

speeding boat ran over Jeff and continued down the river. "A life jacket saved my life and kept me from going under. When I came up out of the water I realized I was in a pool of blood and my leg was floating on top of the water in a position it could never naturally be in," Jeff recalls. The speeding boat continued traveling downstream where its passengers, all older teens, dumped their drugs and alcohol before coming back to help the boys. Jeff's first taste of print journalism came when the local newspaper conveyed the message, "Local boy endangers himself in the Ohio River on the 4th of July."

Jobe spent the next three months in an intensive care unit where doctors managed to save his life while combating 142 identified germs infecting his body – a by-product of the filthy debris in the Ohio River in the late 1970's. His leg, however, would never be the same he was forced to accept that he would no longer be playing ball, running track, or doing many of the activities he had previously enjoyed.

SPRING 1981 – GREENUP COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Thirty days before his high school graduation, Jeff was called to the school office where a representative of the Social Security Administration greeted him by asking which college he planned to attend. The high school senior responded that he wasn't going to college because he could not afford it. The visitor informed him that because of his disability, he qualified to be sent to a college of his choice where the Social Security Administration would help pay for his education. Financial aid packages completed a plan for Jeff's future and later that summer, he enrolled as a student at the University of Kentucky.

Fate allowed that the father of Jeff's college roommate took an interest in him and became a father-figure to the young man reared by a single mother. Through encouragement and mentoring, Jeff found himself a member of Phi Sigma Kappa, the fraternity his new mentor had belonged to. His participation required him to work in order to pay his dues. The experience exposed him to many social situations he had not previously encountered and aided in his becoming a well-rounded individual.

Having found his niche, Jeff made his way through the ranks of leadership including serving as President of the chapter and the Inter-Fraternity Council at the University of Kentucky.

Armed with his business education and experience in campus leadership, Jeff landed a job with the *Courier-Journal* newspaper, then owned by the Bingham family of Louisville. He was sent to eastern Kentucky where he sold subscriptions in



twenty counties sandwiched between Pikeville and Ashland. When he changed companies, Jeff found himself working in different positions in three states over the next few years as he built a career in corporate management in the newspaper industry.

CHRISTMAS EVE 1997 – TAYLORSVILLE, KENTUCKY

A career in the fast-paced world of corporate newspapers took Jeff, by this time the father of a toddler son, away from his family frequently. Enjoying a holiday break, he found himself sitting in a Christmas Eve church service with young Wyatt in his lap. As he contemplated how quickly his son was growing, he was moved to tears by the thought of being so tied to a job that kept him from experiencing the joys of fatherhood daily. Recalling the absence of a father in his own life, Jeff vowed that we would find a way to remain in his chosen field and be with his family.

In February 1998, Jeff moved to Butler County, Kentucky where he purchased the *Butler Banner* and created his own company. With pride and determination, he chose to call his new venture Jobe Publishing, Inc. In his new role, Jeff covered local meetings and events himself and he learned to use

“Never let your head hang down. Never give up and sit down and grieve. Find another way. And don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines.”

RICHARD M. NIXON