

**The Dunn County News**  
The oldest established business in Menomonie and Dunn County—founded April 3, 1860  
VOLUME CXVI MENOMONIE, WISCONSIN, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1975 NUMBER 10

**Newspaper era ends**

Don Halvorson sipped a cup of coffee in the familiar surroundings of the DeLuxe Cafe in Boyceville.

"He passed a minute and then responded, 'Actually, it's been a casual life. I didn't make much money, but I had a good time.'"

Don and his wife, Ivo, published their last issue of The Boyceville Press-Reporter last Thursday and he was "putting the loose ends together" when The News visited him Saturday morning.

The new owner is Chuck Hagen who also publishes The Colfax Messenger. He said he will continue both publications and the Press-Reporter and Messenger will each have its own front page. However, all inside pages will be identical.

Hagen has established a branch office in Boyceville which is headed by Dick Garberg. He will be in charge of the news department in Boyceville and also service advertising accounts.

Hagen added that all production work will be performed in Colfax and the two publications, starting this week, went off.

Don, a native of Boyceville, has been associated with the Press-Reporter since he was in the eighth grade with the exception of four years (1942-46) which he devoted to defending his country from invaders.

He views Boyceville as a "friendly, warm community of nice people."

Looking to Boyceville's economy, he said it appears, it is on the upswing again. "The creamery and Hedlund's keep the people here," he continued. "We have a strong school system and I don't know one teacher who didn't like the community. Boyceville offers employment to more people than the average town of 500."

The publication was originally known as The



Boyceville Press and was established on Aug. 10, 1886 by E. E. Corey, of Elmwood. On Feb. 21, 1912, he sold the paper to H. K. Halvorson, Don's father, who edited it until his death on July 28, 1966.

Don and his wife assumed ownership of the publication at that time.

Don recalled that at one time three papers were printed in the Boyceville office. They were The Boyceville Press, The Blossom News, and The County Line Reporter.

The County Line Reporter, which served the Ridgeford, Prairie Farm, Dallas, Hillside, Clark, Conoverville and Wheeler areas, was established in 1927 and discontinued in 1942. However, it was resumed again in 1947 and continued through 1952. At that time it was consolidated with The Boyceville Press and the publication appeared as The Boyceville Press-Reporter.

The Blossom News, a non-subscription paper, was also known as "The Green Sheet" because it was printed on green stock. This publication flourished when this writer was in high school and I recall H. K. coming to Blossom Saturday evenings to which "the kids" went.

But the best part of his visits was his giving a dime to a boy every time he managed to get a strike. "I remember earning 20 cents one evening, and net earnings would still be about the same today!"

Top Story

Don was asked to select the "top story" he covered and he pondered. "That's a lot of years."

He thought a few more seconds and then replied, "Andy Palko!"

Andy is a Boyceville High product who played with Conoverville as the Dunn County League and reached stardom with the Chicago Cubs.

Don recalled Jim VanDien, too, a graduate of Boyceville High, who went on to become captain of the UW Madison basketball team.

Don said he was supposed to write a weekly column called "Swede's Corner" but it didn't appear in every issue.

"Like I said," he explained, "this was a casual publication. If I didn't have time, I didn't write a column. It was aimed at getting news into the paper. My motto was you didn't have to die, get married, or have an accident to get your name in The Press-Reporter."

Don had another motto — if the news was slightly shady or vague, he used initials rather than names.

"We ran a friendly county paper," he commented. "I can't recall ever hating anyone. This was a Good Neighbor edition. I have many treasured acquaintances, and I get along with both Republicans and Democrats."

Trifles

Don paid special tribute to his wife who he terms the "finest associate editor in the weekly newspaper field." He said she handled the local news, did the proofreading, made up pages, was in charge of the mailing department, answered the phone, listened to complaints, and performed a variety of other duties.

The Halvorson household: Mrs. Dale (Dane) Nichols, Beverly, Mimi, and Mrs. Frank (Judy) Binkowski, Elmwood.

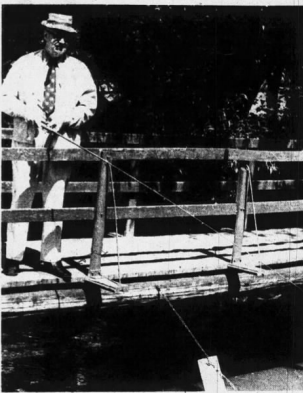
The Binkowskis have three boys and Don said "putting them out of work" because of the sale of the paper caused considerable anguish.

Don said they have no firm plans for the future but that he might "revers back" to his hobbies of golf, tennis, bowling and fishing.

He will, however, have coffee with "the gang" every morning at 8 o'clock at the DeLuxe Cafe and he said he will continue "a tradition" with Dick (The Body) Lystrom. They have matched dinner every day for the past 15 years.

Thus, an era has ended in the Dunn County newspaper field. Yes, The Boyceville Press-Reporter will be continued but "Swede's Corner" and other features that made the publication "different" are now a memory.

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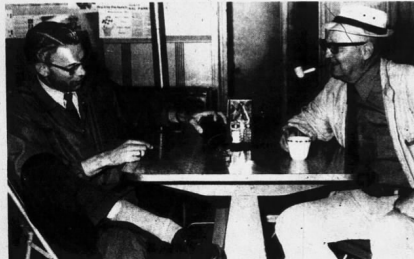
Whenever someone brought in a large fish which was newsworthy, the standard reply to Don's question, "Where did you catch it?" was "Behind the high school" or "Behind the creamery." Don has heard that reply so often that he is now "trying his luck" on Tiffany Creek which flows behind the high school.



Mrs. Don Halvorson



The sale of the Press-Reporter has put Don's three grandsons on the "unemployment" roster. They are, from left, Brian, Brent and Brock Binkowski, children of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Binkowski, Elmwood.



Although he has sold the Press-Reporter, Don Halvorson, right, looks forward to having coffee every morning with "the gang." Here, Lyle Hight Jr., who is in the insurance and real estate business, "attempts to determine" who will buy the coffee.

Text by Wally Smetana



H. K. Halvorson, Don's father, who purchased the Boyceville Press in 1912.

Photos by Dan Loonstra