

September 22, 2009

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame
PO Box 785
Bloomington, IN 47402

Dear Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

I had just turned 18 in August of 1967 when Wendell Trogdon hired me to be a copy boy at The Indianapolis News. My family had just moved to Indianapolis and I decided to take a year off before I enrolled in college. I thought I wanted to be a newspaper reporter so the job was perfect for me.-- this was back in the dark ages of copy paper and paste pots, of course.

That began a long and wonderful relationship with a man for whom I have huge respect and affection. He has meant the world to many young and not-so-young journalists and he positively influenced quality journalism in Indianapolis and Indiana.

Please consider this a letter of nomination to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame on behalf of Wendell Trogdon, who well could be considered "The Hoosier Journalist."

He is a lifelong Indiana resident, a working journalist for 38 years who at 80 years old continues to tell the stories of his beloved state through the books he writes.

Born during the Depression in the small Lawrence County town of Heltonville, Wendell rose to become managing editor of Indiana's largest afternoon newspaper, *The Indianapolis News*.

After graduating from Franklin College in 1951, Trogdon served three years in the military before returning to Indiana and a job as a reporter with the Logansport *Pharos-Tribune*. One year later he accepted a position as a farm news writer and agriculture editor at Purdue University.

promoted to assistant managing editor in 1974. Trogon accepted his last job assignment 16 years later in 1990 when he was named managing editor of *The News*.

Although Wendell retired from the newspaper in 1992 he continued to write regularly for it until 1999.

From the time he was promoted to city editor until the day he retired as M.E. there never was a question who the leader of the newsroom was at *The News*. He was a passionate, charismatic journalist who wanted only the best effort from his reporters. He could – and would – get what he wanted from his staff by laughing with them, pushing them, cajoling them and challenging them. A favorite line of his was, “Tell me something neither the reader nor I don’t already know. There is no point in reporting what already is known.”

He not only expected dedication from his reporters, he demanded it of himself. At the crack of dawn, Wendell was the first person in the city room of *The News* and was one of the last to leave in the afternoon.

As city editor, one of Wendell’s strengths was developing young reporters. He was a master at taking a reporter in his first or second job and teaching him the tools of the trade. He coached young reporters on how to cover a beat, how to find the key element in a story, how to ask the right questions in the right way and how to pursue a story until it was complete. Wendell believed the best way to serve readers and uphold the newspaper’s commitment to its community was to develop a strong and aggressive reporting staff.

During his years as assistant managing editor Wendell led *The News* through the transition from typewriters and hot type to computers and cold type. It was not easy to teach a bunch of old dogs new tricks, but Wendell welcomed the new technology and made the change a smooth one. During that time, however, he decided he had to get to work even earlier in order to get everything done to make the 8:30 a.m. first-edition deadline, so he started showing up in the newsroom at 4 a.m. He didn’t leave any earlier in the afternoon, however.

Besides his daily editing duties he also wrote for the newspaper. In 1974 he began writing Quips, a brief daily commentary on the events of the times that ran on the front page. Also that year he started “Those Were the Days,” a weekly, semi-autographical column about a group of boys growing up in rural Southern Indiana in the mid-1900s. Wendell continued writing both features until 1999, seven years beyond his retirement.

Despite work assignments that kept him at his desk, Wendell remained an active journalist who was interested in improving his skills. In 1969 he spent a year at Stanford University as a professional journalism fellow. In 1977 at the time President Jimmy Carter had decided to turn over the Canal Zone to the government of Panama, Wendell spent a week in the Canal Zone reporting on the historic changes in progress. In 1980

Wendell also was actively involved with his hometown of Mooresville. He was on the board of the holding company that built the Neil Armstrong Elementary School and served on the Mooresville Park Board when it bought the land for Pioneer Park, which has since developed into one of the better small-town parks in the state.

