

July 14, 2006

**FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, JULY 14, AFTER 8:30 PM:** Contact: Julie Schmidt  
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## **ONPA presents Hall of Fame award, inducts new officers and director**

Welches, Oregon – The Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association (ONPA) awarded a special honor during the evening awards banquet at its annual Summer Publishers Convention, July 14 at the Resort at the Mountain in Welches, Oregon. Also during the banquet, the new slate of officers and a new member of the Board of Directors were inducted.

### **Hall of Fame Award**

The Oregon Newspapers Hall of Fame Award was presented posthumously to **Robert W. Chandler** during the awards banquet. This award, conceived in 1973 by the ONPA Board of Directors, recognizes Oregon newspaper people who have been involved in management or leadership in one or more disciplines of the newspaper industry in Oregon, and who have made an outstanding contribution to Oregon newspaper professionalism through community, regional, or state service.

Bob Moody, 2005 recipient of the Hall of Fame Award, who worked many years under Chandler and later in Western Communications, was the main presenter of the award.

Robert W. Chandler was born in Marysville, California in 1921 and earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Stanford University. He served in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps during World War II, following which he worked in advertising and promotions for the *Denver Post* and a Denver public relations firm.

Chandler purchased *The Bend Bulletin* from Robert Sawyer in 1953 (the paper's semi-centennial) and served as its editor for 43 years. During that time, Chandler acquired several Oregon newspapers and built Western Communications, Inc. (WesCom), which now owns eight Oregon newspapers in addition to *The Bulletin*, its flagship paper.

By the mid-1990s, Chandler had transferred ownership of WesCom to his children (five daughters and one son), who all now serve on its board; daughter Betsy McCool has been chairwoman since 1993. Chandler passed away in 1996, the same year the bendbulletin.com domain appeared on the internet. In 2000, *The Bulletin* moved into a newly constructed building on what is now known as Chandler Avenue.

ONPA, founded in 1887, is a professional association of the state's daily and nondaily paid-circulation newspapers.