

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Your cover photo and the historical article written by Marion M. Dumond (*Issue #13*) struck a chord of nostalgia with me, as possibly the only survivor of those who worked for the *Ellenville Journal* during the decade of the 1940s.

A classified ad in the *Ellenville Journal* in the spring of 1942 came to my attention. The *Journal* needed an apprentice to learn the printing trade; I applied, was accepted, and worked there until April 1943, when I was inducted into the Navy. Returning from service in 1947, I went back to the *Journal* and after a time migrated to the *Ellenville Press*, owned and operated by Irving McNally.

Both papers, particularly the *Journal*, which had a larger subscription list, were successful because they dealt in local issues, rarely espoused a political position (although the *Journal* appeared to favor the GOP, and the *Press* leaned toward the Democrats), and reported local news consisting of board meetings, weddings, births, obituaries, and, most important of all, local items. If, for example, Mr. and Mrs. John Doe enjoyed dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith on Monday evening, it was in the paper.

The *Journal* and the *Press* not only had correspondents in the village of Ellenville to collect these "locals," but had writers in the surrounding communities as well to contribute. Napanoch, Kerhonkson, Spring Glen, and Cragsmoor were some of the areas that were covered. The first thing people looked for in the papers were these "locals." I do not recall the names of the out-of-town contributors, but the late Bill Keib and Katherine Shurter vied with each other to see who could collect the most items and which could "scoop" the other. Mr. Keib wrote for the *Journal* and Miss Shurter for the *Press*.

Publication day was Thursday. I looked forward to that because, at the *Journal*, R. Baxter Taylor bought lunch for the staff. The actual press run ended about 12:30, but the mailing and newstand distribution remained to be done. Lunch was a 25-cent piece and, with that bounty, I could go next door to *Schipp's Diner* and buy a Western sandwich and a cup of coffee. Times have changed!

Editor Frank Muller and I departed for the service at about the same time, both Navy bound, and this caused some problems for Mr. Taylor. At the time, I was getting fairly proficient on the Linotype typesetting machine, but somehow he found a way around this, getting operators from the Kingston Freeman and Middletown Times Herald to set his type for him on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

I was home on leave at a time when a heavy snowstorm was raging, and got a call from Mr. Taylor asking if I could come in and set type for him since his Linotype operator from Middletown was unable to come. I worked for several hours that night, and when I had finished, Mr. Taylor thanked me and paid me an amount which slightly exceeded what I had been paid for five and a half days when I was employed full time. I questioned it, but R. Baxter Taylor informed me that since "this is what I paid Mr. G. to set type, and since you set as much, you deserve it."

The employment I sought at the *Ellenville Journal* became a career for me. I was associated with printing until my retirement in 1990, and I am grateful to the *Journal* and its manager for getting me started.

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