After his retirement from daily journalism Wendell continued writing about his beloved Hoosier state. Not only did he continue the two columns in *The News*, but Wendell also began writing books -- the subject of his books is predictable to those who know him: Indiana.

A sampling of the 22 titles includes: *Indiana at Random*; *Main Street Diners (Where Hoosiers Begin Their Days)*; *Backroads Indiana*; *U.S. 50 - The Forgotten Highway* and *Borderline Indiana*.


Wendell also has written about his and Indiana's first love -- basketball. Although *Shooting Stars*; *Whistle Blowers* and *Gym Rats* were popular books, there is no doubt the two books he co-wrote with fellow Heltonville native and Indiana basketball hero Damon Bailey were his most popular. *Damon - Living a Dream* and *Damon - Beyond the Glory* sold a lot of books to high school basketball fans around this state and the Midwest.

Wendell's book, *Who Killed Hoosier Hysteria?* is an investigative examination of the history of the state high school basketball tournament and the changes the switch in the tournament to a class format brought to the game.

There is little doubt that Wendell Trogdon qualifies to be enshrined in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame with the others already recognized for their dedication and commitment to journalism in this state. His lifetime of excellence in daily journalism and his continuing to tell the stories of Hoosiers are proof positive that he is a Hall of Fame journalist.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



E. Mayer Maloney Jr.
President & Publisher

September 22, 2009

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame
PO Box 785
Bloomington, IN 47402

Dear Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

I had just turned 18 in August of 1967 when Wendell Trogdon hired me to be a copy boy at The Indianapolis News. My family had just moved to Indianapolis and I decided to take a year off before I enrolled in college. I thought I wanted to be a newspaper reporter so the job was perfect for me -- this was back in the dark ages of copy paper and paste pots, of course.

That began a long and wonderful relationship with a man for whom I have huge respect and affection. He has meant the world to many young and not-so-young journalists and he positively influenced quality journalism in Indianapolis and Indiana.

Please consider this a letter of nomination to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame on behalf of Wendell Trogdon, who well could be considered "The Hoosier Journalist."

He is a lifelong Indiana resident, a working journalist for 38 years who at 80 years old continues to tell the stories of his beloved state through the books he writes.

Born during the Depression in the small Lawrence County town of Heltonville, Wendell rose to become managing editor of Indiana's largest afternoon newspaper, *The Indianapolis News*.

After graduating from Franklin College in 1951, Trogdon served three years in the military before returning to Indiana and a job as a reporter with the Logansport *Pharos-Tribune*. One year later he accepted a position as a farm news writer and agriculture editor at Purdue University.

promoted to assistant managing editor in 1974. Trogon accepted his last job assignment 16 years later in 1990 when he was named managing editor of *The News*.

Although Wendell retired from the newspaper in 1992 he continued to write regularly for it until 1999.

From the time he was promoted to city editor until the day he retired as M.E. there never was a question who the leader of the newsroom was at *The News*. He was a passionate, charismatic journalist who wanted only the best effort from his reporters. He could – and would – get what he wanted from his staff by laughing with them, pushing them, cajoling them and challenging them. A favorite line of his was, “Tell me something neither the reader nor I don’t already know. There is no point in reporting what already is known.”

He not only expected dedication from his reporters, he demanded it of himself. At the crack of dawn, Wendell was the first person in the city room of *The News* and was one of the last to leave in the afternoon.

As city editor, one of Wendell’s strengths was developing young reporters. He was a master at taking a reporter in his first or second job and teaching him the tools of the trade. He coached young reporters on how to cover a beat, how to find the key element in a story, how to ask the right questions in the right way and how to pursue a story until it was complete. Wendell believed the best way to serve readers and uphold the newspaper’s commitment to its community was to develop a strong and aggressive reporting staff.

