

Whether it involved the Land Between the Lakes, the Tennessee Valley Authority, State government, or even national issues, Bill Williams stood up for his community and he wasn't afraid to take a controversial position when he believed it was the right thing to do. Indeed, in 12 of the past 21 years his editorials were recognized among the best in the state.

Bill's family has owned the Paris Post-Intelligencer since 1927, when his great grandfather, W. Percy Williams moved to Paris from Alabama and purchased the P-I.

Upon his retirement, Bill Williams said he "is very proud of the newspaper." It's safe to say that the citizens of Henry County and many beyond the county's borders are proud of Bill and his commitment to this community.

His son, Michael Williams, takes over as the fourth-generation publisher and will continue the tradition of community journalism that has made the P-I an award winning newspaper.

An article published in the Paris Post-Intelligencer in Paris under the headline, "Publisher Bill Williams steps down; Has been with P-I most of adult life" as well as his last column are printed below in honor of Bill's service and commitment to his community.

PUBLISHER BILL WILLIAMS STEPS DOWN; HAS BEEN WITH P-I MOST OF ADULT LIFE

With the retirement today of Bill Williams and the promotion of Michael Williams, The Post-Intelligencer will have a fourth-generation Williams as editor and publisher.

Bill Williams has been with the paper most of his adult life and has been publisher since 1978. His son, Michael, 40, who has served as editor since 1992, will add the duties and title of publisher.

Bill Williams, who turns 65 today, became editor and publisher at the retirement of his father, Bryant Williams in turn had taken over as publisher at the retirement in 1967 of his father, the late W. Percy Williams, who had come from Alabama to purchase The P-I in 1927.

Bill Williams said Thursday he "is very proud of the newspaper."

"I tired to see that it's been a good citizen of our community," he added.

He said that even though it's no fun dealing with an irate advertiser or a reader who thinks he's been wronged in the newspaper columns, he "never seriously considered doing anything else."

While attending Atkins-Porter and Grove High schools, Williams was a paper carrier. During his high school years, he also worked as a reporter after school, on Saturdays and during the summers.

After graduating third in his high school Class of 1952, Williams went on to graduate with honors as a journalism student at Murray State University. During his summers, Williams took a break from his college work to be a reporter for the P-I.

Throughout his college years, Williams was also a member of The College News staff. He was named the outstanding journalism student during his senior year.

After graduating from college, he was a reporter for the Memphis Press-Scimitar for a brief period, then for The Tullahoma News for three years before he returned to Paris in 1960 to become The P-I's news editor.

One of the things he said he enjoyed about his work was that at the end of each day, he was able to hold a paper in his hands and say, "Here's what we did today."

"It's also a joy to hear from people who used to work here and have gone on to do well in the newspaper business or elsewhere, and heard them speak fondly of their time at

The P-I," Williams said. "You feel like you had a small part to play in making someone's life a little more complete."

Williams also added he appreciated the contact he had with people both inside The P-I building and out, and that he enjoyed meeting people and being involved in various activities.

"Not every job offers that opportunity," Williams said.

The P-I has won awards and honors while under Williams' guidance. His editorials won state press awards in 12 of the past 21 years, including the best single editorial in 1998. That editorial lauded U.S. Rep. John Tanner, D-Tenn., for his controversial vote against a constitutional amendment to outlaw flag-burning.

A 125th anniversary edition of The P-I, published in 1991, won first prize in contests sponsored by the University of Tennessee and the TPA. Those judging the entrants declared it the best daily newspaper promotion in Tennessee during that year.

"This is an exceptional service not only for the reader but for the entire community, present and future," a contest judge from the Washington State Press Association commented about the anniversary promotion. "Many newspapers do something similar, but none with the depth and attention to detail so evident in your entire project."

Williams has served as president of the Tennessee Press Association and of the Tennessee Associated Press Managing Editors. He was a founding member of the board of directors of the Mid-America Press Institute.

