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This transcript represents the nearly verbatim record of an unrehearsed interview. Please bear in mind that you are reading the spoken word rather than the written word.

Oral History Number: 465-031
Interviewee: Harold "Hal" Seipp
Interviewer: John Newhouse
Date of Interview: 1975
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Harold Seipp: We were less intent with what we were doing. I don't know how much facts there are with it, but I think it kind of gives you the atmosphere of the operation— it was pretty remote, from Butte— and if you had a question, usually it was my judgment. Say, you use whatever you want, and usually, I think, particularly on local news, I think there was one instance where a fellow complained we didn't use a picture of his boy. We didn't have an engraving plant at the time, and he wanted a picture of his boy because he died and he had been a good Boy Scout or something like that.

Therefore, we wanted his picture. Well, I figured there were too many boy scouts at the time and I couldn't use it, so he appealed to them up in Butte, and we got word back, well, this fellow's planning a lawsuit. If you can use it, use it. If you don't think you should, well, don't. If you can stretch a point, ok, we'll leave it up to you. If you can do it, fine, but if you really don't want to, well, it's up to you.

John Newhouse: Well, you can't complain too much about that.

HS: No. I think that they—

[Break in audio]

—some of your lawyers with a big company, I think some of them worked in the mines.

JN: Golly, we're past—

[Break in audio]

HS: —not have another editorial writer.

JN: That was Don Anderson that wrote that.

HS: Don wrote that to me.

JN: That's when you were under the Lee group, though.

[Break in audio]

HS: —not vindictively, of course, but it, on the merits.

JN: Well, you could speak to an issue, because the Lee group would back you up. That'll be kind fun to be able to swing a little bit more after years of not being able to have quite that freedom.

HS: Yeah, it was. You knew, Don asked me to write a piece at the time about—

[Break in audio]

So I had a photostat—looked up the editorial—and had a photostat made and gave that to him. And that, I think, he still has it, or it's in that group. If you read that, why, I think it will kind of give you an idea of what I thought of the Lees then and now.

JN: And that generally was—

HS: Oh, generally it was a mission of a newspaper—sort of philosophical, but along that line—what newspaper should be doing, its responsibilities to the public, its owners and to the people that work for it.

[End of Interview]