

Museum of History and Industry
Historical Society of Seattle and King County

Transcript

Henry MacLeod - taped interview, March 26, 1985
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This is an interview with Henry MacLeod on March 26, 1985.
The interviewer is Lorraine McConaghy for the Museum of
History and Industry.

Q. Would you please describe the state of journalism in
Seattle and King County at the beginning of the war?

Mr. MacLeod Let me go back just a little bit. I
first went to work at the Times as a part-time reporter,
during my last year at the University of Washington, and went
to work full-time in 1932.

At that time, there were two
afternoon papers, the Star and the Times, and the morning P-I
(Post-Intelligencer), and the three papers then had virtually
the same circulation - all in the 90,000 daily circulation.

The P-I had a big advantage over the
Times on Sunday, and the Star did not have a Sunday paper.

I can't remember what change there
may have been by the time the war started, but I'm pretty
sure that by then the Star had slipped back. It was the
working man's newspaper, but it was poorly managed and the
Times and the P-I had gone ahead of the Star. I think the
P-I and the Times daily were pretty even, and they had both
gained at the expense of the Star.

The Times, as you know, was a
locally-owned paper, and the P-I was a Hearst paper. There
had been a big strike by the newspaper guild at the P-I in
about 1936, and when that finally ended - and it was a
violent strike! There was a lot of blood-letting out in the
street. The P-I then was at Sixth and Pine, across the
street from Frederick's, right where Klopfenstein's is now,
and it was upstairs in that building. There were beatings,
and then the Teamsters and the Longshoremen got involved in
it, and there were big crowds outside the building. The
strike went on for two or three months.

Anyway, when it ended, John
Boettiger, who was married to Anna Roosevelt, the president's
daughter, became publisher of the P-I, and because of his
position politically, the P-I had a lot of power in the
community. The President's daughter and son-in-law lived out
near Fort Lawton, and they were wheelers and dealers in town,
and carried a lot of weight, which in a way, put the Times
and Star at a disadvantage in national political matters.

At that time, there were the three
Seattle papers, and Bellevue hadn't really begun yet. There
just wasn't anything over there, so you didn't have the
Bellevue American or the Everett Herald or the Tacoma paper
competing in the circulation area that the Star, and the
Times, and the P-I were.

The Star eventually folded, in 1947 -
its circulation had dropped down to 65,000 or so, and the

Times and the P-I were up around 200,000. (The Times was at 178,000; the P-I was at 166,000.)

Q. The out-lying areas of King County did have weekly newspapers at that time although they didn't compete with you in circulation. They didn't really compete with you in any way, did they?

Mr. MacLeod I suppose an advertising manager would say they competed, but minimally, because they were strictly in advertising limited to their own immediate neighborhoods. No, they weren't competitive.

Q. How would you characterize in just a few words the editorial policies of the Star, the P-I, and the Times on the eve of Pearl Harbor?

Mr. MacLeod That's hard for me to answer. I always worked in the news department, and had nothing to do with the editorial stand of the three papers. I frankly don't remember.

Are you referring to preparation for war, the war going on in Europe, and so on?

Q. No, I wasn't even thinking that specifically. The Hearst papers usually have had a tradition of sensationalism; the Seattle Times has had a long-standing reputation as the more conservative of those two papers.

Mr. MacLeod Both those situations pertained at that time. And the Star, as I say, had been the working man's paper, but it was poorly managed. It was as sensational as the P-I but in a little different way. Rather than emphasizing important news, they would put headlines on a burglary in Laurelhurst or some sort of trivial thing that they could put big headlines on.

But, sure, as you say, the Times was a conservative newspaper, and the P-I was more sensational. However, the P-I was not as sensational as other Hearst papers, and it carried the burden of being described as "a sensational Hearst paper," when it really wasn't as much in that mold as the Hearst papers in San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, and other cities.

I don't know why that was. They had to run W.R. Hearst's editorials, but in their news coverage and their news treatment, they were more sensational than the Times but not as sensational as the typical Hearst paper.

