Spring 1958

A Scientific Investigation Of The Concept That A Good Man Is Considered A Great Loss To His Community As Seen In Newspaper Reports

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A SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION
OF THE
CONCEPT THAT A GOOD MAN IS
CONSIDERED A GREAT LOSS TO HIS COMMUNITY
AS SEEN IN NEWSPAPER REPORTS

BY
THOMAS F. DOWLING

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF "CUM LAUDE" RECOGNITION
AND FOR
COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE
TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
CARROLL COLLEGE
1958
THIS THESIS
FOR "CUM LAUDE" RECOGNITION
AND FOR
COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

BY

THOMAS F. DOWLING

HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR
THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
BY

J. J. O'Brien
J. J. Macken
J. R. White

DATE April 26, 1958
INTRODUCTION

A study of knowledge reveals that it has three sources: the theological, the philosophical, and the scientific. From the philosophical and theological point of view it is very widely accepted that a good man is a good for all society. It is equally well established that man is a social animal by nature and that he perfects himself through his contributions to society and to his fellow man.

The purpose of this thesis is to investigate from a strictly scientific point of view the proposition that a good man is so considered by his fellow men because of his contribution to society and to see whether the findings of philosophy and theology are also verified at the scientific level.

From a sociological standpoint there are many approaches to the investigation and I have chosen to use the evidence that can be gleaned from newspapers as a good indication of public opinion in this matter.

This is a very humble attempt in a very restricted field to seek what evidence may be available from the scientific point of view.

I would like to express sincere thanks to the staffs of the Montana Historical Society and the Helena Public Library for their kind consideration and many privileges granted me. To Reverend Fr. John J. O'Connor, M.A., Ph.D., Carroll College, I am especially indebted for his sponsorship.
AND GUIDANCE WHILE WRITING THIS THESIS. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY THANKS TO MISS DIANA SCHUTTE, WHO HAS DONE SUCH A FINE JOB IN THE TYPING OF THIS THESIS.

T. F. D.
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 CHAPTER ONE

The death of a prominent man is usually noted in the newspapers. This essay is concerned with these newspaper reports about prominent persons. From an entirely scientific point of view I will analyse newspaper articles concerned with the passing of prominent men, and attempt to determine whether or not newspaper men considered the deceased to be great because of their contribution to society.

In this essay the criterion of greatness will be the praise that was accorded a man by one or more of his contemporaries. Is he praised for the good done during his lifetime to his fellow men? If not, why was he praised?

The holding of public office and the faithful discharge of its duties is a service rendered to society. In many cases a public official is sacrificing a position which would pay him more than the public office. Sometimes public service is a thankless service and the material recompense is not commensurate with the responsibility and hard work involved. Unselfishly many men have sacrificed themselves in governmental work to better the conditions existing in their community, state, or nation.

The founding of a business in a community promotes the general welfare in so far as it fills an economic need. Because of this service and the prominence that goes with it the death of a businessman evokes newspaper comment.

The service of professional men who have devoted their lives to their profession, the long and faithful
CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CLERGY, THE SERVICE RENDERED BY TEACHERS, ALL THESE GIVE PROMINENCE TO THE PERSONS SO ENGAGED.

In choosing these men and the articles written about them, I have made use of the Independent Record of Helena, the Montana Standard of Butte, and the Great Falls Tribune. For the most part I have limited my investigation to the accounts which appeared on the front page of these papers. Persons whose death notices appear on the front pages of a local newspaper must be considered to be newsworthy in that area. I have also limited the accounts to those dealing with figures of local, or at least state importance. National figures, if they are not Montanans, will not be considered.

I have used the Independent Record for the period of time from January 1947 to December 1956 inclusive. In order to give a more representative picture, I have included the Montana Standard and the Great Falls Tribune for the years 1947 to 1951 inclusive. This will give a broader territory for investigation, and the evidence will not be completely derived from one newspaper.

As a matter of policy, the obituary of every person whose death was recorded on the front page of the papers, will not be used. I was interested only in those considered "prominent" or "great" by the reporters. In some cases the only reason for the death of an individual getting notice on the front page of a paper was due to tragic circumstances surrounding his death or his great or very tender age. Still others were noted due to the fact that they were husbands, wives or some
other close relative of a famous person.

