

## MEET MINNESOTA'S EDITORS

# Henry McCollough, Brainerd Publisher, an Ardent Northern Minnesota Booster

*Editor's Note: This is another in the series of articles on the editors and publishers of Minnesota's 28 daily newspapers outside Minneapolis. The articles are appearing regularly on the Morning Tribune editorial page.*

By **GEORGE L. PETERSON**

BRAINERD, MINN.

**H**ENRY F. MCCOLLOUGH, publisher of the Brainerd Daily Dispatch, has become a typical northern Minnesota booster in the 12 years since his arrival here from Iowa, Louisiana and other points south. As we sat in his warm office while below zero weather roamed the streets of the tidy city I'd have bet a six-pound Crow Wing county pike against a sunfish that sooner or later Henry would say, "Well, it does get cold here but you don't notice it so much—the air is drier."



He didn't though. Just took the weather as it came and let it go at that. Publisher McCollough ought to get a medal for restraint.

McCollough joined the Dispatch as business manager at the same time his father-in-law, W. D. Junkin, took over as publisher. Mr. Junkin died in 1941 and McCollough became publish-

er. He is associated in ownership of the newspaper with W. J. McGiffin, who also has daily publications at Spencer and Fort Madison, Iowa, Excelsior Springs, Mo., and Pawhuska, Okla.

The Dispatch was founded as a weekly in 1881 when Brainerd was enjoying its big lumbering boom. The late F. W. Wieland became owner soon after the paper's birth and stayed with it for half a century, changing it to a daily years ago.

Editor is George D. Wing, who has an impressive news record with the Duluth Herald, International News Service, and half a dozen prominent southern papers. When a blizzard blows out of the north he consoles himself with thoughts of the fine fishing in summer months. Advertising manager is Eugene Callahan, youngest brother of J. A. Callahan, late publisher of the Mankato Free Press.

War made the usual inroads on the staff. Two years ago the publisher's son, William J. McCollough, who had been staff photographer a short time after his graduation from Stanford university school of journalism, joined the army air force. Now a captain of aerial photography, he recently married a British WAAF officer in London. They met while attending an RAF school for photographers.

"I hope that settles our post-war picture problem," Publisher McCollough said. "We have our own engraving plant and local

pictures are the best read material we publish. We put out a Victory Album as supplement to the Dispatch now and then, cram it full of service men's pictures, and then try to print enough copies to satisfy the demand."

After the war, McCollough hopes to have more time to indulge his hobbies of golfing and fishing. Both are at their best around Brainerd, he insists. Unless you are on guard, he'll slip into a tourist spiel at the slightest provocation—"gateway to the world's greatest vacation land... a hundred lakes in a ten-mile radius... most beautiful pine forests... fish that steal your boat if you aren't careful..."

Tourist business last summer was better than anyone dared hope and Brainerd itself is busy all through the winter. The railroad shops keep train equipment in shape to rush war supplies across the country. The paper mill calls for more and more pulpwood. Half a dozen small industries are on the jump. Winter citizens number 12,000. Summer population?

"Make your guess," mild-mannered Henry McCollough said. "My most conservative estimate would sound fantastic. It isn't that this Paul Bunyan country causes us all to indulge in exaggeration, the outdoors is just so magnificent that the plain facts sound like hyperbole."

Wednesday: B. H. Ridder and the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch.