

## V. M. Newton Jr., Former Editor Of The Tampa Tribune, Dies at 73

TAMPA, Fla., Dec. 13 (AP)—Virgil Miller Newton Jr., retired managing editor of The Tampa Tribune and a leader in the fight against secrecy in government, died at his home today after an apparent heart attack. He was 73 years old.

Mr. Newton's newspaper career spanned 42 years. He rose from a 10-cent-per-column-inch sports writer as a student at the University of Florida to president of Sigma Delta Chi, the nation's largest journalistic society.

Mr. Newton became a reporter for The Tampa Times in 1926 and four years later was named sports editor for The Tribune. He was managing editor from 1943 to 1965, then was named consultant to the publisher and served in that capacity until 1969, when he retired.

He was elected national president of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association in 1956, and served on its board of directors for 11 years.

Mr. Newton is credited by former Gov. LeRoy Collins as the catalyst for Florida's "sunshine" law, which opened all government meetings to the public.

He is survived by his wife, Louisa; a son, V. M. Newton 3d; a sister, Katherine Newton Hall of Birmingham, Ala., and three grandchildren. Services will be held Thursday at 2 P.M. in Tampa. Private burial will follow.

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