Q. How did you yourself hear about the attack on Pearl Harbor?

Mr. MacLeod That was a Sunday. Early that morning I got a call from my grandmother in Tacoma that my mother, who was a widow and lived with my grandmother, had been taken to the hospital for emergency surgery.

So my wife and I jumped in the car, and drove to Tacoma. We were in the waiting room to see my mother as she came out of surgery, when on the radio we heard

about Pearl Harbor.

We stayed there long enough to see her and reassure her that we were there, and then we came back to Seattle. And I went to the Times, and most of the staff showed up, and we put out an extra late that afternoon, on a Sunday afternoon.

I would guess that was the last extra of that kind that the Times ever put out. During the war, there was a newsprint shortage and with the advent of TV, extras of that kind were not feasible.

We had extras in the sense of putting out extra papers in the late afternoon, like when FDR died in '45 or on D-Day and that sort of thing, but not an off-schedule extra in the sense of putting one out on a Sunday evening when, normally, we didn't print until Monday afternoon.

Q. What was your job at the times at Pearl Harbor?

Mr. MacLeod At the time of Pearl Harbor, I was city editor. I was city editor from, I think, March, 1941 until 1960. That was nineteen years, and a long time to be city editor. Then from 1960 until I retired in 1975, I was managing editor.

I was a reporter when the war began in Europe, but in March of '41, I became city editor, so I was city editor all during the time the U.S. was in war.

Q. One of the questions I'm most curious about, I'm not sure I can ask very well... It seems to me in reading the Times and the P-I in the months just after Pearl Harbor, the city of Seattle was very volatile, and people were close to panic at times. There were crimes and things occurred in the city that seem hysterical to me, now. Did your paper recognize the potential for panic and was there any particular way that the news was managed to prevent it? Or whether the newspaper tried to calm and instruct the community?

Mr. MacLeod I can't answer answer that specifically except to say that the Times general policy, through the years and not just during the war, had been to treat news as objectively as we could and to stay away from sensationalism.

However, there were things like the evacuation of the Japanese, and there were a great many rumors of Japanese submarines off the coast, and that sort of thing, which the Times and none of the newspapers published.

We weren't under a censorship in the sense of having anyone in the office from the military or the government who looked at our things, but there was an Office of War Information in Washington, DC, and we always could check with them if we had a touchy subject that we were unsure of, whether it would violate any national regulations. And we dealt with them much of the time.

But I can't recall a specific instance where the Times tried to calm people. Maybe there were editorials, and I just don't remember.

In regard to the evacuation of the

Japanese, it's embarrassing to look back at it and to realize that neither the newspaper, nor the churches, nor anybody, really raised a commotion or an objection about it. There was so much "We've got to win the war!" attitude, and an awful lot of flag-waving, and my recollection is that the public generally felt that this was a necessary step that the government was taking in the effort to win the war.

The newsmen personally knew Japanese-Americans who were being sent to Idaho, and Wyoming. One in particular, a guy named Jimmy Sakamoto, was editor of the Japanese-language newspaper in Seattle, and he was a close friend of lots of the newsmen in Seattle. He was a guy who was around the press club a lot, and he was a "blind editor," and a real great guy. We all hated to see Sakamoto go, but, again, I think everybody including some of the Japanese felt that it was just one of those things that had to happen.

It's hard to realize that now. You would know the era of dissension in the sixties and the seventies, and racial strife and civil rights and all those battles that went on. There just wasn't any of that at the time, it simply wasn't evident, I suppose there were people who raised their voices in protest to the evacuation, and maybe the years have just clouded it over for me, but I don't remember any outcry of protest, except for Walt and Millie Woodward, whose Bainbridge weekly newspaper decried the evacuation. There were many Japanese-American farmers on the island.

Q. What other issues do you remember preoccupying Seattle in the years of the war?

Mr. MacLeod The whole issue was "Win the war." There were matters of rationing, shortages, housing shortages, complaints that some people were cheating on rationing.

Q. You had told me a story off the tape about rationing, and your wife's automobile, that I wish you would tell again.

Mr. MacLeod Oh, yes.
Just a small "for instance..." When we were married, my wife's father, who was an automobile dealer in Eastern Washington, had given her a used Ford convertible. And finally, after Pearl Harbor and after the war started, she could not, because she was a housewife, get gasoline and she couldn't get tires, so she eventually sold it for \$75.00 to a shipyard worker who could get both gasoline and tires.