The newspapers themselves, in carrying the accounts of persons who are of interest in this study, ran headlines to the effect that a prominent man or woman had passed away. Usually the article began with the origin of such a person. Next they proceeded to relate why the deceased was considered prominent and ended the narrative with a list of survivors. In the case of the death of an exceptionally outstanding person, a public figure in government or a churchman was asked for comment and was quoted to the effect that the community and society in general had suffered a great loss. These then are the men and women in which this paper is interested.

If these personages are considered prominent due to a great contribution to society, and such is specifically stated in the newspaper accounts which are run concerning their demise, then it can be said that from the scientific standpoint some evidence at least is available to show that a great man is so considered because of his contribution to society. If not, there is no evidence to strengthen the supposition of both Philosophy and Theology from a purely scientific point of view.
CHAPTER TWO

Evidence From the Independent Record of Helena

As stated above, the Independent Record was used for the years 1947 to 1956 inclusive. In no instance could I find an editorial written concerning the death of an important Montanan in which the editor praised the deceased. On several occasions, however, prominent men were praised by the governor of Montana, and in several cases I found a deceased person praised by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena.

Men Praised

As given in the Independent Record, the persons who were praised reached the total of nine. In every case, the individual made a contribution of outstanding worth, not only to the community in which he lived, but also to the state, and nation as a whole. Six of these men were government officials, one was an educator, one a churchman, one a newspaper man, and another was an outstanding lawyer. As a sample I submit three of these accounts: The publisher of the Great Falls Tribune, Mr. O. S. Warden; Judge William Scallon; and Monsignor Norbert Hoff of Carroll College.

O. S. Warden

The headlines ran concerning O. S. Warden went as follows:

"O. S. Warden, Great Falls Publisher and State Civic Leader"

The paper then gave a detailed account of the achievements of Mr. Warden. It was noted that he was the owner and publisher of the *Great Falls Tribune*, and had been a leading figure in the development of the West through reclamation. He had served for seventeen years as a democratic National Committeeman, and was a director of the Associated Press. At the time of his death, Mr. Warden owned the *Montana Farmer Stockman*, Radio Station K. M. O. N., and a printing and supply business in Great Falls. He was chairman or president of many organizations for schools, city parks, aeronautics, and the state fair in Great Falls.

Governor Bonner made the following statement:

"O. S. Warden was one of Great Falls' greatest citizens. He was a builder as much as any man who ever lived in Montana. He deserves great credit for his contribution to Montana's progress. In every project he took the attitude that it could be done. Never did he take the attitude that something could not be done. O. S. Warden was a devoted public servant. His energy, courage, and unselfishness should serve as an inspiration. His work will endure as long as this state will live. He was chairman of the State Highway Commission when the state instituted its vast highway program. In this capacity he served honorably and well. We will all miss him; his great work for his city and state will remain as a great monument to his civic achievements.

This man received praise in the *Independent Record*, the *Montana Standard*, and in his own paper, the *Great Falls Tribune*.

2. Underlining mine.
The next article was written on Judge William Scallon. It appeared on Friday, July 6, 1951. The Judge’s presidency of the Anaconda Company during the famous Hienze litigation was mentioned first. This episode came to be known as the "War of the Copper Kings."

About Judge Scallon, Bishop Gilmore said:

A brilliant lawyer... and a Christian of sterling moral character. Mr. William Scallon for an unusually long number of years has been a glory and an honor to the legal profession in our state of Montana. His dignity, his unflinching moral integrity, his brilliant legal mind, earned the respect and admiration of all with whom he had contact.

He set a standard of conduct down through the years which men both in and out of the legal profession have tried to emulate.

During all the years he lived in Helena he graciously and generously gave his esteemed legal counsel to the Bishop of Helena whenever he was asked. In the name of the Diocese of Helena I wish publicly to express our gratitude to him.

In the passing of Mr. Scallon, Montana and the nation has lost a brilliant lawyer, a kindly gentleman, and a Christian of sterling moral character. May he rest in peace.

