily apprehend, is disastrous. We publish editions of The Charleston Mail at 2 p. m. and 4 p. m.; yet no papers can leave Charleston until the next morning for subscribers on the C. & O. east of Charleston, or for places on the Cabin Creek and other branch lines. Even a subscriber living in a town east of Charleston only four or five miles away must wait until the next morning to receive an evening paper published in this city.

Naturally our immediate and vital concern is for our own business, but we feel that we are acting in the public interest as well when we urge you respectfully to use your good offices with the Post Office Department to have this intolerable condition relieved. Train 18, leaving here at 3:55 p. m. should carry local mail. As for our own business, this condition referred to, unless relieved, will practically wipe out the subscription list of The Charleston Mail in towns in this territory east of Charleston.

Certain clippings from The Mail are enclosed. A similar letter has been addressed to Congressman Littlepage. It may not be

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necessary to duplicate efforts in this matter, but possibly
also a concerted effort on the part of our Congressional represent-
atives will bring quicker results to relieve our needs.

With respect, we are

Very truly yours,

THE CHARLESTON MAIL ASSOCIATION

Walter E. Clark
President.

c

Honorable Howard Sutherland,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

The Charleston Daily Mail

DATED PRESS
ITED PRESS

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 5, 1950

Walter E. Clark, 81, Publisher, Succumbs

Daily Mail Owner Dies in Hospital Two Hours Following Heart Attack

Walter Eli Clark, owner and editor of The Charleston Daily Mail, died Saturday afternoon in a Charleston hospital two hours after suffering a heart attack at his home, 1598 Virginia St., East. He was 81 years old on Jan. 7.

While Mr. Clark had suffered recurring heart attacks in recent years, he had been in comparative good health recently and his death came unexpectedly. He was admitted to the hospital at 11:30 a. m. Death followed at 1:27 p. m.

Up until the day before his death, Mr. Clark had taken an active role in the publication of the newspaper and conduct of the company, The Charleston Mail Association, of which he was president. For months he had been at his offices adjoining the news rooms on the second floor at least two hours each day, remaining longer on frequent occasions. He made his last visit to the offices shortly before noon Friday.

While he had confined most of his writing in recent years to his widely-read page one editorial column, "At This Hour," he did occasionally submit a news story to the editors, "just to keep in touch with the news," as he often said. Starting his newspaper career as a correspondent, "writing" remained his first love in the newspaper field throughout his life.

Mr. Clark was one of the founders of the Charleston Rose Society and for years he had striven to make Charleston known as the Rose City of the East. Ironically, the last story he wrote for the news columns concerned plans of the society for the annual Charleston rose show staged here each spring.

Funeral services will be Monday at 4 p. m. at the Kanawha Presbyterian church with the pastor,



WALTER ELI CLARK

Rev. Bernard E. Vanderbeek officiating. Burial will be in Mountain View cemetery. The body is at the Simpson Funeral home.

Active pallbearers will be Jack Maurice, Vint Jennings, Dick Hudson, J. B. Martin, Howard Wolfe, Robert Thompson, Clyde Jenkins, Southall Burke, Arthur McQueen and Frank Polk, all Daily Mail employees.