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# Etheridge Retires After More Than Five Decades

tricia ROSE | publisher

CLINTONVILLE - It's the end of an era for Clintonville's Dennis "Denny" Etheridge, as he recently retired after nearly 55 years in the newspaper industry.

Etheridge turned 75 in March and retired after serving as the Circulation Manager at the Clintonville Chronicle since it was founded in 2009.

Prior to starting at the Clintonville Chronicle, Etheridge was employed at the Clintonville Tribune-Gazette for nearly 40 years. In 2007, new owners streamlined the operations of the T-G, eliminating Etheridge's position in the print shop at the newspaper.

After a brief hiatus, Etheridge was brought out of his semi-retirement by Greg and Tricia Rose, when they began the Chronicle in August of 2009, a post he's held ever since.

Etheridge's career began in the summer of 1966, when he and his dad visited Walt Gleason at "the T-G."

"My dad and I used to visit Walt and we talked to him about me getting a job. The machines were really big. I thought 'Wow.' I guess I can do that."

Gleason told him to report to work on Monday. He started out on an old offset machine. "I learned a lot about the newspaper and printing," said Etheridge.

At first, Etheridge worked night shift at FWD and then worked at the newspaper in the daytime. "I went back and forth, back and forth until I was laid off at FWD. Then I went full-time at printing."

Over the years, Etheridge stayed committed to his work and has excellent stories to tell.

"I remember in 1970, we were all working--seven of us. One had an accident where he cut his finger off, another got sick with heart problems, and one got sick with the flu. Me and Matt did everybody's job that day. The boss ran the linotype. We got done at one in the morning. We had to print it all night until like five in the morning. I was exhausted. Then I went home and then I went back to work. We had to put the papers in bags and stamp them. I could barely stay awake. The boss sent me home and I slept all afternoon."

Technological improvements over the years were difficult to learn, but Etheridge says the offset was easy.

"In the fall of 1970, the hot press changed to cold. The new machines came in and it was a lot easier. They had plates that you could just scrub off. And then I went to Waupaca printer every Wednesday night."

"In 1980ish, there was a really bad

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Dedicated Employee

Greg and Tricia Rose, owners of the Clintonville Chronicle (left) hired Denny Etheridge (right) in 2009 when they opened the newspaper. Etheridge recently retired after spending nearly 55 years in the newspaper industry.

Nikki Sasse

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snow storm. We had maybe 1-2 feet of snow. The boss asked me, 'Can you drive your truck (instead of the company van)?' I said sure. I was on Hwy. 45 and it was a huge drift that came across. I made it all the way there, printed everything, and then on the way back home, it wasn't plowed yet, and it was maybe three feet. I was just driving and driving. It took me an hour and a half to get home. It was just crazy. My boss was all nervous and worried about me, but I made it home."

Etheridge said he also hit a deer five different times on the job with the company van.

Over the years, printing needs--such as phone books--cut down and Etheridge's position at the T-G was eliminated in 2007. He took a little time off, and in the spring of 2009, Tricia Rose invited him to lunch and announced her plans to open the Clintonville Chronicle. She invited him to come aboard and he agreed on the spot.

In August of 2009, Etheridge began as Circulation Manager at the Clintonville Chronicle. In the 13 years he worked at the Chronicle, Etheridge never took a vacation and only took a bit of time off for COVID precautions. His work ethic was unmatched and he proved himself to be a valued employee, earning the designation of "Employee of the Year" twice.

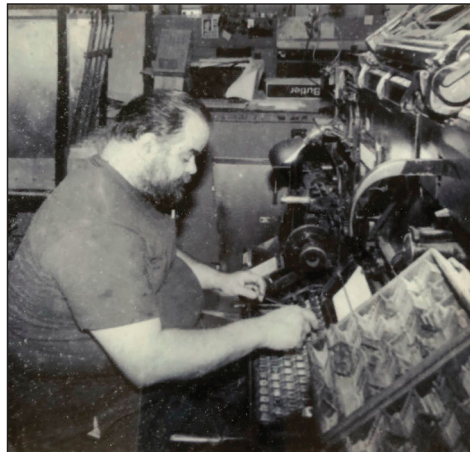
Etheridge says his favorite part

of his years in the industry was working on the offset machine, followed by the darkroom, and sometimes working on the linotype machine--though he worried about breaking it.

While he is looking forward to a well-deserved retirement, Etheridge said he will miss it. Always social, he plans to go camping once a month, go to the tavern to visit and watch the Packers, Badgers, and Brewers. He also plans to continue his various community service

groups. He has been a member of the Clintonville Moose Club for 50 years, Marion Lions Club for 29 years, and Green Bay Deaf Club for 55 years.

Editor's Note: We at the Clintonville Chronicle would like to send warm wishes for a very happy retirement to Denny, and our most sincere appreciation for his hard work and dedication. It has been our greatest pleasure to have you on our team and we will miss you.



Lasting Legacy

Denny, working in the T-G print shop in 1980 (above) and celebrating his 75th birthday in March (below) with brothers Dwain "Butch" and Dan "Ticker" Etheridge.

Submitted