Judge Scallon was praised, not only for his contribution to the legal profession, but also because he set a norm of conduct for all men to follow. This "kindly gentleman" therefore can be considered truly great, and was so considered as can be evidenced in the attitude of the paper toward him.

1. Independent Record, July 6, 1951, p. 1.

2. Underlining mine.
Monsignor Hoff

The final article is that written about Monsignor Hoff.

The Most Reverend Joseph M. Gilmore commented as follows:

Monsignor Hoff gave forty-two years of dedicated service to the Diocese of Helena. Possessing great talents as an educator, speaker, and counselor, he gave himself unselfishly to all. The passing of Monsignor Hoff will be mourned by countless numbers who came under his kind, priestly influence. His loss to the Diocese, and to Carroll College will be felt keenly. The Bishop, priests, and people of the Diocese join in prayer for the eternal rest of his great soul.

In the case of the remaining six, the press was no less outspoken in its praise of the deceased. In every case the death of the man was considered a great loss to the state and community. For the sake of brevity I shall not reproduce each article here, but shall mention the names of the men praised, and the date the article appeared in the Independent Record:

2. Dr. Francis A. Thompson, June 11, 1951.
5. Dr. William F. Cogswell, May 26, 1956.

Government Officials

The next general category comprises government officials. These were not limited to state officials but also include city workers. Being the capital of Montana, Helena is at least a temporary home for most of the state officials.

1. Independent Record, April 26, 1956, p. 1.
2. Underlining Mine.
This fact probably accounts for the comparatively large size of this division, thirty-nine, ranging from a city clerk to the former governor of the State of Montana, Governor Ayres. I present as being of special interest in a paper concerned with contribution to the common good, the article concerning one of the former members of the state legislature.¹ He is Robert J. Dunne, a former member of the State House of Representatives from Deer Lodge and Gallatin Counties. According to the newspaper, Mr. Dunne became famous among his fellow lawmakers for having made one outstanding statement. It was: "I am interested in laws for the general rather than the special good."

Another case which is quite similar was that of Neil Fisher, the State Treasurer. On hearing of his death, Governor Bonner, who took office at the same time as Mr. Fisher, said:²

I am shocked at the untimely passing of Neil Fisher. He was a fine public official...congenial, capable, and exceedingly anxious to do the best job possible. His death is a great loss to Montana.³

Although this account could be included with those classified in the first instance, I chose to place it here due to the fact that the deceased was praised for his service rendered while holding public office.

Both of these accounts manifest the rule rather than the exception followed in reporting in the newspapers about public

1. Independent Record, January 12, 1951, p. 1.
2. Ibid., August 30, 1949, p. 1.
3. Underlining Mine.
officials. While all of the men were not praised by the governor, all of the articles did make mention of the fact that a service was rendered by the deceased to the community or to the state. In no instance was a public official said to have been prominent without mention having been made of some work in behalf of the public.

**Businessmen**

The third division of persons considered to be of prominence by the writers of the Independent Record were business men. Founders of businesses, such as the Kessler Brewing Company by Frederick Ebert Kessler, and also men who had risen to a position of importance in already established businesses were mentioned. This classification was perhaps the most universal, containing twenty-seven articles. Each person mentioned had qualifications to fit into one of the other divisions. They also were, as a whole, active in fraternal and civic work. Most prominent business men find it necessary to belong to local chambers of commerce and to be active in community affairs. In order to remain successful they must remain in the public eye. Hence this category contains men who were business men primarily, and then members of fraternal orders and local civic groups. Let me cite a typical article. It is concerned with the death of Murray Stebbings: ¹

¹. Independent Record, March 9, 1951, p. 1.
Murray E. Stebbins, Helena Businessman and Civic Leader is Taken Suddenly

He came to Montana in 1926 as secretary of the Montana Woolgrowers Association. Since his arrival he has played an active part in the community, being an owner of the Stebbins Smith Motor Company. Mr. Stebbins was prominent in civic and cultural affairs. He served on the school board for seven years and was an outstanding Montana Mason.

