

The electric news sign in Times Square will be twenty-five years old this week. Making its debut on Nov. 6, 1928, the night of the Hoover-Smith election, the sign has been a Broadway hit ever since as it rotates in five-foot golden letters around The Times Tower All the News That's Fit to Print. Designed by F. E. J. Wilde and containing 15,000 twenty-watt bulbs, the sign has carried the news in lights from twilight to midnight since the 1928 opening night with only three interruptions—all due to wartime "dim-out" regulations.

And as we mark this silver anniversary of the electric sign it is fitting to acknowledge the service performed by James J. Torpey, a genial gentleman who, as head electrician, has been putting the news in lights since the debut on Election Night twenty-five years ago. Often in the past twenty-five years his service in the Tower has been far beyond the call of duty. On V-J Day in 1945, for example, Mr. Torpey remained at his post for twenty-three and a half consecutive hours awaiting the green light from THE NEW YORK TIMES news department to give the tremendous crowd in the square what it had been waiting for: the official announcement of the end of the war.

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