At the time, it didn't seem like any great tragedy to us. Later, we wished that we had been able to keep it.

I can recall, in regard to rationing, that early on there was an order that anyone who had an extra tire had to turn it in because they had to have the rubber. And then if you had to have a replacement tire, you had to go to the Ration Board, and get a coupon. And you couldn't do it unless you had an "A" card, which is what most people had

who were not involved directly in the war effort, you could get three gallons of gasoline a week, and that later was cut to two.

Most people couldn't get tires but you'd run across some fat cat who was going around town either boasting that he hadn't turned in his tires, or he'd been able to get tires through some under-the-table operation. So there were complaints.

But by and large, I think people agreed that rationing was necessary and were annoyed only by the occasional violation of it by people who weren't sincere in the war effort.

Q. I think government intervention in the lives of civilians during the war was never more conspicuous than in rationing; food rationing, gasoline rationing, tire rationing, stamps for shoes and all the regulations on clothing, and also the shortages of newsprint. You've mentioned it once, did it ever become an issue of whether cartoons could be printed? There must have been people who said, "This is a flagrant waste, to be printing cartoons when there is a newspaper shortage."

Mr. MacLeod No, I don't think they ever cut back on cartoons, or, rather, on comics. Though, at that time, they didn't run nearly as many comics as the papers do now. Newspapers were smaller and the space allotted to comics was proportionately less than it is nowadays.

Newspapers run a tremendous amount of comics now. Pages and pages.

There was one order from the War Production Board which cut the Times allotment of newsprint in June of 1944 - there were other cuts, but I happened to make a note of that one. We were limited to eight pages on Saturday, twelve pages on Monday, and a maximum of twenty-two pages daily the rest of the week. And that's pretty small.

The advertising department was in the awkward position of telling advertisers that they couldn't buy space in the paper because there just wasn't that much.

On some days, D-Day for instance, although I don't have a copy of the paper, I would guess there was almost nothing in the paper except war news, and that was true a lot of the time. When there was big war news, everything else got thrown on the floor. We just didn't have enough newsprint to do it.

Also, in regard to extras, even at a time like D-Day, we would print some extra papers, but we didn't have enough newsprint to print too many. My recollection is that on D-Day, we were able to add 6000 papers to our circulation for street sale, but if you had no paper, you couldn't put out 100,000 extra papers like you would in a non-wartime situation.

Q. It's really interesting to know that it's because of the newsprint shortage that newspapers of that time are so heavy on international news, and so light on local news. Certainly, everyone was interested in the war news, but it's very hard to find out what it was like in Seattle at the

time, by reading the papers, because there's not very much in them about Seattle.

I was going to ask you about the balance among international, national, and local news...

Mr. MacLeod Well, it was hardly divided that way - it was war news, which obviously was international and national.

In everybody's attention, no matter what your occupation was or what you did in life, the war was the overwhelming thing from Pearl Harbor until the end of the war.

There was a great deal of - well, I don't know how to describe it, but I can illustrate it. Anytime anybody complained about anything - having to line up for something, or complained about a price or complained about a shortage of toilet paper, there was always a growling response from somebody, "Hey, Mac, don't you know there's a war on?"

It got a little tiresome at times, because people used it in the wrong way, as a put-down, at times. But it was true - everything was affected by the war.

My wife and I at Pearl Harbor lived near Juanita and my job did not entitle me to an extra ration of gasoline like a shipyard worker would have. Luckily, a fellow who was a friend of mine and who lived across the road from me out in the country worked in the shipyard at Todd's, and he had lots of gasoline and tires. His hours were such that several days a week, I would go to work with him. Then I would have enough gasoline left so that on a Saturday, or when I had to do something special, I would be able to drive to town.

Q. It sounds like the newspapers were extremely important to people during the war because not only did they contain the war news that was everybody's great consuming interest, they also had public service messages in them. You mentioned the Office of War Information, and I imagine a lot of that stuff came from them - what to do if there was an air raid attack, first aid, and so on. Do you remember all that?