During his years as assistant managing editor Wendell led *The News* through the transition from typewriters and hot type to computers and cold type. It was not easy to teach a bunch of old dogs new tricks, but Wendell welcomed the new technology and made the change a smooth one. During that time, however, he decided he had to get to work even earlier in order to get everything done to make the 8:30 a.m. first-edition deadline, so he started showing up in the newsroom at 4 a.m. He didn’t leave any earlier in the afternoon, however.

Besides his daily editing duties he also wrote for the newspaper. In 1974 he began writing Quips, a brief daily commentary on the events of the times that ran on the front page. Also that year he started “Those Were the Days,” a weekly, semi-autographical column about a group of boys growing up in rural Southern Indiana in the mid-1900s. Wendell continued writing both features until 1999, seven years beyond his retirement.

Despite work assignments that kept him at his desk, Wendell remained an active journalist who was interested in improving his skills. In 1969 he spent a year at Stanford University as a professional journalism fellow. In 1977 at the time President Jimmy Carter had decided to turn over the Canal Zone to the government of Panama, Wendell spent a week in the Canal Zone reporting on the historic changes in progress. In 1980

Wendell also was actively involved with his hometown of Mooresville. He was on the board of the holding company that built the Neil Armstrong Elementary School and served on the Mooresville Park Board when it bought the land for Pioneer Park, which has since developed into one of the better small-town parks in the state.

After his retirement from daily journalism Wendell continued writing about his beloved Hoosier state. Not only did he continue the two columns in *The News*, but Wendell also began writing books -- the subject of his books is predictable to those who know him: Indiana.

A sampling of the 22 titles includes: *Indiana at Random*; *Main Street Diners (Where Hoosiers Begin Their Days)*; *Backroads Indiana*; *U.S. 50 – The Forgotten Highway* and *Borderline Indiana*.

Wendell also has written about his and Indiana's first love – basketball. Although *Shooting Stars*; *Whistle Blowers* and *Gym Rats* were popular books, there is no doubt the two books he co-wrote with fellow Heltonville native and Indiana basketball hero Damon Bailey were his most popular. *Damon – Living a Dream* and *Damon – Beyond the Glory* sold a lot of books to high school basketball fans around this state and the Midwest.

Wendell's book, *Who Killed Hoosier Hysteria?* is an investigative examination of the history of the state high school basketball tournament and the changes the switch in the tournament to a class format brought to the game.

There is little doubt that Wendell Trogdon qualifies to be enshrined in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame with the others already recognized for their dedication and commitment to journalism in this state. His lifetime of excellence in daily journalism and his continuing to tell the stories of Hoosiers are proof positive that he is a Hall of Fame journalist.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Mayer Maloney Jr.", written in a cursive style.

E. Mayer Maloney Jr.
President & Publisher



Sept. 23, 2009

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame
PO Box 785
Bloomington, IN 47402

Dear Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

What right-thinking editor of a major newspaper would let a 20-year-old summer intern report and write sensitive investigative stories and a multi-part, page-one series?

Well, it would be a courageous editor, for sure!

But, it also would be a patient and exacting editor who cared deeply about growing the next generation of journalists. It would be an editor who believed down to his very core in the public service mission of the newspaper in his city and state. It would be an editor who was so committed to that principle that he would devote whatever resources he could to telling watchdog stories that make a difference.

That editor is Wendell Trogdon, the retired managing editor of The Indianapolis News – a leader who is one of Indiana's most influential journalists and authors of the last half-century.

The young journalist he took a risk on was me. He not only allowed me to pursue sensitive stories like abuses inside the Indiana Women's Prison and contracting improprieties in an Indianapolis suburb, he encouraged me to do so. I can say without hesitation that I would not have eventually become a senior editor at the Chicago Tribune and the top editor of The Indianapolis Star, the Orlando Sentinel and The Baltimore Sun without the opportunities, support and guidance that Wendell Trogdon provided in great abundance.

