

Newspaperman: Inside the News Business at The Wall Street Journal

Warren Phillips

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Warren Phillips : Newspaperman: Inside the News Business at The Wall Street Journal before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Newspaperman: Inside the News Business at The Wall Street Journal:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Slow News Day By Christian Schlect It is a shame this book was not written when the author was some years younger. As it is, I view this memoir as mediocre. Its prose is stolid not vivid; too much attention is given to uninteresting family matters and the dropping of names of well-known friends; and what should be the main point of interest--The Wall Street Journal--is presented here too often as mere backdrop to a series of staffing promotions. I think this was put together by an elderly man using memory prompts of old news clippings, social invitations, and family letters. I suggest other books on great newspapers are in print that would be of more value to the general reader.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. True story By Yale T. Rehod Newspaperman is a very newsy, interesting and revealing auto biography of a reporter who becomes CEO of the paper he has worked for all his life. Warren Phillips reveals his true self and lets the reader judge. There are many interesting historical moments described about The Wall Street Journal's past and present. He reveals how he managed to wind up working there, who he interacted with along the way, the newsgathering challenges and the business challenges. He spends time describing his personal life and his wonderful family life. He talks freely about mergers and how they worked out and about his book publishing venture with his wife Barbara after retiring from Dow Jones.

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. "Journalists don't have thick skins; they have no skins." By Steve Amoa "This is the story of a lifelong love affair with journalism, of newspapers in their heyday and a boy who grew to manhood incurably intoxicated with everything about them." Warren Phillips, page xv. The above quote was the first sentence of this intriguing, detailed and captivating memoir by a legendary journalist. This autobiography chronicles a quintessential American success story from the idyllic days of print journalism. Mr. Phillips painted a candid, captivating and self-deprecating portrait of his extraordinary journey in the newspaper business: A man who began as a proofreader in 1947 at the Wall Street Journal and ended as its publisher and CEO. From the days of Linotype to the modern Internet era, Warren Phillips navigated the newspaper business like Ferdinand Magellan on the open seas.

Format The book is organized into four sections with a total of 33 chapters. There is also a detailed index and a helpful chronology chart that outlines various positions of protagonists from the book. The author shares detailed memories from his early life in Brooklyn and his travels around the world. Mr. Phillips writing style is as direct and informative as his numerous front-page articles. This memoir is an engaging and entertaining read replete with personal and business setbacks and triumphs.

Historical Context Mr. Phillips was a witness to world history, significant social changes and cultural shifts during his long domestic and international career. I liked how he mixed scenes of gravitas with those of humor and candor. For example, his observation of occupied Berlin after WWII: "Berlin was bleak, battered, and bedraggled, ruins and rubble everywhere." Page 42 And on a lighter note about words lost in translation: "The Japanese always were interested in our perspective on American politics, particularly during elections. They would ask, 'Please tell us about your American elections.' We had trouble keeping a straight face when their interpreter translated this, 'Please tell us about your American erections.'" Page 151 The author's first impressions about a Georgia governor who would later become President: "We asked him (Jimmy Carter) questions relating to the economy. We asked his views on foreign hot spots. So many of his replies struck me as superficial, unknowledgeable, or otherwise off base that I thought 'This guy isn't going anywhere.' So much for the clarity of my crystal ball." Page 156

Pictures The author included a variety of images. Some were personal and others professional. Many demonstrated the levels of access that Mr. Phillips attained. For instance, pictures with George H. W. Bush, Chou-En Lai and Ronald Reagan. My favorite was a picture of the author using his typewriter under the watchful gaze of a young boy at Narita Airport in Tokyo, Japan.