Mr. MacLeod Oh, yes. There was just a stream of directives from the Office of Price Administration, the War Production Board, and all kinds of those alphabetical agencies. And they were always issuing directives and statements that affected the public so we published them as a public service.

We were never under any orders to publish them from the government, but it was just common sense to publish them because they were of great interest to everybody.

And the newspaper was the primary way to get that sort of information to people because it was the kind of thing that you would clip out and save, and need to know about.

Q. Now that might well have been taking advertising space that you guys could have been paid for. Did you receive any

compensation for these public service announcements?

Mr. MacLeod Oh, no. None whatever.
If you wanted to look at it simply as a selection of news - how do you utilize the space in your paper? - you would have run those things anyway because they're of great interest to people, of primary interest to people, and of much more interest to the housewife than whether there had been a traffic fatality or a burglary somewhere.

People had to know what the government was doing.

Q. Did circulation rise during the war?

Mr. MacLeod Yes, circulation rose spectacularly during the war, but the newsprint shortage prevented any big increase in advertising volume. The Times circulation at the end of the war was about 175,000, an increase of 60,000 during four years. The P-I gained about 55,000, for a total of about 160,000. Also I think newspapers were read more intensively during those years. War news was a priority for everyone."

There was a moving population, a tremendous influx of people, and of military people coming and going, and a great influx of people from all over the country to work at Boeing and the shipyards. And a great many blacks went in, especially into the shipyards.

There was a housing shortage, and there were what people jokingly referred to as "hot pillow" rooming houses - literally! - where a day worker slept at night and a night worker slept in the daytime. It wasn't gracious living!

Q. You're talking a little bit about your general impressions of Seattle during the war. As city editor, you probably had the opportunity to gauge the changing mood of the town. It doesn't read as though it was much of a cosmopolitan city in 1942, as I would say it is now.

Mr. MacLeod Oh, definitely not!

Q. What kind of city was Seattle?

Mr. MacLeod Now Seattle has become a city of banking, insurance, headquarters of various companies, but, at that time, when the war started, it was more of a manufacturing-type city, and agricultural. The Green River valley was a big agricultural area. We were surrounded by rural areas.

There were sawmills, fishing, lots of manufacturing, and not near the white-collar kind of population that you have now.

Q. A very white city, in terms of racial makeup?

Mr. MacLeod Oh, yes. There was a small black community in what then was unfortunately called "Coon

Hollow," out Twenty-third and Madison, and in that area.

There was a small oriental community, centered in Chinatown, pretty much.

There was a Filipino community of cannery workers, people who went to Alaska and worked in the canneries in the summer and lived down here in the winter.

Side B

Mr. MacLeod There was a small Filipino, a bigger Japanese, and a substantial Chinese community, but they were pretty much centralized in their own little communities - they didn't call them ghettos and we didn't think of them as ghettos - the Chinese in Chinatown, the Filipinos down in the Skid Road area, in those cheap hotels down there.

The Japanese were more likely to be scattered a little bit, but not widely scattered. Most of them - I shouldn't say "most" - many of them were truck gardeners out in the valley, and very successful ones.

There was a big enough community so that they had a Japanese-language newspaper.

The biggest change that came with the war was the infusion of blacks, particularly, into the workforce, and also people from all over the country - whites from the South and the Midwest, people who were foreign to this kind of community, and this kind of climate and environment.

But perhaps an even bigger change was the infusion of women into the workforce. A great many women who had never worked pretty soon were down at Boeing, symbolized by Rosie the Riveter, though women did all kinds of jobs. Some worked in the shipyards; not as many as at Boeing because the shipyard was heavier work. But it was a basic change in the whole lifestyle of the community to have women working in jobs that weren't typically women's jobs, and the explosive growth of the black community.

Q. Did you see any change at the Times itself in manpower shortage, and their jobs either being taken by women or by inexperienced men, white or black?

Mr. MacLeod Sure, all the young reporters and photographers were gone almost before you knew it, and the same was true in other departments. It seems to me that there were 250 men from the whole Times organization who were in the service.