I've known Wendell since I was an impressionable young teenager growing up in Mooresville, the town that he also called home. I first saw him as a loving and completely committed parent of his daughter, and as someone who rarely missed a Mooresville High School basketball game. He often sat quietly in a corner of the gym, so as not to lose concentration watching the sport that he loved.

When I landed an internship at The Indianapolis News in 1980 -- no doubt with his help -- I saw a different side. I saw him as a colleague and a mentor. He wasn't just a senior editor of a large newspaper. He was a teacher who cared. He set high standards for himself and demanded excellence from others. He exuded passion for his craft with boyish enthusiasm, and he reveled in those who shared it with him. He believed in journalism that made a difference in the state that he loved and wrote about affectionately in newspaper columns and more than 20 books.

He drove and cajoled his charges to be aggressive journalists. In his own way, he taught me one lesson that I never forgot -- grab hold of a story and don't let go. The afternoon that I broke the story about

abuses at the women's prison, I recall basking in the glow in my modest achievement. That was until Wendell posed a simple question with a powerful point. "Nice story today," he said to me. "What's your follow up story for tomorrow going to say?" That one simple question was a reminder that my work on that story was just beginning. We didn't know the whole truth yet. The message: Keep reporting until all the facts emerge.

There is perhaps no greater illustration of Wendell's impact on The Indianapolis News than this: The pages of the newspaper were a direct reflection of his own personality. Scrappy. Competitive. Bright. Quick. Risk taking. Locally focused. Indeed, The News was a mirror of the man who was its driving force for decades. His personal stamp on the state's largest afternoon newspaper was indelible.

Underlying all of it, however, was a humble man who loved nothing more than a good laugh. For many years, he authored the "Quips" column on the front page of The News. Indeed, tens of thousands of Hoosiers would go right to Wendell's page one witticisms as a welcome break from the grinding toils of daily life. No person or institution was spared from his acerbic wit. But, he loved nothing more than highlighting the ironies of everyday life and ridiculing its hypocrites.

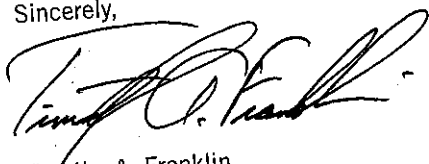
"An American is a person who demonstrates against a new power plant, then goes home and flips on all the lights, turns up the air conditioner, puts a tape in the stereo, opens the refrigerator door, plugs in the coffee maker and sits down to see if the television cameras caught him protesting."

Indeed, it takes a special journalist — and person — to direct one of the state's largest news organizations with passion, dedication and vigor and at the same time entertain the masses. There's only person who could do that, and who did it for decades. His name is Wendell Trogdon.

For a lifetime of journalistic achievement and dedication to storytelling about the state he adores, Wendell Trogdon belongs in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame as one of the greats our state has ever produced.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Franklin
Louis A. Weil, Jr. Endowed Chair
Director, National Sports Journalism Center
Indiana University School of Journalism

September 22, 2009

Selection Committee
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame
Box 785
Bloomington, IN 47402

Dear Committee Members:

Wendell Trogdon, being the humble son of Heltonville that he is, would never say this. But I will, with due respect: A hall of fame honoring the best of Indiana journalism minus Wendell Trogdon has a hole screaming to be filled. On behalf of his former colleagues at the Indianapolis News, I ask you to please give this consummate journalist and quintessential Hoosier your careful consideration.

First, a bit of disclosure. It was to my great advantage – professionally and personally -- to be hired by Wendell during his days as the news editor of the Indianapolis News in the third, longest and final leg (I think) of my 17-year newspaper career. During the 11 years I studied the craft of daily journalism under him, Wendell taught life lessons which have remained with me in the intervening 17 years and through two career changes. They include:

- Keep it simple
- Get it right
- Work harder than the competition
- Don't take yourself too seriously
- Prove yourself every day

I am one of countless young journalists who came of age from the 1960s through the early 1990s that benefited from his daily practicum. However, as valuable a role as Wendell played in mentoring a generation of journalists who have served Indiana and beyond, I know neither it nor the longevity of a 38-year career make him a viable hall of fame candidate on those merits alone.

