Bob Gallimore, retired AP bureau chief, dies

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Robert Stephenson Gallimore Sr., a journalist who directed The Associated Press' operations in Virginia for nearly two decades, has died from heart disease. He was 77.

Mr. Gallimore, who died Saturday, and his wife, Ida, lived since his retirement in 1985 in Lively, near the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia's Northern Neck, about 60 miles northeast of Richmond.

During his 18 years as AP bureau chief in Richmond he supervised coverage of the deadly 1969 floods in western Virginia, the demise of the Byrd political dynasty that ruled the state for generations, the election of the state's first Republican governor and the resumption of executions in Virginia after a 20-year hiatus.

"A strong Virginia news report was Bob's real goal, and to a great extent he achieved that," said Alf Goodykoontz, retired executive editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

"He got a lot of work out of a very small staff. He contributed a lot to Virginia journalism over the years."

Perhaps Mr. Gallimore's most enduring legacy was his unsparing insistence on reportrial accuracy, precision and speed, as well as concise, yet stylish, prose. He was quick to criticize substandard reporting, writing or editing, and just as quick to praise good work.

"Bob Gallimore was one of the fairest-minded people I worked with in 34 years with the AP," said Marshall Johnson, who retired in 1983 as sports editor in the Richmond bureau.

"He was a good and loyal friend who earned the respect and admiration of everyone who knew him," said Young, who retired in 1982.

Mr. Gallimore was born in Hong Kong, the son of missionaries, and was a graduate of the Shanghai American School. He graduated from Wake Forest University and served four years in the Army during World War II.

Mr. Gallimore began his journalism career with the Asheville, N.C., Citizen-Times in 1945.

In 1950, Mr. Gallimore joined the AP as a newsman in Huntington, W.Va. He was transferred three years later to the Kansas City bureau where he remained for 14 years until he was promoted in 1967 to bureau chief in Richmond.

He was a past president of the Richmond professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. In 1985, he received the highest award the chapter bestows, the George Mason Award, in honor of his contributions to Virginia journalism.

In 1981, the Virginia AP Broadcasters named the lifetime achievement award it bestows to an outstanding radio or television journalist in Mr. Gallimore's honor.

Retired AP Washington reporter Harry F. Rosenthal, who worked with Mr. Gallimore in Kansas City, said he was always calm during the storm of breaking stories.

"He was the kind of AP man who kept the disciplines of the slow-speed, clattering teleprinter era and applied them in the high-tech, high-speed era we are into now," Mears said.

Retired AP Washington reporter Harry F. Rosenthal, who worked with Mr. Gallimore in Kansas City, said he was always calm during the storm of breaking stories.

"When things really got hot, when tempers flew, he was the guy who always settled things down," said Rosenthal.

Horton Beirne, publisher of Virginia Review in Covington and Clifton Forge, served as chairman of a committee that assessed AP's performance in Virginia during Mr. Gallimore's tenure. "He was a fine gentleman and a very capable newsman," Beirne said Monday.

Besides his widow, Mr. Gallimore is survived by two sons, R. Steve Gallimore of Kilmarnock and Gary S. Gallimore of Spring Hill, Kan.

His memorial service is set for 2 p.m. Saturday at Kilmarnock Baptist Church in Kilmarnock. The family suggests memorial gifts to the Shriners Children's Hospital in Kilmarnock, or Kilmarnock Baptist Church educational fund.
Mr. Carlton T. Mitchell  
3121 Shannon Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC 27106  

Re: Death of Robert S. Gallimore, class of '43  

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am not sure where I should send the notice of Bob's death for the university record. He suffered through many strokes, and on Dec. 27 he had a massive one.

He always cherished his Wake Forest years, and kept up with his fellow students, pals, roommates, etc. all those who made an impression on his life. During the last he had fond memories of the Century Club gathering.

He had a distinguished career in Journalism, a credit to his 4 years of study with Dr. Folk and others in the department.

