

# Memorial service set for Jack Holden, former Loveland Reporter-Herald publisher

Holden worked at Loveland's newspaper from 1947 to 1969

**By Craig Young**

*Reporter-Herald Staff Writer*

POSTED: 03/09/2015 05:14:54 PM MDT



Jack Holden

A former publisher of the Loveland Reporter-Herald, who died in December, will be honored Saturday at a memorial service in Aurora.

The service for John Edwin "Jack" Holden will start at 1:30 p.m. March 14 in the community room of St. Andrew's Village, 13801 E. Yale Ave., Aurora. He died Dec. 22, 2014, at the age of 90.

Holden, a native of Neodesha, Kan., joined the Reporter-Herald as advertising manager after serving in the Navy during World War II and finishing his journalism degree at the University of Colorado in 1947.

His father, Harley Holden, had bought the newspaper in 1944 after selling the Baxter Springs, Kan., News. Jack Holden grew up around the Baxter Springs paper, first as a carrier and then in the print shop during high school.

At Harley Holden's retirement in 1959, Jack Holden became co-publisher of the Reporter-Herald with Harlow Tibbetts. He took over full ownership of the paper in 1963 after his father died.

The March 1960 edition of the Colorado Editor, the publication of the Colorado Press Association, featured a cover story on Holden, who was named president of the newspaper organization that year.

According to the Colorado Editor story, Holden was active in the community: a member of the Loveland Rotary Club, Elks Club, American Legion, the Republican Party's executive committee and the Loveland Camera Club. He and his wife, Peggy, were described as active Methodists, and he was a fan of local high school sports teams and the CU Buffaloes.

On May 7, 1967, the Reporter-Herald announced a merger of the Loveland newspaper with the Longmont Times-Call. Edward Lehman, publisher of the Times-Call, became president of both companies, and Holden became vice president of both companies and remained editor and publisher of the Reporter-Herald. The late Ruth Lehman, wife of Ed Lehman and co-owner of the Times-Call, became secretary-treasurer of both companies.

Holden sold his remaining interest in the company in 1969 and moved in 1970 to Denver, where he started a second career in the federal government, first with the then-Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and then with the General Services Administration. He retired in 1987.

He was a University of Colorado Foundation trustee, a member of the CU Dean's Journalism Advisory Commission for nine years and received the first Distinguished Alumni Award in journalism in 2008. He also underwrote the Holden Journalism Lecture Series to bring speakers to the school, according to his obituary.

Years after leaving the news business, Holden would drop in on the annual Colorado Press Association convention, said Dean Lehman, publisher of the Reporter-Herald and son of Ed and Ruth Lehman.

"He was a well-thought-of and respected individual," Lehman said.

The Lehman family sold its newspapers in February 2011 to Prairie Mountain Publishing, their current owner.

Holden is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marguerite "Peggy" Johnson Holden of Aurora; daughters Joni and husband Harley Conner and Jan and husband Jerry Parks; two grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

*Craig Young: 970-635-3634, [cyoung@reporter-herald.com](mailto:cyoung@reporter-herald.com), [www.twitter.com/CraigYoungRH](http://www.twitter.com/CraigYoungRH).*