

Chapter One Summary

NEWSROOM HEROES, LEGENDS AND FOLKLORE

- 0. Highlights from the history of journalism, from Mark Twain and Lois Lane to *All the President's Men* and *Good Night, and Good Luck*
- 0. Five myths about reporters
- 0. 30 slang terms for "reporter"

THE BIRTH OF JOURNALISM

The Rise and Fall of America's First Newspaper

- 0. 1690: Benjamin Harris published the first and only issue of *Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick*.

The Zenger Trial & Freedom of the Press

- 0. 1735: Freedom of the press was strengthened in the colonies when John Peter Zenger, jailed for libel for after printing accusations of official corruption, was acquitted.

Patriotism, Propaganda & the Revolutionary War

- 0. 1729: Ben Franklin took over the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, making it the boldest and best paper in the colonies.
- 0. 1765: The Stamp Act imposed a heavy tax on printed matter. Editors protested and colonists united in forcing repeal.
- 0. Revolutionary debate heated up. Editors grew bolder, exerting political influence and exhorting military action.
- 0. By 1775 Isaiah Thomas, publisher of *The Massachusetts Spy*, was demanding independence from England.
- 0. 1776: The Declaration of Independence first appeared publicly in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* and was reprinted in 20 other colonial papers.
- 0. 1791: The Bill of Rights provided that "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech or of the press."

NEWS IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Emergence of the Penny Press

- 0. Innovations in printing: cheaper paper and faster presses made printing newspapers affordable and available like never before, especially in growing urban areas.
- 0. 1833 Benjamin Day began selling the *New York Sun* for a penny a copy, pioneering the idea of "mass media."
- 0. A new kind of newspapering aimed at the interests of the common citizen.

The Rise of the Modern Newsroom

- 0. The biggest and best newspapers began hiring and training reporters to cover news in a professional way.

The Golden Age of Yellow Journalism

- 0. Yellow journalism: sensational stories, lavish use of pictures, comics, features, crusades, publicity stunts and rumors.
- 0. Excesses reached a climax as editors William Randolph Hearst (*New York Journal*) and Joseph Pulitzer (*The World*) battled for supremacy in New York, by then the nation's media center.
- 0. Hearst, Pulitzer and the Spanish-American War: Sensational coverage of the Cuban rebels' fight for freedom from Spain inflamed readers and pressured politicians. War was declared; circulation skyrocketed.

NEWS IN THE MODERN AGE

- 0. Radio and TV brought an end to newspapers' media monopoly.
- 0. Radio: the first medium to provide a 24-hour stream of news coverage.
- 0. TV journalism came of age in the 1960s (1963 nonstop coverage of the Kennedy assassination).
- 0. Newspapers' response to competition: tighter writing, better formatting; improved design, corporate consolidation.