

James P. McDonnell, Jr., publisher of the *Wright County Journal-Press* in Buffalo, MN, started his career there in 1940. His parents, James P. and Sadie McDonnell, Sr., purchased the newspaper in 1926. As a young boy, McDonnell swept floors and emptied wastebaskets.

After high school, he graduated from the University of Minnesota with a journalism degree. He joined the newspaper full time in 1957 and became publisher in 1963. McDonnell has worn many hats at the paper including printer's devil, page paste-up, paper catcher, commercial printer, sports reporter, photographer and publisher.

On June 26, 1954, McDonnell and his wife Jean were married at St. Francis Catholic Church in Buffalo. The McDonnells have two sons, James P. McDonnell, III, and Thomas McDonnell, who currently work at the paper with Jim. Their daughter, Cathy, worked at the paper while she attended high school.

Jim is also interested in motorcycling and aviation. He served in the U. S. Air Force as a jet pilot from 1954 to 1957.

The *Wright County Journal-Press* is a fourth generation newspaper. Granddaughter Erin Donnay, now working at the paper, represents the fourth generation.



Half Century Club



Minnesota Newspaper Association
12 South Sixth Street, Suite 1120
Minneapolis, MN 55402
www.mna.org

143rd Annual Convention
Sheraton Hotel South, Bloomington
Friday, January 29, 2010
Noon Luncheon

Rollin Bergman, publisher of Page 1 Publications, started his newspaper career at the *Norman County Index*, Ada, when he was just 15. As a printer's devil, that first job consisted of sweeping floors, delivering printing jobs to local businesses on his bicycle, and helping to melt the lead type after each week's paper was printed. He stuck with it through high school, then college where he studied the business and worked at the newspaper on weekends and in the summer. It was there that publisher John Pfund took Rolly under his wing and encouraged him to consider a career in newspapers.

After college and a stint in the National Guard, Bergman returned to the paper full time, working in every aspect of the business from selling ads to taking pictures and, yes, even sweeping the floor. He stayed there for 32 years, always harboring a dream of owning his own newspaper. In 1991, Bergman and Julie Nordine purchased the *Warroad Pioneer* and formed Page 1 Publications. In the ensuing years, Page 1 Publications purchased other newspapers. And, along the way, in 1998, Bergman and Nordine were married in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

Rolly has seen many changes in technology in the 50 years he has worked in the business. Linotypes gave way to cold type as Compugraphic phototypesetters revolutionized newspapers. Computers now make layout so much easier, but many things haven't really changed. Operating a newspaper is still a job he loves. Through all the trials and tribulations, changes in technology and years of gathering news, the young boy who started as a printer's

devil has stayed committed to a business he loves. And, yes, he still sweeps the floors.

In 2005, Bergman was elected president of MNA. With his passion for the industry and for MNA, he returned to the MNA Board of Directors in 2008. Bergman has three sons, Marc, John and Paul, who have not followed their father's footsteps into the newspaper industry. When Bergman lists his hobbies, newspapers are at the top of the list. Other activities and interests include model railroading, interior design, snowmobiling, fishing and travel. His future plans include remaining active in the newspaper business.

Marvin Bulau has worked for the *Arlington Enterprise* his entire 50-year newspaper career. After graduating from Arlington-Green Isle High School, he was hired to work in production by publishers Val and Louis Kil. Currently, Marvin is a printer and production manager at the *Enterprise*.

On June 22, 1963, Marvin and his wife Irene were wed in Arlington. The couple have four children, Leslee, Lisa Lynn and Christopher.

Marvin doesn't sit still. His other interests include music and hobby farming. He also plays the concertina. Future plans for him include continuing his career at the newspaper.