14 A New Stew of Issues, 1953–1969: Little Rock, the Suburbs, and Firsts for Women

Chapter 14 Discussion

1. Consider the pressures in the 1950s on editors in North Carolina who challenged residents of their town who were members of the Ku Klux Klan. Note that the Pulitzer Prize board called KKK activity "terrorism." Discuss how that is true in the case of racial attacks.

2. Research the ranks of other women publishers in the U.S. Do you think Alicia Patterson was the first major woman in such a role? How do her efforts compare with other early women publishers?

3. Why was the desegregation of Little Rock, Ark., schools such an important moment in U.S. history? What do you think of the position that the Arkansas Gazette took?

4. Birth control is still a sensitive topic in news coverage. Discuss what has changed between 1962 and now in terms of how family planning is discussed.

5. Note Los Angeles Times editor William Thomas's fears about how the newspaper's lawyer might shoot down a story idea. How would you deal with an attorney who thought the article you were writing might provoke a lawsuit against your news organization?

Chapter 14 Quiz

1. What newspaper was described as publisher Alicia Patterson's "toy"?
   A ☐ The New York Times B ☐ Newsday
   C ☐ USA Today D ☐ The Chicago Tribune

2. The Arkansas Gazette gained subscribers after its reporting on school desegregation:
   ☐ True ☐ False

3. When reporter Lois Wille heard about her newspaper's Pulitzer Prize she was
   A ☐ Surprised B ☐ Vacationing in Egypt
   C ☐ Told about it by her husband D ☐ All the above

4. In 1963 St. Petersburg Times reporters considered a $30 meal tab for two people to be outrageously high:
   ☐ True ☐ False

5. The Los Angeles Times once was rated by Time Magazine as one of the nation's 10 worst newspapers:
   ☐ True ☐ False