

You and me

Farewells and thank-you's

By Richard Palmquist

When an Editor-Publisher decides to close down a newspaper he says goodbye to his readers. Everybody knows that the reader is the most important part of a newspaper. The Enterprise News, though, has been unique. We are different because there has been a group of people we have served who are even more important than our readers.

I don't mean our advertisers, either.

Advertisers are vital, but more important than both readers and advertisers for us have been our story sources. The Enterprise News has built up a family of story sources, people we care about, who have provided our readers with unique material not available from other newspapers. Those readers, gathered together around the Enterprise News focus, have provided for our advertisers the motivation to reach customers through our pages.

If it is important for a retiring publisher to give advice to his fellow publishers I would center that advice on this unique philosophy of the Enterprise News: *put your story sources at the top of your list of priorities.*

It was because we were treated rudely by our local Delano newspaper in the early 1970's that we were motivated to purchase the Pixley Enterprise when it was offered to us in 1975. Should I say it? Yes, I'll go on to reveal that we were also motivated to enter the newspaper business because of the uncaring treatment we received from the advertising staff of the Porterville Recorder many years ago. Both the Delano Record and the Porterville Recorder gave us the impression that we were unworthy to enter their places of business: an interruption of no importance to their readers; bothersome, second-class people with no story worth writing, whose advertising money was unwanted.

Partly because of the way other newspapers treated us and partly because we genuinely care about people and we want to serve people in need, we have a reputation: *we listen.* Parents whose children have been taken wrongly by CPS, those falsely accused and on trial, the oppressed, businessmen who are suffering under the heavy hand of government regulation, those who are taxed by bureaucratic insensitivity, those who seek to be freed from the IRS -- and free lance investigators who previously had no place to go with their information -- have all found here a listening ear.

Ironically, the same Porterville newspaper that helped motivate us to go into the newspaper business has courteously and accurately reported upon the closing of the Enterprise News. John Soper phoned me last Friday and his story was accurate and excellent. Too bad he did not sign it with his by-line.

Soper accurately told of the negative series of stories we have published on Nyrah Brazell, Jack Burgess and others. However, he forgot to tell of our positive support for Ben Webb, former Supervisor of the Porterville District of Tulare County. We have been as ready to tell of the good guy in government as we have the errant Sheriffs. Is it just that in government there are more bad guys than good? The Porterville Recorder story, however, could not have been better written if we had done it ourselves.

Readers, advertisers, sources -- all have been important to the production of the Enterprise News, but the people I want to thank most warmly are those folks who have met with us every Wednesday for many months. We have a group of patriots who meet in a little restaurant in Bakersfield as the Enterprise News is printed each week. They have become more

than supporters and fans of the paper: they are our friends. Many of them stay and help us label the papers, stuff inserts and do other tasks many would not do for pay, and they serve with joy as volunteers (don't tell the Department of Labor). They have become important to us and of all those we will miss, they top the list.

As we close down the Enterprise News I can't help but wonder how many newspaper owners there are in the United States who meet regularly with a group of more than a dozen people each week who show their respect and support without being appointed, cajoled, paid or persuaded.

Our list of people to thank would not be complete without mentioning the postal employees whose "by-the-book" interpretation of the Second Class Mail rules caused us to be switched to the higher Third Class rate. That gave us the courage to raise our subscription price to \$30 per year, a price some readers tell us is too low. However, since then we have seen an average of 25 subscribers per month fail to renew their subscriptions.

We also want to give our regards to the employees of the State Board of Equalization who continue to believe that State Legislators have more power in California than does the State Constitution. Their efforts to make us sign a contract with their agency to collect sales taxes forced us to sue them personally. That lawsuit is ongoing and unresolved. When we found a buyer for the Enterprise News, we insisted that until we had received all our money the newspaper should not enter into a contract with a government agency. The buyer's attorney refused to approve our proposed contract of sale and the buyers decided to back down. So, these little people who work for the Board of Equalization have cost us a lot of money. We expect someday we will collect.

Meanwhile, you can continue to connect with our story sources if you tune to KDNO, 98.5 in the Fresno/Bakersfield area of California, especially Saturday mornings shortly before 10 a. m. Those who have requested it will also be receiving a monthly newsletter from us, and hopefully someday soon we will issue a once-a-month special audio tape report. We are putting away the Enterprise News and its historic predecessors the Terra Bella News and the Pixley Enterprise. However, we continue to express vigilant concern over the preservation of our God given individual liberties as guaranteed by the Constitution and we continue to care deeply about those people whose lives and liberty are threatened by our modern self-serving Congressional and legislative representatives and their out-of-control governmental employees.

In the midst of daily turmoil, we wish for you that inner peace that comes from personal acquaintance with God Himself through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word, who has made Himself known to us through the Word, the Bible.

If you are wronged by government, our parting advice is: don't hire a lawyer. Learn how to defend yourself. Learn how to write court documents or find a friend who can help you. Then, when you are attacked, remember the best defense is a good offense. Sue the errant government employee in his personal capacity. Only when we bury the courts in such suits will government again begin to take the Constitution seriously!

This editorial was published in June of 1993, in the final edition of the Enterprise News newspaper. The Enterprise news was the merged result of the Pixley Enterprise and the Terra Bella News, serving communities in the South Tulare County of Central California. The service of KDNO, Delano, and the "newsletter" mentioned here have been replaced by www.truthradio.com and www.truthradio.info.