

H.A. "Slim" Kendall

Henry Wiseman "Slim" Kendall (1897-1968) was an editorial writer who sheathed his iron-hard opinions in the velvet of a superbly elegant writing style.

As associate editor and then editor of the Greensboro Daily News from 1930 until his retirement in 1965, Kendall made the newspaper an influential voice in local and state affairs. He championed mental health care, improved public schooling and prison reform on the state level, and turned well-trained reporters loose on local problems in a city where racial and social tensions often ran high, especially in the post- World War II period.

Kendall's polished writing style influenced other editorial writers, and he was often called on to lecture and advise on improvements in journalism. As an active member of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, he was influential in fashioning and promoting better standards for writing and reporting. He won first-place awards from the North Carolina Press Association for editorials, and posthumously, the Edward R. Murrow Award for reporting.

Like so many North Carolina editors, Kendall took a personal role in many local and state organizations dealing with the issues he championed in his editorials.

He was on the North Carolina Educational Study Commission, devising postwar plans for the state's higher educational institutions. His contributions to higher education, both editorially and personally, led to an honorary degree from Duke University, his alma mater, in 1960.

He was a member of the policy board of the state's mental health hospital system. In Greensboro, his work with retarded children led the local association to name its center for him. The Greensboro chamber of commerce gave him the city's "outstanding citizen" award in 1958.

Kendall was a native of Shelby. His newspaper career began with a brief stint on the Morning New Bernian in New Bern. From 1920 until 1930, he was editor of the Rocky Mount Telegram. Joining the Daily News in 1930 as associate editor, he became editor in 1942.

By Roy Parker Jr.
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