

Under the Bridge

by David Krier

THIRTY YEARS AGO this week Ralph Goldsmith hired me as news editor of the Dial, taking over from his son Jamie. I'll never forget Ralph's words during that first and only interview: "Obviously you're qualified, but will you stick? Will you put your pants on at three in the morning to take photos at an accident scene?" Well, after three decades on the job, I'd say I've "stuck," but there comes a time when all good things must come to an end, and this is it. With my 64th birthday just three months away and facing health issues that have me in a hospital more often than I'm in my office, I feel that now is the time to step away and, hopefully, enjoy some retirement time. When I was hired by the Goldsmith little did I know it would be my final stop in a newspaper career that began in the Dallas suburb of Allen, Texas, with stops at the Lakeland Times in Minoqua and Daily Times in Watertown. Until recently, I've enjoyed every minute of it. Ten months after he hired me, Ralph sold the paper and I also inherited his editor duties, so I've always been busy.

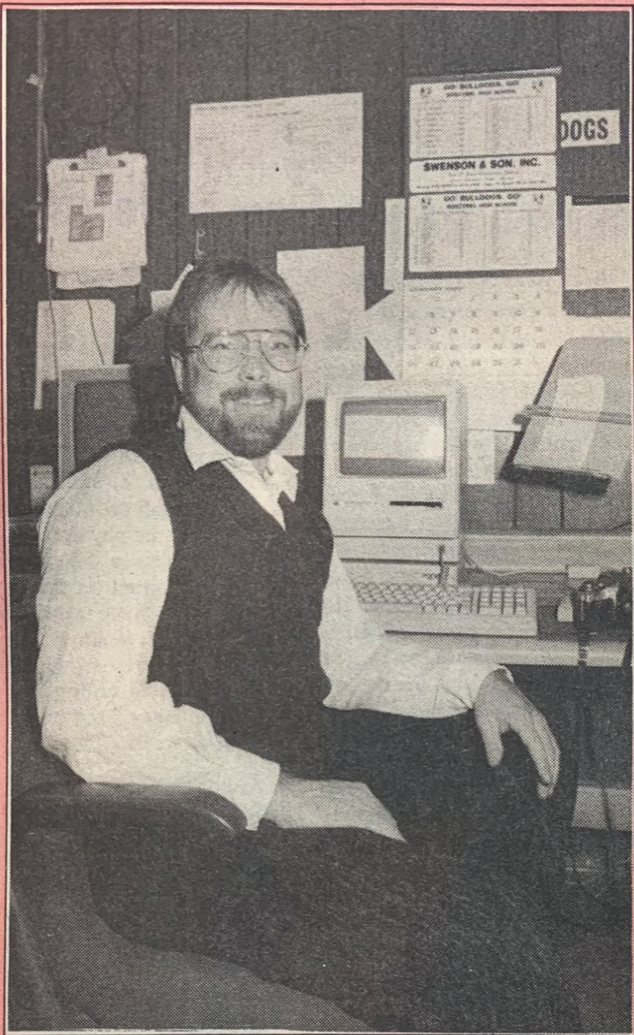


OVER THE YEARS the changes in the newspaper industry have been nothing short of amazing, some good, and some bad. When I started working at the Dial the first week in 1992, we had about 10 employees. We used the first primitive versions of the Apple II computer to work on our stories and layout. I spent every Wednesday morning "souping" negatives in a closet of what used to be Ralph and Lois Goldsmith's kitchen at the now-crumbling Dial building across from the Depot. Photographic prints were made and "shot" on a big camera to make layout pages on which the stories were run through a waxing machine and attached. Those pages were then driven to Lancaster where they were printed into Dials. Our deadline was 5 p.m. Wednesday (before the Post Office closed). In the meantime the entire staff was busy tying papers into bundles to be mailed to their respective communities. The Dial was the first and only newspaper I worked at that had a volunteer army of people to help us load and unload the truck. If not for COVID it would probably still be that way.



CHANGE comes slowly to rural America, but eventually it gets here. Over the years I've worked for four owners from four different states, although the Goldsmiths and Bill Hale both lived nearby. As the ownership changed, so too did the technology. New arrivals over the years included cell phones, digital cameras, electronic transfer of pages and what is proving to be the death knell of our industry, the internet. However, the first 25 years at the Dial were as enjoyable as a job could be. I loved it, from Friday night lights at BHS to countless parades, I covered them. Over the years I grew to love the unique, unglaciated Driftless Area we call home, with its wilderness-like rivers on

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DAVID KRIER

New news editor at Dial

Effective Jan. 1, David Krier has been named news editor of the Bos-cobel Dial, replacing Jamie Goldsmith who held the position for over 15 years. Jamie has taken a position with the Rich-land-Grant Telephone Cooperative.

Originally from Port Washington, Krier is a graduate of the UW-Madison School of Journalism and has worked as a photographer and reporter at several mid-

western newspapers, most recently at the Watertown Daily Times. At the Dial, Krier will be responsible for the paper's photography and darkroom needs, as well as reporting on local news and features.

Krier is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys fishing, skiing and canoeing. He welcomes story ideas from area hunters and fishermen and looks forward to working in the Bos-cobel area.

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which to canoe, kayak, fish and camp. When I bought my Crawford County retreat just four miles from my office, I was in Seventh Heaven. But the best part of the entire experience was you, the reader.

Normally, the Midwestern stoic type that works hard without complaint or compliment, you really showed me your love during these recent, medically challenging months. And for that I am eternally grateful.