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Editorial

Dallas Papers And Truth

The greatest sin a newspaper can commit is to lie to its readers. Printing the truth is the way newspapers and newsmen pay for their right to freedom of the press granted in the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States. An untruth was deliberately printed in the Sheriff Bill Decker, Man of the Year, story of SUNDAY MAGAZINE by Bill Morgan in the Dallas Times Herald of January 7, 1968.

On page 10 of the magazine, Morgan wrote about Sheriff Bill Decker:

In late November, with a force of 300-plus under full strength, Decker turned down the application of a police officer who had 11½ years service.

"He had a good record," Decker said. "But he failed to carry out a rule of his department and he was dismissed. It had nothing to do with the performance of his job, but he made a mistake and I

couldn't use him."

We have no doubt the Decker quote is correct, but most newsmen in Dallas know this is not Decker's policy. A couple of years ago four City of Dallas Policemen were fired for "sleeping in a cemetery in Dallas." Three of these men are now working as deputies for Bill Decker. The officers were not in fact sleeping in the cemetery, but that was as close to the truth as the Dallas papers chose to reveal. The Officers were fired by the city, and they are now working for Decker which makes the above quote phony. Surely, if the Midlothian Mirror — a small weekly 25 miles from Dallas — knew the true story, so did both the Dallas newsman and the Dallas newspaper.

On Insults And Cookie Eating

Editorials from THE FARMER AND MINER of Frederick, Colorado, and THE MILFORD (New Hampshire) CABINET spur your editor into comment concerning the Eartha Kitt episode.

In this matter, I seem to be trapped by my own editorials of past events. I wrote bitterly of the conduct of Ted Dealey, owner of the Dallas Morning News when he insulted President Kennedy in the White House in 1963.

I praised the Virginia rector who changed his sermon in order to tell Johnson he felt the war in Vietnam was immoral.

In betwixt, I hope I have a logical position. My position is: "If you're going to eat their cookies, don't be uncivil. Stand on the street, Eartha, and shout as loudly as you can, but don't go in the house as a guest and insult. You knew they were not your friends when you accepted the invitation."

Johnson came to the rector; the rector did not go to the White House.



By PENN JONES JR.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Turner of Moriarity, New Mexico passed through Dallas on Tuesday night after a visit to New York City. The Turners were in a group of people from Moriarity who had won a free trip to New York.

Roger Craig of Dallas and your editor will be in California next week where we will participate in a number of TV and radio shows. Yours truly will lecture at San Diego State,,

UCLA, and in San Francisco.

We are scheduled to tape the Joe Pyne show on Monday, February 26. We will try to advise when the show can be seen in this area.