Businessmen were very important persons according to the Helena paper. While this importance was not limited merely to the fact that they were engaged in the pursuit of a successful occupation in the Helena area, this fact was of primary interest. In all I found twenty-seven such cases.

Professional Men

Professional men constitute a fourth separation of the articles I found in the Independent Record. According to the press these men gave themselves unselfishly to the people they served. For the most part this category contains no mention of lawyers as such, for these were usually connected with successful law firms and with governmental activity and therefore are already contained in the discussion of those two groups. There is no need to include them again at this point.

Mainly doctors and dentists are included here. In the very pursuit of their professions these people render a great service to society. The paper noted this fact. However, in no case was special praise given to any individual in this class. The length of his practice and his membership in the American and Montana Medical Associations seems
TO BE THE ONLY THING MENTIONED WITH REGULARITY IN THESE ARTICLES.

Four such articles appeared in the Independent Record during the years under scrutiny. Outstanding was the account, not of a doctor or a dentist, but that of a veterinary surgeon. He was Dr. W. J. Butler. The paper noted that this man was responsible for a great deal of the work done to control Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. He also did extensive work on the prevention and cure of Hoof and Mouth Disease among cattle. An international figure, Dr. Butler was known in Europe as well as south of the border.

At this point the reasons for considering the medical professions as being worthwhile need not be brought up. They are universally accepted. The only fact that I would like to note specifically is that the paper in question never once praised the deceased, nor did it ever mention a specific contribution to the common good made by the man written about.

Others

The last general grouping of articles studied is that of persons considered prominent for other reasons. As a whole the writers of the paper did not deem many persons prominent if they did not fall within the scope of the above mentioned divisions. I found only two who were considered important for historical reasons. One was Isabel Shobe.2

She was the daughter of a former territorial governor of Montana and was the mother-in-law of the former Governor, Sam C. Ford. While this woman may have been worthy of notice in her own right, no mention of the fact was made by the paper.

The other article was concerned with the passing of John Koin. Although the paper mentions that the man belonged to the Masonic orders, it makes no mention of his having held a position of honor or trust in that organization.

In only ten cases did the writers of the Independent Record run articles of praise about a local person who had died. (Including the article on Neil Fisher which appears under the heading of Government Officials.) In every case the praise came from a source exterior to the newspaper. As I have mentioned previously there was no editorial comment. The total number of cases which were found to be of interest in this investigation is eighty-one. The percentage of those persons who were definitely considered to be a great loss to the community and the state is 11.1 percent. In 2.5 percent of the cases no reason was given for the prominence of the deceased. The remaining 86.4 percent were considered to be or prominence because of the service they rendered to the community.

CONCLUSION

It must be remembered that this investigation is concerned only with what is printed by the newspaper under scrutiny. In no instance was a man's private life discussed. Those praised may have been of indifferent morals. The newspapers did not affirm or deny anything in this vein in the cases recorded. On the other hand, a man who was mentioned may have been a veritable saint. The newspapers do not treat of one's private life.

Ten persons were praised as being a great loss to the community in the Independent Record. Of these ten, two were definitely mentioned as having been of sound moral character and were praised as such by the Bishop of Helena. The newspaper itself does not attempt to condemn or praise a man because of his life; it just strives to report the passing of a person of some import. While there is not sufficient evidence to support a supposition that men praised in a newspaper are morally sound, the facts give a lead, or rather hint, that this may be true. A new avenue of investigation lies open by these articles.

The remaining eight articles praise a man due to the fact that he was performing a service that placed him in the public eye. Public service and notoriety are the reasons for these men being praised. Their private lives and moral integrity are never mentioned by the paper.

