
Times Facts

Mark began working for the *Evening Independent* in 1973 as a police reporter. He then covered St. Petersburg city government, county government, and three sessions of the legislature. He wrote a political column for the *Evening Independent* until it folded 1986, when Mark joined the business department of the *Times*. He covers tourism, marketing, theme parks, economic development and retailing.

Talking Points

• Retailing • Tourism • Marketing • Economic Development • Theme Parks

Mark as covered all aspects of the retailing industry locally and nationally for 18 years. He writes a bi-weekly retailing column. He has experience with armed forces network Europe radio reports, local public affairs programs, standup reports predicting K-Mart and other bankruptcies.

Education

Mark earned a bachelor of science degree in Journalism at Kent State University in 1969. (One year before the shootings, he notes, although his fraternity house was teargassed in the riots.)

Background

While attending high school in Salem, Ohio, Mark worked at the *Salem Ohio News* covering sports. Then in 1968 he became Bureau Chief at *The Journal* in Lorain, Ohio. In 1971 he was a public information specialist in the U. S. Army in Stuttgart, Germany.

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