The Mount Airy News, Mount Airy, N.C.



JACKSON

R. Edward Jackson, a Mount Airy native who oversaw Time magazine's coverage of the Second Vatican Council, spearheaded the development of the magazine's international editions, and was the last managing editor of the Washington Star, died in New York on Feb. 5, of cancer. He was 85. In Mr. Jackson's 44-year career in journalism he worked in the U.S. and Europe at United Press International and Time, and served as editor-in-chief of World Press Review. He was a leading member of the Overseas Press Club and the Correspondents Fund, and endowed journalism scholarships at several universities. In 1995, he was inducted into the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame. Mr. Jackson was born January 14, 1925, in Mount Airy, the son of Robert Reid Jackson, coowner of Jackson Bros. department store, and Annie Britton Jackson, who resided at 1022 North Main Street. He ran a neighborhood newspaper with a circulation of 200 when he was 12, was a stringer for the Winston-Salém Journal in his teens, and edited school papers in Mount Airy and at Washington and Lee University. He interrupted his education to serve in the Navy for three years at the end of World War II, and graduated from Washington and Lee with a degree in History in 1947. He joined UPI as a foreign news writer in 1947. He worked in UPI's London bureau from 1950 to 1953, and then headed the Rome bureau from 1953 to 1956. He became a writer at Time in New York in 1957. Over the next 29 years, he served as Time's foreign newsdesk editor (1959-62), Rome bureau chief (1963-65), deputy chief of correspondents (1966-72), editor of the international editions (1972-75), Washington news editor (1976-80), managing editor of the Time-owned Washington Star (1980-81), and again as deputy chief of corre-(1981-86). spondents While Rome bureau chief in the 1960s, Mr. Jackson coordinated Time's coverage of the Second Vatican Council, the death of Pope John XXIII and the election of Paul VI, and Paul VI's unprecedented visit to Israel. In the early 1970s,

he headed the team that developed editions of Time geared specifically to readers in Europe, Asia, and Australia, and served as the international editions' first editor. As Washington news editor, he ran the magazine's coverage of the Rerpublican and Democratic conventions of 1976 and 1980. He was appointed managing editor of the Washington Star early in 1981, just months before Time folded the newspaper, bringing its 129-year record of continuous publication to a close. After his retirement from Time in 1986, he served for five years as editor-in-chief of World Press Review, a New York-based monthly digest of selections from newpapers outside the United States, which were hard to obtain in a pre-Internet age. Mr. Jackson donated his services to various journalistic societies, including the Overseas Press Club, where he was vice-president, a member of the board of governors, and chair of the scholarship committee; and the Correspondents Fund, where as trustee, vicepresident, and secretary, he helped provide funds for needy journalists and for journalism students. In his later years, he endowed journalism scholarships at Washington and Lee University, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and the University of California at Berkeley. Though he lived all his adult life outside North Carolina, Mr. Jackson was a frequent visitor to the state and to Mount Airy, where he had a large and varied family and a longstanding circle of friends. He maintained a lifelong loyalty to North Carolina college sports teams, and enjoyed annual visits to the ACC basketball tournament, as well as drives along the Blue Ridge Parkway, golf at the Mt. Airy Country Club and Cross Creek, and Southern-style

cooking wherever he could find it. His first marriage, to Margaret Reid Jackson, ended in divorce. He is survived by his wife of thirty-three years, Kathleen Beakley Jackson of New York City, two sons from his first marriage, Roger Jackson, of Northfield, Minnesota, and Blair Jackson, of Oakland, California, and three grandchildren.

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