The data gathered from the Independent Record of Helena shows that men are praised mainly for their performance of a service. It also gives some evidence to support the
supposition that a good man is considered by the newspapers as a loss to the community. Some evidence is also found that men who are praised in the newspapers are morally sound. However, in no case is the evidence strong enough or sufficient to arrive at the conclusion that these premises have been proven.
CHAPTER THREE

EVIDENCE FROM THE MONTANA STANDARD OF BUTTE

As was noted before, the Montana Standard of Butte, Montana, was used to determine the attitude of the writers of that paper toward local figures considered prominent who had died during the years under investigation. In this case the years studied are 1947 through 1951. The Independent Record of Helena did not carry an editorial praising a deceased member of that community. In ten cases it did run articles of praise which were written by citizens concerning these people. In the Montana Standard, however, I found neither an editorial written about a prominent person, nor an article of praise written by others. During the years covered, the staff of this paper did not praise individuals who had died and made a great contribution to society. From this paper it is impossible to tell whether or not any individual did anything that was praiseworthy.

Due to the absence of articles which praise a deceased person, the total number of divisions into which these notices fit is only five. The Independent Record had six divisions.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

The first division is that which included the passing of men who were engaged in governmental work of some kind. As in the Helena paper, the scope ranges from an article concerned with the death of a former governor to that of a fireman. These men were engaged in activities which served
A public need. In all I found thirteen such articles. As in the Helena paper, the offices held were mentioned and also the number of years these offices were filled. A truly outstanding article gave an account of the assassination of Thomas C. Wasson. Mr. Wasson was a native of Great Falls, and was employed by the United Nations. At the time of his assassination he was a member of the United Nations peace mission to the Near East. He was shot by a sniper in Jerusalem on May 22, 1948. While this account was carried in both the Helena and Great Falls papers, I chose to record it here.

Businessmen

Being the home of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, it could be expected that the class of articles concerned with businessmen would be large. In all it contains fourteen accounts. For the most part, these newspaper articles were concerned with persons who were prominent in business. I was truly surprised that the death of James Woodard, the secretary of the Anaconda Company, did not evoke an article of praise from the writers of the paper. Perhaps the fact that Mr. Woodard died while he was in New York had something to do with the absence of an article written about him.

No special comment on any individual engaged in the life of the business world was made in the Montana Standard in the years under consideration. In every instance the report was

merely factual. The writers of the paper did not seem to think that prominence in the business world was an adequate reason to run an article which specifically praised a man in this field of endeavor.

Professional Men

At this point I shall consider simultaneously the division of material dealing with professional men and that dealing with men considered prominent due to activity in fraternal organizations. I shall do so because of the small number of articles found which dealt with men in these fields. It must be noted here, as in the preceding chapter, that lawyers, as such, were considered in the group treating businessmen and government officials. There appeared only two articles concerned with the death of professional men whom the paper considered prominent and only four dealing with men in fraternal organizations.

Again no mention was made by the newspaper reporters of specific contribution. All of these men are noted to have been medical men for a number of years or past masters of the Knights of Columbus, but nothing further.

Others

The writers of the Butte paper placed on the front page four articles in which the passing of a person was mentioned with no evidence given of notoriety. The persons may have made a great contribution to society, but no mention is made
of it. Charles W. Brooke is an example of this. The writers reported that this man, "a prominent Montanan," had died. The article contained the account of Mr. Brooke's coming to Montana in a prairie schooner, and the contacts he had with Indians en route, but nothing more. No contribution to his community is mentioned and it is not the intention of this essay to attempt to find an existing contribution to society when the article examined does not state that one was made.

In the remaining three accounts nothing is stated that would indicate prominence of the deceased.

Conclusion

The Montana Standard of Butte did not publish one article of praise, nor an editorial of praise, while noting the demise of one of the foremost citizens of that community. The writers of the paper did consider people who had rendered a service to the community in the areas of government, business, the professions, and fraternal affairs prominent. In no case was the private life of an individual discussed, except what was already public knowledge due to the person's being in the public eye. No evaluation of the contribution of these prominent persons was attempted. While the paper ran no articles of praise, neither did it criticize.

