

enrollment, military promotions or reassignments, hospital stays, achievements of any kind, reunions, and weddings, births and deaths are reported. "We want people to know about a significant event in their neighbor's life and allow the community to celebrate with or comfort and support them."

The Dixon Pilot was officially one century old in 2011.



Connie Erisman
Dixon Pilot
Co-Publisher
Editor & Marketing
Manager

Connie Erisman came on the scene to work in different areas of this publishing business in about 1984. She enjoyed calling on advertising and printing customers as well as being a contributing writer when time allowed. She recalls customers started as clients and soon became friends. Having lived in both cities and rural America Connie feels there is nothing better than the bonds and friendships country people share! It has been her pleasure to serve the citizens of Dixon these last 35 years out of 150!

She recalls the Dixon Pilot spearheading multiple community events which included her helping to plan and emcee Dixon Cow Days for about 17 years. "I loved playing a part in providing opportunities for the community to come together! "There was always a small group of volunteers who rolled up our sleeves and worked tirelessly because of a love for this city. It is wonderful to see those who continue to carry on the traditions over the years," stated Connie.

The newspaper and printing business has changed immensely given technology advancements. "We still have loyal readers who look forward to getting their paper each week. Thank you to Dixon and the surrounding communities who play a vital role in small town America's success. It has been and continues to be a joy to serve you," concluded Connie.

A host of good people have owned the newspaper throughout the years. Please enjoy the stories of some of the former owners.



BILL BEYDLER, PAST "DIXON PRINTING" OWNER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE DIXON PILOT

by Angie Alexander

Reprinted from Welcome to Dixon 2010



Ralph, Ross, Scotty and Skippy Goforth and Bill Beydler as they are working on The Dixon Pilot. Bill is nearest to the camera and Ross the farthest away.

Bill Beydler started folding newspapers for The Dixon Pilot at the age of 14. He also worked while a senior in high school and a few years following (as did two of his children, Van and Hylan). Bill advanced from folding newspapers to being the pressman (i.e., the one who printed the newspaper and did job printing on a Heidelberg printing press). He also did some Linotype typesetting work.

Equipment used in Bill's youth at The Dixon Pilot was very different from the equipment used today. Printing was done by letterpress, with "moveable type," sometimes called "hot metal type" or "lead type" (invented by Johann Gutenberg). This first printing process involved arranging individual metal letters into words and sentences, inking them, and then pressing them against paper. The "technology" of movable type resulted in the printing of the Gutenberg Bible, in 1455, which was the first book ever printed. The Linotype typesetting machine revolutionized typesetting by allowing operators to generate lines of hot metal type, instead of using individual letters. The name of the machine comes from the fact that it produces an entire line of metal type at once (a line-o-type). The Beydler family has some of the original letterpress type cases, lines of type in their possession.

When Bill worked at The Dixon Pilot, staff included Editor, Ralph Goforth, and his brother, Ross, who ran the Linotype, and Ralph's son, Scotty (pressman). Ralph's youngest son, Skippy, later wrote articles for The Dixon Pilot.

When Ralph Goforth died, his wife, Evelyn, sold the print shop to Bill Beydler. Bill later worked for American Airlines and lived in various locations across the U.S. He and his wife Georgia (Sooter) were long-time Dixon business owners (of Dixon Printing, IGA, and Clover Farm grocery stores, clothing and hardware stores, a drug store, soda fountain, live country music hall, and a record shop).

Bill and Georgia are retired and live in Springfield. They raised five children in Dixon (Van, Hylan, Billy Dean, Scott and Sam). They have one daughter-in-law, Nancy and two grandchildren, Chase and Julie. Bill and Georgia's son, Billy, has served as a counselor at Missouri Boys State each year since he attended as a DHS student in the late 70's.

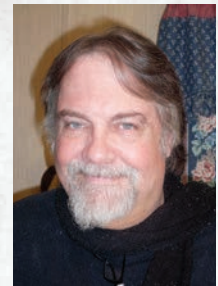


GOFORTH FAMILY

by Amber & Angie Alexander

Reprinted from Welcome to Dixon 2010

A celebration of The Dixon Pilot Anniversary must include recognition of its earliest owners and publishers, the Goforth family. Skip Goforth, a family resident of Dixon, was able to take us back to those earlier years of the newspaper and town.



Skip Goforth

At the turn of the century, W. F. B. Goforth (Skip's great-grandfather) entered his son, Arandall Goforth, into the newspaper business. They established the name of the newspaper, The Dixon Pilot -- associated with the town's ties to the railroad (a helper locomotive was called a "Pilot"). There was another newspaper at that time in the town called The Dixon Headlight.

In the 1930's, Arandall Goforth was fatally injured in a fall, and that was when his widow, Bessie, and their