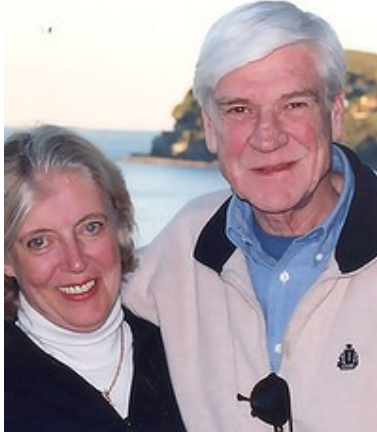


A gifted writer who spent a lifetime reporting the news

Peter Micheltmore 1930-2010

JOSEPH GLASCOTT

Sydney Morning Herald February 25, 2010



Devoted ... Peter Micheltmore with his wife, Nanette.

The Australian journalist Peter Micheltmore spent most of his life in America and was a consummate newspaperman who later turned successfully to writing books and magazine articles.

Micheltmore was born in Adelaide and educated at Prince Alfred School before beginning his career in journalism at *The News* in Adelaide in 1951, where he rose rapidly. He married Nanette West in Adelaide in early 1952 and they left for London with their baby son in 1953 when he was appointed a foreign correspondent for *The Sydney Morning Herald*. He transferred to the New York bureau in 1955.

As a correspondent, Micheltmore covered world events including the Vietnam war, the moon landings and the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, the civil rights leader Martin Luther King and the US Attorney-General Robert Kennedy. Towards the end of 1969, he returned to Australia and for a brief period was deputy editor of the Fairfax afternoon paper, *The Sun*. However, he missed the adrenalin rush of being at the centre of global news so he returned to New York as head of the *Herald* bureau. After disagreements with Fairfax management, he left the company.

In 1974 he joined Rupert Murdoch's News Ltd as head of the New York news bureau and when Murdoch bought the *New York Post* in 1976, he was appointed city editor. He left daily newspapers in 1980 to concentrate on freelance writing for magazines.

For the next 26 years he was a contributing editor for *Readers' Digest*, travelling the US and the world to research articles on human drama, adventure and health. He also wrote six books, including biographies of Albert Einstein, the atom bomb scientist Robert Oppenheimer and the oil magnate and missionary in Haiti, William Larimer Mellon.

The journalist Ray Kerri, a friend who began at the *Adelaide News* about the same time as Michelmores, said: "Peter was an extraordinarily gifted writer. He was always cheerful, exuding optimism and dry humour."

Peter and Nan were a devoted and inseparable couple in all their years overseas and he nursed her through a life-threatening illness and major surgery last year before himself being diagnosed with cancer.

Peter Michelmores is survived by Nan, their children Nicholas, Jason and Tracy and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.