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NORMAN J. 'MEDDIE' MEDRECH

PROVIDENCE — Norman J. Medrech, 90, a longtime *Journal Bulletin* editor and colorful newsman of the old school, died March 27 at Laurelmead nursing home.

He was known as "Meddie" to his newspaper colleagues and was for many years the chief copy editor for the *Evening Bulletin*'s state editions. He handled the voluminous output of copy from all of the reporters in the newspaper's Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts bureaus.

He learned just about all there was to know about the cities and towns in the papers' circulation area. And he helped train a generation of reporters to write quickly and cover community events accurately and thoroughly.

"He was great to work for. He had a mind like a computer before they were invented," said Kay Henneberger, a retired *Journal-Bulletin* copy editor. "He could read reporters' copy amazingly fast. It was more than speed reading. And yet he would somehow catch any errors."

He was generally at his perch on the *Bulletin* desk by 5 a.m. every day. "He generated a lot of camaraderie around the desk. He was funny and he gave people nicknames," Henneberger said.

Andrew B. Burkhardt, *Journal-Bulletin* city editor, recalled him as a "colorful guy" who used to come in early and prod reporters to add new developments to the morning *Journal* stories to make them "fresher" for the afternoon *Evening Bulletin*'s readers.

After his retirement from these newspapers in the 1970s, he went to work for the Rhode Island Builders Association. He became editor of the association's monthly newspaper, *The Rhode Island Builders Report*. And he became an authority on real estate and home-construction topics often quoted by newspaper and television reporters.

Working for the builders association for 20 years, he wrote a history of the group.

Born in Newark, N.J., on Sept. 19, 1907, he was the son of William and Mary Medrech. After graduation from Rutgers University, he came to New England to work for the Worcester Telegram, before joining the *Journal-Bulletin*.

A longtime resident of Providence's East Side, he met the former Rose Leventhal in New York and they married in 1931.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Ellen Dworkin and Marilyn Fleisig, four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

The funeral was private. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.