



NECROLOGY

National Newspaper Association

October 2022- September 2023

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Longtime Enterprise owner/publisher dies at 79

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of The Calaveras Enterprise's owner and publisher, our own guiding light, Ralph Alldredge.

Ralph cared deeply about this community and its right to a free press. He dedicated 24 years of his life to upholding the tenets of good journalism in this small yet special corner of the world. His commitment never faltered, even in the final weeks of his battle with cancer, as he led us into our next iteration.

Ralph was born in Taft, California, on July 1, 1943, and grew up in Medford, Oregon, until he was 10. He lived in Connell, Washington, until he was 17. When Ralph was 4 years old, he discovered that his grandparents had a typewriter and began to write his autobiography — an example of his self-awareness and his love of the printed word. In that spirit, only Ralph can best summarize his own remarkable life. He did just that in a 2017 bio he wrote while contemplating a political campaign.

At age 6, I lived on a farm in Oregon, where my stepfather was a herdsman. By 7, I was milking cows by hand, doing farmwork that sometimes required driving tractors or trucks and picking fruit in the orchards. When I was 10 years old, my family moved to eastern Washington, where we became homesteaders as part of the Columbia Basin Reclamation project. Between the ages of 10 and 17, I helped create a farm on land that had never been cultivated in human history. For the first year, we had no running water or power. By 15, I also began working as a hired hand for other farmers in the area, as well as a gas station attendant to earn spending money and

save for college.

Because my father was killed while flying a B-36 for the Air Force, I qualified for a VA program that provided children of deceased veterans free tuition and about \$100 per month while I attended the University of Washington, but I continued working for various farmers each summer to earn additional money for college. During my junior and senior years, I also earned room and board as a resident advisor in the dormitory. Upon graduation as an economics major in 1965, I received a full scholarship to Columbia Law School based upon my college record and scores on the LSAT. The summer before law school, I worked as a roustabout in the oil fields near Bakersfield. It was the highest paying job I could find. During the summer following my first year in law school, I worked as a procurement agent for Boeing in Seattle. The next two summers were spent working as an intern at San Francisco law firms.

I graduated from Columbia cum laude in 1968 and was drafted in November of that year after taking and passing the California Bar Exam. My two years in the Army were served in Atlanta as a legal clerk with responsibilities for special courts and boards at Third Army headquarters. I also supplemented my Army pay by working nights and weekends as a law clerk with a prestigious Atlanta law firm.

When I returned to San Francisco in 1970, I joined the law firm that is now known as Morrison and Foerster. In 1976, I opened my own office in San Francisco because I was disappointed with the lack of trial experience large law firms could offer. I continued my solo practice for about 20 years, trying "complex litigation" cases in San Francisco and courts throughout California, as well as in New York and other western states like Hawaii and Oregon. In 1996, I joined a small firm in the Bay Area and continued trying cases in that firm, then another larger firm until 2007, when I returned to the solo practice I still conduct.



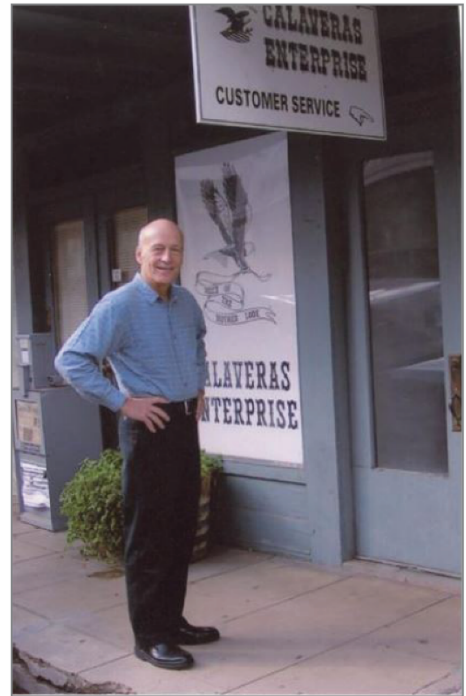
Alldredge

In [1998] I also became owner/publisher of a community newspaper in Calaveras County, and have continued since then to follow two careers simultaneously. ...

Ralph got into community papers because he believed in them. He grew up in a small town, and he loved that environment. He wanted to be sure that Calaveras County had the best paper he could provide. He put his heart and soul into the Enterprise, even after he moved to Washington. Ralph's early involvement with newspapers was to represent them in several of his trials, the biggest being the Manteca Bulletin trial, which was a big win for that newspaper.

In February of 1998, Ralph, along with Darell Phillips (former editor of the Manteca Bulletin) and Robert Piccinini (owner of SaveMart stores), were about to become owners of the Calaveras Enterprise. Ralph and Bob were the financial backers, and Darell would run the paper. On the day papers were to be signed, Darell drowned in a Calaveras County flood. Ralph and Bob went ahead with the purchase, with Ralph taking over the operation of the newspaper. Soon after, Ralph bought out Bob's share and became sole owner of the newspaper.

From 1998, when Ralph purchased the newspaper, until 2007, he was a long-distance publisher, remaining in the Bay Area for his law practice. In 2007, he continued his law practice, but, thanks to technological advances, was able to communicate with clients and prepare for trials from his home in Angels Camp. Eventually, he reduced his law practice in order to focus on the newspaper and enjoy all the things he loved about small town life in the Sierra



Ralph Alldredge outside the newspaper office in San Andreas, California.

foothills. Ralph's involvement in the Mark Twain Symposium with Bob Trinchero and others was one of his great joys in Angels Camp.

An avid outdoorsman, Ralph was a runner and hiker for more than 50 years and a fisherman for almost as long. He was drawn to daring sports: hang gliding, mountain climbing, scuba and free-diving, whitewater rafting, and in his early days, motorcycle riding. He lived his last two-and-a-half years at his home on 12 acres of forest and beach on Whidbey Island, Washington. It was pure joy for him. He had become involved with an environmental organization, the Northwest Straits Foundation, whose goal is to protect and restore the health of the marine resources in that area.

Ralph passed away at his home on Oct. 4, 2022. He leaves behind his 100-year-old mother, Betty Lu Metzger; three brothers and a sister; his wife of 56 years, Claudia



Ralph with his wife of 56 years, Claudia.

ALLDREDGE: A vigil will be held at a later date

FROM PAGE 22

Allredge; three children, Cynthia Shidner, Thomas Allredge and Hannah Morris; and six grandchildren, Matthew, Yzolde, Hero, Ella, Liam and Nora.

He also leaves behind the staff at

the Enterprise, who will carry on his legacy of upright journalism in the community that he so loved.

A vigil will be held at a later date, to be announced in the Calaveras Enterprise. Members of the community are invited to write Letters to the Editor in memory of Ralph.

Linda Beermann, 1946-2022

Linda R. Beermann of Lincoln, Nebraska, a pathbreaking TV weather reporter and newscaster and community volunteer, died at home of natural causes on Nov. 25, 2022, after enjoying a Thanksgiving holiday with friends, family, a new kitten and FaceTiming with grandchildren. She was 76 years old.

Beermann was born in Nebraska City to Walter and Rosalin Dierking on Oct. 13, 1946. After graduating from Nebraska City High School, she attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she majored in broadcast journalism and graduated as a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Beermann worked as a reporter for KMTV in Omaha before joining Lincoln's KOLN/KGIN-TV in 1968 as a reporter and photographer. She became the weekend weather news-

caster in 1970 in addition to continuing to work as a reporter and news assignment editor.

Linda married Allen J. Beermann, who was then serving his first term as Nebraska's secretary of state, on May 23, 1971, at an Edwardian-themed wedding at Arbor Lodge State Historic Park in Nebraska City, complete with horse-drawn carriages. The couple rode in a historic carriage that was last used by President Grover Cleveland on a visit to Arbor Lodge.

Linda continued her broadcasting career and in 1979 became the station's full-time evening weather newscaster, the first woman in the country to hold such a position at a local TV station. She was featured in ads promoting the station and was in demand to emcee civic and cultural events during her years there.

Linda resigned from her TV news career in 1986 to have more time to be with her two pre-school sons, Matthew and Jay, and to join Allen in his political and civic activities.

The couple traveled to more than 50 countries and hosted numerous international visitors during Allen's years as secretary of state and his subsequent service as executive director of the Nebraska Press Association.

In addition to her political involvement with Allen, Linda also co-chaired the centennial celebration of Arbor Day, co-emceed two governors' inaugural balls and was involved with the Nebraska Mothers Association's Mother of the Year program, among other activities.

Linda is survived by: Allen J. Beermann, her husband of 51 years; sons Matthew Allen Beermann (partner

Adam Yarbrough) of Kansas City, Missouri, and John "Jay" William Beermann (wife Julie Whorton, grandsons Isaac and Luke) of Oakland, California; brother William (Bill) Dierking (wife Patti) of Golden, Colorado; nephews Chad Dierking of Arvada, Colorado, and Todd Dierking of Superior, Colorado.

Visitation with the family was Dec. 2 at Roper & Sons South Chapel, 40th and Yankee Hill Road. The funeral was Dec. 3 at First Plymouth Congregational Church, 2000 D St., with a reception at the church following. A private burial was held later in the day at Lincoln's Wyuka Cemetery.

Memorials suggested to the Beermann Scholarship Fund through the Nebraska Press Association Foundation and Lincoln's Rotary Club #14 Foundation.

Tom Bell, 1942-2022

BY JULIA HUNTER

Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Thomas "Tom" D. Bell, former fifth-generation publisher of the Ladysmith (Wisconsin) News, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022, at Our House Memory Care in Chippewa Falls,

Wisconsin. He was 80.

Bell was born on March 16, 1942, to Donald and Aubrey Bell. He married Christine Bell in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Oct. 29, 1984.

Donald, who is enshrined on the Wisconsin Newspaper Association's Memorial Pylon, served as publisher of the Ladysmith News

until his retirement in 1981. Tom led the paper until retiring in 2004. He was succeeded by his brother, Jim Bell, who is the newspaper's current publisher.

The Bell family has been involved in the newspaper industry since the late 1800s, when Thomas Cowan Bell published a weekly

newspaper in Worthington, Minnesota.

Funeral services were held Dec. 8, with burial at Riverside Cemetery in Ladysmith.



Bell

James B. Boone Jr., former publisher of The Tuscaloosa News, dies at 87

BY MARK HUGHES COBB
The Tuscaloosa News

James Buford Boone Jr., who followed his father James Buford Boone Sr. into the newspaper business, and whose extended family has expanded into a country-wide publishing business, has died at 87.

As publisher of The Tuscaloosa News, his father wrote the 1957 Pulitzer-Prize-winning front-page editorial, "What a Price for Peace" after Autherine Lucy's 1956 attempt to integrate the University of Alabama was met with mob violence. His son followed in those footsteps, focusing initially on the business side of newspapers, while his father had invested more effort in editorial efforts, said Jerry Carpenter, long-time employee of the newspaper. The senior Boone hired Carpenter as a printer for a dollar a day — good money in 1959. The younger Boone was Carpenter's friend and contemporary.

"Jim Boone was born in a large shadow, coming off of Buford Boone," Carpenter said. "It was like Paul Jr. being born to Paul Bryant (legendary coach of the Crimson Tide). That's what it was like back then."

In 1968, Jim Boone purchased

controlling interest in Tuscaloosa Newspapers Inc., taking over as publisher and president, with his father staying on as chairman of the board until retirement in 1974.

"When he came to The Tuscaloosa News, Jim had been off, really learning the fine points of running a paper," Carpenter said. "He just lifted advertising like a balloon. What happened on the business side was amazing."

And that rising tide lifted all afloat.

"Once he started buying newspapers, I spent more time on airplanes than I spent on the ground; and he put my boys to work," he said. His son Todd Carpenter, who also began his career at The Tuscaloosa News, is now president and CEO of Boone Newsmedia Inc. which changed its name from Boone Newspapers last fall to reflect changing times.

Jim Boone remained chairman of BNI until his passing, overseeing 91 newspapers, websites, magazines and shopping guides throughout Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas.

His youngest child, Catherine Boone Hadaway, is among those staying in the family business as publisher of the Vicksburg (Missis-



Boone

sippi) Post, one of the papers owned by BNI. She also group-manages the Natchez Democrat and Brookhaven Daily Leader.

"Dad was just the wisest person that I ever knew," she said. "He had a lot of sayings that guided me

throughout my life: 'Always be on the generous side of fair. Make a plan, and work your plan.' "

But he never pushed any of his family into the business. They just saw how much he loved newspapers — how he put his life into them. He lived by those tenets, she said, and never considered his job to be work, as such.

"He worked until 5 p.m. on Friday of this past week," she said. "He believed in the mission of newspapers, to make the community better; to be an advocate and voice for the community."

The Boones grew up next door to the Randalls, another prominent family in the media business. Pettus Randall III had grown his father's business, producing awards and Who's Who books into an empire with hundreds of employ-

ees across several states, creating dozens of publications. When he fell ill in the early part of this century, knowing he had to prepare Randall Publishing for a future without him, Jim Boone Jr. was the first person he called on to join the board.

"First of all, he is such a loyal friend," said Cathy Randall, Pettus' widow. "If you have Jim Boone as a friend, you don't need anybody else."

Boone was a fountain of knowledge, which he shared eagerly, mentoring young journalists and others, she said.

"His wisdom was incalculable, yet he shared it so freely," Randall said. He was dedicated to community journalism as an operating principle of democracy, of newspapers not just as advocates for the community, but as a place to bring disparate voices together.

"The world of journalism, and the world as a whole, is poorer for Jim's passing," Randall said.

Boone's funeral was at the Lowndesboro Methodist Church, 198 S. Broad St. in Lowndesboro, followed by a graveside service at Oakview Cemetery in Lowndesboro and a gathering at The Marengo House, 100 N. Broad St. in Lowndesboro.

Hodding Carter III, former DD-T owner, publisher and editor, has died

BY JON ALVERSON
Publisher | Delta Democrat-Times

Greenville High School class of 1953 president, journalist, political activist and former owner of this newspaper, Hodding Carter III has died at 88.

He was born April 7, 1935, in New Orleans, to William Hodding Carter Jr. and Betty Werlein Carter. They moved to Greenville, Mississippi, in 1936 after being recruited by a group of community leaders to start a newspaper that evolved into the Delta Democrat-Times.

His father won the Pulitzer Prize in 1946 for a series of editorials critical of U.S. treatment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

His mother, from a prominent New Orleans family, was a feature writer and editor who recalled sitting at home with a shotgun across her lap after receiving threats from the Ku Klux Klan.

Carter was the oldest of three sons. His brother, Philip Duterte Carter, reported for Newsweek and served as publisher of the Delta Democrat-Times and Vieux Carré Courier as well as a financier of Gambit, a New Orleans weekly. Another brother, Thomas Hennen Carter, died at 19.

Hodding Carter III attended Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire before graduating from Greenville High School in 1953. He graduated from Princeton University and later married Margaret Ainsworth Wolfe. They had four children before divorcing in 1978.

Carter then married Patricia M. Derian, a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement, who sought to transform U.S. foreign policy as President Carter's assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs.

Former employees of the newspaper in the 1960s and 1970s remember Carter as a tough-but-kind manager who knew how to throw a party.

Lou Powell worked as a copy editor from 1968-1972 when Carter was spending much of his time out of Greenville pursuing political issues.

"When he'd come back to town, he'd come into the newsroom with a fistful of tearsheets covered in red grease pencil," Powell said. "He didn't like it when I put the invasion of Cambodia on an inside page instead of the front of the newspaper."

"But at the same time, Hodding did not hold a grudge at all. He was very tolerant, and we made a lot of mistakes," Powell said.

He also remembers Carter's reputation for tightfistedness.

