John Hurt dies

DALLAS (AP) — John J. Hurt, longtime Southern Baptist editor and former Associated Press newsmen, died Wednesday after a lengthy illness. He was 78.

During his three decades as a Baptist newspaperman, Hurt served as editor of the oldest state Baptist paper — the Georgia Christian Index, from 1947 to 1988 — and the largest Texas Baptist Standard, from 1966 to 1977.

Hurt worked as a reporter for the Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal and the Jackson (Tenn.) Sun prior to joining The AP in 1938. He served the worldwide wire service for 11 years, working in Nashville, Memphs and Chatanooga, Tenn., as well as in New York and Atlanta.

He entered denominational journalism in 1947. Hurt of Dallas, was a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and was president of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

He is survived by his wife, Doris, two brothers, a sister of Newark, Del., and Robert H. Hurt of Washington, D.C.

Funeral arrangements were pending.