Will you please see that the notification gets into the correct publication? Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

Ida B. Gallimore (wife)

215 Catch Penny Lane  
P.O. Box 369  
Lively, VA 22507
They say that everyone we meet touches our life in one way or another. In fact, his touch on your life is what brought you here today. Because I knew him best, over 55 years, I will try to paint a picture of the total man for you, so that your remembrance of him will have deeper meaning.

Bob was not of the generation where you give back to the community or make a difference in the world, or join as many organizations as you can. He was focused...the most focused person I have ever known. He was focused on family/church and on newswriting. Those two, nothing more.

So my story begins with the writing focus.

He was born into a Southern Baptist family. Both his mother and father were commissioned missionaries to China for 30 years.

In fact, they were married in China and had their 2 sons in China. Bob was born in Matilda Hospital atop Victoria Peak -- the highest point on the island of Hong Kong.

The Gallimores served in the hinterland of central China, often going by rickshaw or donkey cart on dirt roads to hard-to-reach places. Rev. Gallimore spoke 5 dialects of Chinese, sometimes having to combine all 5 into a kind of pig-latin so that he could communicate.

While their parents were on the field, the boys were home-schooled on the Calvert system, and were taken care of by an amma -- a middleaged chinese woman and her husband who also taught them to speak Cantonese. At middle-school level they went to Shanghai American School. It was here that the boys had a guardian during their parents absence. Bob graduated from SAS in the class of 1939.

When I first met Bob, I fell in love with the romance of China through his stories of life there and the pictures he had taken. His amma would take the boys everywhere. On occasion they would go to the harbor where there were thousands of sampans and junks floating side-by-side, a city of waterpeople. They would join friends on a boat, go shrimping and watch the Chinese catch the shrimp and pop the raw shrimp into their mouth, then and there.
He told me stories about moving into a neighborhood in Canton, where they later learned that the young war lord, Chiang Kai-shek, was living across the street. The two boys would stoop behind a hedge on the front lawn and watch the soldiers of the Kuomintang file in and out of the house for meetings as they planned their rise to power.

He told me stories of going with a group of SAS buddies into the battlefield in the dark of night to collect daggers and knives that remained from the fighting. Japan had invaded China and soldiers were on the outskirts of Shanghai.

It was at this time that he was sure he wanted to write. He was living in the world's oldest continuous civilization -- a land of stark contrasts; abject poverty, indescribable beauty, the sins of opium trade the riches of ivory and silk, intrigue....well, first he had to learn how to write those stories.

Early-on he took his first camera down to the docks and into the narrow pathways in Shanghai and photographed the people, the scenes he knew so well. He searched out the story that had a touch of pathos.

Now, all American missionaries were asked to go home to the US, for Japan was on the move. Rev. Gallimore stayed behind and was made a prisoner by the Japanese.

Bob was 18. He entered Wake Forest College where he edited the college newspaper and mastered English.

At graduation time Uncle Sam claimed him for 4 years in the Army Air Force, World War II. After that he got back to his focus....the news. He worked at the Asheville Citizen-Times as a court reporter, all the while doing free-lance photography and articles for Life Magazine.

It is 1950 and Bob joins the Associated Press in Huntington, W.V. He has found a home, a place where his talents can soar.

He became a master at writing radio copy -- the kind radio stations refer to as rip and read. Anyone can write a 500 page novel, but few can put together a 2-minute concise newscast that when read over the airwaves can paint pictures through word sounds. Radio stations loved Bob's word pictures.

TV was in its infancy.
Then he moved to the Kansas City Bureau serving the Missouri/Kansas area. He covered such stories as an airline crash in Iowa, color stories on dirty politics, Missouri River floods, dust storms and tornadoes in Kansas, and yes, he had a professional relationship with President Harry S. Truman, retired, of Independence, Mo.