"He paid pretty low rates, but we were young and mostly straight out of college," Powell said.

Ed Williams, who worked at the paper from 1968-1970, remembers the pay, as well.

"He told me I should come work at the paper and make a little money before going to grad school," Williams said. "I kidded him for the next 50 years about how little money it was."

Carter gave Williams' induction speech to the North Carolina newspaper Hall of Fame after a long career as editorial page editor of the Charlotte Observer.

"It (Greenville) was an exciting place to be," Williams said. "We'd go to this juke joint outside of town called Tilly's, and he'd ask everybody what they thought of the paper. Sometimes I didn't think we'd get out of there alive."

"He was a prince," Williams said. "He was good-looking, smart, talented and well-connected."

Ella Cannon worked at the paper from 1976 until 2016 and remembers



Carter III

Carter as being a good man to work for and the parties.

"He could throw a hell of a Christmas party," Cannon said. "The parties were always in the back and, man, we had a ball."

Penny Weaver, who worked at the paper from 1970 to

1973, remembered the parties as well but also talked about more recent gatherings hosted by the Reed family when Hodding had a birthday in 2010 and at the burial of his second wife in 2016.

She also remembers the advice memo he wrote to her when she took the job at the paper.

The memo said there are three things necessary to being a good journalist:

1. Accuracy. "You have to be accurate. If you can't spell somebody's name right, they aren't going to believe anything else you say."
2. Clarity. "You have to report the news so it can be understood."
3. Good writing. "You need some flair with words, but it is the least important. Don't let it get in the way of the other two."

Weaver echoed the sentiments of others who worked at the paper in that time.

"It was an exciting time to be in Greenville," Weaver said.

Longtime friend Clark Reed said Greenville isn't now the same place as it was then.

"Everybody wanted to be here," Reed said. "Nobody would have thought to move to Oxford."

Reed said he and Carter, although political opposites, got along well and

often brought the glitterati of the political world to Greenville.

Hodding left Greenville for Washington in 1977.

He had been co-chair of the Loyalist Democrats, a racially diverse group that won a credentials fight at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, unseating the all-white delegation by Mississippi's governor, John Bell Williams.

His campaign work in 1976 for Jimmy Carter (no relation) helped secure him a job as assistant secretary of state for public affairs. It was in this role that he was seen on television news during the 444 days that Iran held 52 Americans hostage.

When Ronald Reagan was elected to the White House in 1980, Hodding returned to journalism as president of MainStreet, a television production company specializing in public affairs programs that earned him four national Emmy Awards and the Edward R. Murrow Award for documentaries.

Hodding appeared as a panelist, moderator or news anchor at ABC, BBC, NBC, CNN and PBS. He also wrote op-ed columns for the Wall Street Journal and other newspapers. He served twice on the steering committee of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Carter later was named the John S. Knight Professor of Public Affairs Journalism at the University of Maryland. In 1998, he became president of the John S. Knight and James L. Knight Foundation based in Miami, Florida.

After leaving the foundation, he began teaching leadership and public policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006. He wrote two books, "The Reagan Years" and "The South Strikes Back."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Theresa Marie 'Terry' Coady, 1935-2023

Theresa Marie "Terry" Coady, age 87, died February 22, 2023 (one day before her 88th birthday) in her home in Fort Washington, Maryland, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Terry was born in Georgetown, Maryland, to the late Joseph and Mary Lepore on February 23, 1935. Her four sisters have all predeceased her. She married her beloved husband, Walter J. Coady Jr., on November 15, 1968, and together they raised their five

sons from former marriages. They also formed Walterry Insurance Brokers and worked together to establish the insurance agency.

In 1976, they started writing insurance policies for media outlets such as newspapers, broadcast stations and independent film producers

Over the years, their agency became one of the largest insurers of media insurance, stretching over the entire 50 states.

Besides her family, her two big



Coady

loves were traveling and attending operas with her husband. Together, they traveled to all 50 states, all seven continents and over 100 countries. They also attended over 170 operas.

She is survived by her beloved

husband of 55 years, sons Steven

Thomas, Richard Thomas, Walter Coady III, William Coady, Walker Coady, and eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Visitation was March 2, 2023, at the Kalas Funeral Home & Crematory, 6160 Oxon Hill Rd., Oxon Hill, Maryland, where funeral services were held on March 3, 2023.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Fund,

<http://bit.ly/3ZtdpTa>.

Award-winning investigative reporter Fred Connors dies at 77

From delving into the mindset of a local serial killer to uncovering major cost overruns at the Wheeling Tunnel renovation project, Fred Connors never shied away from informing the Ohio Valley on the important news of the day. He stayed active in retirement, writing the occasional story and spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

That lifetime of service to his community served our region and its residents well. Connors' final story ran in Monday's editions of *The Intelligencer* and *Wheeling News-Register*, as he penned his own obituary not long before his death. Connors died Sunday, July 2, at the age of 77.

Connors was an investigative reporter for *The Intelligencer* and *Wheeling News-Register* before retiring and going on to found the Ohio Valley Cold Case Task Force.

During his career, he earned multiple journalism awards from the West Virginia Press Association and the Southern Newspapers Publishing Association. He was, by all definitions, a newsman.

"Fred Connors was the newsman's newsman. His dedication, commitment and passion for reporting the news remains unmatched in our region," said John McCabe, editor of *The Intelligencer* and *Wheeling News-Register*. "He reported on so many important stories during his decade-plus tenure at the newspapers. From helping put a serial killer behind bars, to interviewing convicted murderers on death row so local families could find closure, to spending three construction seasons chronicling the fiasco with the Wheeling Tunnel renovations, Fred never backed down from a

story Ohio Valley readers needed to know.

"All that aside, it was the little things that really defined Fred Connors. He loved to talk about the various endeavors his children — Dean, Scott and Joelle — were involved with, and how proud he was. He loved to share conversation on any topic over that first cup of coffee in the morning. And in 2007, when he ended his 43-year relationship with cigarettes, he quickly jumped at the chance to chronicle his journey with readers, both as a way to have an outlet for the angst and also to help others in the Upper Ohio Valley who might have been considering a similar journey."

Connors wrote the following on May 1, 2007, shortly after he quit smoking, citing something his then 9-year-old grandson wrote for a school Thanksgiving project: "I am thankful for my family. Also, I hope my cousins have a great Thanksgiving. I hope that God will help my grandfather to stop smoking. I hope that everyone stops doing bad things. I praise the Lord for everything."

"That's powerful. And in the end, when it came to being a newsman, so was Fred Connors," McCabe said.

One of Connors' best friends and associates was retired Ohio County Sheriff's Department investigator Harry Croft, who joined Connors on the Ohio Valley Cold Case Task Force.

Croft said he had known Connors "a number of years — I don't know



Connors

how long."

He said the two met at a dinner, where Connors began to speak about the case involving the death of Justin Hughes.

"I told him that I knew something about that, and we started conversing," Croft said. "I saw him just a few days before he passed. I told him then that I will do what I can to solve the Justin Hughes case.

"Then I told him, 'You got to get squared away. We have things to do.'"

Croft, also a minister, presided over Connors' wedding to his wife, Sharon, at the Marwin Church of the Nazarene in Wheeling.

"They are beautiful people, and they are still beautiful people," Croft said of the Connors family.

"He also cared about people, and the people he wrote about. He was a dear friend. I will miss him a lot."

Connors frequently communicated with Wheeling attorney Robert McCoid on court cases, and the two struck up a friendship.

"I was very saddened to learn of Fred Connors' passing this past weekend," he said. "In addition to being an excellent reporter, he was a devoted father and a good friend.

"I last saw him in March for lunch, and we reminisced about many of the criminal cases he had covered over the years before retiring, including a number I had defended."

He remembered that Connors was accompanied by his wife at the lunch and was struggling with his health on that date.

"In this age where news cycles 24 hours a day and salacious headlines sell, Fred was a rare breed of investigative reporter in that he would actually do deep dives into his

articles, peel back as many layers of the onion on a story as necessary to get to the heart of what it was really about," McCoid continued. "At times, his questions seemed endless. He was a genuine credit to his profession, always bringing a refreshing sense of objectivity to his reporting and scrupulously giving both sides of a case equal opportunity to comment.

"I will very much miss his inquisitive mind, his impish smile and his biting Irish wit."

Retired assistant editor Heather Ziegler, a former co-worker of Connors, termed him "an old-school newspaper reporter through and through."

"I was fortunate to have worked in the same newsroom with him during his tenure with the *Wheeling newspapers*," Ziegler said. "His tenacity earned him some great bylined stories that he gleaned from simple reports that he then delved into deeper than most in the business.

"Fred cared about his community and was most proud of his family. They have plenty of reasons to be proud of him, as well. He had a great sense of humor and always added a bit of fun to our newsroom family, especially on trying news days. I considered him a colleague and friend."

In addition to his career as a reporter, Connors also was employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., and served as a third-class petty officer in the U.S. Navy.

Interment will be at the convenience of the family in National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, with full military honors.

Times founder and president L. Alan Cruikshank passes away

L. Alan Cruikshank was born in Oklahoma July 18, 1947, to Leslie and Joyce Cruikshank. He passed away on Oct. 30, 2022, in Las Vegas. Between those dates, he lived nearly all his life in the Phoenix area. He graduated from West High School in Phoenix in 1965, where he was an athlete, winning numerous ribbons for participation in relay events.

Alan graduated from Arizona State University, and his first professional venture was starting a state-wide sports magazine, Arizona Sports Digest. He was hired on as a copy writer for an advertising agency where McCulloch Properties was a client. McCulloch was just beginning a new residential development venture in the Phoenix area, Fountain Hills, and Alan was assigned to that job.

He recalled his first day on the job for the 45th Anniversary edition of The Fountain Hills Times in 2019.

"Randy Wood, son of the community's co-founder C.V. Wood, drove me out here to see the initial work going on," Alan wrote. "They were grading the Fountain Park and roughing in the roads. Roughing it was right. I was glad he was driving a four-wheel drive Jeep. We stopped at the old ranch house, which was used by Trico engineering as their office for that early site work. I went to walk through the doorway when the sight of four dead rattlesnakes stopped me dead in my tracks.

"That's how many we found today," said one of the grader drivers.

"Welcome to Fountain Hills," I thought."

That was his indoctrination to the community that would shape the rest of his life. Over the next couple of years, Alan would travel around the West to other McCulloch communities for the ad agency — Lake Havasu City, Arizona, and Pueblo West in Colorado among those — and he would see newspapers telling the story of these new communities and thought, why not for Fountain Hills?

Alan and Arthur Hewitt, an old-school newspaper editor in Los Angeles turned executive for the advertising agency, left the agency and started The Times of Fountain Hills (later becoming The Fountain Hills Times). The first edition was June 27, 1974.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Alan had a very specific philosophy for his local newspaper. He would refer to it as "refrigerator journalism," the type of local news parents and grandparents would clip out and hang on the refrigerator, kind of like a large scrapbook in the kitchen. It would feature the local sports achievements, club news, activity calendars and of course photos of the kids and families, which Alan loved to feature large on the front page.

He would feature the ideas and aspirations of local residents, with many turning into community traditions that have stood the test of time. Local residents came up with the idea of an art show in Fountain Park, an idea the Chamber of Commerce would eventually turn into not just one, but two annual Fountain Festivals of Fine Arts and Crafts events that now draw hundreds of artists from all over the country and hundreds of thousands of visitors over three-day runs in November and February.

For the 10th anniversary of the community, the idea was presented for White Castle Day, a celebration of a favorite fast-food franchise in the Midwest where many Fountain Hills residents originated. It resulted in the world's largest take-out order of burgers to the world's tallest fountain.

Alan loved Fountain Park and the people and events it would attract, like Clayton Moore, TV's Lone Ranger, who accompanied the White Castle order into town. The park featured many performances in the early years, and some of Alan's favorites were Count Basie, Arthur Fiedler and the "most trusted man in America," Walter Cronkite, performing a Lincoln reading to patriotic music performed by the Phoenix Symphony with the late Andre Kostelanetz as guest conductor. Alan himself had the opportunity to conduct the Phoenix Symphony in the park at a later time.

"There are all the good things you accomplish with a newspaper, like finding lost pets for people or running a story about a family in need of help and watching the outpouring of generosity by the town's people," Alan said.

Alan has said he never really enjoys



Cruikshank

covering controversy, but The Times has never shied away from it, either. "It really bothers me when people get personal with their negative comments over some public issue," he wrote.

Alan recalled that in 1986, a group of residents approached him about running for Congress. He said he thought about it over a long weekend and gave them a hard pass. He felt the time it would take to do the proper job would take away too much from his family.

Alan would lose sleep over concern about the right way to handle coverage of some sensitive stories. The crumbling of the road districts and the town take-over of the fire district, along with the gaming stand-off at Fort McDowell, were among the most contentious stories The Times has covered, but Alan made sure the coverage was complete and fair.

There has been some violence in the community, and that was difficult for Alan. A young woman stood trial and was convicted of murdering her boyfriend over a love triangle. And one of the most difficult was the murder of Julie Patterson, a vivacious young woman who had become a force in civic activity in Fountain Hills. She was killed in her home just a couple of doors away from where Alan and his family lived. Her murder, over 30 years ago, was never solved.

"I'm still sick that the investigations have turned up virtually nothing in the [Patterson] case," Alan wrote.

COMMUNITY ICON

"Through the years, I have been very involved on a volunteer basis, and my company has contributed financially to many clubs, organizations and causes," Alan wrote in 2019. "I feel my volunteer efforts are one way in which I can give something back to the community that has provided me and my family a comfortable lifestyle."

Alan had fun doing his popular Elvis Presley impersonation for fundraisers

over a number of years. His Elvis had quite a local following and is something people still miss.

For eight years, Alan would dress up as Santa Claus, climb into a helicopter the day after Thanksgiving and be dropped off at the Village Bazaar to greet children and listen to their Christmas wishes.

Alan became an icon in the community, taking an active role in civic engagement. His volunteer efforts led to the establishment of the River of Time Museum, which now bears his name as the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center. The museum's efforts led to the Fountain Hills & Lower Verde Valley Historical Society.

Cherie Koss, executive director for the museum, issued a statement regarding Alan's passing.

"We at the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center are saddened to hear of the passing of our founder and namesake.

"We are so very proud to be a part of this great man's legacy, and we will continue to follow his dreams of growing the River of Time into a premier Fountain Hills destination.

"It has been an honor to have Mr. Cruikshank's guidance and support from the founding of the organization in 1991 to just last week when we met to design a new exhibit. We know that he will be an angel on our shoulder continuing to guide us."

Alan was active in the early Chamber of Commerce, serving three terms as president.

"On behalf of the board, staff and Chamber community, our deepest sympathy and unwavering support for Brent Cruikshank, the Cruikshank family and the staff at The Times for the loss of Alan Cruikshank," Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Betsy La Voie said. "We all wish you peace, comfort and courage during this time of sorrow. Our hearts go out to you during this very difficult time.

"Alan was the driving force for many of the entities that are in place in our Town today and will be greatly missed. His service to the Chamber's Board of Directors was an invaluable

CRUIKSHANK: The family is planning a celebration of life

FROM PAGE 22

able asset during the mid to late '80s to build the solid infrastructure of our organization. Alan was always a supporter of the Chamber of Commerce, with *The Times* being one of the founding first 15 businesses to create the Chamber in 1974. We are very saddened for the loss, and Alan's legacy will live on in our town."

Alan led the committee to establish Fountain Hills Sister Cities at the request of then Mayor Jerry Miles. He was honored as Fountain Hills Citizen of the Year, Fountain Hills Businessperson of the Year on more than one occasion, and was recipient of the Fountain Hills Humanitarian Award, Fountain Hills Champions Award and Commitment to Community Award. He was inducted into the Lower Verde Valley Hall of Fame with the initial class in 2004.