Before the war, newspapers generally around the country - that is, major newspapers - would have one woman reporter who was known as the "sob sister." And she wrote the woman's angle, if there was a tragedy somewhere, she went out and interviewed the widow and wrote a two-handkerchief story about that.

Well, come the war, before I knew it, I had eight women reporters where we had one before. But she had left, and when I became city editor, I don't believe we had any women on the staff.

Pretty soon we had eight, some of whom had some experience, but most of whom had not worked on

newspapers. Two or three of them had just gotten out of journalism school.

Well, as things went on, it was lucky that my wife and I had a small child, because I was acquainted with morning sickness and girls eating crackers when they came into work and that sort of thing. Well, one of the girls turned up pregnant, and when she looked kind of pale at eight o'clock in the morning and started eating crackers, and would be gone to the restroom for a couple hours, I knew what the problem was. There were only two of them who had babies while they were on the staff.

And some of them were older women who had worked in public relations jobs, and who had some knowledge of newspapers.

And you mentioned inexperienced men. Yes, we hired several men. One fellow in particular, named Bob Mahaffay, a pulp story writer who had never worked on a newspaper, turned out to be an excellent reporter. He was probably the prime example of one who showed real skill and developed rapidly. And there were others who were so-so, but it was quite a change.

Now, I don't know the statistics, but I would guess the Times news staff is 30 to 40 per cent women. It was a change that stuck.

Q. What is one of the biggest stories that you remember breaking during the war?

Mr. MacLeod One story vivid in my memory - well, obviously Pearl Harbor on Sunday - but that Monday night, the commanding general ordered a complete blackout. There weren't to be lights anywhere, but there were some stores down in the main shopping area that didn't get the word or through inadvertence one way or another, the lights were on in their display windows and there were some big outside signs that were still on.

A big crowd gathered, around Fourth and Pike - I think a couple of thousand people - and they were led by a nineteen year old girl whose husband was a Navy seaman. I don't know where he was, whether he was off at sea or where.

Anyway, she led this mob - maybe I shouldn't call it a mob, but I guess it was - anyway, she led this crowd in breaking windows and putting out these lights. They broke, I think, twenty-six plate glass windows and doused all the lights in the signs. It went on for a couple of hours.

She was arrested, and I doubt any prosecution ever was made. She said, simply, "Goddammit! We gotta win the war, and it's wrong that these people have their lights on!"

And at the time, there were rumors of Japanese submarines off the coast, and the Japanese did hit Dutch Harbor, up in the Aleutians, just a few days after Pearl Harbor. So it was a time of great anxiety.

You look back on it now, and say, "What was all the worry about?", because the Japanese weren't really in a position to do anything, but you didn't know it

then. There was a great deal of concern and worry, and neighbor convinced neighbor to douse the lights.

Later into '42, there were dim-outs for a long time, and I remember my wife made dim-out curtains out of black sateen and put them on the rods so at nights, we pulled all those. We kept lights on in the house, but we had draperies on some windows and black-out curtains on others so you didn't have a lot of light shining.

Q. It must have been a very exciting time to be a newsman.

Mr. MacLeod There were other obvious stories, such as the Normandy invasion. There were huge crowds downtown, more on the day the Germans surrendered, and on the day the Japanese surrendered - just great crowds downtown. Down in Chinatown, they got out the dragon and shot off firecrackers. There was just a general great celebration.

Q. With all the "strangers" streaming into town, I still get a sense of community in Seattle from what you're saying, that perhaps doesn't exist now when there is no influx of strangers. Is that the right impression to get?

Mr. MacLeod I think the war effort was a very cohesive thing, and yes, it brought people together. Nowadays, there's more of a sense of everybody for himself. But in those days, there wasn't a day go by that you weren't impressed by the need for rationing, the need for working together, the need for production at Boeing and the shipyards and other war industries.

When there were charges of wasting manpower in the shipyards or at Boeing - and there were such charges - there was a sense of annoyance on the part of the public that money and manpower were not being properly utilized.

I think there was more of a sense of community, even though there were so many people in the city who didn't have roots in the city. The war effort pulled everybody together.