After 15 years he moved on to Virginia as Chief of the state bureau. He had a staff of 7, including photographer/editors/secretary/wire operators and correspondents.

He served 18 years at the Virginia helm. Administrative work crowded out the writing and editing, so he devoted time to nurturing the young writers on his staff, some of whom have become bureau chiefs as they moved up the ladder.

He was the past president of the Richmond professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. In 1985, he received the highest award the chapter bestows, the George Mason Award, in honor of his contributions to Virginia journalism.

In 1981, the Virginia AP Broadcasters named the lifetime achievement award it bestows to an outstanding radio or television journalist in Bob's honor.

He retired 12 years ago, but never had a chance to do those stories on the China he loved. "Why don't you write a book, is the question most people ask. His answer was always -- "I now have another life to live and I don't want the past to crowd out my future."

He stayed ever alert to the metamorphosis of the communications business from teletype carbon sets to computerization. Even with failing body he was on the verge of becoming an internet junkie.

To the end he remained active in the Shanghai American school alumni group -- keeping in touch with old friends writing the newsletter and attending conventions.

Just a word about his second focus -- family/church.

Bob and I married in 1948 when he was in the Army and I was a sophomore at the Univ. of Missouri. It was not until after the war that we were able to focus on family/church.
Balancing family time with news demands was difficult for Bob. When he was on call to cover a breaking story the important people in his life got make-up time. But he always did the make-up. If a man builds his own home from ground-up that's as committed as one can get.

At retirement he loved nothing more than taking his family sailing, visiting the grandchildren, helping where needed at his church and doing his best to be a good husband, father and grandfather.

I said in the beginning that he did not set out to make a difference in the world. But without trying, he did just that. He had enormous influence on everyone who was exposed to his writing and his leadership, and we are all better for it.

He was a gentle, selfless, faithful, multi-talented person with total Christian beliefs and his family misses him sorely. May his memory prove to be a source of inspiration and blessing to us all.
GOODBYE, PEAHEAD,
SAYS STATE PAPER—
See Story, Page 5

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NYA Appropriates

LIBRARY READING—Bob Brooks, assistant football manager, reads in the Wake Forest Library. Picture at left shows how he is forced to read, straining his eyes, in the inadequately lighted building. At left, Brooks as he should be reading, as he would be reading with proper light.

Library Lighting Inadequate, Far Below Specified Standards

"Lighting Inadequate for Most Tasks," a General Electric precision meter registered 88 times this week as an OLD GOLD AND BLACK survey showed that Wake Forest's Heck-Williams Library and law library fall far below the illumination standard specified for reading rooms by the Illuminating Engineering Society, a national organization.

OLD GOLD AND BLACK staff members who made the survey, received their information and equipment from the Carolina Light and Power Company at the newspaper's request.

While the Engineering Society and the power company maintain that lighting of the strength of 20 footcandles (20-50 footcandles for reading and writing, 30 footcandles for newspaper reading and office work) is the minimum for libraries,
Juniors, Seniors Will Join
in Dance at Woman's Club

Juncton Cut Twenty Per Cent

ODK Pledges To Be Honored

Reduction To Become Effective
Immediately, Dean Bryan Says

Dr. D. B. Byran, dean of the college, announced this week a reduction of 20 per cent in National Youth Administration funds for the remainder of the current year, and thereafter.

Dr. Bryan made the information public after receiving a notice from the National NYA office revealing a similar slash of National Youth Administration funds in colleges and universities all over the country.

"We were offered a choice of reducing the wages per hour of the students, or of dropping a number of students from the payroll, or of reducing the maximum number of hours a student may be allowed to work," said Bryan. "We decided the last would be most fair," he added.

Since students this year are spacing their work-load on NYA jobs proportionately to the number of class-days in each month, December pay-checks, with a reduction of one-fifth of the former amount, which averaged $15.00 a month, will be uncomfortably small.