Alan was always willing to help out in the kitchen if it was for a worthy cause. Fountain Hills' original Town Clerk/Director of Administration and former Council member Cassie Hansen remembers this aspect of Alan.

"When Bruce and I moved to Fountain Hills in 1989, Alan was one of the first people we met — most likely because he was everywhere we went! It soon became clear that there was a

common denominator between Alan and Bruce — commitment to the community, finding solutions to challenges and the apparent inability to say no," Hansen said. "One of the early 1990 examples that comes to mind is when another community-minded business owner, Joyce Szeliga from Que Bueno, thought it would be a worthy effort to provide and prepare a holiday dinner for the kids from the Thomas Pappas School for homeless kids. She and husband, Jim, provided the meal featuring prime rib, but needed a location and volunteers to prepare the dinner. Enter Alan and Bruce, who filled that need. Because of his affiliation with the Men's Club, Alan secured that facility and their great kitchen. Bruce, who never shied away from preparing food for large groups, was ready to roll. The two of them in that kitchen made epicurean magic for a group of very appreciative kids and a bond that lasted through the years.

"I was lucky enough to be a part of the 'guys,' always behind the scenes to serve the pasta, slop the sauce, serve the kids, take pictures and fill in the holes. One of my greatest honors was to be asked to provide a tribute to Alan at the first major fundraiser in the new Community Center's four ballrooms for the newly bond-ap-

proved museum."

Alan was also honored by his professional peers through his career. He served on the board of directors for both the Arizona Newspaper Association (ANA) and the National Newspaper Association (NNA) and served as president of the state organization. He was inducted into the Arizona Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2003, and the NNA established the Cruikshank Scholars program at the University of Missouri School of Mass Communications (2004).

In 2013, Alan received the James O. Amos Award from the NNA. It is the association's highest award to a community newspaper person who has provided distinguished service and leadership in the community press industry.

Mayor Ginny Dickey, a resident almost as long as Alan, remembers his impact in guiding the town toward the family community it is today.

"A pioneer in every sense, Alan Cruikshank leaves a legacy forming the very foundation of our community," Dickey said. "It's easy to remember his contributions with *The Times* — the journalistic awards and how he presented our beautiful hometown — and the fun of Elvis complete with tossing scarves to swooning fans! But imagine the behind-the-scenes late

nights, errands and meetings in all manner of service to others. Sharing his own health journey so that readers could learn more, and fear less, was generous and helpful.

"I wish for peace and comfort to Alan's family, with gratitude from The Town of Fountain Hills."

Alan was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1995, and it never once slowed him down with his civic and professional efforts. He shared his journey with the disease with readers and found common ground with many on the same path.

He willingly, even enthusiastically, underwent a relatively new procedure at the time for treatment — deep brain stimulation. It improved his life and allowed him to continue sharing up until the time he passed.

Alan is survived by his wife, Diane; son, Brent, and his wife, Gina, and their son, Michael; daughter, Holly Ireland and husband, Bruce, their children, Brooke and Addy; daughter, Tammy LaBanca and her husband, Brandon, and their children, Brandon, Brody, Brylee, Brielle; daughter, Dani Cordaro and her son, Hunter; daughter Toni Yenglin and her husband, Jason and their son, Camden; his mother, Joyce Cruikshank; and sister-in-law, Linda Cruikshank. He was predeceased by his father, Leslie,

Remembering my friend, L. Alan Cruikshank

Community newspapers lost a great champion with the passing of Alan Cruikshank.

As founder and president of the Fountain Hills (Arizona) Times, Alan was a pioneer in local news and information.

He was the first to our knowledge to launch a daily local news broadcast from his office. And he and his family did it before the evening TV news came on.

He also was the only newspaper publisher we knew who published the local telephone directory in his community.

Both provided added revenue to support his news operations.

Alan was generous with his time and expertise.

My wife, MacLeod, and I spend several hours with him in Fountain Hills, picking his brains for what had worked for him and his people.

Alan was an example for many of what a community newspaper editor and publisher could mean to his readers, advertisers and publishing colleagues.

—Jerry Bellune, writing coach, author and retired publisher of the Lexington (South Carolina) Chronicle

EDITOR'S NOTE: Read Cruikshank's obituary from the Fountain Hills Times at <https://bit.ly/3FrUPCM>

Carol Goss Daniels, 1963–2023

On April 8, Carol Goss Daniels passed away at her home at age 59 after an eight-year battle with colon cancer.

Carol poured herself into building and nurturing the relationships in her life, beginning with her daughters, Megan and Samantha. And she was a champion for women and their success. She loved helping women succeed in any way she could.

Guy Huntingford, who recruited Carol into the media business in 2003, said it well: “She was a force of nature.”

In her varied career, Carol brought enthusiasm, energy, passion and leadership to each commitment she made. She was the executive director of the Tennessee Press Association and was the primary lobbyist on behalf of the 133 members in the organization. She was executive vice president of Tennessee Press Service, which represents the sales and marketing interests of Tennessee’s newspapers and their associated digital properties.

“When we hired Carol as the executive director of the Tennessee Press Service, the organization was really struggling,” said Dave Gould, owner of Main Street Media of Tennessee and president of the Tennessee Press Service. “Carol quickly got things turned around, leading by example and building an outstanding team. Today, the association is on sound footing.

“Our industry has been going through such incredible change, and Carol was always so positive, passionate, optimistic and encouraging.

“In addition to all the great work she did, Carol was such a wonderful person. She was a kind soul who was so positive and always had an optimistic outlook. She was an inspiration to everyone who knew her as she battled cancer. No matter what Carol was going through or how bad she felt, she never complained and continued to forge ahead. She was loved by so many of our members and will be

terribly missed,” Gould said.

“The TPA family is mourning the loss of a passionate champion of the First Amendment and a tireless advocate for association members who relied on her skill, high energy and determination to advance our mission and values,” said Chris Vass, TPA president.

“She led the organization through challenging times and developed creative solutions to help members navigate the headwinds our industry has faced. She was simultaneously relentless and compassionate, always willing to listen.

“TPA has lost a faithful friend, a woman whose smile and laugh lightened and brightened many meetings,” she said. “When you knew Carol was involved, you knew to expect a first-class result.”

“For those of us who worked closely with her, we have lost a wonderful friend whose love for life, her family and her profession inspired us and will always,” Vass said.

“Carol fought with such grace and resilience,” said Megan Lane, who owns Lane Government Relations. “She was certainly a force. She was one of my first clients when I ventured out on my own, and she decided to take a leap of faith in hiring me. She always said it was because she wanted to invest in the next generation of women — a lesson I will pay forward because of her.”

Carol moved to Tennessee in 2007 from her native Canada and immersed herself in Nashville and middle Tennessee. She brought her experience in marketing and new business organization to several non-profit organizations, including Belle Meade Plantation; Books from Birth of Middle Tennessee; Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage; the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women campaign; the Nashville Rescue Mission; the Nashville Symphony and Watkins College of Art, Design and Film. She chaired annual fundraising



Daniels

Year award in 2013. She served on the Nashville Symphony Orchestra board of trustees and on the board of directors of Project Cure. She was a board member of The Andrew Jackson Foundation board of trustees, which runs the Hermitage and its 1,100 acres.

“She was a courageous, determined, creative and caring person,” said Howard Kittell, president and CEO of Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage. “She lived in the land of possibility and worked to make the possible a reality.”

After a stint as the marketing manager for Rogers AT&T Alberta, Carol began her career in the media industry at the Calgary Sun in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. In 2003, she joined the Sun as director of digital sales and development; one of her first responsibilities was building The Sun’s website and digital presence. Supervising and training a sales staff, she led the paper into the digital age. In 2004, she added the title of classified advertising manager and led that team to record sales growth in each month of her two-year stint in that role.

She was recruited to Toronto, where she ran the English-language division of Canoe as director of national sales and marketing. Canoe was the Canada-wide digital presence of Sun Media, a Montreal-based media company with digital, television and newspaper properties. She built the sales team and established Jobboom, a national

events and worked with staff to enhance marketing efforts and organization. Each event set fundraising records during her involvement, and she was recognized with the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ Volunteer of the

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Jo Ann Edgecombe, 1947-2022

Jo Ann Edgecombe was born November 14, 1947, at the Geneva, Nebraska, Hospital to Warren 'Flunky' Lefever and Florence 'Flossie' Lefever. She passed away on November 13, 2022, at the Fillmore County Hospital in Geneva at the age of 74 years old, one day shy of her 75th birthday.

Edgecombe grew up on the Lefever family farm four miles west of Geneva. She attended grade school and high school at Geneva Public Schools.

Jo started dating John Edgecombe Jr. in their junior year of high school. She graduated with the class of 1965. Jo attended Kearney State College for two years before marrying John on Sept. 2, 1967. They eloped to South Dakota before moving to California for John's service in the Navy. John deployed overseas to Vietnam, and upon his return, he was transferred to Virginia before returning home to Geneva.

John and Jo welcomed two boys, James in 1971 and Michael in 1974. John and Jo were married for 55 years.

Jo worked at the Geneva Public Library and the Geneva High School

as a librarian. She helped with production of the Nebraska Signal throughout the years. In 1994, John and Jo bought the Minden Courier, and she began driving to Minden for 10 years to help her son, James, with the production of the newspaper. In 2000, they bought the Hebron Journal Register, where she began helping her son, Michael, with the production of that newspaper.

Jo had a love for genealogy, and after her mother passed, she took over tracing the family history. Jo and John traveled to cemeteries and visited family members to help connect the history of the families.

Jo was involved with Chi Omega while at the college and traveled throughout the United States while John was serving with the National Newspaper Association. For over 50 years, she was a member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, played for the bell choir for several years; was a member of the Fillmore County Democrats and spent a lot of time traveling to watch her grandchildren in their many activities.

She made a great tour guide in Washington D.C. with each of the

grandkids throughout the years. She loved playing games with her family, including Mexican train Dominos, Pitch, Spoons and Scrabble. She created a family cookbook and loved cooking for friends and family.

Jo is preceded in death by her parents, Flunky and Flossie Lefever, and father and mother-in-law, John and Bette Edgecombe.

Jo is survived by her husband, John Edgecombe; sons, James and wife Michelle Edgecombe of Omaha, Michael and wife Abbe Edgecombe of Hickman; brother Ken and wife, Sandra Lefever of Geneva; sister Beth Lefever of Hastings; grandchildren Lauren (Dylan TePoel) Edgecombe of Malmo, Grant (Cece Beahm) Edgecombe of Kearney, Shaun (Shanna Utecht) Edgecombe of Littleton, Colorado, and Ben Edgecombe of Kearney, Katie, Anna, Luke and Riley Boonstra of Hickman; nephews John Lefever of Lincoln, Nate and wife, Chelsey Lefever of Geneva, Dan Lefever of Oakland, California, Brent Hultine of Hastings, and niece Aimee and husband, Jeff Schlegel of Lincoln; aunt Jean Vance of Pennsylvania;



Edgecombe

brother-in law Joe Edgecombe (Judy) of Panama City, Florida; and sister-in-law Jan Edgecombe (Glen Capek) of Geneva; and great-nieces and nephews; cousins; and many friends.

Funeral services were held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ on November 18, 2022. Honorary pallbearers were Jo's grandchildren: Lauren Edgecombe, Grant Edgecombe, Shaun Edgecombe, Ben Edgecombe, Katie Boonstra, Anna Boonstra, Luke Boonstra and Riley Boonstra.

A private family inurnment will be held at a later date at the Geneva Public Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the family and will be designated later.

Dick Emerson, longtime newspaper publisher, dies at 82

BY JULIA HUNTER

Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Richard "Dick" Emerson, a longtime Wisconsin newspaper publisher, died on Friday, Dec. 2, at his home in DeForest. He was 82.

Emerson was born on July 28, 1940, in Madison to Earl and Alice Emerson. His parents owned the DeForest (Wisconsin) Times-Tribune, and when he was a child, his family lived in the flat above the office, as he recalled in a column he wrote for the newspaper's 125th anniversary in 2020

(<https://bit.ly/3HyGZkz>).

He began his newspaper career in elementary school, going to various houses around town and collecting information about visits and other local news items, he wrote. In high school, he reported on school activities and sports for the paper.

After high school, he enrolled at



Emerson

Madison Area Technical College, where he studied for a semester before being offered a job at Madison Newspapers. He worked there for nine years, helping out at the Times-Tribune on his days off.

On Sept. 12, 1964, he married Mollyann Buschkopf at Trinity Methodist Church in Beaver Dam.

The couple moved to DeForest in 1965, and in 1968, purchased the Times-Tribune from Dick's parents. In 1986, they bought the Poynette Press and added it to the DeForest Times Publishing Co., which also included the Prairie Valley Shopper.

After a 30-year career in publishing, they sold the newspapers to Art Drake in 1998. Emerson continued to sell advertising and write his column, "D News."

In 2017, he was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Mollyann, who is enshrined on the WNA's Memorial Pylon (<https://bit.ly/3uNQogL>). He is survived by two sons.

A memorial service was held at Dec. 13, 2022, at Christ Lutheran Church, 220 S. Main Street, DeForest. Visitation was at the Dec. 12, at Ryan Funeral Home, 6924 Lake Road, DeForest, Wisconsin.

Former newspaper owner Eileen Evans dies at 92

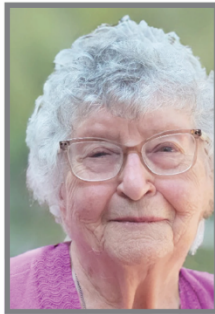
BY JULIA HUNTER

Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Eileen Mary Evans, who owned several newspapers with her husband, Alfred, died on Wednesday, July 26, at Mayo Clinic Hospital in Rochester. She was 92.

Born the first of 13 children on March 31, 1931, in International Falls, Minnesota, to Romeo and Marie Karsnia, she married Alfred R. Evans, a native of western Nebraska, on Oct. 16, 1950. The couple met at a dance in Canada while he was working for the newspaper in International Falls. After they married, the couple moved across the country before settling in LeRoy, Minnesota, about three decades ago.

Evans, who worked as a journalist for her high school newspaper, began a professional career in 1963 at The Atkinson-Annawan (Illinois)



Evans

News. She and her husband owned and managed several weekly newspapers in Illinois, including the Orion Times, Port Byron Globe and Wyanet Eagle and the Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise in Wisconsin from 1980 to 1984. In

Hillsboro, Eileen played a major role, writing stories and helping to manage the business. They later purchased the LeRoy (Minnesota) Independent and the Lime Springs (Iowa) Herald.

Many of their 14 living children followed in their career footsteps, including Greg Evans, who owns Evans Print + Media Group in Sparta, Wisconsin.

Mary Fisher, Dardanelle Post Dispatch editor, passes away

Mary Mae (Fowler) Fisher, of Danville, Arkansas, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, July 22nd.

Mary was a woman of two great passions. The first was for her family, and the second was for serving every community she inserted herself into.

Mary was the daughter of the late Robert and Maxine Fowler of Belleville. She was preceded in death by her brother, Wayne Fowler. She is survived by her husband, David W. Fisher, and her son, David B. Fisher, and his wife, Rachael Fisher, along with two sisters, Jan Huntley, Ann Bryant and her husband, Jim, and a brother, Tom Fowler and his wife, Lio, as well as three granddaughters, Ally Fisher, Ella Fisher and Livi Nachtigal and one grandson, Kenton Nachtigal. Mary also had two nieces, Billie Taylor and Bobbie Crespin, and a nephew, Robert Fowler. Her uncle, Ricky Woolfolk and cousins live in Missouri.

Mary also has a large host of extended family and relatives all over Yell County (Fowlers).

