

Oyez, Oyez! Read All About It!



From left: Robert McKee, Ed Kukst and Henry A. Vogt — Spokane's special delivery motorcycle riders in the late 1920s.

Many males who are my age or older will remember that our first taste of employment was had by delivering the local newspaper. Being a paperboy was almost like a rite of passage that is sadly disappearing from today's American culture. For young boys it could instill a sense of responsibility, pride of ownership (your route was YOUR route), and allowed us to develop many of the skillsets needed to be successful as we moved forward in life.

Whether delivering the daily paper or a weekly supplement, the process for the paperboy was pretty much the same. The papers were delivered to a common area where you would pick them up. You'd have to assemble the sections and fold them into a throwable form. You would then fill up your satchel or bag, sling it across your shoulder, hop on your bike and pedal through your route having memorized the houses that have subscribed to the paper.

But, as in any profession, there are always some who manage to take it up a notch. Ed Kukst, my son's grand-uncle, was one such "special delivery" carrier. He completed his route on a motorcycle. That's him, in the center of the picture, with two

other lads getting ready to deliver the Spokane Chronicle in the 1920s. Ed grew up to have a career in law enforcement. He retired from the Spokane Police Department as a lieutenant.

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