Q. About the shipyards and Boeing, it almost seems like an annual drive during the war years to root out the offending shipyard owners who were hoarding labor, to get productivity up and waste down... Those government contracts that came into the shipyards and into Boeing not only were a tremendous boom for Seattle right then, but held the possibility of Seattle's future after the war. Well, that's a question - did you expect the shipyards to continue after the war? Did you see the Boeing boom continuing after the war?

Mr. MacLeod No, and it didn't happen. There was a tremendous letdown after the war. Boeing went from full production to almost no production, and there were tremendous lay-offs and a great exodus of people.

But, no, to answer your question, I can't remember a feeling that this would be a permanent boom in Seattle. People pretty much recognized that once the war effort ended, all the war production was going to stop.

Boeing was saved by Bill Allen's decision to go ahead and start the jet age for commercial aircraft. But it was a trying time economically after the war.

Q. So with that expectation, that the shipyards would not survive the war, the investigative journalism that did go on, and there was some, into the shipyard abuses at the time, that was not a ticklish situation because there was really no expectation of the yards providing a continuing payroll after the war.

Mr. MacLeod No, it wasn't a ticklish situation at all. The investigative work was done to try to get the shipyard operations to shape up as simply part of the general effort - though this over-simplifies it - to win the war. You can fight a war better if you run things efficiently than if you don't.

But the criticism of the shipyards resulted in many complaints to the newspapers from shipyard workers who said, "It ain't so, and if you're so smart, why don't you come down here and work in the cold wind?" and so forth.

I remember one time, in January or February, we had a terrible snowstorm. For three days, we had cold and snow, and the stores closed and the schools closed and the shipyards closed, and everything just about stopped. It was very unusual to happen in Seattle.

About the third day, the Times ran a page one editorial, saying in effect, "What are we, a bunch of sissies? Why don't we get back to work!"

And we sure heard about that from these guys who said, "You guys up in your steam-heated office, you can write those things, but why don't you come down here and freeze your fingers off where we're trying to work!"

One of the ironies of that was that the publisher of the paper wanted to be sure he had a newstaff available, so he put the newstaff up, and got us rooms in, I think, the Olympic Hotel, so we'd be sure to get to work.

Well, as young guys will do, we played poker until one o'clock in the morning, and got a few hours sleep and trudged back to the office. We did that for three nights in a row, and our wives were home trying to make do. I remember by the time I got home, I was so tired that I just went to bed. It was a Saturday. It's a wonder my wife didn't kill me.(laughing)

Anyway, there was some investigative reporting along that line, and from my standpoint, the intent of it was constructive, to try to get things straightened out and to overcome these deficiencies.

Q. Did state and local and national politics go on holiday during the war, or was it business as usual?

Mr. MacLeod I hadn't thought of that specifically, but politics went on. We had changes of

mayors, and governors. I think politics went on as usual. Of course, nationally, Roosevelt was president for so darn long, there wasn't much change. The Republicans would run somebody against him every four years, but they were just marking time - they couldn't beat Roosevelt.

Q. Weren't there three mayors of Seattle during the war, Devin being the last one?

Mr. MacLeod I remember Bill (Devin) was mayor at some time during the war because he clamped down on prostitution along First Avenue and along what was known then as the Skid Road. With the cooperation of the military, with the military and the police working together at Devin's behest, they really clamped down on prostitution which was clear out of hand.

Of course, the military was concerned simply because of the disease and the drunk-rolling of soldiers and sailors in these joints.

But Mayor Devin was a straight-arrow and a strong mayor, and he really got that under control.

Earl Millikin, I think, preceded Devin earlier in the war. His daughter, by the way, Hazel Millikin, was one of my eight reporters, and then she married a guy who had been captain of the football team at the UW, and he went in the Marines. She was one of the two who had a baby.

Q. It sounds like prior to Devin's crackdown, Seattle had become a pretty wide open town, at least in parts of it. Is that correct?

Mr. MacLeod Yes, and it had gone on historically, I think, since the gold rush days.

Yes, I first came to Seattle in 1930 to go to the University, and in the thirties, all along First Avenue, clear out to Denny Way, all those little old hotels - most of them were cat houses. They would literally have a red light in the window or over the door, and it was open prostitution. And the same was true down on Weller Street and Main Street, down in what is now the International District - that was all prostitution.