Mary was a longtime community leader in not only Yell County, but around the state of Arkansas and in many national organizations, as well.

For over 50 years, Mary was an editor and co-publisher of the Yell County Record, as well as several other weekly newspapers.

In 2014, Mary became the editor and publisher of the Dardanelle Post Dispatch, one of the oldest continuous weekly newspapers (1853) west of the Mississippi.

She devoted herself then to the Dardanelle Rotary Club, Dardanelle Chamber of Commerce and the Dardanelle community after becoming editor and publisher (but never leaving her commitments and devotion to Danville, Belleville and the southern side of the county.)

Mary had a long history of com-

munity service. At the top of her list was her Heart for Scouting, beginning with Girl Scouts in the '70s followed by being volunteered in the early '80s to become a Cub Scout Leader by David (Davy) when he was only 7 years old. Thus began a lifetime of service to the Boy Scouts for over 40 years as a leader and trainer and friend to so many. She received the second highest award (called the Silver Antelope) given by the National Boy Scouts for her work in training Scout Leaders and Boy Scouts.

She was the first woman Scoutmaster in Westark Area Council of the extended training of adult leaders in Boy Scouts, called Wood Badge. She was inducted into and received the highest rank of Vigil in the Order of the Arrow, a society of honor campers in the Boy Scouts. Mary was also Scoutmaster of the NJLT (extended scout course to train boy leaders).

Mary served as council vice president of the Boy Scouts of America for the Westark Area Council for over 15 years.

She went on to become the training chairman of the Southern Region of Boy Scouts (consisting of 14 states) and served on numerous scout boards, not to mention being invited on numerous occasions to teach in the training center at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Perhaps her greatest joy in scouting was attending eight National Boy Scout Jamborees (held every four years), where she co-chaired the Hometown News division.

Mary loved Scouting, especially training and the opportunity it afforded her to positively affect the lives of thousands of young men to help them to become good citizens and future leaders.

Mary helped her husband, David, for over 15 years in the Danville Boy Scouts, where they had 10 boys make Eagle Scout, the highest rank a Boy Scout can achieve.



ARKANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Mary Fisher, co-owner, Fisher Publishing Company, Danville, Arkansas, died after a day spent with Arkansas colleagues at the Arkansas Press Association's 150th anniversary celebration on July 22 in Little Rock. She is pictured here with husband, David.

In a close race with the Scouts was Mary's passion for the many wonderful women she met through EH (Extension Homemakers). She served as president of Spring Creek EH Club and the county council). Through EH, she served as president of the Arkansas Extension Homemakers while remarkably and simultaneously serving as the president of the Arkansas Press Association in 2014. Mary went on to chair a national EH Homemakers event at Springdale in 2019 (NVON), drawing homemakers from many states across the nation.

In addition to these activities, in her spare time, Mary worked with the Danville Chamber of Commerce, Yell County Fair Board, World War II Memorial Committee, Southgate Committee to Mt. Magazine, the Arkansas Press Association, Belleville Reunion (longtime chairman) and previously served as president of the Danville B&PW, as well as the Danville Jaycettes.

She also served on the Danville School Board for several years. Mary and Johnny Chambers reorganized the Danville Chamber of Commerce over 20 years ago. She became the first chapter president (for the first two years).

In addition to the other two previously mentioned organizations, she also was president of the Arkansas Jaycettes in the 1970s (and went on to become the first U.S.

Jaycette secretary).

She has served on the National Newspaper Association Foundation Board for several years, as well as the Arkansas Press Foundation Board.

Mary and David have been longtime members of Fellowship Bible Church in Russellville and of the Crow Mountain Bible Study group. Fellowship Bible Church Pastor Jeff Wachalshour will conduct the service.

Visitation was July 26 at Cornwell Funeral Home.

Burial was a private graveside service the morning of July 27 at the Earl Ladd Cemetery.

Family and friends were invited to celebrate her life at a memorial service held at the Danville High School Ted Lyons Gymnasium on Thursday, July 27.

Services were conducted by Cornwell Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Mary's honor to the following organizations:

Spring Creek Extension Homemakers Club, c/o Peggy Mobley, P.O. Box 114, Belleville, AR 72824
Danville BSA, Troop 170 Camp Fund, P.O. Box 189, Danville, AR 72833

Or to your favorite charity.

Arrangements are by Cornwell Funeral Home Danville. Online guestbook and condolences at <https://bit.ly/3OMkMS0>

Mike Gackle, 1952-2023

Mike Gackle, 71, a devoted family man, an innovator in the newspaper industry and a lifelong booster of Garrison and McLean County, died May 25, 2023, after a four-year battle with cancer and heart disease. A summer celebration of his life is being planned.

Mike was born March 18, 1952, to Don and Phyllis Gackle at Fort George Meade, Maryland. Later, the family lived in Fargo before moving in 1963 with Mike and his sister Cindy. Mike started working at the family newspaper, the McLean County Independent, in his pre-teens.

While attending NDSU, Dakota Business College and UND, Mike applied his business and management skills to the newspaper back home during weekends and summers. Then, after college, he returned to work for the company.

He married Michele Henderson of Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1973, and they settled in Garrison. Together, they had three children, Chantal, Paul and Patrick. They divorced in 1986.

Mike was chief financial officer

and later president of the growing family newspaper business, BHG Inc.

The company grew to include newspapers in Garrison, Beulah, Hazen, Underwood, Center, Washburn, Turtle Lake, McClusky, Parshall, New Town, Velva and at the Minot Air Force Base. At the time of his retirement, the company's printing plant in Garrison printed more than 40 newspapers in western North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana.

Mike met his wife, Jill Denning, when she was executive director of the North Dakota Newspaper Association. They married in 1988 and had a son, Daniel, in 1992. Jill joined Mike at BHG in 1995, and they managed the company together until they retired in March 2022.

He was president of the North Dakota Newspaper Association



Gackle

in 2004 and served on the board of the North Dakota Education Foundation. He was inducted into the North Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame in May 2023, just the 58th inductee to receive the honor in 90 years. His dad was previously inducted into the Hall, as well.

Mike was a leader in helping North Dakota newspapers bring new digital technology into their operations and was behind the scenes in saving several North Dakota newspapers that were destined for closure. He also was an early adapter at BHG's printing plant, notably being among the first in the country to install technology that allowed remote newspapers to electronically transfer files from their home offices to the printing plant.

He served on many different boards, and among his favorites were the Garrison Area Improvement Association and Garrison's Better Living for Living. He was an elder of the First Congregational UCC in Garrison and past president of the Garrison Chamber of Commerce. He was named

Garrison Citizen of the Year in 2010.

Although his work and boards were great passions of Mike's, his family was his source of pride and love. Whether it was fishing on Lake Sakakawea with them or hearing about their latest adventures, he felt like the luckiest man in the world to have his family's love.

Survivors include his wife, Jill; children, Chantal (Greg) of Irvine, California, and grandchildren Thea, Ava and Scarlet; Paul of Winnipeg, Canada; Patrick of Palm Springs, California; and Daniel (Kerri) of Garrison and grandchildren Lilah and Mabel; and sister Cindy (Randy Helland) of Lake Elmo, Minnesota.

Preceding him in death were his parents.

If desired, memorials can be made to Better Living for Garrison, P.O. Box 445, Garrison, ND 58540.

Funeral arrangements are being made by Thompson Funeral Home, Garrison, North Dakota.

Robert 'Bob' Goodyear, 1938-2023

Robert "Bob" Goodyear, 85, of Monticello, Iowa, passed away surrounded in love by his family after a courageous battle with cancer on Aug. 6, 2023. A visitation was held on Aug. 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Goettsch Funeral Home in Monticello. A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 11 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Anamosa with Pastor Rodney Bluml. A burial followed at Wayne Zion Cemetery.

Robert Franklin Goodyear was born on May 12, 1938, to Lawrence Goodyear and Esther Frances (Bedell) Goodyear in San Diego, California. He had an older sister, Janet, and a younger sister, Mary Jo. Bob loved playing sports as he grew up and worked hard on his grandpa's farm during the summers. He graduated from Monticello High School in 1956. Following graduation, he took a semester off from work to attend the special newspaper production school at the Iowa School of Journalism in Iowa City.

Bob and Janice Wilken married on Oct. 8, 1961, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Anamosa, the church they continued to attend for decades after. The pair enjoyed dancing, traveling and spending time with their family. Bob grew very close with Janice's brother, Merlyn Wilken, and her brother-in-law, Harlan Pruess, referring to them as the brothers he had always wanted. Together, Janice and Bob had three children, Denise Kay, Darcey Jann

and Daniel Robert.

During his junior year of high school, Bob got a job sweeping floors and washing windows at the local newspaper, the Monticello Express. He soon learned the basics of printing a newspaper and continued to work for the paper after high school. He honed his skills and was passionate about the art and craft of publishing a newspaper. He purchased the Express in 1974 and published the newspaper for decades. He also shared ownership of The Anamosa Journal-Eureka, The Monticello Shoppers' Guide and PIE (Publishers Idea Exchange) for a number of years. In 2000, he was named a Master Editor Publisher from the Iowa Newspaper Association. He loved sharing the newspaper experience with his family. His daughter, Denise, worked as his advertising manager and his son, Dan, operated the Monticello Printing Company alongside him. His son-in-law, Mark Spensley, sold advertising for him. Bob retired in 2004, selling the paper to Darcey, Mark and Dan but kept his office in the Express building to putz around the building and check in on operations.

Bob was deeply involved in his community and supported many



Goodyear

causes. His bright smile and witty charm made him friends all over town, and he was always the first to lend a hand to those in need. He was involved with Monticello School Foundation, Monticello Development Corporation, Monticello Chamber of Commerce, Monticello Ambassadors, Fourth of July Parade Committee, church committees, the Iowa Newspaper Association board and the Monticello Fire Department. He was active and always on the go. For many years, he joined his friends to play tennis and pickleball and enjoyed the morning coffee group. He loved to travel with his family, watch a NASCAR race and cheer on the Iowa Hawkeyes. He had a lot of love in his heart, deeply cherished his relationships with his friends and family and valued each moment he had on this earth.

Of all of his many titles, Bob's favorite was "Grandpa." He was incredibly proud of each and every one of his 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. He and Janice traveled across the state of Iowa to attend every sporting event, musical performance and awards ceremony they could. He went above and beyond to make sure his grandchildren were safe, cared for, supported and most of all, having fun. He had many silly catchphrases that always received big laughs, such as "I'm gonna sell you and buy a puppy!" or "As one shepherd said

to another, let's get the flock out of here." His grandchildren adored him and will miss him immensely.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Janice; children, Denise Hays (the late Dennis Hays) of Urbandale, Darcey (Mark) Spensley of Monticello and Dan (Pam) Goodyear of Monticello; grandchildren, Allison (Kevin) Clark, Dillon Spensley (Kenzie Bush), Devin (Kally) Spensley, Macey Spensley (Matt Shofroth), Drew Hays (Emma Lippmann), Kendall Hays (Adam Hannan), Cassidy Hays (Connor Hudson), Wes (Erin) Hays, Wade (Amy) Hays, Olivia Goodyear and Gabe Goodyear; great-grandchildren, Logan, Parker, Casey, Leah, Addy, Evan, Will and TJ; brother and sister-in-law, Merlyn and Marlaine Wilken; brother-in-law Bob Eilers and many relatives, friends and loved ones.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Esther Frances Goodyear; sisters, Janet Lohmann and Mary Jo Eilers; in-laws Ervin and Alvina Wilken; son-in-law Dennis Hays; sister-in-law Elaine Pruess; brother-in-law Harlan Pruess and grandson Brian Hays.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Anamosa, or directed to the family to be donated in Bob's memory to one of the organizations in which he was involved.

Former Globe publisher Dennis Hall dies at 71

WORTHINGTON, Minnesota — Dennis Hall, who served as publisher of the Daily Globe from 1995 until 2006, has died at the age of 71.

Hall came to Worthington to lead the newspaper after it was purchased by Forum Communications Company. He oversaw day-to-day operations of the newspaper and print facility, leaving Worthington to become vice president of commercial printing at Forum Communications in Fargo, North Dakota. He remained in that role until his retirement in 2020.

His newspaper career spanned 45 years.

“Dennis helped build our commercial printing business in Worthington to an all-time high, spanning seven states,” said Joni Harms, who was promoted to the role of publisher after Hall’s departure from Worthington. “Once he was committed to a project, he was all in and saw it through to the end.”



Hall

Harms said Hall’s quick wit and devotion to his family were among his strongest assets.

“Thinking back over those 11 years at the Daily Globe, he touched so many lives,” she said. “He will long be remembered for the ongoing men-

toring and impacts made, as a result of it. He was all about helping to give each and every employee the tools and resources to make them successful.”

During his years in Worthington, Hall resided on Lake Okabena and could often be spotted boating on the lake. He was an avid waterskiier and enjoyed golf, tennis and racquetball during his time away from the office.

Arlys Hawkes, former co-owner of two Jefferson County newspapers, dies at 89

BY JULIA HUNTER

Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Arlys Jean Hawkes, who previously owned two Jefferson County newspapers with her husband, died on March 9, 2023. She was 89.

Born on Nov. 5, 1933, to Guy and Mildred (Rasmusson) Hamann in Menomonie, she graduated from

Menomonie High School in 1951 and UW-Stout in 1955 with a degree in dietetics and home economics. She married Dennis L. Hawkes on Oct. 15, 1954, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in



Hawkes

Menomonie. Following the completion of her husband’s service in the U.S. Navy, the couple moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where she was employed by the Malt and Barley Lab at the University of Wisconsin.

In 1965, they purchased the Lake Mills Leader and Leader Printing Company, and in 1979, they purchased the Cambridge News. Arlys

worked full-time and remained active in the business until the newspapers were sold in 1999.

Arlys was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, its senior choir and Rachael Rebecca Circle. She was also a member of Lake Mills Chamber of Commerce, Lake Ripley Country Club, Sigma Alpha Sorority and the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.

Harry LeRoy Hix Jr.

Harry LeRoy Hix Jr. of Stillwater, Oklahoma, known by his nickname of Roy through high school, was a retired journalist and university professor. He was born February 5, 1939, in Houston to Harry and Jane Hix, and died March 24, 2023, at age 84.

Hix married his sweetheart, Carol Elizabeth Helt, daughter of Roy and Helen Helt of Stillwater, on April 19, 1957. He graduated from Stillwater High School in May of that year, then served two years in the U.S. Navy before returning home to attend Oklahoma State University, earning a degree in journalism. Later, he earned a master's degree at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and completed additional graduate work.

During his career, Hix worked as a newspaper reporter, photographer, managing editor of a Tennessee daily, and publisher of two weeklies in Alabama. He and Carol were owners of the weekly Millington Star in Millington, Tennessee, for 16 years. After selling The Star, he moved to Norman, Oklahoma, and was the first Engleman/Livermore

Professor of Community Journalism at the University of Oklahoma. After 10 years there, he taught three years at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Throughout his life, Hix received many honors and awards. At SIU, Hix was managing editor of the campus newspaper, The Daily Egyptian, which in May 1970 covered the closing of SIU during an unrest about Vietnam, and its coverage received a national award from the Sigma Delta Chi national journalism fraternity. In Tennessee, The Millington Star won a variety of first place and other Tennessee Press Association awards, and Hix was the only person to win both the Meeman single editorial award for dailies and the weekly award for editorials. In Millington, Hix served as Chamber of Commerce president, was elected Man of the Year and received several Tennessee Education Association awards. At OU, Hix won the JayMac Teaching Award. He became a member of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors and served several years on its board. In 2006, he served as ISWNE



Hix

president and hosted the organization's annual meeting. In recent years, he served as a member of the judging staff for the National Newspaper Association in its yearly contest.