In retirement, Williams said he plans to stay involved in civic activities, including the Optimist Club, where he's past-president; the Heritage Center, where he's past-executive director; and the Presbyterian Church, where he's an elder and Sunday school teacher.

He added he and his wife, Anne, also plan to do some traveling—"possibly snow birding to Florida or Texas in the winter."

They also have three daughters, Cindy Barnett and Joan Stevens, both of Henry County, and Julie Ray of Clarksville; and 11 grandchildren.

[From the Paris Post-Intelligencer, Aug. 20, 1999]

I'M NOT VERY RETIRING ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE NEWSPAPER

(By Bill Williams)

Upon retirement, a fellow gets asked the usual questions about the most memorable experiences or what it all has meant. I suppose a valedictory is called for.

I will not fib and say that every moment has been pure joy or that I can't understand why I get paid for doing something that is so much fun.

There have been times that publishing a newspaper was pure hell. It's no fun dealing with an irate advertiser. It's even worse to talk with someone who's been hurt because we made a mistake in print.

I can truthfully say, though, that I've never seriously considered any other line of work.

If there any regrets, they're that I didn't spend more time and energy preaching to our staff and to you, dear reader, that newspapering is a noble business.

When we think of the highest callings, what usually come to mind are the ministry, the healing arts, teaching and perhaps law and law enforcement. A lot of people put the press down near the bottom, somewhere close to congressmen.

Pardon my conceit, but I put the press up in that top batch. We are in effect in the

public education business. People depend on us to know what's going on in the world so they can react—where to spend their money, whom to vote for, what to do this weekend.

The function is contained in the name of our newspaper. An intelligencer, as I understand it, was a town crier, one who spreads intelligence (in the information sense) among the public.

I've always thought that Mirror is a good name for a newspaper, too. I believe a newspaper's highest function is to reflect as perfectly as possible what the world looks like—both warts and dimples—so that the people will know what to do. It's the philosophy of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain, which uses an image of a lighthouse and the slogan. "Give light and the people will find their own way."

It's a view that puts the public in an exalted position. Some think that people are basically stupid and can be led this way or that by anyone who is smart, glib and media savvy. I disagree; I think when people are fully informed, they usually make the right choice.

Others believe that the basic duty of a newspaper is to be the community leader, beating the drum for needed improvements and pushing people to do the right thing. That's a high purpose, all right, but I really believe that an even higher is the duty to tell just as fully as we can what's happening and to trust the people to come to the right conclusions.

Well, I didn't intend to preach so, but this is a bully pulpit.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for allowing The P-I to be part of your life. I trust it will continue to be for many years to come.

LEWIS FLACKS OF THE U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Lewis Flacks, who was employed nearly 25 years in the U.S. Copyright Office, died on July 23, 1999, in London. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, I have come to rely on the technical expertise on copyright matters that are available through the auspices of the Office. The men and women who work there provide a great and needed service to the Congress and the American public, and their contributions should be recognized with greater frequency. In this regard, while I was saddened to learn of Lewis' death, I am honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge his life and his work.

I wish to enter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following article regarding Lewis Flacks' accomplishments. It originally appeared in the August issue of Copyright Notices, the staff newsletter of the Copyright Office.

[Reprinted from Copyright Notices, Vol. 47, No. 8, August 1999]

LEWIS FLACKS, AN APPRECIATION
(By Ruth Sievers)

Lewis Flacks, 55 whose career at the Copyright Office spanned over 20 years, died of cancer in London on July 23, where he had lived for the past 6 years since leaving his position as a policy planning advisor to the Register. He was the director of legal affairs for the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI).