During Prohibition, there were speakeasies all over that area and also out on Twenty-Third, there were a lot of speakeasies.

Q. And gambling? Weren't gambling and cardrooms quite a big deal?

Mr. MacLeod The Chinese, traditionally, have been gamblers and run lotteries. But they do it more or less among themselves, rather than attracting outsiders.

But there was a lot of big gambling. There was a lot of money - Boeing and shipyard workers were making a lot of money, not in today's terms, but relatively. And there were a lot of single men who had come out here to work, and they just gravitated to the gambling joints.

Way back in the twenties, there was a

minister here named Mark Matthews, "Doc" Matthews, with long hair - an aggressive, flamboyant minister. He would lead raids on these gambling dens and cat houses.

From a newspaper man's standpoint, he was wonderful, because he was great copy. That was before I was here, but I heard about "Doc" Matthews.

It was an open town until Bill Devin, and Art Langlie. Bill Devin and Art Langlie were a couple of straight arrows, and very good public officials, and very good for the communities.

They tried to clean out the police department, and the police department, until then, had been full of a lot of graft. Any place where you have vice, you have graft and the beat patrolman would collect, let's say, \$200.00 from the gambling joint, and he could keep \$10.00, and he passed \$190.00 to the sergeant and he kept some, and it went on up the line, and eventually got to the top brass. But Devin and Langlie pretty much rooted that out.

I think the police department is pretty darn clean - at least when I was working, because I'm not close to it now. There might be an occasional slip-up, but not very much. I think it's still true that they're clean.

Q. The forties were a time when the race of an individual arrested for a crime was almost as important as the crime he was accused of committing, and often in headlines it will say, "Negro Arrested For Snatching Purse."

This is also a time when the black community in Seattle was being swollen just hugely by incoming Negroes with a different background than "our own," who had been here a long time, had acclimated, and perhaps Uncle-Tomized, to some extent.

Do you have any recollection of all this in the public consciousness? Were people concerned about racial matters? Were racial issues good copy, or were they a matter for alarm and anger?

Mr. MacLeod Difficult questions. Racial matters weren't an issue in the sense that they became in the sixties. I think they may have been matters of concern in the white community, which wasn't accustomed to having this proliferation of blacks. They didn't understand blacks, they hadn't known blacks, and they were nervous about them. And there was some crime - I don't think a disproportionate amount of crime at that time by blacks, though I'm not sure of that. I think crime by blacks did get more attention than crimes committed by whites. I don't know whether that's true or not - I think it may have been.

But that's before the days of consciousness on the part of people like me, for instance. In those days, slurring names for blacks were commonly used, and, sure, you're ashamed to say it now, but you used them. You might refer to a black as a "jigaboo" or a "stovelid" or some derogatory term. Japanese, you called "Japs," though that wasn't a derogatory term - everybody called them that.

Q. Shorthand.

Mr. MacLeod There was a tremendous education of news people and of the public in general during the sixties. There was a great deal achieved. Well-meaning people - I'm starting to philosophize! - suddenly realized, "Gee whiz! What have I been doing?" It was true of newspapers, as you say. Though I don't remember them, I'm sure there would have been headlines and certainly news stories where the race of a guy committing a crime or being arrested would be mentioned - he was black or Filipino, and with Chinese and Japanese, their names indicated who they were.

 It was a different era, and a great deal was accomplished by the people who raised those issues in the sixties.

Q. While you're in this philosophical mood, what do you think, looking back on it all with the benefit of hindsight, and your years of experience before and since then, is the proper role of a newspaper and a newspaperman on the homefront during wartime?

Mr. MacLeod I guess his first obligation is to inform the public of what's happening, within the limits of national security, and they've got to be very damn specific before information should not be published. I've always been wary of blanket edicts by government that you can't do this and you can't do that because of national security and they hide a lot of inefficiency and all kinds of things under that.

 But in wartime, and this is something I hadn't really thought about, but I'll think about it as I talk, your primary obligation is to keep the public informed as to what's happening.