

Luckiest guy in the world...probably

I have done almost everything here at the Chronotype in my 34-plus years, not counting my high school mailing room days when what happened in the mail room stayed in the mail room. But I have been forbidden to operate the cash register (for good reason as making correct change is not in my wheelhouse) and actually writing for the newspaper (also for good reason as my spelling is at about a third-grade level and the chances of me offending most everyone who would bother to read my dribble would be at the top of any scale).

When I announced my retirement date as Dec. 21 and the cheering subsided and the “been nice to know ya” heartfelt condolences were thrown out, I was given the opportunity to take a shot at the Writer’s Block as a pinch hitter, delaying the “real” writers’ columns by a week. (As I write this I am thinking to myself that most of it will be edited beyond recognition for the sake of decency, political correctness and apple pie.)

I do believe I may be in the running for “The Luckiest Guy in the World.” My dad made it possible for my brothers and me to buy The Chronotype. I have had the opportunity to work at the same place for all these years, to raise a family in a great community and live comfortably. He taught us that family was the number one priority and to try and treat everyone as honestly as possible.

The Chronotype is the longest continually running business in Barron County, established in 1874. My grandfather purchased the newspaper in 1923. My uncle Bob Antenne was part of the management team from 1947 to 1964, at which time he and my aunt Kay started the first travel agency in Rice Lake. My uncle, Warren Leary, Jr., was editor and then publisher of The Chronotype from 1948 to



WRITER'S BLOCK

By Jim Dorrance

jdorrance@chronotype.com

1986. My dad was general manager and then publisher retiring after 36 years in 1994. My brother Warren worked for 35 years and was publisher when he retired in September of 2015. My brother Bob will assume my duties as general manager and has been at The Chronotype for over 30 years himself. The Chronotype was in our family for more than 90 years until we sold to APG in August of 2014.

I have no special plans for retirement except to do whatever I want whenever I want to do it. My wife has other expectations. She announced, to whoever would listen, that she would become my new boss. She would fill a job jar with slips of paper on which she would write things that I would need to do. We tried a practice job—cleaning out a hallway closet—and it ended badly with name-calling, physical injuries (stubbed big toe) and hurt feelings (mostly mine). We need to do some more negotiations on how things will go; we have found out we do not work well together.

The newspaper business has changed over the years, but the mission has not: provide local news and information. I would like to thank all of the people I have had the pleasure of working with throughout the years. I will miss the challenges, the friendships, the laughs and the feeling of being part of something I will always remember as special.