Known for his brilliance, his wit, and his devotion to his family, Lewis (also known as Lew in the Office) played major roles in the revision on the Copyright Act in 1976 and in the decision for the United States to adhere to the Berne Convention in 1988. He was the senior copyright advisor to the U.S. delegation during the TRIPS negotiations at the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Traffics and Trade (GATT). He served on virtually every Committee of Experts convened by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) from 1984 to 1992 to deal with the Berne Convention and the Universal Copyright Convention, and he was influential in negotiating the final texts of the Geneva Phonograms Convention and the Brussels Satellite Convention. More recently, his work was critical in the adoption of two important intellectual property treaties in December 1996, the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

It was not only the incredible depth of his knowledge of copyright law that made him an important resource in negotiations, but his role as a "peacemaker," as former Register of Copyrights Barbara Ringer characterized him.

During the revision process, the lengthy period leading up to the passage of the 1976 Act, Lewis came up with "brilliant solutions" enabling "innumerable compromises," said Ringer. He was essential "in putting out all those brush fires."

"He was a man of ideas," said Register of Copyrights Marybeth Peters. "He was brilliant at strategies. He could talk about any subject in a way that bound his audience to his ideas."

"Because of his unsurpassed copyright expertise, his deft diplomatic touch, and his legendary ability to forge compromises, the United States spoke with a strong voice at the international bargaining table," said Ralph Oman, a former Register of Copyright.

A native New Yorker, Lewis was a 1964 graduate of the City College of New York and a 1967 graduate of Georgetown Law School. That was the same year he began his career in the Copyright Office, when Barbara Ringer hired him as an examiner, though she says her primary purpose in bringing him on board was to get a project underway at the Library for the preservation of motion pictures. A mutual friend had recommended him to Ringer, who talked with him twice before passing him along to Former Examining Division Chief Art Levine for the actual hiring interview. "As I recall, we talked nothing but movies," she said. "Nobody knew more about movies than he did."

He served the Office in various positions: senior examiner, attorney-advisor in the General Counsel's Office, special legal assistant to the Register, International copyright officer, and policy planning advisor.

In speaking with his friends and colleagues to write this piece, what comes across in his complete uniqueness.

"I've never known a more brilliant person, but he covered it with his wild, modant humor," said Ringer. "That's what people remember him for, but he had a great deal of depth."

"The most remarkable thing about Lewis was that time was of no relevance to him," said Neil Turkewitz of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) who has known him since 1987. "It was the real genius of him; it allowed him to explore the very details of things. He learned from everything, because he was so patient. . . . What really set him apart was his ability to learn."

"He would recognize the little nugget tucked away" that others overlooked, said Ringer. "He was a fantastic legal technician; he could grasp things that would take others

weeks to see, and he could see all the ramifications."

Furthermore, she said she knew she could rely on him to "tell things like they are. He'd tell you if he thought you were off on the wrong track. . . . So many people have their own agendas or they just tell you what they think you want to hear. You could always trust what Lewis said—he always saw both sides of the picture."

Said his wife, Frances Jones, who was his partner for 31 years, "He had a strong sense of ethics. . . a sense of fairness."

To a person, everyone mentioned his wit. "He had keen insights into people, and he was always a wonderful and entertaining person to be around," said Art Levine. "I'd introduce him to some of my clients at WIPO [meetings], and they would always be eager to get together with him again."

"He could be very funny, trotting out a variety of voices, especially Yiddish ones, that left his listeners laughing in the aisles," said David Levy, former attorney in the Examining Division.

"He was the funniest person I ever met," said Eric Schwartz, a former policy planning advisor who worked with Lewis. Schwartz recounts a story of how Flacks met comedian and actor Jerry Lewis in Paris—where Jerry Lewis is revered—in 1987 at a meeting on moral rights. "Lewis (Flacks) approached Jerry Lewis and introduced himself as Jerry Lewis' 'only American fan,' since only the French really appreciate Jerry Lewis' films. Jerry Lewis thought it was the funniest thing he'd heard."

"He was a perfect colleague—smart, funny, and bluff; a much sought-after dinner companion, he always had the best jokes, the hottest news, and the latest photographs of his beloved son, Paul," said Ralph Oman.

