

PRINTER'S INK IN THE BLOOD – VAN AND HYLAN BEYDLER

by Angie Alexander

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Van, Bill and Hylan Beydler

Brother and sister team, Van and Hylan Beydler, were significant contributors to The Dixon Pilot's in the late 1970's, and Van has contributed photos to the paper for at least 30 years! These siblings are skilled photographers, but Van wears his camera like a badge of honor -- strapped to his chest, always ready for that special "Kodak moment!" For Cow Days, Miss Merry Christmas, sporting events, and community activities, Van has been there doing his photography magic.

Van processed black-and-white film in a darkroom using chemicals like Kodak Dektol and D-76, Stop-Bath and Fixer. He devoted many afternoons and late night hours in The Dixon Pilot's darkroom developing film and prints. One of the first photos Van published in The Dixon Pilot was taken during a fire that burned several downtown Dixon businesses. It showed a curved fire hose laying on the ground and behind it were fire trucks and firefighters on the scene trying to put out the blaze. Van has a vast collection of Dixon photographs and memorabilia worth viewing (such as old Dixon postcards, photos of horrible train wrecks and the Dixon Theatre, 3-D stereo-cards, and portraits of local residents). Van's art work has also been used as the past banner masthead for The Dixon Pilot and The Richland Mirror.

Hylan Beydler worked at The Dixon Pilot during high school in 1976-77 due to a field work requirement in the Graphic Arts program at Waynesville Vocational-Technical School. She and brother Van rode the bus to Vo-Tech together, and their instructor was Scotty Goforth (formerly of The Dixon Pilot). Graphic arts training in this period was all about the printing industry (layout, design, printing). Today, people generally think of Photoshop and image design when they hear the term graphic arts.

Hylan continued on with The Dixon Pilot shortly after high school, and to this day she expresses how much she "absolutely LOVED" working at The Dixon Pilot. Rick Blackburn was the owner when Hylan and Van were on The Dixon Pilot team. They worked alongside Sandy Hayes, Peggy Harrison, Dale

Blackburn, Rosie, and others that they still consider life-long friends. Hylan's position was a job printer -- printing for people, figuring stock, layout and design, darkroom, plate-making, running the printing press, and doing the finishing work. Hylan worked on weekends to print memorial cards for funerals or other things that simply could not wait. Hylan's heart for this showed as she said, "I always took special care with the memorial cards -- they were so very important to the families. Everyone at The Pilot did what it took for our customers."

A note from Hylan: "I treasure my experiences at The Pilot. I am so excited about the Pilot's anniversary. Newspapers are facing hard times in these days of e-news and I am glad the Pilot continues to serve the citizens of Dixon. I read The Pilot every week (subscription compliments of dear friends Kathleen and Jeffrey Creamer). Not only was The Pilot a great place to work, the people of Dixon are very special. I am fortunate having grown up in Dixon and wish The Pilot continued success."

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