

10 QUESTIONS: Ted Pollard

By Lisa Biedenbach. To suggest a member to profile for "10 Questions," call Director of Operations Lisa Biedenbach, 513-217-4915, or email lbiedenbach@centralconnections.org.

What is your experience as a journalist?

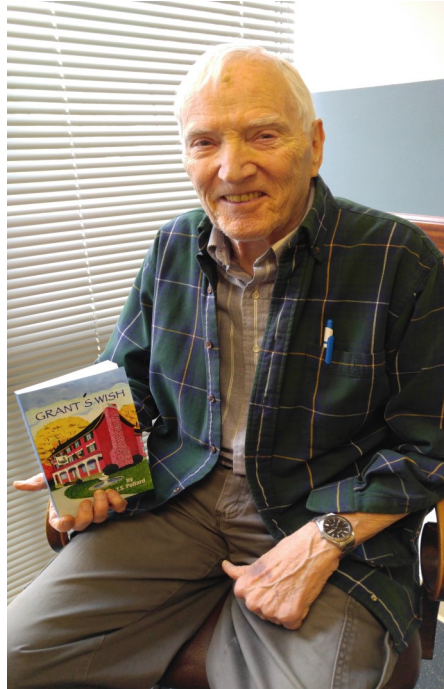
I have a master's degree in journalism/marketing from The Ohio State University. I worked for newspapers, notably the St. Louis Globe-Democrat (the former) as a business reporter and the Kanas City Star as assistant financial editor. I was a reporter and business editor of the Middletown Journal (now the Journal-News) and, after retirement, as a news reporter with the Miller Newspapers in Franklin and Germantown. I worked in public relations in Denver, editing magazines and serving as media liaison with Trans World Airlines (TWA), among other companies.

What is your most memorable reporting experience?

My interview with Henry Kissinger who was yet to be appointed to Nixon's cabinet and was largely unknown. I didn't have enough info about him nor was I expert on world power politics to do a good job. Inwardly I was embarrassed. It stood as the most memorable interview but for the wrong reason.

Who is your favorite reporter?

Walter Cronkite. I once talked with him when a TWA plane was hijacked and he and a staffer called me (as PR for the airline)



Retired newspaper reporter Ted Pollard penned Grant's Wish, a novel inspired from working as night auditor at Golden Lamb in Lebanon. The book is available at MidPointe Library System and from Amazon.com.

to ask how many bullets it would take to cause fatal decompression of a 727.

What news do you access?

Time, CNN, and NBC.

How is today's reporting the same and different from decades ago?

In print media I don't see any difference from what I did. Just tell the news in the most truthful way you can. I see a difference in TV broadcasting where too often news people give too many personal slants to the news and too often don't seem to know what they're talking about. I trust print media more.

What is your latest book?

Grant's Wish, a tale revolving around a very old and legendary hotel now past its prime, in a state of disrepair and neglected by its corporate owner. The 150-year-old Silver Swan Inn once boasted famous names as overnight guests, including authors, U.S. Presidents, and noted military leaders, like Ulysses S. Grant who stayed there occasionally during the Civil War years. The manager of a posh Atlanta hotel has been demoted and tasked with readying the hotel to be sold or torn down. He grows to cherish the Swan's charms and rich history and plans to buy and restore it but faces many obstacles.

Any other themes in *Grant's Wish*?

The more serious theme is that our perceptions, such as those of Ulysses Grant and American Indians, for example, too often distort reality. *Grant's Wish* could change a reader's view of our country's 18th president who, I think, is often given short shrift in school history classes.

What do you read for fun?

I read detective/mystery books by James Patterson, John Grisham, Michael Connelly, Tom Clancy, and, of course, Agatha Christie.

What is your favorite book?

Moby Dick

What book is on your nightstand?

I keep a book of Shakespeare plays nearby and regularly pick it up to read a scene or two. Better than the Bible. 🌿