

Biography of Nominee

Please write a brief biography, including date of birth, education, newspaper experience (positions, dates and names of newspapers) and other profes-

sional activities. If the nominee is accepted, this material will be used in a biographical sketch for the information of other persons attending the Seminar.

Robert B. Kimball of The Berkshire Eagle was born in Cleveland on May 18, 1915. He attended Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, for 1½ years and Cleveland College (nights) for three years.

Kimball started newspapering in September 1937 as a copy boy on the old Cleveland News. He worked for the Muskegon (Mich.) Chronicle as a reporter from May 1940 until February 1943. He left Muskegon to work in an aircraft-parts plant in Detroit and in October 1943 was invited to join the Wall Street Journal copy-desk staff in New York. During 3½ years at the Journal, Kimball was successively a rim man, Page 1 feature writer, editor of the Dow-Jones Hourly News Digest and writer of the Page 1 "What's News--Worldwide" daily column. He left New York for the Berkshires on March 17, 1947.

In nearly 27 years with The Eagle, Kimball has touched down-- or settled down-- in many of the paper's departments. He has done tours as fill-in managing editor at two sister publications of the four Miller newspapers, the Bennington (Vt.) Banner and the Brattleboro (Vt.) Reformer. He has worked on The Eagle's wire-news, city and county desks; on its copy desk and in its proofroom; has been its production manager, art reviewer and promotion writer; its "letters" editor and assistant to the editor-in-chief, and its editing-style arbiter. On the editorial staff as aide and writer since 1968, he became editor of the editorial page in October 1972. * ⊗

When The Eagle launched its first magazine-style publication, "Berkshire Week," a Saturday summer feature, Kimball was its editor. He was co-editor of the commercially printed bicentennial book, "Berkshire: Two Hundred Years in Pictures," published by The Eagle in 1961, and of "Richmond, Massachusetts," a 214-page prize-winning town history published commercially in 1964.

Please describe below any unusual characteristics of your newspaper, in content or operation, of interest to other newspaper men and women.

* suggested by LK

18 Dec 72

⊗ Retired (after leave)
June 1971

The Berkshire Eagle takes great and expensive pride in its editorial page and op-ed. The standards which have won awards for the paper's front-page appearance are even higher for both the content and looks of the editorial department's two daily pages. The Eagle's chief editorial writer, Roger B. Linscott, won the 1973 Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing. No other pages in the paper are planned and made up with more attention to subject matter and typographical excellence. They are under the owner's constant and piercing Eagle-eye scrutiny-- and by his direction are kept totally open for free expression of independent thought.

Unusual, also, we believe, is the stable of local columnists we have developed over the years. Appearing on both the editorial and op-ed pages, they have strong reader followings. We may be over-columned as a result, but the pull of our writers and their influence is unmistakable. These columnists-- whether by themselves as community figures or because we print them-- have considerable clout. They tend to participate actively in civic and governmental affairs; we encourage them to do so.