Notable Quotes "With a string and a yardstick, I would measure the inches of space given in the Tribune each day to world news, national news, city news, sports, culture, and other categories, and compare it to the amount of space the competing New York Times was allotting to the same news and feature categories." Page 27 "I was young and junior, and in my eyes, they inhabited a rarefied world of seasoned foreign correspondents to which I could only aspire." Page 45 "When I checked into my hotel (in Ankara, Turkey), the registration form had a space to enter religion, and when I wrote 'Jewish' I was shown to a cramped windowless room beneath the stairs." Page 51 "Japanese wives of Westerners in those early postwar years, though tolerated while still wed, were shunned as soiled goods, almost pariahs, when deserted by the 'gaijin', or foreign, husband." Page 81 "There are few other vocations where one is paid to keep on learning, to keep on broadening one's knowledge." Page 88 "I was appalled to read a paragraph that said local residents were calling the bridge 'the guinea gangplank.' Several layers of editors apparently had thought that an ethnic slur inside a quote was all right, as long as it was reported accurately, even if bigoted and hurtful." Page 139 in reference to the Verrazano Bridge in New York. "Journalists don't have thick skins; they have no skins." Page 224

A Long, Truthful Journey The author's life was a non-politically correct history book. The type that we don't find too frequently anymore. Like the legendary journalist and newspaperman that he was, Mr. Phillips reported the truth and educated his audience in this excellent memoir. Please Note A McGraw-Hill representative provided me with a complimentary review copy of this book. I was not monetarily compensated for the review by any party that would benefit from a positive analysis.

The captivating story of former Wall Street Journal publisher Warren Phillips's rise to the top Newspaperman is at once a fascinating narrative of one man's journey through the newspaper business and an expert analysis of how the

news is made. Phillips shows what it's like to be a reporter as history unfolds around him and reveals how editors and publishers debate and decide how the news will be covered. Starting at the WSJ when it had a circulation of only 100,000, Phillips rose through the ranks, witnessing its rapid expansion to a circulation over two million—the country's highest. Newspaperman illustrates the life of a foreign correspondent, taking readers from Berlin to Belgrade, Athens to Ankara, London to Madrid. It also provides a look into the inner councils of the Pulitzer Prize Board as legendary editors, such as Ben Bradlee of The Washington Post and Clayton Kirkpatrick of The Chicago Tribune, debate journalistic ethics. Warren H. Phillips began his journalism career as a copy boy at The New York Herald Tribune. He then served The Wall Street Journal as proofreader, copydesk hand, rewriter, foreign correspondent, foreign editor, and Chicago editor before becoming managing editor at age thirty. He served in that post and as executive editor for thirteen years, and then was the WSJ's publisher and chief executive of its parent company, Dow Jones Company, for another fifteen years.

"A memoir from a man who helped transform the Wall Street Journal from a local newspaper to a global operation. When executive editor Bill Kerby and managing editor Buren McCormack hired the 21-year-old Phillips (*China Behind the Mask*, 1973, etc.) as a \$40-per-week proofreader in 1947, daily circulation stood at 100,000. By 1991, when the author retired after serving as the publisher and CEO of Dow Jones Co., the paper was the largest daily in the country with a circulation of around 2 million. Phillips provides insight into how one of the nation's most prominent newspapers evolved. The author was personally involved with much of the growth, after his transfer to London and then Germany to build the paper's operations in Europe, and he was integral to the development of the Wall Street Journal Asia and the paper's partnership with Japan's Nikkei index. Under his leadership in the '70s and '80s, the paper became a technological leader through its deployment of satellite communications and its embrace of digitization. Throughout the book, Phillips looks at his part in shaping the Journal's news and editorial coverage, and these sections provide insight into his highly successful methods. The author includes many anecdotes culled from his diaries, some very funny, which illustrate the variegated aspects of his life and the people who shared in it. In a short epilogue, Phillips discusses Rupert Murdoch's takeover of the Journal and its incorporation into News Corp. A well-rounded autobiography about the journalism industry and the people who shaped the news over the past 50 years." -- Library Journal "Library Journal" About the Author Warren H. Phillips worked at The Wall Street Journal as proofreader, copydesk hand, rewriter, foreign correspondent, foreign editor, and Chicago editor before becoming managing editor at age thirty. He was later promoted to publisher and CEO of its parent corporation, Dow Jones Company. Phillips has also served as President of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and was a member of the Pulitzer Prize Board. He and his wife live in Bridgehampton, NY, and Palm Beach, FL.