

Howell died of a heart attack at home on Monday evening, June 24, 1991. Those who attended his funeral service at the First United Methodist Church of Germantown on Saturday, June 29, found a church filled with old and young people, all of whom had been touched in some way by this quiet man, and learned of the courage and compassion he showed in helping to mend the division within his community. The Litany of Commemoration that was recited that day says it best: 'For the inspiration of his compassion, the lift of his wit, the example of his honesty, for his gentle influence, his love of beauty, his weave of language, his integrity of being and steady faith, *we lift up our hearts in gratitude and praise.*'

Willman Spawn

#### LAWRENCE KELTON MILLER

The small-town editor who makes a difference is an American icon. William Allen White of Emporia was the classic instance, but there are others. Pete Miller stood high in their ranks—although he would not necessarily welcome being partnered with White, that stalwart Kansas Republican. Under Pete's leadership, *The Berkshire Eagle* won a reputation as one of the better daily newspapers. Its influence outran its circulation, which is in the range of 30,000 papers a day.

Pete—nobody called him Lawrence K.—was insatiably curious. I talked with him many times in many places. He never failed to poke around in the question of how much influence the majority owners of the Worcester *Telegram* and *Gazette*—the Stoddard family—exerted on day-to-day operations. When I told him they generally kept hands off the professional managers, of whom I was one at the time, he scrunched up his face in mild puzzlement. Perhaps that was because he was so involved in the *Eagle*. His father, a former mayor of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, left the *Eagle* in that small city to his sons, Pete and Donald, in 1941. Pete was

editor, Donald was publisher. When Donald died in 1972, Pete added the title of publisher, and stayed with the paper until he retired in 1985, at the age of seventy-seven.

His curiosity went far beyond who did what in Worcester. He was fascinated by the way many newspapers operated. Indeed, he was fascinated by the world, and the *Eagle* reflected that fascination. He loved the Berkshires and did all he could to preserve the beauty of that whole region. His political instincts were strongly liberal—not in any hackneyed, kneejerk sense but in an openness to new ideas, a deep concern for humanity, and a capacity to dream.

He was interested in better planning and served eleven years on the Pittsfield Planning Board. As an overseer of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and other institutions, he was concerned with the arts and made sure the *Eagle* reflected that concern.

His knowledge of the American Antiquarian Society began as early as 1950, in the era of Clarence Brigham. Pete became a member (with his wife, Amy Bess) in 1976, attended several meetings, and worked to increase support for the Society. His deep interest in western Massachusetts history strengthened his relationship with AAS, with its extensive resources.

Pete was a graduate of Williams. He and his family eventually became newspaper tycoons of a sort, buying the *Bennington Banner*, *Brattleboro Reformer*, *Torrington Register*, and *Winsted Citizen* during his tenure. But he had no ambition to gain the holdings of a Hearst, a Murdoch, or a Maxwell. I think he loved the newspaper business because it kept him in touch with people and the land. He was modest in manner and offbeat in personality, with a touch of whimsy. For example, the shirts he wore usually were out at the elbows and the pockets had come unraveled. His tolerance for phonies in any field was extremely low. He wanted to know how everything worked, and why, and how it could be made better. His voice was firm but low, and it was heard far beyond his beloved Berkshires. When he died on March 31, 1991, he left his wife, Amy Bess, a native of and a friend to many in Worcester, and four

children, Margo, Kelton, Michael, and Mark, and his sister, Evelyn Burbank.

Robert C. Achorn

### LEONARD BENJAMIN SCHLOSSER

Leonard Benjamin Schlosser, a prominent book collector and a leading member of the paper industry, died in New York on June 25, 1991, at the age of sixty-six. He is survived by his wife Mary, also a noted book collector, and by three children, Frederick, William, and Sarah.

Leonard attended Horace Mann School and Williams College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received a bachelor's degree in 1946. He served in the U.S. Army as a machine gunner in the Fourteenth Armored Division from 1943 until 1945, when he was wounded in action. After finishing his education at Williams, he joined the Schlosser Paper Corporation, becoming president in 1956. He was an active member of many business organizations, including the National Paper Trade Association, the Paper Merchants Association of New York, and the American Institute of Graphic Arts—just to name three he oversaw in an official capacity. He became president of the Lindenmeyr Paper Corporation in 1966, chief executive officer in 1970, and chairman in 1983. Under his astute management, this century-old firm grew to be a major wholesale distributor of paper for book printing and other purposes, with outlets in New York, Chicago, Boston, and elsewhere in the Northeast. Leonard decided to take early retirement a few years after Lindenmeyr merged with Central National-Gottesman Inc. He then became president of Selections Limited and director of its parent company, Mohawk Paper Mills, one of the last manufacturers of letterpress paper in the grand tradition.

His professional interests dovetailed neatly with a scholarly interest in papermaking history. He frequently lectured on historical topics and wrote several influential essays about the traditions of

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