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Neal Shine, former Detroit Free Press publisher, dies

4/3/2007, 4:15 p.m. EDT

The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Neal Shine, who began working for the Detroit Free Press as a copy boy and later served as managing editor and publisher, died Tuesday of respiratory failure. He was 76.

Shine retired twice — first in 1989, as senior managing editor and columnist. He returned a year later as publisher, a post he held until 1995, when he retired during a lengthy strike against the paper.

He was managing editor from 1971-82.

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Shine, first hired at the Free Press in 1950, was city editor when the paper won the Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the 1967 Detroit riot.

He helped implement the joint operating agreement that merged the business and production operations of the Free Press and its rival, The Detroit News.

As a reporter, he exposed mishandling of cases in the Macomb County juvenile courts.

A lifelong resident of the Detroit area, Shine graduated from the University of Detroit and served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

He is survived by his wife Phyllis and six children.

Funeral arrangements were pending.

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