

Title: **Former Sentinel-Echo owner, publisher dies**
 Author: STAFF REPORT
 Size: 48.51 column inches
 London, KY Circulation: 8614



Former Sentinel-Echo owner, publisher dies

STAFF REPORT

Luke Keith Jr., former owner and publisher of The Sentinel-Echo, passed away on May 31, 2017 in Hazard. He was 72 years old.

Keith was born on June 15, 1944, and graduated from

Madison Central High School and Eastern Kentucky University, where he played trombone in the marching bands at both schools. He was later a member of EKU's

SEE KEITH, PAGE 3A

KEITH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Alumni Board. He served in the United States Army and was stationed in Saigon, Vietnam.

Keith and his wife, Margaret Dyche Keith, purchased her family's newspaper in 1974 and ran it for seven years before selling it to Al Smith. At the time The Sentinel-Echo was the largest weekly newspaper in Kentucky and won a National Newspaper Award for its Centennial Edition. Keith also operated the office supply and furniture division of the business. Keith used his weekly column, "How I See It," to share with readers the plights, successes, failures, joys and disappointments of life in London and the business of operating a newspaper in a small town. Keith was also an ardent enemy of labor unions, and one time a union

threatened to blow up the newspaper and his home.

He frequently called for a parking structure at the corner of Broad and Fifth streets 30 years before one was built. He suggested London have a designated downtown director 40 years before one was hired. He reminded people of the financial positive impact of Sue Bennett College to the local economy and to give to Sue Bennett at Christmas time. He honored those long gone and long forgotten. When a city employee was killed due to an on-the-job accident, Luke raised money for the man's funeral. He cheered local sports teams, marching bands and cheerleaders. Occasionally, he shared stories about his wife and daughters. Often, he complained about London's then lack of

clean drinking water. Regularly, he reminded people that, despite its faults, London was a great place to call home.

Keith was a co-founder and charter board member of London Bank and Trust, now PNC Bank. He was also a member of the London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce as well as a member of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. He was appointed to the Kentucky Commission on Higher Education and was also a board member of the Kentucky Governor's Economic Development Commission.

After selling The Sentinel-Echo the Keith family moved to Hilton Head, S.C., where they purchased The Pelican Deck, Ltd., a men's clothing store. Keith also

became a broker and sales associate for Sea Pines Real Estate, and was a lifetime member of the Million Dollar Club and Salesman of the Year twice.

In 1987 he returned to Kentucky to build and operate a motel in London. As a Holiday Inn Express franchise owner, the motel was ranked 26th in Holiday Inn's properties worldwide.

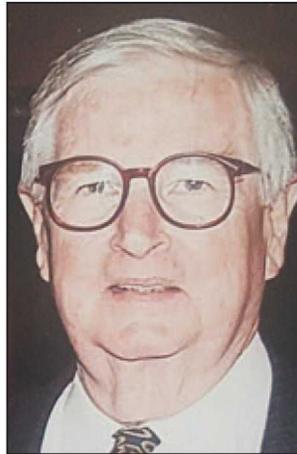
In 2008 Keith and his wife moved to Hazard where he was named publisher of The Hazard Herald. They lived there at the time of his death.

A memorial service was held in Hazard on Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church. Keith's body was donated to the University of Kentucky College of Medicine for research purposes upon his request.

The family requests remembrances be sent to the Eastern

Kentucky Veterans Center Veterans Program Fund, 200 Veterans Drive, Hazard, KY 41701. See obituary on page 6A.

Title: **Former Sentinel-Echo owner, publisher dies**
Author: STAFF REPORT
Size: 48.51 column inches
London, KY Circulation: 8614



Luke Keith Jr.