Seventy-Four Affected

Seventy-four students on the local campus will be affected by the cut, which will mean a loss of $1,998.00 a year if this number of students is employed every year hereafter.

Money diverted from NYA will be poured into national defense, WPA funds were reduced last summer for the same reason.

Departmental heads, responsible for administration of funds and direction of employees in the various occupations in which NYA workers are employed here, have been apprised of the change, which is immediately effective.

Following is a statement of maximum hours that may be worked in the various pay periods:

November 1-December 10  50

MANAGER—Pictured is Sam Behrends, manager of the Wake Forest debate squad, who left this week with nine of his colleagues and Professor All L. Aycock to participate in the Dixie Forensic Tournament at Winthrop C.
Deacs to Play
Camp Davis
Page 4
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WAKE FOREST

Enrollment Figures
Over 900 Men Reg.

FRESHMAN REGISTERS—First freshman to register for the
107th session of Wake Forest College was Damming Ward of Dur-
ham. He is paying his dues to the assistant Bursar E. B. Earn-
shaw. Staff Photo.

Five Teachers Enter
U. S. Armed Forces

SIX NEW PROFESSORS PRESIDE
OVER COLLEGE ROOMS HERE

As Wake Forest opens its 107th session, five members of last
year's faculty are serving in United States armed forces, while six
new professors are presiding over college classrooms here for the
first time. Here are some of the teaching staff.
ST RECEIVES ESTATE

Mrs. B. Bernard Gives Site for Huge Research Institute

In a move that came as a complete surprise to Wake Forest College, Dr. C. C. Carpenter announced at the opening of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem last Thursday night that land, buildings and funds have been given to Wake Forest College for the establishment of a medical research center which will be rivalled only by New York’s Rockefeller Institute.

Mrs. Benjamin F. Bernard donated another large part of the Bowman Gray estate, the value of which has not definitely been set yet, but which is believed to exceed $200,000.

In a tour of the estate yesterday morning with architects, Dr. Thurman Kitchin, president of the college, was given instructions to present plans which will make the new research center one of the finest in America.

Buildings to be used for the new center are known as the “farm buildings” of the Bowman Gray estate, and they will be occupied for clinical research as soon as they have been transformed into laboratories.

The announcement of the gift came as a total surprise to faculty, friends and students assembled for the opening of the $1,000,000 medical school; even speakers on the program knew nothing about it.

In accepting the estate, Dr. Thurman Kitchin said, “This expression of wisdom and additional generosity on the part of one of those responsible for making this institution possible has provided facilities second to none for medical education and investigation. The faculty of this institution in humble gratitude renews its determination to shoulder the duty of making the Bowman Gray School of Medicine pre-eminent in its field.”

Council Plans Honor Drive

Weekly Speeches Are Scheduled On Wake System

Every Wednesday chapel period during this year will be devoted to a discussion of Wake Forest’s honor system, John Elliott Galloway, student body president, has announced.

“It has been one of the Student Council’s aims to improve the honor system for the past several years,” Galloway said, “but this year’s council has decided to take even greater steps to foster a workable system for the college.”

Heads of the college departments will make weekly addresses on the honor system, he stated, and once a month an outside speaker will be obtained.

All on Honor

According to the Wake Forest handbook, “all students are on their honor to abstain from such acts as cheating, haz ing, stealing and gambling; in other words, they are on their honor to do the right thing and to abstain from the wrong.”

Galloway said that it is hoped there will be no violators of this

SPEAKS AT OPENING—Dr. S. L. Stealey, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Raleigh, told students that Christianity is the only citadel against totalitarianism.

Stealey Talks for Opening

Christianity Only Citadel Against Totalitarianism

The Rev. S. L. Stealey, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Raleigh, formally opened the 107th Wake Forest College session here Thursday morning with an address in which he termed Christianity the only citadel against totalitarianism.

He urged that American youth center its life around a positive, vital set of ideals.