

...trying to figure out how to make a go of it against all the odds ~~if~~--never enough jobs, and wages always too low, and a climate that's normally too cold or too hot or too dry or too something else,...and one more bunch in the White House who don't care a rat's ass about the land.

ST 200 197 (89)

Reporter quits Missoulian job

By PETER JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Writer

Environmental reporter Dick Manning quit the Missoulian newspaper Thursday rather than accept transfer to a new assignment which he charges was a result of his editors "caving in to open demands of the timber industry."

Missoulian city editor Mary Frances Schjonberg said Friday that criticism from the timber industry "was not a direct factor" in the editors' decision to reassign Manning, but that they had been concerned for several months about "the balance of coverage on the natural-resources beat."

In a telephone interview Friday, Manning said Missoulian editor Brad Hurd and Schjonberg told him at a meeting the day before that he was being reassigned because his environmental coverage had sparked criticism from the timber industry. He said the editors did not cite any particular stories or errors, but his coverage in general.

Manning said he resigned on the spot rather than accept transfer under those conditions.

For one thing, he said he thinks natural-resource issues are vital, and he enjoys covering them. In fact, the purpose of the meeting had been to discuss Manning's plans to go from full time to part time with the Missoulian during the next six months while he takes wilderness-management classes through the University of Montana Wilderness Institute.

"More importantly, I think the editors were caving in to an open demand from the timber industry," Manning said, "and I didn't feel in good faith I could go on working there."

OVER

Schjonberg said she cannot discuss personnel matters in detail, but that timber industry criticism did not play "a direct factor" in Manning's being reassigned. In general, she added, responsible editors must check when they receive complaints about a reporter's performance.

"Our goal from here on out is to provide readers with a fair and balanced account of the importance that natural-resource issues have to people of western Montana," she said, adding the paper will select a new environmental reporter as soon as possible.

Schjonberg said the Missoulian has drawn its share of heated letters for various stories it has covered, "but no good newspaper draws back from covering a story because of criticism from one segment."

Manning, 38, has spent 14 years in journalism, including four with the Missoulian and earlier stints as city editor for two Idaho dailies. He won two Seattle Times-sponsored regional investigative reporting awards for his coverage of the late Montana Secretary of State Jim Waltermire's alleged use of his office to advance his political career. More recently, he won regional journalism society awards on non-timber industry environmental stories.

Manning said he is disenchanted with trends in newspaper journalism and is not sure he will return to it after he completes his school program.

Any way you look at it,

Riley: There's a lot more of California than there is of Montana.

(Jick: We'll count up after the earthquake and see then if that's still the case.)

(Jick has been thru a mild earthquake, "when I was in the service up in the Aleutians", found it frightening; the ground under you is on loan.)

add ch. 2,
jick & S' in bar

Yeah, I'll bet he shed tears big as horse turds.

jick to Riley

- have FS man say sarcastically?

16

--Jick is delighted Riley gets the Calif. offer (figuring it'll take Riley out of range of Mariah) until, in the Missoula Club over hamburgers, R asks her to come with him.

Manah

according to wall's entangled
photos of...

Miscellaneous II, lunch

Gyp's. Behind counter was a bald guy who, I discovered later,
wall pic of him posing c Mike Mansfield & Kim Umo, was Gyp
himself. Gyp said affably.

"Hi, Riley, haven't see you for a while", "It's been nice."

Pasta makes its appearance... (OVER)

Riley places his mock fancy order.

Gyp: ^{"f--- it"} "It's bad enough, ^{Riley} me, having to serve fancy macaroni, without having
to listen to you talk it (too)?". Now, ^{God-damn-it} what do you wanna eat?"

Riley ^{happily} slapped menu shut. "Swissburger, ^{meat} fries, ^{or} (White cheeseburger?)
"Same," said Manah. ^{as an Oly.}

"Same again," I said.

"Ah, R, you ar- gonna write a col a. yes-know, are you. pasta?"

Riley: "Hi, Gyp. · Bd of Health has· assassinated you yet, h m m?"

... A bk of honor broke over R. "What's this I see?" In excreciating letters, he spelled out (· news): "pee - ay - ers - tee - ay! Gyp, ~~I am~~ you ashamed of you. ~~Pardon~~ always sure porta and never be allowed on yr premises!"

All affability went out of Gyp. "Man has to make a living," he ~~muttered~~ ~~mumbled~~, "Times change."

(R makes mock order: "I'll have · alfredo de gorgonyola a la shikhebat con rips, please.")

Posta shows up on menu of eating place.

Riley: Getting pretty (for!) up/over here. I believe I'll have 'richy coise
de gorgonzola a la shik hebat con rigo. With a side order
of horseradish.

Waitress: LA, R, it's bad enough I have to serve /any macaroni, without
listening to it.

in accumulated mail, in Missoula III, Jick has birthday card from Althea and his 1st Social Security check.

--call SS Admin pr and ask what the arrangement is, in 1st SS check.

changed in summer '89 revise

took his time about eating
"Suit yourself." He ~~ate~~ a fry, then washed it down with a long
gulp from his beer. "I told the BB we had something to finish first,
naturally. The centennial series."

swiggle
before
we can
go

cut in summer '89 revise

task force as we entered the presence of the BB. I cast a look around the tower walls at the dead menagerie again, trying to think of any other animal to ante in with the mountain goat bribe, but no luck.

If Baxter Bolitho was determined to kibosh the centennial series, I
didn't see anything more I could do about it.

IR & M
wd (stay
together)

cut in Jan. '90 revise--find a place for it?

and the whole goddamn state can curl up and blow away for all that the dipshits who're running this country care--one more bunch in the White House who don't care a rat's ass about the land." Riley could get wound up when he half-tried. "Let me tell you, California is what's on the land. America as it goddamn is, like it or don't. Nutso one minute and not so the next."