In his free time, Hix enjoyed tennis and participated in the United States Tennis Association, playing on state championship teams in Oklahoma and Tennessee and four times going to the regional tournament.

After retiring, Hix returned to Stillwater, where he became an active member of Bible Baptist Church and for several years was editing director of the Baptist Times.

Hix was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Carol, of the home; his children, Cindy and Art Kittler of Gardner, Kansas, Harvey Hix and Kate Northrop of Laramie, Wyoming, and Donna and Mark Brunner of West

Mansfield, Ohio; grandchildren, Warren and Casie Kittler of Lincoln, Nebraska, Charity Kittler of New York, New York, Matt and Hannah Brunner of Howell, Michigan, Jason and Hannah Bingham Brunner of The Village, Oklahoma, and Elise and Joel Wiley of Bellefontaine, Ohio; nine great-grandchildren: Laysia, Marcus, Christopher, Joey and Roger Kittler, Micah, Silas and Nicolas Brunner, and Jonathan Wiley; siblings: Sue Wheeler of Osage City, Kansas, Nancy Duncan of Bloomingdale, New York, Anna Bridgewater of Stillwater, Oklahoma, Harold and Kathy Hix of Union, Washington, and Hubert and Julie Hix of Minneapolis; brother- and sisters-in-law Ken and Nelda Helt and Ruth Brown, all of Stillwater, Oklahoma; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Thursday, March 30, 2023, at Bible Baptist Church, 115 N. Young St., Stillwater. Visitation preceded the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bible Baptist Church, PO Box 1985, Stillwater, OK 74076.

Rhonda Humble, 1956-2022

Rhonda Kaye Humble, 66, of Olathe, Kansas, peacefully passed away Sept. 24, 2022, at Olathe Medical Center.

Rhonda was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on Jan. 13, 1956, to Frank Henry Kearney and Frances LaVerne (Huttsell) Kearney. She grew up in Missouri, graduating from Raymore Peculiar High School in 1974. Rhonda went to college for journalism and earned an associates of arts degree from Johnson County Community College. She married Mark Joseph Humble on November 28, 1980, at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Olathe, Kansas.

Rhonda recently retired as publisher and owner of The Gardner (Kansas) News. She had also owned



Humble

The Spring Hill New Era, Merchandizer, Southwest Journal, Wellsville Globe and The African Voice publications. She received the 2006 Boyd Award; Award of Excellence for column writing, Kansas Press Association's

Lady of the Year Award — Gardner Beta Sigma Pi. Rhonda was Gardner Area Chamber of Commerce president, 1991; Kansas Press Association president, 2001, and Southwest Johnson County Economic Development Council president. She was part

owner of Whiskey River Dance Hall & Saloon in Olathe. She was a key supporter of The Bank of Knowledge Library, Edgerton. She worked tirelessly to get free metro phone service locally. She taught people to think and defend their point of view.

Her hobbies included visiting with friends, genealogy, tarot card reading, playing Scrabble (nationally ranked) and dominoes. Rhonda's most valued time was spent being with her family, especially her two grandchildren. She will be remembered as a very caring person with a big heart, someone who helped many people when they were struggling.

Rhonda is survived by her son Brandon Mark Francis Humble and his wife, Katherine Elizabeth (Leck-

ner) Humble; grandchildren Grace Francis Anne Humble and Vaughn Mark Kearney Humble, and many nieces and nephews and numerous lifelong friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and LaVerne Kearney; husband, Mark Humble, and brother, Mike Kearney.

Visitation was held Oct. 15 at Bruce Funeral Home in Gardner.

Private family graveside service immediately followed.

Memorial contributions may be made to:

Bank of Knowledge Library, 319 E. Nelson, Edgerton, KS 66021 or Unity Village, 1901 NW Blue Parkway, Unity Village, MO 64065

Condolences may be left at <https://www.brucefuneralhome.com/>.

Media investor, philanthropist Arthur H. Kern was an owner, publisher of Ark

BY DEIRDRE MCCROHAN
Reporter | The Ark

Arthur H. Kern, an entrepreneur who co-founded radio conglomerate American Media and served as co-owner and co-publisher of The Ark in Tiburon, California, for more than a decade, died Nov. 16, 2022, at his home in Belvedere, California, after a long illness. He was 76.

Mr. Kern was born Aug. 16, 1946, in Bronxville, New York, to Beatrice and Irving John Kern. He grew up in Scarsdale, where his father ran Dellwood Dairy, which was founded by Mr. Kern's maternal grandfather, Aaron "Harry" Rubinfeld.

Mr. Kern used to say he "scraped his way out" of Yale University in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy, with a little help from his "friends and fellow reprobates," as he called them, in the a cappella singing group, the Society of Orpheus and Bacchus — the SOB's.

He began a successful media career as a media buyer at Grey Advertising in New York. He quickly moved into TV, first in ad sales for KDKA in Pittsburgh and then managing stations for KDKA's parent company, Westinghouse, starting with Pittsburgh before moving on to Chicago, Philadelphia and Baltimore. He eventually arrived in San Francisco in 1980, where he managed KPIX and hired and mentored Larry Baer, who is now chief executive officer and part owner of the San Francisco Giants.

"I was blown away by the way he thought about journalism, media and television," Baer said last week about first meeting Mr. Kern, who joined the Giants' ownership group himself in 2002.

"The Giants kept our connective tissue going. Our business relationship became a friendship, and we remained friends," Baer said. "Art was very special. He was so intellectually curious, so thoughtful, so personable. He was wonderful to be around. He could talk about anything."

In 1981, Mr. Kern became, as he would later tell people, a "reluctant entrepreneur." With business

partner Alan Beck, he bought Long Island radio station WALK 95.7 and built it into American Media, a national network of 20 AM and FM stations. Amid a flurry of broadcast consolidations in 1990s, they sold American Media in 1994 to Chancellor Media, which soon became AMFM Inc. and the largest property acquired by the Clear Channel empire, now iHeartMedia.

Longtime friend Mickey Luckoff said they met when he was president of KGO radio and Mr. Kern was vice president of KPIX.

"Art and I came from the era in which broadcasters had the responsibility of serving the community, and we were both interested in the betterment of the community," Luckoff said. "The whole idea was to bring women and minorities into the industry."

He said the two played a lot of golf together — Mr. Kern had a great golf swing but wasn't addicted to the sport — and the two became good friends. For the past seven years, he said, they had a weekly FaceTime chat with two other broadcasters and called it the WMBA for their first names.

"He was so well thought of and a really good thinker," Mr. Luckoff said. "If you were a friend of Art's, you were a good friend. ... When you scheduled a lunch with him, he wanted to schedule the next two."

After selling American Media, Mr. Kern went on to invest in the internet and served on the board of Yahoo for 16 years, from 1996 until 2012, when he and three other members, including the chair, announced they were stepping down as the brand looked to reinvent itself and investors sought new leadership amid the dominance of Google and Facebook.

He and his wife, Alison Gray, bought The Ark in 2010 from publisher Marilyn Kessler, who was looking to retire after the 2009 death of her co-publisher, Barbara Gness. Under the couple's tenure, the paper won hundreds of state and national awards for its coverage of the greater Tiburon Peninsula, including back-to-back first-place awards from the National Newspaper Association



Kern

in 2018 and 2019 as the best small community weekly in the U.S.

"Art was — he's still — an inspiration," said Executive Editor Kevin Hessel, whom the Kerns hired in 2011. "Beyond his savvy in media, he was warm, sincere

and always supportive. He always had a tidbit of trivia or a joke ready to deliver with boyish enthusiasm, and he never failed to ask how you and your family were doing. I'll miss his banter, his mentorship and his friendship."

Mr. Kern was a prostate-cancer survivor, as was his brother, and he had a niece who died of brain cancer. The experiences made him a keen supporter of cancer research; he served on the boards of the National Brain Tumor Society, the Prostate Cancer Foundation and the University of California at San Francisco Foundation. He was also on the boards of the Environmental Defense Fund and the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation.

He treasured his involvement with the Giants and the Young Presidents' Organization, a worldwide community of chief executives in 142 countries.

Among his friends and family, Mr. Kern was known for showing up, especially in difficult times. He accumulated affectionate nicknames, his wife said, including "Buff," "Guapo," "(Not So) Smart Art" and "Funcle," a portmanteau of "fun" and "uncle."

He was passionate about music and played piano by ear. During his Yale years, he both sang with his a cappella choir and played keyboard and synthesizer in a rock band, The Third Section. Mr. Kern maintained his ties with his college a cappella group, hosting small summer reunions in Chatham, Massachusetts, and holiday dinners in San Francisco. He loved singing with friends around the piano and harmonizing with his wife.

He spent summers at his home

on the Little Mill Pond in Chatham with his family and friends and proudly supported the Hyannis Sound, a Cape Cod a cappella group.

Mr. Kern moved from San Francisco to Belvedere about 25 years ago and loved socializing with the Belvedere Sailing Society, particularly the annual progressive party on the Belvedere Lagoon, in which residents would start off with cocktails at one resident's house and kayak or row to different homes in succession for drinks and dinner, singing carols to piano accompaniment, often with Mr. Kern at the keyboard.

The party started at the home of Claude Perasso, who met Mr. Kern at one of those parties when Mr. Kern offered to help him tend the bar. They quickly became friends.

"He was one of the most thoughtful, insightful, interesting people I've ever known," Perasso said. "Even in his darkest moments, he would ask you how you were going and what you were doing. He was very selfless that way."

He called Mr. Kern "an incredibly compassionate, empathetic and loyal friend."

"If you asked him how he was doing, he would respond, 'All the better for being with you.'"

In addition to Gray, his wife of 14 years, Mr. Kern is survived by his brother, Robert M. Kern of Bronxville, New York; his cousin, Judy Kleinberger of Manhattan; his sister-in-law, Valerie Hurley of Charlotte, Vermont; niece Erin Kern-Page and her wife, Terra Kern-Page, of Toronto; two grandnephews, Grady and Jasper Kern-Page; Harry the cat; and a wide circle of extended family members and friends. His older brother, John, died in May.

Celebrations of his life will be held in early 2023, first in the Bay Area and then in the New York area, where he will be buried.

Donations may be made to UCSF Adult Hematopoietic Malignancies, the Environmental Defense Fund or to the charity of one's choice.

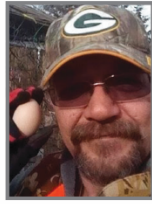
DEIRDRE MCCROHAN can be reached at 415-944-4634.

Robert ‘Bob’ Kerr, 1959-2023

Kansas Press Association

Longtime Command Information Officer and Fort Leavenworth (Kansas) Lamp Editor Robert “Bob” Kerr passed away Jan. 23, 2023, following a short but fierce battle with cancer — although no doctor has ruled out the frustrating end of the Green Bay Packer season as an unofficial contributing factor.

Bob was born to the late Donald and Zilpha (Grahn) Kerr Oct. 6, 1959, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Inspired by his father’s Army service, he enlisted under his father’s recruitment tour at age 17. During his years of service as an active-duty soldier and then Department of the Army civilian, Bob kept the military community informed by editing countless articles, as well as photographing events, writing articles (among them



Kerr

was a special report on the National Training Center in California when he was the department’s editor of Military Intelligence magazine), and managing a team he admired and affectionately call the “Lampies.”

Bob was a man of many hobbies, including gardening, cooking, hunting, fishing and attending his grandchildren’s many activities. He was also the proud ‘Papa’ of The Hens of Leavenworth County — a flock of backyard chickens named after famous rock stars. Bob was an award-winning hobby-model builder who primarily “scratch-built” (not built exactly as

directed on the box) World War II models, including many versions of the Sherman tank. Next to his family, Bob’s second great love was the Green Bay Packers and all things football.

Survivors include his wife of more than 38 years, Susan (Brindle) Kerr; daughter Lorelei (Kerr) Winzenburg (partner Zachary Stevenson); daughter Elizabeth (Kerr) Stevenson (husband Bradley Stevenson); grandchildren Tre’ Winzenburg, Ben Winzenburg, Tyler Winzenburg, Eli Stevenson, Maverick Stevenson and Emma Stevenson; and sisters Donna Kerr and Bonnie Kerr of Wisconsin.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents Donald and Zilpha Kerr; in-laws Lewis and Eithel (Baker) Brindle, and granddaughter Adley Stevenson.

The family would like to thank the

incredible staff at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Dwight D. Eisenhower Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Phoenix Hospice for their incredible care, as well as the many friends and family members who provided compassionate support through this difficult time.

A celebration of life was held Feb. 17, 2023, at the R.L. Leintz Funeral Home. Burial with military honors followed at Ft. Leavenworth National Cemetery. Online condolences can be offered at

<https://www.leintzfh.com/>.

For more on Bob’s contributions as longtime Fort Leavenworth Lamp editor, visit

<https://bit.ly/3lPssU3>.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Leavenworth County Humane Society or the Lansing Education Foundation.

Barbara King, 1950-2022

NORTH VERNON, Indiana — Barbara King, who was an independent spirit, a lifetime advocate for human and animal rights, as well as for integrity in journalism, passed away at her twin sister’s home in Watertown, Massachusetts, the morning of Sept. 23, 2022. Long active in her community in southern Indiana, she was involved with United Way, Kiwanis, Humane Society, economic development and downtown revitalization, as well as numerous other community activities.

King graduated from Boston University in 1977 and completed



King

a General Electric Machinist’s Program in 1980, one of the first classes where-in women were allowed. In 1982, Barbara returned to her hometown to follow in her father’s footsteps as publisher of the North Vernon

Plain Dealer & Sun newspaper, where she remained for 39 years until retirement. On May 28, 1983,

Barbara married John Roche (Peabody, Massachusetts) in Groveland, Massachusetts.

King was described as “a brilliant leader” in the Indiana newspaper industry, receiving numerous awards and board appointments with the Hoosier State Press Association from 1989-2018, including being the second woman president in the organization’s history (1993-94), HSPA Distinguished Service Award (2007) and president of the HSPA Foundation from (2007-08). She also served as judge for the California State Publishers Association.

Barbara Lee King was born on August 22, 1950, in Hastings, Nebraska, to Burlin B. King and Viola M. (Tierney) King. In addition to her husband, John, she leaves her sons, Liam K. Roche (Kathryn) of Indianapolis and Nathan K. Roche (Emily Treece) of Denver; her grandchildren, Finnian and Stella Roche; her sisters, Madelon A. King of Watertown, Massachusetts, and Susan B. King (Robert Horowitz) of Madison, Wisconsin; and her beloved cat, Cricket.

A memorial service will be announced.

Journalist, historian William ‘Bill’ Kinney Jr. dies

BENNETTSVILLE, South Carolina — Veteran journalist, historian and civic leader William Light “Bill” Kinney Jr., 89, of Bennettsville died peacefully at his family antebellum home, Magnolia, under the loving care of his daughter, Elisabeth Kinney McNeil, on Sunday night, February 19, 2023.

The lifelong resident of Bennettsville was editor and publisher emeritus of the Marlboro Herald-Advocate, McColl Messenger and The Marlboro Shopper, as well as former president of Marlboro Publishing Co. Inc. He was a longtime contributor to the South Carolina Press Association (SCPA), was a past president of that organization and president of the SCPA Foundation. He was a founder of the SCPA Hall of Fame. He also authored several historical books and won state and national journalistic awards.

He was born during The Great Depression, the only child of William Light Kinney and Annie Laurie Mayer Kinney on October 26, 1933, in Bennettsville, in the home of his paternal grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. John Frank Kinney, as was his father.

He was a 1951 honor graduate of Bennettsville High School and editor of “The Green Wave” school newspaper.