His love and devotion to his son Paul, who is now 14, is something else that no one failed to mention in talking about Lewis. As Peters said, "His son was one of his greatest joys."

His wife mentioned another important role that Lewis played in private life and in the Office—that of teacher. Said Schwartz: "He was a great teacher. He taught me international copyright law in a series of long talks in his office, which, combined with our love of films and his sense of humor, made it fun to come to work." Said Peter Vankevich, head of the Public Information Section, "Lewis made copyright come alive, after talking with him, you felt really proud to work in the Office."

Lewis had many passions—among them books, wine, theater, and more recently, music. He was teaching himself to play the guitar, Chicago-style blues. But above all, he was passionate about movies.

"He knew more about film and film preservation than anyone I've ever met, except for Barbara Ringer," said Schwartz, who served as the Library's counsel to the Film Preservation Board. "I incorporated many of his ideas about film preservation into the legislation creating and reauthorizing the National Film Preservation Board (1988 and 1992) and Foundation (1996). His suggestions really helped the cause of film preservation, and he was very highly regarded in the Motion Picture and Recorded Sound Division."

Admittedly, Lewis was not perfect. He was famous—or notorious—for not meeting deadlines. "People had to flog him to get him to finish," said Ringer. "It could be infuriating," said Levin, "because he'd never get anything done on time. But then, when he finally produced a piece, it would be so brilliant, he'd get away with it."

"Lewis did everything slowly," said Turkewitz. "He even walked slowly. You had to be careful or you'd be three blocks ahead of him. . . . He was someone who just de-

cidated that the decline of western civilization was being caused by its frantic pace, and he wasn't going to live that way." Turkewitz said you might think that would mean Lewis was, in terms of technology, a dinosaur, "but he was just the opposite. He was very interested in technology. . . . He was a true renaissance man. He was complete sui generis."

Or, as Ringer said, "I never met anyone like him. He was utterly unique."

Or, as Jason Berman, head of IFPI said, "The legacy of Lew Flacks remains the legions of friends and admirers he made around the world in a distinguished 30-year career."

The Copyright Office is holding a memorial program for Lewis Flacks on September 24 in the Mumford Room of the James Madison Memorial Building.

COLLEGE MISERICORDIA ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the 75th anniversary of a fine institution of higher learning—College Misericordia of Dallas, PA. I am honored to have been asked to participate in the kickoff event of the anniversary on September 24.

Founded and sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy in 1924, Misericordia was the first 4-year college, the first Catholic college, and the only all-female institution in Luzerne County, with 37 young women in its first freshman class. Offering both bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees, the college boasted 22 faculty members, 16 of them Sisters of Mercy. Today the bustling campus is home to more than 1,700 students, 83 full-time faculty and 65 part-time faculty. Misericordia offered its first summer courses in 1927 and began its graduate program in 1960. In 1975, Misericordia opened its enrollment to men and began to offer continuing education courses.

Mr. Speaker, College Misericordia is an integral part of the Northeastern Pennsylvania community. In 1972, when Tropical Storm Agnes caused the Susquehanna River to overflow her banks, more than 100,000 people were left without food and shelter. College Misericordia became a shelter and hospital, with the benevolent Sisters of Mercy administering aid to the victims of the disaster. Mercy Hospital, totally inundated by raging flood waters, evacuated its patients and staff to College Misericordia.

The college annually offers community-based cultural and athletic programs. Each summer, former members of the National Players, a Shakespearian theater company, present Theater-on-the-Green, bringing the wit and wisdom of William Shakespeare to the area. The college boasts an outstanding art gallery, the MacDonald Gallery, and the Anderson Sports and Health Center, which offers community-based, health-related activities for young and old.

Still under the sponsorship of the Sisters of Mercy, the college currently has a lay president, Dr. Michael A. MacDowell. A liberal arts college, it is especially known for its Education, Health Sciences, Humanities, Social