

BOOKNOTES  
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# Deadlines Past

Forty Years of Presidential Campaigning:  
A Reporter's Story

Walter R. Mears

752. Walter Mears

Deadlines Past: Forty Years of Presidential Campaigning:  
A Reporter's Story

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**Andrews McMeel  
Publishing**

Kansas City

b. Boston  
Middlebury College

Wash. human class 1977  
46 yrs. with AP  
Vermont national guard  
friendly chat with  
Governor - made me  
and officer  
Burning tree  
Quake Walter VP  
65- Jan 11, 2000

JFK killed  
LBJ quits - McCarthy huge  
MLK killed  
RFK led to Secret S.

Secret - core of winds  
Chin. shell - wiskey over ice  
On Nixon's list of good persons  
Politics - Carter  
Reagan on religion - Deep West  
one too many drinks with Carter  
Neurosurgeons  
Ted Kennedy - never saw oration  
watched  
Musk - tried to push a little  
ass last night  
Joe Jackson - overheard  
Phone call  
Shot - strangest  
performance  
P 208

I'm a wire service man / 11 Presidential Campaign  
What in the AP / I didn't have note books  
3 old friends - Teddy White 60/64/68/72 Making of etc Pres.  
Julius Witons / Jack Diamond

Tim Crowe Boy on the Bus

Vermont State Bureau / Boston AP office

Kennedy - Pavordine 29 in. stop

Nixon - personally awkward - 4th call-in 1960 / ABC Soaps

1960 - Parisianis  
# on Nixon plane - he sat in 1st class looked straight ahead  
you spent 10 days on campaign trail with Nixon and never meet him

1960 - H.C. Lodge - a Negro in the cabinet

no secret service - TV camera to city front

Reporter followed unwritten code of silence

# After JFK - trust and confidence in national leaders was sapped p25  
More voices distract people - confuse them  
Congress got it wrong on election.

Chap 2 Barry Goldwater - 13 months campaign trail

fast writer - my lead was the most interesting thing I learned and heard  
that day" p30

Moved to Wash Oct 61 - spend less than a year covering home

29yrs. old sent out with Gold.

1961 - N.H. vote Crockett immediately had winner - News Election

service was born AP a member - Henry Cabot Lodge / Rocky's

made she mad

JFK explicit p29 - turning point during campaign of his own thinking  
Goldwater told me off the record he couldn't win p39

He and JFK were going to have constant debate  
sketch a plan 3x this week of convention - buzzed Convention Centre Cow P.

We are not going to send American boys 9 or 10, admits p46

flew into C.A. - free style campaign - the last

He was friendly with the regular press

Charlie Mohr - wouldn't speak to anyone from N.Y. Times for his 3 years

in Senate.

candidate could not be quoted directly - Paul Waque Press Sec. p53

Chap 3 Nixon Hungary 1968

L.B. Sigint - I told McConathy - from MLK killed RFK killed - led  
to secret S. protection which changed the way politics was covered

war policy center attention

secret plan to end the war" a phrase Nixon never uttered - a rival reporter  
wrote that he never said it.

Covering the secrets - "Cave of the Winds" Voting Rights Act

Johnson attacked Nixon in 1966 - made him spokesman for the party

Gene McConathy - 70% vote slant in N.H.

Robert H.

300. Romney - brain washing p77

Nixon Post-Buchanan - 7 big states

JFK assassination - saw a AP reporter walking dazed p 83

FK - Clint Hill - whiskey over ice

Jumpsey - Politics of Joy - V.P. seal off podium

Geo. Wallace (no debate) "New Nixon" Oct 31 bombing halt p95

Meeting W. Nixon  
Band Home  
Merrill Smith  
no - background  
deception  
p 93

Chap 4 1972  
Nixon - most fascinating figure I encountered as a political reporter  
China -

Washington  
Knew Murkin socially - played golf in Miami (Stubborn, angry, cranky)  
Murkin - union leader - won it through story  
Jackson - my "little buddy" - black reporter  
"What's the lead Waller" - Tim Cronin p 108.  
Prop on the Bus - The Wessex rule  
The Germond Rule  
Wallace / Kennedy and the cat's paw  
Convention - McGowan / Eagleton  
Waltz gets never took hold with the public  
Kissinger's  
William Rodgers told me Nixon wanted him to fire Wald and Felch.  
List - good personal friends in the working press p 125

Chap 5  
1977 - Pushing for later campaign reporting  
Speaking agent called - I said no  
bleatnik rules - I hated it (1974)  
received 40 25'  
Joe Uball - glaucy - Brothers hotel  
Jimmy Carter - Ben Jordan the plan (never lie p 135)  
Reagan against Ford - The number  
Ford won 15 primaries R.R. 12  
Reagan answering question about Ford - drop host p 149 \*  
Carter / Mondale / Reagan / Schlesinger  
Carter challenged a story on dem. inflation figures I wrote -  
Ford at boxes he didn't like it.

