

Charles P. Hunt

(1864 – 17 Oct 1934)

Hunt, Charles P. Suddenly, on Wednesday, October 17, 1934, at his residence, 660 Columbia rd. n.w., Charles P., husband of the late Helen L. Hunt. Remains resting at the S.H. Hines Co. funeral home, 2901 14th st. n.w. Services at the above funeral home on Friday, October 19, at 1 p.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.



C. P. Hunt.

Hunt, Charles P. Members of the Oldest Inhabitants are requested to attend the funeral of our late associate, Charles P. Hunt, from the S.H. Hines Co. funeral home, 2901 14th st. n.w., Friday, October 19, at 1 p.m.
Theodore W. Noyes, President
J. Eliot Wright, Secy.

The Evening Star, October 18, 1934, p. A14

Correspondents Mourn Death of U.S. "Handout" Distributor

Washington newspaperdom today mourned the death of a little old white-haired pink-skinned man who used to habble around the city delivering Government press releases to the correspondents.

The familiar tap, tap, tap of Charles Popham Hunt's crutch has been stifled forever. His 50 years "behind the news" of the Nation's Capital came to a peaceful end yesterday in a rooming house at 660 Columbia road.

And today, wherever the newspapermen gather, tales were being told of "Crutch" Hunt's long and faithful service to the fourth estate. It began when President Garfield was shot in the old Baltimore & Potomac Railway Depot in 1881, and continued, unswerving, until he passed away.

Distributed Bulletins

Hunt wanted a job at the time Garfield was shot. Even then he had "leg trouble," but he happened to be at the White House when the first bulletin on the President's condition was run off on the old hectograph. The ancient machine, predecessor of the mimeograph, had a capacity of only 60 copies.

Franklin Howe Washington correspondent for a Philadelphia paper, suggested that Hunt relay the output of the hectograph to the correspondents in "Newspaper Row." The cripple grabbed 58 of the first 60 copies and hobbled off on his errand -- and thus began what ultimately grew into Hunt's News Service, with offices in the District National Bank Building.

For more than half a century, rain or shine, "Crutch" Hunt called daily at the offices of Washington correspondents throughout the city, delivering the "handouts" of the various government agencies. He knew and served such journalists as Boynton of the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune, Nordorff of the old New York Herald, White of the old Chicago InterOcean, Richardson of the Baltimore Sun and Baron Secondorf of the New York Tribune.

"Crutch" used to regale the younger generation of news men with stories of how in the old days Presidents would walk over to "Newspaper Row" to oblige correspondents with interviews -- a far cry from the Presidents of this era, who grant press conferences at stated hours twice a week.

During his newspaper career Hunt had been a correspondent of the National Tribune, Washington Post, Charleston World and Budget, Columbia State, Terre Haute Gazette, Baltimore Herald, Detroit News and El Paso Times. Lately he had served the Johnstown Tribune.

His first assignment was the Guiteau trial and he achieved fame in reporting the redwood timber fraud in the General Land Office under Cleveland.

Four years ago Hunt's bad leg became worse and an amputation was necessary. Although an Episcopalian, he went to Providence Hospital, a Catholic institution, for the operation. He was treated so kindly and efficiently there that he became a convert. The nurses gave him a party afterward at the National Press Club, of which he was a member.

Brother, Sister Survive

"Crutch" was born in Washington 72 years ago, or at least his brother, W.P. Hunt, who served for years in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, records his age at about 72 though "Crutch" had insisted for the past three or four years he was only 69. He was a widower, his wife having died years ago, and he is survived by a sister, Mrs. Rebecca Kennedy of Laurel, Md. As well as his brother.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at the S.H. Hines chapel, with burial expected to be in Congressional Cemetery. The following Press Club members will act as pallbearers:

Everett Watkins, Mark L. Goodwin, Mark Thistlethwaite, Theodore Tiller, Charles A. Hamilton, John Boyle, John Kennelly, Benjamin Meiman, Harry Stevens, John Williams, Carl D. Ruth, Daniel E. O'Connell, George L. Tarry, Ralph A. Collins, Lee Poe Hart, James Hay, jr.; Harry Ward, Harry P. Gause, Bascom Timmons, George W. Stimson, Edward T. Folliard, Gould Lincoln, Luther Steward, James William Bryan, George W. Coombs.