

Chariton County Journal Named Business of the Month for July by Janet Weaver

At the June 19th meeting of the Keytesville Chamber of Commerce, the Chariton County Journal was drawn as the business of the month for July. An interview with the Chariton County Journal owner Susan Baxley imparted the following information about one of Chariton County's longest running businesses.

According to Susan Baxley when she and her late husband, Larry, bought The Brunswicker from Robert and Susie Clayton in November of 1953, The Brunswicker had already been in business since 1847. Five years later, she and Larry purchased the Salisbury Press-Spectator from Jack and Mary Fidler in December of 1988. After Larry's death, the decision was made to combine the two papers and this was done in January 2014. At that time, Susan contacted the Missouri Press Association and asked them regarding the appropriate date to use in regard to the date of the newspaper's founding. She was told that she was to use the date of The Brunswicker (Oct. 14, 1847) as the date.

Numerous employees have worked on both The Brunswicker and the Press-Spectator over the years. Some of the ones people may be familiar with are Lucy Vaughn, Donna Turner, Colleen Johnson, Sandra Smith, Beverly Vasser, and the current employees of the Chariton County Journal Theresa Armentrout, Glenda Weiseman, and owner Susan Baxley.

Susan did indicate that she had been employed in Moberly, working for Associated Electric, for 21 years after having worked at the Press-Spectator from 1973 to 1977. During the time she worked at Associated Electric and while she and her late husband owned The Brunswicker and the Press-Spectator, if an employee at either newspaper was ready to take vacation time, she took her own vacation time from Associated Electric and filled in for the newspaper employee who was taking time off. She laughingly stated that she could not remember when she, herself, had had a "real" vacation.

When asked what facets of newspaper ownership she finds most enjoyable she was quick to reply that she got to meet people from all over Chariton County, many of whom she would likely not meet otherwise. She also stated it was good for her to get out and go places in the line of her work, as otherwise she likely would just stay home.

Challenges that the newspaper business in Chariton County present are that since Chariton County is the third largest in the state, when events are going on in different towns or communities on the same day, it is extremely difficult to co-ordinate covering the events for featuring in the newspaper and not short-change one community or another. Another major challenge is making people aware of the newspaper's deadlines and abiding by them.

When Susan was asked about what advice she would have regarding the present climate of negativity toward the press that is in the news today, she said that if one works in the newspaper business, they need to realize that it is impossible to please everyone and that

it is essential to check sources of information. The Keytesville Chamber of Commerce salutes the Chariton County Journal as its July Business of the Month.