Chap 6 Reagan 1980  
Small dinner with reporter (Rafshaud)  
My Hemorroid story p 164  
Roger Uball's question  
Reagan didn't debate 6 Rep. in Jan in Jan 80  
Nashua Telegraph debate - Bush sat on stage waiting  
Italian joke - AOL reported first p 172  
One of the strangest primary performances - Carter new conf.  
Carter won 24 primaries Kennedy 10  
first to write about John Anderson  
Kennedy wouldn't pull out - stayed through convention -  
staged ovation was real - never saw one to watch it.  
Ford a co Pres for Reagan / AP speculation - my fault  
Carter - not much for humor - mouth surgery - Carter showed bad  
Debate - Reagan and Anderson - Carter no show  
Carter / Reagan debate - "Then you go again" 1980 - a pivotal  
point in American  
politics

# Deadlines Past

Chap 1

Reagan / November 1984

government was the problem not the solution p 195

Ray RB shot - most memorable of his time (7 yrs) at HP bureau

1984 - became executive editor of AP stationed in N.Y.

John Glenn / Filly Hollings / Geo. W. Brown / Jesse Jackson / Donkraft

Hunt won eight of the last 12 primaries including CA. p 202

Ferraro picked for V.P. only because she was a woman.

Raise tape - Mondale

Reagan overheard - we begin the bombing in 5 minutes (Russia) p 208

Teflon / You ain't seen nothing yet / Call Soviet Union evil empire

Lebanon 24 killed - two days later Grenada

Bush and Ferraro "We tried to kick a little ass last night" Reagan

denied he said it. Barbara B. - refuses with Reels

age - Henry Fack Trewitt - "I will not make age an

issue" exploit my opponent youth p 265

Reagan 15% + winner

Left office most popular in history 68%

In an uncertain world Reagan stood for certainty

Chap 6

1988 -

Bush - read my lips

took adultery out of his bedroom Gary Hart

brides and gentle finish to campaign

Newsweek - "Wimp" cover

Pat Robertson / Bob Dole / Pete Duport

Stan Fortna

F.D. Iovine - New York Times Mag - follow me around

Paul Taylor's adultery question to Hart - he then dropped

out sent re-elected N.H. primary 8 months later

Jesse Jackson telephone call about Champagne Mrs Haytth

plagiarism story - quote about W-Furling cold p 229

Dallas

Ann Richards - born with silver foot in his mouth | Read my logs  
you called Bill Richardson "my friend" p 232  
mentioned him in a column  
Quayle - played golf with him often  
Walter Horton / flag issue / Boston Harbor / Competence  
Bernie Slone's question

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chap 9 p244

92 Campaigns - My first as a fulltime Columnist

I have no use for pontificators - cable television put the  
lowest members on the air

"Perot was the strangest I ever saw in national politics"

Jennifer Flowers - news conf. Known comment -  
the draft story in U.S.D.

"I didn't believe him" p254 - Draft

I thought the war was a disaster - It poisoned American politics

I went to Vietnam in 2000 w. Clinton

N. H. Tsoungis 33% Clinton 25%

Tucky Dick meet Dick Willie

Jerse - Suite Loujah

Bush and Pat Buchanan

N.Y. Times - "cheap shot" on gracey scammers - Andy R.  
wrote it from a poor report

Bush 53 Bush. 35 thought it was going to be 40  
Perot - "I thought he was as paranoid as the White House  
said he was and as phony as any politician I'd seen." p268

John King - page number 4673 - Gore

Quayle - I thought he was a competent man - should stay in

They Vander jolt - night before election - Clinton was having an  
affair with a wire service reporter - It was a scandal he

Clinton 43/38 Bush/Perot 19

~~Bush~~ Chap 10  
Doll beaten by Bush. 1970 in NH. Forbes/Seam/Alex.

Powell

Doll quit Senate

Clinton - triangulation - Dick Morris

1996 Convention - Chicago - North western Hos. - Disincentives

Morris resigned but kept giving Clinton advice

"It said more about the way consultants with loyalty  
for sale had perverted campaign politics"

Jed Koppel - Show boating when he left San Diego

Spin Alley - Silly p297

Clinton 49 Doll 41 Perot 8

talks with Doll after 1996 election - call from me 2000

late 2000 - chat with Clinton p299 - his legacy



Chap 11

1988 - met <sup>W.</sup> Bush - found him sometimes too tough  
I'd never seen anything like kept traveling to see Bush in Texas  
Clinton fatigue

1999 interview in Texas - Non Fommier - Cell phone  
Wasn't going to play the gotcha game  
350,000 people made contributions to Bush  
the made over but "real" Gore

John McCain wins N.H.

Strangled talk of press - got favorable coverage in political press  
Boston N question about foreign leaders "cheap shot"

McCain 49 Bush 31 in NH.  
month 9 - McC conceded his candidacy

Bill Bradley V. Gore nasty  
Bad types - Bartender called him that Dick  
after 2 months Bush and McCain met in Pitts for 20 minutes  
then an endorsement

Adam Clymer

My last interview as a reporter was Bush in Midland

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We are not going to send American boys nine or  
ten thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys  
ought to be doing for themselves. LBJ

"Richard Nixon said today he has a secret plan to end the war  
in Vietnam" - a rival reporter

Some men see things as they are. Why? I dream things that  
never were and say why not? - Reporter <sup>meant</sup> get knowing

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Humphrey - politics of fear

Reagan - government was the problem not the solution