

Akron editor Ben Maidenburg dies

AKRON, Ohio — Ben Maidenburg, former Marion resident and retired publisher and executive editor of the *Akron Beacon Journal*, died Saturday night at his home in Akron.

Maidenburg, 76, was the brother of Marion residents Frank and Milton Maidenburg.

Paul Poorman, a former editor of the *Beacon Journal* said Maidenburg, even after his retirement, remained a fiesty newspaper critic. Maidenburg had already retired as publisher when Poorman became editor.

"He remained an avid reader and critic," Poorman said. "He was quite a guy, just the kind of person a news-

paper editor needs."

Poorman said Maidenburg had been in ill health.

Maidenburg began his newspaper career with the *Marion Chronicle* before leaving Marion in 1927. His first job was selling papers on the street as a child. He was sports editor of the paper before he had a high school diploma.

Maidenburg left Marion to work at the Des Moines, Iowa, *Register*. He joined the *Beacon-Journal* staff in 1929 when he was 19 years old. He also worked for the *Miami Herald*, the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Chicago Daily News* before returning to the Akron paper in 1948.

In 1970, a homemade bomb was thrown through the window of Maidenburg's house in Akron. Neither Maidenburg nor his wife, the former Jean Roskin of Marion, was home when the bomb was thrown. At the time, Maidenburg said he had no idea what led to the bombing, but said after 43 years in the newspaper business, he supposed he had picked up a few enemies here and there.

One who thought of Maidenburg as an enemy was President Richard M. Nixon, who included the journalist on his famed enemies list.

Maidenburg retired in 1975 to become president of the Knight Foundation, a charitable organization in

Akron. Akron business, civic and community leaders called it the end of an era at the *Beacon-Journal*.

"Ben Maidenburg is more than a great newspaperman," said then U.S. Rep. John F. Seiberling, Akron, when Maidenburg retired. "He is a great booster of Akron and one who has shown his deep humanitarian concern by uncounted number of deeds."

At the time of his retirement, Maidenburg was praised for his involvement in community activities.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Gordon Funeral Home in Akron.