

Edwin A. Bemis 7.27.1887-6.24.1978

Became an Apprentice Printer at the Littleton Independent Newspaper in 1898 at age 11.

After completing [Littleton High School](#) in its first graduating class, he quickly moved into community affairs. He became town treasurer, probably the youngest one in Colorado, organized the Arapahoe County Fair Association, was chief of the [fire department](#), and deputy sheriff. He and his sister opened the town's first camera and bookshop.

In January 1919 the owner of the *Independent* asked Ed to run the paper while he took a six-week trip. Ed took the job and bought major ownership when the publisher returned. He brought [Houstoun Waring](#) to the paper in 1926. Two years later, they became partners, and Ed began to educate Waring in Littleton history.

Ed Bemis became president and managing editor of the **Colorado Press Association** in 1922 and devoted much of his time to it for the next twenty-nine years until he retired in 1951. He transformed the community newspapers of the state "from organs dependent on a political party to independent journals supported by advertisers and subscribers." In the meantime, he founded the **National Association of State Press Field Managers**, **Colorado Society of Trade Association Directors**, and **Rocky Mountain Advertising Managers Association**. He headed the **Department of Research and Extension in Journalism at the University of Colorado** and was **co-founder and first sheriff (president) of the Denver Westerners, an organization devoted to writing historical articles and researching the American West**. He helped create the first **Littleton Planning Commission** and was its first chairman.

Ed was a founding member of the Littleton Rotary Club.

Club President in 1932 and District Governor 1943-44

In 1955 he developed a training Bulletin mailed each month to club newsletter editors called the Editarian.

In June of 1955 RI adopted "Editarian" as the official name of club bulletin editors.

As a result of the continued demand for his training bulletins, he developed the following Editarian's Code:

**WE BELIEVE** that our club bulletins are valuable and effective instruments in the development and maintenance of good Rotary clubs; **THEREFORE**, as bulletin editors, we shall gladly contribute our time and energy to the production of the best bulletins we can offer to our members.

**WE BELIEVE** that our club bulletins should be informative, interesting, dignified, constructive and entertaining; **THEREFORE**, we shall lend every effort toward making these attributes the controlling influence in gathering material for our bulletins.

**WE BELIEVE** that one of the purposes in having Rotary club bulletin editors is so that the week after week history of our clubs will be written; **THEREFORE**, we shall endeavor to give as complete coverage as is possible of the club and its officers, committees and members.

**WE BELIEVE** that directed and humiliating jests, derogatory statements, or any similar items which might make a member the object of ridicule, are not in good taste and do not belong in a club bulletin; **THEREFORE**, we shall be very alert to see that all material in our bulletins are acceptable to all members.

**WE BELIEVE** that questionable jokes are foreign to the ideals of, and thinking by, members of Rotary clubs; **THEREFORE**, we shall be circumspect in the choice of what is to be included in our bulletins.

**WE BELIEVE** that an interchange of information between clubs, within and outside of our respective districts, is most desirable and profitable; **THEREFORE**, we shall endeavor to exchange bulletins with as many clubs as our ability permits.

**WE BELIEVE** that there are unlimited opportunities for club bulletin editors to spread and to help perpetuate Rotary throughout the world; **THEREFORE**, we will dedicate ourselves, our abilities, and our energies to the furtherance of Rotary, and shall so discharge our responsibilities that our activities will be a stimulus to our fellow members and a credit to the communities in which we live.

**WE BELIEVE** that in being selected to edit our club bulletins we have been deeply honored, and inherent in this honor is recognition of leadership as well as a great challenge; **THEREFORE**, we will exercise that leadership as effectively, acceptably, and unassumingly as is compatible with our relationship to our club members. We will dedicate our utmost ability and loyalty to that challenge, knowing that in it lies the real meaning of the great pronouncement of Rotary:

**“He profits most who serves best.”**

Club communications have changed much in recent years. No longer are we dependent upon the printed, hard copy, snail-mailed bulletins of the past. Today, Editarians have almost unlimited communication means at their disposal. In the spirit of Ed Bemis’ vision of quality and effective dissemination of club news, this Edwin A. Bemis Award honors a long history of outstanding club communications to members throughout District 5450.