If the testimony of these articles were the only testimony, no man who died in Butte during the years from 1947 to 1951 was considered a loss to the community. On the other

Hand, four persons were considered "prominent" for no apparent reason. The Montana Standard gives no evidence in support of the idea that a man of prominence was considered a great loss to his community. Neither does it contradict this supposition. The writers of the Butte paper seem rather indifferent to this concept, being more concerned with putting accounts of people who are in the public eye on the front page of their paper, and making no evaluation of their contribution. Notoriety is the criterion which the writers of the Butte paper use to determine the prominence of the persons who appear on the front page of their newspaper.
CHAPTER FOUR

EVIDENCE GATHERED FROM THE GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

MEN PRAISED

In contrast to the previous two papers, the Great Falls Tribune did run an editorial in praise of a man who died during the years under investigation. He was O. S. Warden, the publisher of that paper. The editorial appeared on March 12, 1951. Because this is the only editorial of this type which I found in the entire period under investigation, I shall reproduce it here:

"HE LEAVES HIS INDELIBLE MARK"

In the waning summer of 62 years ago, O. S. Warden, freshly graduated from his New England college of Dartmouth, journeyed from his home state of New Hampshire to the then territory of Montana. As he arrived in Helena, the historic 1889 constitutional convention for Montana statehood was in session. Continuing to Great Falls, he embarked on what was to be his whole business life, that of a working newspaper man.

When, in association with Mr. William M. Bole, he purchased the Great Falls Tribune in 1895, the Tribune’s whole crew consisted of nine people, including the two owners. Throughout the years, the growth of the newspaper and its related endeavors, has been closely allied with the growth of the community and the Treasure State.

Throughout his many years in Great Falls he devoted constant attention and time to the advancement of his adopted community and state in many fields. His accomplishments in Montana welfare will stand as his most fitting memorial. They bear eloquent witness to an untiring zeal and an unflagging effort that bore bountiful fruit through the years of this century.

2. Underlining mine.
Those who worked with him in his own business and those who were associated with him in wider fields can best appreciate how well he directed this course. They may now gain an inspiration from his life and accomplishments to carry on his efforts.

In addition to this editorial numerous articles were run praising Mr. Warden. The statement of Governor Bonner was noted in the second chapter of this essay. Former President Harry S. Truman was quoted as saying:

I am distressed to learn of the death of a great newspaper editor and publisher, a loyal and effective official of the Democratic Party, and a true friend of the American people. Please accept this expression of sympathy from Mrs. Truman.

JAMES A. FARLEY, THE FORMER POSTMASTER GENERAL; FORMER MONTANA ATTORNEY GENERAL ARNOLD OLSEN; DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CHAIRMAN WILLIAM M. BAGLEY; MARY CONDON; AND SAMUEL GROZA, REPUBLICAN BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEMBER, WERE AMONG THE MORE PROMINENT PEOPLE WHO WERE QUOTED AS HAVING PRaised THIS MAN FOR THE WORK HE DID FOR HIS COMMUNITY, STATE, AND COUNTRY.

In this paper, Mr. Warden was outstanding because all three of the papers studied at least ran an article about him, and his is the only death in the period studied which was important enough to merit an editorial. It may be objected that the only reason an editorial was written was that he owned the paper; but the quotations do not support this objection.

The only other article I found in the GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE which praised a man was a quotation of Governor Ford's concerning Mr. J. Burke Clements, then the chairman.

I was profoundly shocked at the death of Mr. Clements. The State has lost a loyal public servant and I have lost a loyal and valued friend. Mr. Clements served the State in an outstanding manner under four Governors. During his tenure of office he built the Industrial Accident Board into one of the most efficient administrative offices in the State government. He gave generously of his time and ability for public service despite the fact that the rewards from that service were not as great as he could have commanded elsewhere. In his work he earned the admiration and support of the working men and women throughout the State and his passing will be mourned by them as well as by hundreds of friends and acquaintances he made during a lifetime of work for the State.

Mr. Clements leaves a legacy of accomplishments of which all who knew him and worked with him can be extremely proud.

Businessmen

The accounts of twenty-seven businessmen were noted on the front page of the Great Falls Tribune. The articles ranged in scope from that of a grocer to the former president of the A. C. M. Company, Mr. James Hobbs. The writers did not state specifically whether the man mentioned made any great contribution to the community. They confined themselves to the fact that the man was a successful and prominent businessman. Moral and religious integrity was not mentioned in any case. No one of them was praised, no one condemned.

