Hi –

Interesting email. No, I was not aware of your firm. A short bio is attached.

Specific to news, I was News Director at KFBB-TV, Great Falls MT, from 1971-1976. I came to the station in March , 1970 and was named News Director nine months later. In 1976 I accepted the position as Executive Director of the Montana Republican Party (1976-1980); had Dunham Advertising from 1980-1990 with a mix of political and issue campaigns, lobbying and government affairs , and some corporate/retail accounts. Sold the agency in 1990.

Moved to association management in 1990 with the Montana Contractors Association (Helena MT), Inland Northwest Associated General Contractors (Spokane WA) and the Fox Valley Associated General Contractors (suburban Chicago). In 2006 I joined the West Coast Lumber & Building Material Association as Executive Director and will retire on June 30. I will continue with consulting, political management, governmental affairs and lumber industry involvement.

I am a 1970 graduate of the University of Montana with a B.A. in Radio-TV Journalism. Still involved with the University of Montana as a member of the alumni board of directors. I had transferred to UM after three years of Industrial Engineering at Montana State University and one other school. Decided I did not want to be an engineer so moved to journalism, which had always been an interest. Transferring to UM as a junior meant that the school needed to develop a curriculum for me that skipped some of the normal R-TV classes. I took more pure journalism classes which was actually an advantage later. I also had about 60 credits in the drama department which was helpful in TV in a variety of ways – stage presence training, stagecraft and lighting skills to help design our news and other station sets.

I was fortunate to be in TV news at a time that when one of the three major networks (or Canadian, too) wanted something going on in our area, they would call and I'd generally be able to get it for them. We'd process the film, transfer it to two-inch videotape with the audio and stand-up as needed, get it to the Great Falls airport and hand it to a pilot or flight attendant to give it to someone from the network waiting in either in Los Angeles or New York, depending on where the plane was going. I covered forest fires, political events, some crime stories, and often human interest. Our corporate owners, Harriscope Broadcasting, encouraged us to do this as it enhanced the image of the corporation. They were some of the finest people I ever worked with.

I did turn down covering the Native American issues at Wounded Knee because I knew Russell Means and he knew me, and there had been friction from prior interviews.. They were also shooting real bullets and I figured a two minute story on ABC or NBC was not worth my life. I was fortunate to meet a lot of interesting political figures, a couple Presidents and lots of interesting characters in those years.

After leaving regular TV, I was a frequent interview for political matters and I was also often an analyst on election night coverage so really stayed somewhat in the public eye for years after.

I am still amazed, and humbled, that when I travel back to Montana and Washington yet, how many people still recognize me and say they remembered the TV days. I kindly thank them and smile.

I generally don't like what I see in local TV news any more, but that's another story.

That's the story of a poor boy from NW Montana…….

Ken Dunham

Executive Director

WEST COAST LUMBER &
BUILDING MATERIAL ASSOCIATION

177 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, CA 95630