He then attended Wofford College in Spartanburg, as did his father and

grandfather before him, graduating in 1954 after three years of study with a Bachelor of Science degree while majoring in biology, chemistry, physics and math. While at Wofford, he was inducted into The Phi Beta Kappa Society, Senior Order of Gnomes and Blue Key Honor Society; edited the college handbook and “The Bohemian” school yearbook; served as student body president; was a member of the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC); sang in the Men’s Glee Club; and was a vice president of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, SC Gamma Chapter. He was always a proud Terrier alumnus and earned his most cherished distinction by being bestowed an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the College in 1999.

He attended the University of South Carolina College of Journalism from 1954-1955, where he edited the college’s laboratory newspaper and later graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism in 1977. He proudly served in the United States Army, stationed at Fort Jackson in Columbia from 1954-1958. He then returned to Bennettsville, joining his parents in the operation of Marlboro Publishing Co., and in 1972 bought the business from them.

While traveling cross-country with his good friend, Jimmy Cannon of Hartsville, they stopped in Atlanta to



Kinney

visit friends. There he was introduced to his future wife, Margaret René Pegues, on his 29th birthday, October 26, 1962, by a long-standing mutual family friend, Florie McLeod Ervin of Florence. After an 18-month courtship, they

married at Central United Methodist Church in Monroe, North Carolina, where her mother then lived, on March 21, 1964.

Upon marriage, they moved to Bennettsville, and there they lived, raising their two children, Elisabeth Mayer Kinney McNeil and William Light Kinney III, and dotting on three grandchildren, Lee, Margaret Jane and Light McNeil. Since 1979, he relished hosting family and friends at the family summer cottage, “-30-”, in Pawleys Island.

He loved to travel, visiting all 50 states and many foreign countries. Highlights include when the Soviet Union opened its doors to receive U.S. tourists in 1960 for the first time since the Cold War, spending the summer of 1963 in England with the Experiment in International Living and being a participant in a United Methodist medical mission trip to Jérémie,

Haiti, in 1976.

For over 65 years, he spearheaded and led community, state and national improvement efforts through his newspaper writings and personal service.

He was a lifelong active member of First United Methodist Church, where he served as lay leader and had numerous administrative roles. He sang bass in its Chancel Choir for 75 years until his failing health would not allow him to continue to regularly participate. He was a strong advocate of the church’s music ministry, including his love and admiration for the Cassavant organ.

He tirelessly worked with likeminded folks, demonstrating unselfish volunteer service to better his beloved hometown of Bennettsville and greater Marlboro County. He served as a Bennettsville city councilman and mayor pro-tempore, as well as a leader and board member of The Kinney Foundation, Whipple Marlboro Fund, Marlboro County Economic Development Board, Lakeside Residential Development, Bennettsville United Fund, Bennettsville Chamber of Commerce and Bennettsville Jaycees. He was instrumental in the formation of the Marlboro Civic Center Foundation and the restoration of the 1917 opera house, and he was chairman at

KINNEY: He was presented South Carolina's highest civilian honor

FROM PAGE 21

the time of his death.

He was an active and involved member of the Rotary Club of Bennettsville since 1958, having served as club president for two terms, maintained 65 years of perfect attendance and was twice named a Paul Harris Fellow. He believed in the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self" and strived to live that out daily as well as instilling the values of being a servant leader and leaving legacy of charitable giving in his family.

His passion for history and historic preservation began at a young age and continued throughout his life. Locally, he served as president of the Marlborough Historical Society, as well as chairman of the Marlboro County Historic Preservation Commission and Bennettsville Board of Architectural Review/Tree Committee. He chaired the restoration of an 1826 house museum, an 1831 home once used as the county courthouse, 1834 and 1903 schoolhouses, his 1853 home and 1902 former office building. His adaptive use of two old downtown buildings for his newspaper offices was twice featured in the National Newspaper Association's (NNA) Publishers' Auxiliary.

He was known to many as the most dedicated advocate of preserving South Carolina's history. He secured 25 Official state historical markers within his home county and led major downtown improvement efforts as vice chairman of the Bennettsville Downtown Development Association. He helped secure National Register status for two municipal historic districts. He served as county chairman

of the state Tricentennial in 1970 and the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976.

He was also active at the state level in numerous capacities, including previously serving as chairman of the South Carolina Archives and History Commission as a gubernatorial appointee for 36 years and was vice chairman at the time of his death. He also remained chairman of the state Review Board for National Register Nominations. He was past president of the state Historical Society, state Confederation of Local Historical Societies, Friends of Brookgreen Gardens, and state Methodist Conference Commission on Archives and History. He also served as vice chairman of the Official South Carolina Hall of Fame. He was a board member of the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, the State Development Board, Brookgreen Gardens, McLeod Regional Medical Center Foundation, Pawleys Island Civic Association, and University South Caroliniana Society.

For 30 years, he served as a congressional appointee to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and was board chairman for three terms. He was a member of the National Board of Advisors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and chairman of its Southern Region Board of Advisors for four years. He also served as a director of the Wofford College National Alumni Association and the United States Jaycees.

In acknowledgment of his many contributions, efforts and accomplishments, he was presented South Carolina's highest civilian honor, The Order of the Palmetto, in 2015 by Governor Nikki Haley. At the same time,

Bennettsville City Council named the two entrances into the large off-Main Street Municipal Parking Lot as "Bill Kinney Jr. Way" in his honor.

Other recognitions include being listed in Who's Who in America since 1982, presented the USC College of Journalism's McKissick Award in 1955, named to the USC College of Journalism's Diamond Circle in 1998, presented the NNA Amos Award for longstanding community service in 2016, named state Jaycees Young Man of the Year in 1961, twice the recipient of the state Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in Historic Preservation, named a SC Hometown Hero by the state Downtown Development Association, was recipient of the state Arts Commission's Elizabeth O'Neill Verner State Arts Advocacy Award, the recipient of the state General Assembly's Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award, and was named Marlboro County Economic Development Ambassador. In 2022, the Marlboro Chamber of Commerce named its annual Community Leader Award in his honor.

He retired from day-to-day operations of the publishing company in 2014, turning over the business to his daughter, Elisabeth, and her husband, Dan McNeil. He remained active in religious, civic, advocacy and volunteer efforts until just recently. He continued to enjoy serving as an enthusiastic walking tour guide for any visitor to Bennettsville, his office or home.

For the past few months, he struggled valiantly with a diagnosis of Parkinsonism and its related complications, all the while demonstrating his strong faith in Jesus Christ, genteel

Southern nature and good humor to family and friends.

Survivors include his daughter (and son-in-law), Elisabeth Mayer Kinney McNeil (Daniel Edward McNeil) of Bennettsville; three grandchildren, Robert Leland McNeil III (Emma Johnson McNeil) of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Margaret Jane McNeil of Knoxville, Tennessee, and William Light Kinney McNeil of Wofford College, Spartanburg; two and one-half year-old great-grandson, Robert Leland McNeil IV of Chattanooga; 10-month old great-granddaughter, Rose Catherine McNeil of Chattanooga; sister-in-law, Frances Elisabeth Pegues Burroughs of Conway, Arkansas; nephew, Henry Buck Burroughs III (Julie Legg Burroughs) of Brandon, Florida; niece, Victoria McNeill Burroughs of North Charleston; great-nephew, Henry Buck (Hank) Burroughs IV, also of Brandon; and numerous Mayer and Kinney cousins and close friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Margaret René Pegues Kinney, on July 31, 2021, and 20-year-old son, William Light Kinney III, on July 21, 1989.

A Celebration of Life service was held Feb. 22, 2023, at First United Methodist Church in Bennettsville, followed by burial at Sunset Memorial Park. The family received friends at his home.

Memorial donations may be given to the William Light Kinney III '91 Endowed Scholarship Fund at Wofford College, Attention: Office of Advancement, 429 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29303.

Online condolences may be offered at <http://bit.ly/3EDID31>.

Carl Ray Lewis II, 52, executive editor of Oklahoma's Southwest Ledger and the Southwest Chronicle, dies in sleep

LAWTON, Oklahoma — Carl Ray Lewis II, a veteran newspaperman who was executive editor of the Southwest Ledger and the Southwest Chronicle, died in his sleep at his home here on March 6, 2023. He was 52.

In 2010, Lewis enrolled at Murray State College at Tishomingo, where he studied behavioral sciences. While there, he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and was named to Who's Who Among Students at American Colleges and Universities in 2012.

Continuing his education, Lewis earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science from East Central

University at Ada in 2017.

In addition, he was a member of ECU's Student Government Association, the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature, the ECU Young Democrats and the Gay-Straight Alliance, according to biographical information posted on LinkedIn.

Also while at ECU, Lewis worked on the school newspaper, The Journal. He started as a staff writer and progressed to become



Lewis

editor-in-chief.

After graduating from East Central, Lewis was hired at The Ada News, where he worked for a little over five years, 2015-20. Once again, he started as a staff reporter and advanced to become the editor for almost two and a half years.

He joined Hilliary Media Group two and a half years ago, on Sept. 1, 2020.

At the time of his death, Lewis had been a member of the Oklahoma Press Association for eight years and a member of Investigative Reporters and Editors for six years.

Carl was born Jan. 24, 1970, in Midlothian, Texas. He is survived

by four children: Justin Lewis of the home in Lawton; Sean Lewis of Denton, Texas; Bryan Lewis of The Colony, Texas; and Brandon Lewis of Oklahoma. He also is survived by his sister, Amy Stone, of Calera; his father, Carl Ray Lewis of North Carolina; and four grandchildren.

Justin, his youngest son, wrote on Facebook recently, "My father loved his kids, his coffee, his Zippo lighters, his Swiss Army knives, Star Trek, Star Wars, Stephen King, Apple products and so much more."

Becker-Rabon Funeral Home said no funeral services are planned. Cremation is planned, a family member said.

Bill McAllister, 1941-2023

Linn's Stamp News, Sidney, Ohio

Bill McAllister, the longtime Washington correspondent for Linn's Stamp News of Sidney, Ohio, died May 1 at the age of 81.

Mr. McAllister was born Nov. 6, 1941, in Durham, North Carolina, and raised in nearby Pittsboro, North Carolina.

According to an obituary posted May 2 on Mr. McAllister's Facebook page by his four sons, "It was in Pittsboro where he discovered his lifelong fascination with the [United States] Postal Service, often visiting the local Post Office to observe the sorting of the daily mail."

Mr. McAllister attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees.

He worked for the Washington Post from 1975 to 1999, where he covered the two-term presidency of Ronald Reagan, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and the U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. McAllister "was a mentor to young writers in the craft of reporting and writing and cherished his newsroom relationships throughout his life," his sons wrote.

Before joining the Post, he worked for the *Virginian Pilot* in Norfolk, Virginia, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Mr. McAllister was introduced to stamp collecting by his aunt, who gave him his first stamp album, a Minkus beginner album, in 1952. She also introduced him to journalism, which became his lifelong career.

He collected U.S. stamps for many years, with an emphasis on first-day covers and programs.

Mr. McAllister began his pursuit of first-day programs after covering a first-day ceremony for the 1987 22¢ Girl Scouts stamp (Scott 2251) in Washington, D.C.

That ceremony motivated him to write a weekly stamp column that appeared in the *Post* and other newspapers.

Mr. McAllister joined Linn's as its Washington correspondent in 1996. He reported on behind-the-scenes activities of the U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. McAllister served as a public affairs officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve, retiring as a captain after 26 years of service.

Mr. McAllister is survived by his wife of 57 years, Polly; sons William, Christopher, Jonathan and Benjamin; and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service was held May 6 at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, Virginia.

Donations in Mr. McAllister's memory may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society or Habitat for Humanity.

Dayle McGaha, 1934-2023

Oklahoma Press Association

Dayle McGaha, former publisher of *The Blackwell (Oklahoma) Journal-Tribune*, died February 27, 2023. He was 88.

McGaha was born Dec. 22, 1934, near Tonkawa, Oklahoma. He attended Blackwell Public Schools and ran two paper routes for the *Journal-Tribune* while in high school. He was later hired as the

mailroom attendant and worked his way into the paper's classified advertising department.

After attending Tulsa University for two years, and working in the *Tulsa World's* advertising department, he moved back to Blackwell to become the *Journal-Tribune's* advertising manager. He worked in that position until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1957.

McGaha served in the military until 1959, then returned to

Blackwell to once again work at the newspaper. He married his wife, Janie, in 1962, and the couple moved to McAlester, Oklahoma, where Dayle worked in the *McAlester News-Capital's* advertising department.

In 1967, the McGahas returned to Blackwell. Dayle served as the *Journal-Tribune's* advertising manager until being promoted to general manager in 1980, and then to publisher. He remained as

publisher until retiring in 2000, serving 43 years at the *Blackwell Journal-Tribune*.

McGaha will be inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame on May 4, 2023.

McGaha is survived by his wife, Janie; sons Gavin Dayle McGaha of Kansas City and Bryan Walter McGaha of Edmond; brother Delbert McGaha of Owasso; and five grandchildren.

'A whole lot of history' dies with newspaper veteran Joan Meyer after police raid

BY CARRIE RENGERS

Reporter | The Wichita Eagle.

Joan Meyer spent each of her almost 10 decades of life in about a six-block radius of Marion, Kansas, but she was a worldly woman who had an impactful newspaper career, a vigilance with words, a powerful sense of propriety and equally unflinching opinions.

On Friday, Aug. 11, police raided the offices (<https://bit.ly/44pFhtC>) of the Marion County Record (<https://bit.ly/3L0QIB9>), her family's longtime newspaper, and the home she shared with her son, Record publisher Eric Meyer, over an investigation the paper conducted for a story that it decided not to run.

Joan Meyer, whose name is pronounced "Joanne," didn't mince words when contacted by The Wichita Eagle for a story.

"These are Hitler tactics, and something has to be done."

Half a day later, she died.

Joan Meyer couldn't sleep Friday night.

Eric Meyer said his mother, whose father once was town marshal, said, "Where are all the good people who are supposed to stop this from happening?"

"She spent most of the day talking about things like that," Eric Meyer said.

He said he tried to tell her something good would come from the raid, such as other police departments learning they can't conduct themselves in the same way without facing consequences.

"She said, rather prophetically, 'Yeah, but I won't be alive by the time that happens.'"

At about 1:30 Saturday afternoon, Eric Meyer woke his mother to offer breakfast. She said she didn't feel well and didn't think she could eat, he said, "and right in the middle of the sentence, died."

"I am perturbed — I carefully chose that word — as all get out about them raiding our office, but what bothers me most is a 98-year-old woman spent her last day on earth . . . feeling under attack by bullies who invaded her house."

This is the house that Joan and Bill Meyer moved into in 1953, the day before their only child was born.

Although Joan Meyer didn't go to college, her son said she always was an avid reader, a tremendous speller and highly quotable.

In 1948, Bill Meyer joined what was then called the Marion Record-Review, which later returned to its 1870 name of the Marion County Record at his insistence.

Around the 1960s after Eric Meyer

was in school, Joan Meyer joined her husband at the paper as the social news editor and a copy editor.

"They were a good team," said Jean Stuchlik, who worked for the paper for almost 30 years. "The newspaper was important to her."

Her natural reporting skills apparently came early, according to one story that Marion resident Norma Kline tells.

Kline got to know Meyer and a friend of hers from high school when they would come for lunch at the Marion Senior Center, and the two would giggle recalling stories from decades gone by, such as when they created their own entertainment during World War II when all the men their age were off fighting.

"They always talked about a house next door from where I live right now," Kline said. "They would spy on somebody that was having an affair. They'd go through the alley and see what they were doing. They would just laugh. It was hilarious."

She called Meyer "a delightful woman. She was funny. She was well spoken. . . . Had a marvelous memory."