2. Underlining Mine.
**Government Officials**

In the section recounting the decease of public officials, twelve names appear, not including the account of Mr. Clements who was mentioned above. In each case the office held, and the duration for which it was held, was noted, with no attempt made to interpret the actions of the man while he was in office. Mr. Clements was the only man found who was praised for his work. The primary criterion of placing these men on the front page of the paper was the fact that they were well known in the locality and throughout the state. The writers of the paper made notoriety the norm.

**Professional Men**

The division containing the accounts of professional men and the one containing the persons who were considered prominent because of work in fraternal and social organizations will again be considered jointly because of the lack of great numbers in these fields. Four professional men were mentioned while only one man was deemed prominent for solely fraternal work. The former was John Cosgriff, a president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He is the only man, among those mentioned in the papers, who was considered prominent because of belonging to this organization. As was noted above, no specific reason was given for considering these men prominent other than the pursuance of their chosen professions.
Conclusion

In the Great Falls Tribune I found the only editorial written in praise of a deceased person. The writers of the newspaper themselves praised this man. In another instance, an article was recorded praising a man although it was written by someone other than a member of the newspaper staff.

These two articles represent 4.3 percent of all that were written about deceased persons who were considered prominent and mentioned on the front page of the Great Falls paper. In the remaining cases public service and the accident of being in the public eye were the criteria of prominence.

As in the other papers considered, there is not sufficient evidence contained in the articles carried by the Great Falls Tribune to warrant accepting as a proven fact the theory that newspaper men consider the death of a man to be a great loss due to his contribution to society. That there is some evidence cannot be denied, but to prove this statement, a further and longer investigation would be necessary.
CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion

The Independent Record, the Montana Standard and the Great Falls Tribune record the passing of 164 persons who were considered prominent. The articles are concerned with government officials, business men, professional men and men active in fraternal and civic affairs. Why were these men considered prominent? Why was their passing noted on the front pages of the newspapers? For the most part these people were considered prominent due to the fact that their fields of endeavor brought them before the public. They were in the public eye and therefore their demise was news-worthy. But why was their death a loss? Although the criterion of prominence appears to be solely notoriety there is implied in every article a service rendered to the community by a man who is noted to have been a prominent person.

In the years investigated there appeared six articles in which the passing of a "prominent" person was noted although no adequate reason was given to consider the person prominent. These six articles represent 5.5 percent of all the articles studied in which the passing of prominent individuals was noted by the papers. This fact suggests rather strongly that the newspapers do not consider a person to be prominent unless he has done something to bring him into the public eye other than the fact that he was of historic interest. I have excluded these articles from the
EVALUATION OF THE INVESTIGATION BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF A CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY, WHICH WAS NEITHER STATED NOR IMPLIED.

Of the 164 articles which give at least an implied indication of a contribution to society there were eleven articles which actually praised a man for the work he had done during his lifetime. Why were these men praised? Why was their death considered a loss to the community? In every case these men were praised because during their lives they gave public service. This service was in the fields of government, the legal profession and the medical professions, but in every case the article of praise definitely stated that the man had contributed to society through his service. Is it clear, as seen in these articles, that public service can be considered the proof of greatness? Is this the criterion that the newspapers use to determine a man being considered great rather than prominent? Although this concept is nowhere definitely stated, it is implied in all of the articles which praise a man.

Of the eleven articles of praise there were two in which men were praised for reasons of personal goodness along with the rendering of public service. These are the articles concerned with Judge Scallon and Msgr. Hoff. Both of these men were praised by Bishop Gilmore as having been morally good men. Another question arises from the consideration of these articles. It is? Is there evidence that public service and personal goodness necessarily go together?
Although there are two articles which indicate that this was true, it cannot be said that the newspapers support it. From the articles studied this conclusion cannot be drawn.

The chief value of my findings turn on the eleven articles which praised a man. These represent 6.7 percent of the articles which note that a prominent man has died. Clearly this is not a great enough percentage to reach any definite conclusions. However there is a hint that if the field of investigation were broader some more definite conclusions may be reached. It is to be hoped that I myself or some future investigator could find the opportunity to make a more thorough investigation along this line.
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