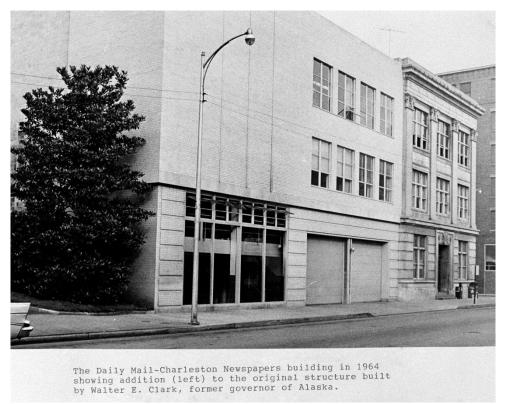


### West Virginia Archives and History

#### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY February 4



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?



#### West Virginia Archives and History

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 twons 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 twon east of Charleston only four or five miles away must wait until the next morning to receive an evening paper published in this eity.

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

# WV A&H

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THE CHARLESTON MAIL ASSOCIATION PUBLISHERS OF

## The Charleston Mail

WEST VIRGINIA

WALTER E. CLARK PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER

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

With respect, we are

Very truly yours,

THE CHARLESTON MAIL ASSOCIATION

Malle, E. Clurk President.

Honorable Howard Sutherland,

United States Senate,

Washington, D. C.

West Virginia Archives and History

the Charleston Daily Mail

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

TED PRESS

## 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 Rev. Bernard E. Vanderbeek ofmake Charleston known as the ficiating. Burial will be in Mounthe last story he wrote for the the Simpson Funeral home. news columns concerned plans of the society for the annual Charles-Maurice, Vint Jennings, Dick Hudton rose show staged here each son, J. B. Martin, Howard Wolfe,

at 4 p. m. at the Kanawha Pres- and Frank Polk, all Daily Mail embyterian church with the pastor, ployees.



WALTER ELI CLARK

Rose City of the East. Ironically, tain View cemetery. The body is at

Robert Thompson, Clyde Jenkins, Funeral services will be Monday Southall Burke, Arthur McQueen