Though Stuchlik said Meyer had strong opinions, "She was with the public a lot, and so she was very personable. She was very likable."

MEMORIES OF MARION

At one time, the Record had more than a couple dozen country correspondents who would send Joan Meyer news of who ate dinner with whom out in rural areas, and she would compile and edit the news. Her son said she knew the pedigree of every person in Marion County and knew what to believe and what not to trust.

"Well, they wouldn't have eaten dinner with so and so," she'd say.

In the 1970s, Joan Meyer took on more editing and also began a column called Memories that relied on the paper's archives to look back at the history of the area.

"She was an encyclopedia of knowledge about this," Eric Meyer said. "She was sort of the living historical record of the Marion area."

Bill Meyer was set to retire in 1998, but the paper was going to sell to a corporation, so he, his wife and son bought it instead.

"When I first started working there, she scared me to death," said Donna Bernhardt, who began working at the Record in high school and stayed almost three decades.



Meyer

She said in some ways, Meyer became like a second mother to her.

"They kind of raised me from a pup," she said of the Meyers.

Still, Bernhardt said, Joan Meyer "could be intimidating just because she expected you to follow through and do exactly what she knew you could do."

Bernhardt described Meyer as someone who was private and seemed to want to come across as tough.

"I think she had a hard job," she said. "She could be kind and gracious, and she could give you the shirt off her back, but she didn't necessarily want you to know that side of her."

When Bill Meyer retired around 2005, Joan Meyer continued to work. She became associate publisher, signed paychecks and continued to write Memories.

"No one would dare edit it," her son said, noting that he sometimes tried. However, he added, "There was never anything wrong in it."

Bill Meyer died in 2006, and their son and grandson and his family lived out of state, which left Joan Meyer alone.

"In a way, you'd call her a survivor, you know?" Kline said. "She had some tough times in her life . . . but she carried on."

Kline is treasurer of the senior center and said Meyer "would donate money for the utilities, which is what kills us."

She called her generous and "very quiet about it."

Eric Meyer said his mother went to Europe more than a dozen times and was proud of it.

He called his parents "experts in battlefield tours of Europe."

Bernhardt said Joan Meyer "probably knew more about Marion than anyone else still alive in Marion."

"A whole lot of history died with her."

'DEVOTED READERS'

Joan Meyer remained involved at the paper until a medical treatment led to vision problems last year.

"It was very frustrating for her," Eric Meyer said.

Up until last week, he would read potential Memories entries out loud for her approval.

"It had very devoted readers," he said.

"And the paper's never going to be the same without that," Kline said. "She was so good at picking items that would affect people who are living now."

Meyer said his mother's 98 years of living led to her staunch opinions.

"She was never afraid to say what she thought."

However, she wasn't what you'd call outspoken, he said, and she wouldn't

get into political debates or speak up on issues she didn't know much about.

Joan Meyer lived with a police scanner in her house, first because her husband would listen to it for stories and then because a new cell tower atop a grain elevator blocked the scanner signal in the newsroom.

"She was just concerned about the town," Eric Meyer said.

That's why what happened on Friday stung so much, he said.

"She had spent most of her career at a newspaper, and people were turning their back on her and allowing this unprecedented illegal action to occur and making it out like we were common criminals."

A bit before 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 11, two police officers came to the home the Meyers shared, seized Eric Meyer's phone and stood guard for hours to make certain he and his mother didn't touch anything.

Eric Meyer said the officers were polite and offered to fix his mother's lunch when her meal from the senior center arrived.

Two or three hours later, he said five more officers showed up. By that point, Eric Meyer had already left.

His mother, who was in tears on and off throughout the ordeal, saw the officers take photos of his personal papers, including bills and bank records. Already agitated, this particularly upset her, Eric Meyer said.

"She was very defensive of me, among other things."

Meyer said he's not sure how long his mother might have lived if the raid hadn't happened. He said she still had her health, cognitive abilities and mobility, although she kept a walker around for safety.

Even though his mother was one of the last people he knew to use a phone book, he said lately she had begun looking up numbers online.

Thursday evening, the two went for dinner after Joan Meyer visited her beautician.

"She was very tough."

Once, he said, she fell down some stairs at a KU football game and broke almost all of her ribs. She wasn't expected to survive, but her stubbornness ensured it.

Meyer said there were issues with the stairs, and his mother could have made a lot of money from the incident.

"She said, 'Why should I sue them? It was an accident.'"

He said his mother's sense of propriety was the same whether it was over lawsuits or raids.

"You just don't do things like that. You do what's right."

CARRIE RENGERS has been a reporter for more than three decades, including more than 20 years at The Wichita Eagle. If you have a tip, please e-mail, tweet her or call 316-268-6340.

Longtime newspaper publisher Bob Moody remembered for his grit, kindness, dedication

BY DICK MASON, ISABELLA CROWLEY & ANDREW CUTLER
The Observer

LA GRANDE, Oregon — Bob Moody was lying flat on his back in a hospital bed when he was asked to become publisher of The Observer in 1974.

Moody, who at the time was the publisher of the Redmond Spokesman, was in a Bend-area hospital because of a back problem when Western Communications President Robert Chandler paid a visit.

Chandler, speaking to Moody and his wife, Bev, characteristically got straight to the point.

"I want you guys to go to La Grande," said Chandler, explaining that he was asking Bob to become The Observer's publisher.

In a 2005 story about his induction into the Oregon Newspaper Hall of Fame, Moody recalled he was in no position to react.

"I was flat on my back in traction," he remembered.

Moody, who served as publisher of The Observer until 1997, died Wednesday, Dec. 28, at Grande Ronde Hospital at the age of 90.

Chandler sent Moody to La Grande with the following piece of advice ringing in his ears.

"He told me, 'You can turn yourself into the most popular guy in town or you can run a good newspaper,'" Moody recalled in 2005.

Moody heeded the advice. It is one reason his career path continued to rise. While based in La Grande, Moody was promoted to vice president of Western Communications in 1985. In this capacity, he oversaw two other WesCom papers, the Baker City Herald and later the Hermiston Herald.

"I think Bob managed to do exactly what Chandler told him he couldn't — be the most popular guy *and* run a good newspaper," current Observer Publisher Karrine Brogoitti said. "He was very well liked and respected in the community by readers and business owners alike."

Kari Borgen, a former publisher of the Baker City Herald under Western Communications, called Moody an "iconic newspaper publisher."

"He ran one of the most successful businesses in La Grande and was well respected by the community and his employees," she said. "He loved La Grande, EOU, his family, and his leadership reflected that."

GETTING HIS START

Moody's newspaper career began



THE OBSERVER FILE

The Observer Publisher Bob Moody holds a copy of the paper in this undated photo. Moody, who served as publisher of The Observer 1974-1997, died Dec. 28, 2022, at Grande Ronde Hospital at the age of 90.

in 1943 when he started working for the Bend Bulletin as a carrier at the age of 11.

He later worked under Les Schwab, the entrepreneur who would go on to found one of the nation's most successful tire companies, in the Bulletin's circulation department. Schwab promoted Moody to a director position in the newspaper's circulation department while he was still in high school.

Moody received tremendous guidance from Schwab but paid a price for working with him. Schwab was a softball player who practiced pitching during breaks at the Bulletin. Moody caught many of Schwab's pitches. One of Moody's fingers was jammed from catching Schwab's pitches and continued to bother him years later. Still, Moody, in his good-natured way, laughed off the bad finger as testimony of his lifelong friendship with Schwab.

After graduating high school, Moody served in the Navy, 1950-1954.

Upon returning from military service, he went back to work at the Bulletin. This was around the time the paper was purchased by Chan-

andler, who would found the Western Communications newspaper chain.

Chandler, who died in 1996, promoted Moody into management and named him publisher of the Redmond Spokesman, a Western Communications newspaper, in 1971.

EARNING RESPECT IN THE WORKPLACE

Moody's former employees expressed deep admiration for him.

"He was the epitome of the word 'gentleman.' He was a sharp businessman and a terrific human being. He was one of the good guys," said John Pritchett of Crescent City, California, who worked a total of two years in The Observer newsroom in the early and mid-1980s.

Pritchett also respected Moody's decision-making skills.

"He had the ability to make decisions. He wasn't afraid to make tough ones," Pritchett said.

Ted Kramer served as The Observer's sports editor 1977-1982 and as editor of the Redmond Spokesman for

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MOODY: He became well known for his work in community service

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13 1/2 years before returning to The Observer in 1995, where he served as editor until 2012. Kramer returned to La Grande primarily for the opportunity to work for Moody again.

"Bob was a great newspaperman, in every sense of the word. He wasn't a trained journalist, but he knew the value of local journalism," he said. "He also knew the importance of the community and the value of listening to readers. He didn't sacrifice ethics or refrain from covering tough stories. The community respected him for that."

Kramer said Moody built The Observer into one of the best small daily newspapers in the state.

"For many years in the 1970s, '80s and early '90s — all prior to the internet — The Observer had the highest saturation rate in the state," Kramer said. "It was something like 80% or 90%. Absolutely astounding. And much of that was attributable to the kind of man and publisher that Bob was."

Frank Everidge, who was hired in the press room in 1978, remembers Moody as a "mentor."

"He kind of raised me up in the paper world. He was a great boss. A lot of good stories about that man," he said.

Kelli Craft, an advertising representative for The Observer, got her start in 1995 when Moody offered her a part-time job after she moved back

to Union County.

"He was just a good guy," she said. "He was like a second dad to me at times."

Don Powell, who was the advertising director at The Observer the entire time Moody was its publisher, also had words of praise for him.

"He was a great newspaperman and a wonderful friend," he said.

Pat Caldwell, a La Grande native who got his start in journalism in 1991 as a sportswriter at The Observer, said Moody was "the last of a breed of unique Oregon newspapermen. He gave me my first opportunity based on nothing more than my eagerness. He took a chance, and I will always be grateful."

Brogioitti, who was hired shortly before Moody's retirement in 1997, called Moody's passing the "end of an era. For longtime employees of The Observer, Bob has always been thought of as the patriarch of our institution — retirement didn't change that," she said. "And honestly, I don't think his passing will, either."

A LOVE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Tim Seydel, Eastern Oregon University's vice president for university advancement, recalls Moody not only as a pillar of both the community and the university, but an important figure at different points in his own life.

"I'm sad to hear when a leader like Moody passes away," he said.

Seydel remembers delivering papers for The Observer as a child and seeing Moody in his office. Seydel recalls how impactful Moody was to journalism, especially when Seydel himself attended Eastern and was the editor of the student newspaper.

Seydel said Moody played a significant role at the university and was instrumental in fundraising efforts for Eastern's Foundation.

"He knew the value of a college education," he said.

Moody, along with his wife, Bev, established an endowed scholarship through the EOU Foundation that helps single parents achieve their dream of a college education. He saw people who needed help and decided to help them, Seydel said.

"I've watched (over the years) that scholarship change people's lives," he said. "We see that parent walk across at graduation, often with a child waiting on the other side."

Students who receive scholarships write letters of thanks after graduation, and according to Seydel, they often share their stories. Some recipients of the Bob and Bev Moody Scholarship are girls whose education had been disrupted by early parenthood or wives who had left abusive spouses.

"It's hard to read those letters and not start crying," Seydel said.

Moody was awarded the Dixie Lund Service Award in 2013, which recognizes individuals who have served Eastern in support of the

goals and missions of the university. Lund served as interim president at EOU 2003-2004 and 2007-2009. She also served on the board of trustees.

During this time, she got to know Moody and saw firsthand his dedication to the university and his perceived approach to life.

"He always seemed to have a little bit of a smile on his face," she said. "I could never imagine him with a cranky look."

LASTING LEGACY

Moody was an active member of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association and the ON Foundation. He served as president of the ONPA board 1994-1995 and was president of the ON Foundation 1995-1996 and 1996-1997.

Moody became well known for his work in community service while in La Grande. He was a member of the Union County Chamber of Commerce, an active Boy Scout volunteer, a member of the Union County Youth Services Commission board and chair of the Union County Smoke Management Committee.

Moody was a member of the Eastern Oregon University Foundation's executive board and a member of the La Grande Community Library Foundation.

He and his wife, Bev, who died Dec. 6, were married for 67 years. They would have celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on Dec. 24.

Longtime ND newspaper editor was admired for his dedication to community journalism

Marvin Ness died July 21 at 90. He announced his retirement from the Larimore Leader/Tribune two months ago

BY PAMELA KNUDSON

Features Reporter | Grand Forks Herald

GRAND FORKS — Kal Triplett, principal and head football coach at Larimore High School, described H. Marvin Ness as someone who was committed to community journalism and serving the people of the Larimore area.

Ness, longtime journalist and editor of the Larimore Leader/Tribune weekly newspaper and former owner

of the commercial printing business Ness Printing in Devils Lake, died July 21 at Elim Health Care Center in Fargo. He was 90.

His death comes about two months after Ness informed Leader subscribers, in a brief article, that he was retiring and looking forward to spending time with his grandchildren.

Triplett first met Ness in August 2015 when Triplett came to Larimore as the new principal and head football coach at the high school. As coach, he would provide Ness with the team roster, pictures and weekly updates and, as principal, share information on school activities and events — all for the Larimore Leader.

“He was loyal, dedicated to a small-town newspaper that, I think, many people would have maybe just moved on from many years ago,” Triplett



Ness

said. “(He was) just somebody who decided to hold on to this small town of Larimore’s newspaper, basically by himself, however many years past normal retirement age, you know what I mean? It’s pretty cool.”

Triplett remembers Ness as “super easy-going,” he said.

“Just calm, cool, collected — never panicking about due dates or deadlines. He’d say, ‘Hey, whenever you can get me this information, that’d be great.’”

“We got along well.” Triplett acknowledged Ness’ contri-

butions to Larimore and the surrounding area.

“We’re grateful for the years that he gave to this community,” he said, “and I think a lot of people around here will miss seeing the Larimore Leader.”

The Leader is one of several newspapers published by Ness Press in Fordville that will cease publication early next month.

Ness owned and operated Ness Printing in Devils Lake for nearly 40 years before retiring in 2003. He was then approached by the Ness Press in Fordville, owned and operated by his brothers, to edit the Larimore Leader.

LOYAL NEWSPAPERMAN

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NESS: Until his departure 2 months ago, he had been single-handedly running the Leader for about 20 years

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“He told his brother he would help him out for a few weeks,” said Ann Bailey, a longtime Leader subscriber and rural Larimore resident who knew Ness.

Until his departure two months ago, he had been single-handedly running the Leader for about 20 years.

“I think he did it because he was a loyal newspaperman who didn’t want to see Larimore without a newspaper,” said Bailey, herself a journalist at Agweek. “He was a good, kind man and always appreciated when the Herald would let him reprint a story about a local person. He wasn’t the kind of editor who was territorial and wouldn’t run other newspapers’ work. He wanted to give readers content they would enjoy reading.”

“I admired Marv’s dedication and warm personality,” she said. “He was a true gentleman of the newspaper

industry.”

John Brose, who ran a photography business in Larimore for 13 years, worked with Ness by providing countless photos of Larimore High School sports and community events for the Larimore Leader during Ness’ years as editor.

“(Ness) was just a real nice, gentle person,” recalled Brose, who moved his studio, Brose Photography, from Larimore to West Fargo in 2017. “He was really community-minded; he always wanted to get the story out and share things about the community. He was always willing to put different articles in (the paper) that people would submit to him.”

“(Ness) had a heart for the community ... more of a giving person,” he said.

“I’ll miss him. And it was nice getting to know him,” Brose said. “He had a good family and was proud of his kids. He was a really good guy.”

Russell Lee Pierce, 1942-2023

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Russell Lee Pierce passed away at home in Falls Church, Virginia, surrounded by his family on August 18, 2023. He was 81.