Instead, I would point to the body of work in newspapering and beyond. As a newsroom manager, his time as news editor and managing editor coincided with the erosion and eventual demise of metro afternoon newspapers. The "Great Hoosier Daily" in its final 20 years battled mightily against the coming tsunami and maintained a powerful voice in Indianapolis beyond its time. Wendell, a scrappy kid born into backwoods Indiana at the outset of the Depression, was a fiery leader. He wasn't about to let "big brother" down the hall win those daily head to head skirmishes even with the decided advantages in resources and news cycle The Star enjoyed. We reveled in that sibling competition and certainly won our share which was a testament to his

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame
PO Box 785
Bloomington, IN 47402

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to endorse the nomination of Wendell Trogdon to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

I met Wendell Trogdon in 1978 when he hired me as a newsroom artist for The Indianapolis News. I worked closely with him for 16 years. At that time, Trogdon was the Assistant Managing Editor and I had a front row seat as he passionately led the news editors and staff of The News to produce at the highest level. He had a knack for recognizing young talent and giving people a chance to succeed. I was privileged to be under the tutelage of someone with his experience and drive to be the best. Trogdon led by example by multi-tasking between making news judgments, editing, laying out pages, and supervising the managers in the daily race to meet deadlines. His frequent jaunts up and down the stairs to the composing room several times a day, was a testimony to the rest of the staff, of his work ethic. Arriving early Monday through Friday long before daybreak, he was a flurry of activity breaking only for lunch after the Home edition was sent to the presses. His afternoons were spent preparing for the following day and working on his weekly column, "Those Were The Days" and his daily column called, "Quips."

"Those Were The Days," recalled a time when he was a kid growing up in Heltonville, IN. He later turned those stories into a book series, which I illustrated for him.

For the sixteen years that I worked with Trogdon at The News, I illustrated his daily front-page column called, "Quips." It was four or five jokes about the breaking news stories and my cartoon sat atop of it. Trogdon's Quips were so good they could have been part of Johnny Carson's Tonight Show monologue. Some of them were reprinted in Reader's Digest. Trogdon's keen eye and wry wit was a refreshing respite on the front cover surrounded by the sobering stories of the day.

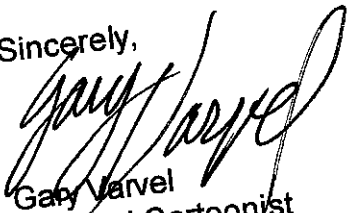
After Trogdon retired...

illustrating his books. Along with his "Those Were The Days" columns he put in book form, he also wrote, "Whistle Blowers" a books on referees' stories that became so popular, that referees from all over the state began volunteering their own personal accounts that spurred Trogdon to write a sequel called, "No Harm, No Foul: Referees are People Too." His love of basketball and Hoosier hysteria drove him to write about coaches stories and coaches who coached their sons. He co-wrote two biographies for Indiana basketball legend, Damon Bailey, "Living the Dream" and "Beyond the Glory" and also wrote a biography for a local war hero, "The Cladie 'Gus' Bailey Story." These books showed his prowess as a reporter as well as an historian.

No one knows Indiana better than Wendell Trogdon. He has travelled every nook and cranny of the state and written the books that tell of his adventures. He knows the people and his work makes them come alive. His love of the state is matched only by his love of the written word and it's this passion that makes him an obvious candidate for this high journalistic honor.

Wendell Trogdon, has lived the life of a journalist. For six decades, he has informed, encouraged, and humored readers. He wrote extensively of the past but this unassuming man made a tremendous impact on the future by opening the doors of opportunity to young journalists like myself. It is my privilege and honor to recommend this great journalist to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Gary Varvel
Editorial Cartoonist
The Indianapolis Star