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
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.

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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.

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**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.