He was born and raised in Indianapolis and took a commission in the U.S. Air Force upon graduation from the University of Tulsa. He completed 23 years of service in defense logistics before retiring to a second career in accounting. He held a Master's Degree from Central Michigan University.

He served as a Little League umpire and sideline football official in the area for more than 40 years. In 2005, he was selected to umpire in the Little League World Series,

Williamsport, Pennsylvania.



Pierce

He was pre-deceased by his parents, his brother Larry Pierce, and his sister Jan Rosborough.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carol Spivey Pierce, former manager of Washington programs for NNA; his son

James Russell Pierce (Erika) and his two cherished granddaughters, Elaina and Juliana Pierce.

Services will be private.

Bob Pinkerton, 90, dies

Former Observer publisher led paper to greatness during his long ownership

Bob Pinkerton, a giant in the world of community newspapering and a pillar of his own community in Kimball, has died.

The former Western Nebraska Observer editor and publisher died Jan. 22 at the age of 90 in Anthem, Arizona, where he lived in retirement.

Mr. Pinkerton owned the Observer from 1962 to 1993, when he sold the Kimball paper to his daughter, Sherry. Under his direction, the Observer was a force in the glory days of print journalism, winning



Pinkerton

seven national newspaper awards and 71 state newspaper awards.

Top awards won under his stewardship adorn Observer office walls to this day. He was inducted into the Nebraska Journalism Hall

of Fame in 2005.

Mr. Pinkerton remained connected with the Observer until the end as a subscriber. In his later years, he would call from Arizona to personally renew his subscription.

When Jim Orr arrived as pub-

lisher in 2018, Mr. Pinkerton reached out to welcome him "to the brotherhood" and they talked on the phone or emailed several times after that.

Mr. Pinkerton also wrote a letter supporting the nomination to induct longtime Observer sports-writer Tom Southard into the Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame. Southard, who Mr. Pinkerton hired at the Observer, posthumously joined his former mentor in the hall in 2022.

Mr. Pinkerton was a hometown boy who made good.

He graduated from Kimball County High School and the University of Nebraska, was a second lieutenant in the Air Force, and

belonged to a number of organizations and boards in Kimball.

His official obituary follows.

Robert John "Bob" Pinkerton passed away in Anthem, Arizona, on January 22, 2023, at the age of 90. Bob was born in Madison, Nebraska, on July 28, 1932, to John L. and Vesta (Cronin) Pinkerton. He and his family moved to Kimball, Nebraska, when Bob was an infant so his father could open a dental practice there. Bob graduated from Kimball County High School in 1950 and from the University of Nebraska in 1954, where he ma-

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PINKERTON: He was an avid Nebraska Cornhuskers fan

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jored in journalism.

Bob married Carol Jean Patterson, a fellow University of Nebraska student, on July 24, 1954. Prior to college graduation, Bob received a commission as Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, and he and Carol reported to duty at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, in the summer of 1954. Bob and Carol welcomed daughters Becky and Pam there. The family returned to Kimball after Bob's two-year stint in the Air Force, and Bob began his long career at The Western Nebraska Observer. Daughters Linda and Sherry were born in Kimball, leaving Bob surrounded by a household full of females.

Bob bought The Observer from Art Henrickson in 1962 and was

the editor and publisher until he sold the paper to daughter Sherry in 1993. During his years as editor/publisher, the Observer won seven national newspaper association awards and 71 state newspaper association awards. In addition, his weekly column, On the Bobsled, won 15 state newspaper awards.

Bob received many newspaper honors and awards throughout his career, including his induction into the Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame, his proudest professional accomplishment. He was a recipient of the Master Editor-Publisher award (the highest honor that can be bestowed upon members by the Nebraska Press Association). He served as a board member for the Nebraska Newspaper Association and as president of both the Western Nebraska District Press Association and the Nebraska Press

Association.

Bob was a Jaycee, Kimball Chamber of Commerce member, Kimball Country Club board member, a member of the American Legion, a charter member of the Kimball Public Schools Foundation and a member of the school board. He served on the Kimball Hospital Foundation Board and on the University of Nebraska President's Advisory Council.

In his spare time, Bob loved to golf and enjoyed skiing, walking, traveling and tinkering in his garage. He was an avid Nebraska Cornhuskers fan. In later years, he split his time between Kimball and Anthem, Arizona, before making Arizona his permanent home in 2015. If you knew Bob, you knew that one of his greatest gifts was his sense of humor, and he enjoyed a good laugh until the end.

Bob is preceded in death by Carol, his wife of 62 years; his parents, and his sisters Evelyn "Peggy" Pinkerton and Donna Rae Pinkerton Worker. He is survived by his four daughters: Becky (Hoke) MacMillan of Anthem, Arizona; Pam (Fred) Mavroudis, of Anthem, Arizona; Linda Davis (partner Andy Fullmer), of Fulton, Missouri; and Sherry (Alex) Blanche, of Anthem, Arizona. He is survived by grandchildren Ryan and Chris Klemt, Brian Mavroudis, Tyler Davis, Whitney Davis Eastwood, Hilary Davis Bainbridge, Alison Davis Wheeler, Kim Davis Wyland and Alex Blanche. He is also survived by numerous great grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made in Bob's name to the Kimball Hospital Foundation, 505 S Burg Street, Kimball, NE, 69145, or online at <http://bit.ly/3m9XbjL>.

Virginia Rhoades, 1931-2022

Virginia (Jensen) Rhoades, age 91, passed away peacefully at Country House Residence in Elkhorn, Nebraska, on Nov. 22, 2022. Visitation was held at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Blair, Nebraska, on Nov. 27, 2022. Funeral services were held Nov. 28, at the First United Methodist Church in Blair. Private graveside services followed at the Rose Hill Cemetery.

Rhoades was born Feb. 13, 1931, in her family farmhouse in Battle Creek, Iowa. She was the eldest daughter of Arthur and Ellece Jensen. After the family moved to rural Blair near Orum, she attended the Rose Hill School through eighth grade. Virginia completed her high school education at Blair High, where she met her high school sweetheart, Kenneth Rhoades.

After graduating high school in 1948, Virginia began working as a legal secretary in Fremont and then worked in Blair for Kelly Ryan Equipment. It was while working there that she competed in the Ideal National Farmers Daughter Contest of 1949, held in Chicago. After winning the title, Virginia had television and radio interviews, was featured in a national advertising campaign, and had a multi-page feature story about her in Life Magazine. She even received hundreds of mailed-in marriage proposals from strangers around the country.

Soon after receiving her title as a national beauty queen, Ken made an in-person proposal of marriage to Virginia, which she happily accepted. On Aug. 24, 1950, the two were united in marriage. Virginia joined Ken in the family newspaper business shortly after tying the knot. Virginia handled all the bookkeeping as the comptroller, and Ken was the editor and publisher of the Blair Enterprise and Pilot-Tribune. Together, they expanded their newspaper group to include nine community newspapers in Nebraska and Iowa. It was truly a family operation as all three children helped out in the production of the weekly newspapers. Virginia and Ken continued to work together until they both



Rhoades

retired.

Virginia took an active interest in the Rose Hill Cemetery, serving on the board for over 50 years and acting as treasurer for many of those years.

She also loved her monthly bridge club, was a

member of the Blair PEO Chapter EQ, Monday Afternoon Club and was active in the Congregational UCC of Blair.

Ken and Virginia loved to travel, and over the course of their lifetime, they had the opportunity to visit places all across the United States and around the world including Europe, China, Russia, Japan and Australia. They loved to drive through the mountains of Colorado near Estes Park and often visited Branson, Missouri, to enjoy the shows and scenery.

Through their affiliation with the National Newspaper Association, Ken and Virginia were also able to personally meet several standing presidents including Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Virginia and Ken were both honored with the Blair Community Schools Foundation Community Service award in 2003.

Virginia loved to socialize, and if there was a party or get-together, or even a dinner on the town, it was assured that she would be there with Ken at her side.

She loved spending time with her family, always finding ways to get everyone together. Whether it was sledding and snowmobiling in their backyard, spending a summer afternoon at the pool, or just getting the family together for the holidays or a special occasion, those were the times that she loved the most. Being the ultimate hostess, Virginia made sure there was plenty of good food on hand for everyone.

Virginia and Ken enjoyed spending time at their home on Lake Okoboji, especially when their children,



Ginny Rhoades is pictured here (left) with her husband, Ken Rhoades (right).



BOB SWEENEY

Ken and Ginny Rhoades are pictured at their new home in 2017.

grandchildren or great-grandchildren were there. The couple would take them for boat rides, water skiing or watch them swim off the dock. She loved to treat everyone to their favorite rides at Arnolds Park and usually finished off the day with a Nutty Bar for everyone.

Virginia is survived by; son Mark (Betty) Rhoades, daughter Penny (Mike) Overmann, grandchildren Mindy (Marty) Rump, Jessica (Rod) Madsen, Nathan (Melissa) Suverkubbe, Chris (Dalyn) Rhoades,

Travis (Kristen) Rhoades, Collin (Jessica) Overmann, Brandon Overmann, 12 great-grandchildren and brother David Jensen.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth; her oldest daughter, Candace (Rhoades) Suverkubbe; her parents; and siblings, Ruthie Jensen, Dwayne Jensen and Doris (Jensen) Daniels.

Memorials may be directed to the Rose Hill Cemetery or the Blair Congregational United Church of Christ.

Steve Robertson, Waccamaw Publishers founder, remembered for commitment to local news, family and community

BY STEPHEN ROBERTSON
Publisher | Myrtle Beach Herald

Stephen Wayne Robertson, 70, of Horry County, Florida, died after heart complications on Dec 31, 2022. He was the founding president of Waccamaw Publishers.

Mr. Robertson was the son of the late Dillard W. (Tex) Robertson of Oklahoma and the late Mollie Ray Wilson Robertson Floyd of Friendship. His stepfather was the late Wayne Floyd of Centenary.

He is survived by Cheryl, his wife of 50 years; son, Stephen Robertson Jr. (Adrian); and daughter, T.J. Robertson (Kayla) of Conway.

Mr. Robertson has four grandchildren: Caroline Robertson, Kayleigh Robertson, Carleigh Robertson, and Hayden Johnson of Conway.

His two brothers survive him: Tim Robertson (Tamara) of Friendship and Mark Robertson (Hilda) of Chesnee. Two brothers-in-law also survive him: James Allen LeGette Jr. (Frances) and Walter LeGette (Gwen) of Centenary.

Steve and Cheryl Robertson have lived in Horry County since 1973. Residents of Conway, they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They are the founding members of Waccamaw Publishers, producing multiple successful newspapers over nearly 43 years, including the Horry Independent, Myrtle Beach Herald,

Carolina Forest Chronicle, Loris Scene, North Strand News, News & Shopper, and VISIT. Robertson and his son helped build an award-winning, hyper-local website, <https://www.myhorrynews.com/>.

After establishing the Horry Independent in 1980, Steve published six more newspapers in Horry County before retiring to run for the District 105 seat in the S.C. House of Representatives.

His son, Stephen, was recently named publisher. Steve's daughter, T.J., teaches physical education at Kingston Elementary School.

From the beginning, God blessed Robertson's mission to provide factual, unbiased journalism to the areas his papers served. Robertson surrounded himself with talented people who shared his vision of what great local newspapers should be. Local businesses supported these efforts, and he truly appreciated their loyalty. None of the success of these papers or his website could have happened without the thousands of loyal readers and an incredible staff.

A graduate of Coastal Carolina University, Steve has served as president of the S.C. Press Association, chairman of the Horry County Recreation Commission, president of the Conway Lions Club and president of the Grand Strand Press Association. He also served on the Horry County Red Cross board of directors. Steve was also a member of all the chambers of commerce in Horry County.



Robertson

HONORS/ ACCOLADES

Robertson was the recipient of the Conway Chamber of Commerce "Man of the Year," American Legion Post 111 Distinguished Citizens Award, Conway Lion of the Year, Coastal Carolina University Entrepreneur of the Year, more than 100 writing and editing awards from the S.C. Press Association, the Gaught-Thompson Journalist of the Year, winner of the S.C. Press Association's Freedom of Information Award (three times), the best in-depth Field and Herald story in 1980 and the Loris Bog-off Champion Cook award.

BOOKS AUTHORED

Steve published multiple books, including "An Illustrated History of Horry County Vol. 1," "An Illustrated History of Horry County Vol. 2," "An Illustrated History of Myrtle Beach," "An Illustrated History of Aynor" and "Smalls: The South Wanted His Head. The North, His Heart." Much of the "Smalls" book featured Robert Smalls, the son of a white plantation owner, who stunned the nation in 1862 when he commandeered Charleston's most prized warship and sailed it past the deadly guns of

Fort Sumter to freedom. The heroic escape, which made him the most famous Black man in the United States, earned Smalls a meeting with Abraham Lincoln that changed the course of the Civil War. While his name might have been erased from some history books, the story of one man's heroic fight to free a race from bondage continues to amaze and inspire all Americans.

Robertson was a resourceful historian of Horry County. He documented the community's past with pictorial history books, and he created a blog, www.robertson-blog.com. Multiple Facebook groups emphasize the history and reminiscing of the good ole days.

Robertson enjoyed fishing, golfing, reading, writing, camping, travelling, playing video games and spending time with his family.

He was well known in the community for his selfless service to Horry County and his deep Christian faith.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Finding a Cure for Angelman Syndrome (FAST), P.O. Box 40307, Houston, TX 78704, to aid his granddaughter, Caroline Robertson, in research for a cure for her special needs.

Visitation was held Jan. 4 at Goldfinch Funeral Home, and the service was held on Jan. 5 at The Rock in Conway, South Carolina. Buryal was at Centenary Methodist Church in Marion, South Carolina.

Sharon S. Taylor, 1936-2023

Sharon Sheets Taylor, 86, Archbold, Ohio, died March 12, 2023, at home after a long battle with dementia.

She was born June 6, 1936, in Toledo, Ohio, the daughter of Jake and Helen (Winegardner) Sheets of Bryan, Ohio.

She married Ross William Taylor on Oct. 14, 1956, in Bryan.

After graduating from Bryan High School in 1954, she studied for two years in the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

Ross and Sharon bought the Archbold Buckeye from Ross' father Orrin R. Taylor — NNA president in 1948 — Vincent W. Taylor and Valetta Parlette in 1978, and she was

the general manager until retiring in 2009.

She was a member of the Ohio Newspaper Association Board of Trustees from 1990 until February 2007. She was the first woman to chair the annual ONA convention and received the President's Award for years of service on the ONA Board of Trustees.

Sharon was the first female president of the former Buckeye Press Association for weekly newspapers.

She was a member and past-president of the former Archbold Business & Professional Women's organization; Fulton County Republican Women, in which she enjoyed working the polls on Election Day; and the Petoskey Regional Audubon



Taylor

Society.

Sharon also was a former Girl Scout leader.

She enjoyed spending time gardening, cross-country skiing and hiking. She was a founding member of the Hamilton Lake (Indiana) Water

Ski Club.

She was an avid traveler, including visiting Cuba (twice), Switzerland and Germany.

She looked forward to spending time at her condos in Windward, Harbor Springs, Michigan, and on

Marco Island, Florida.

She was a member of the Harbor Springs (Michigan) Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include her husband Ross, and two children, Brent (Diane) Taylor of Archbold, and Jania (Jeff Garant) Taylor of Harbor Springs.

Services are private.

Memorials may be made to the Sauder Village Foundation, the Archbold Area Foundation, the Ohio Newspapers Foundation, Community Health Professionals-Hospice or a charity of the donor's choice.

Grisier Funeral Home in Archbold is in charge of the arrangements. www.GrisierFH.com.