

In Loving Memory

Allen V. Stock, Publisher Foster County Independent 1976-2021



New Independent Owners Take Over January First



Beginning Jan. 1, 1976 the Foster County Independent will mark another milestone in its long history when ownership of the plant, business and facilities is turned over to Mr. and Mrs. Allen V. Stock of Fessenden, who have made the purchase from Mrs. Leslie N. Strand, who became owner-publisher upon the death of her husband last Oct. 1.

Stock, age 34, is a native of Fessenden, is a graduate of Fessenden High School and attended Minot Colleges. He has been associated with the Wells County Free Press at Fessenden for 20 years, having

been managing editor since 1963. Active in various affairs at Fessenden, Stock has been a member of the city council, Kiwanis, Jaycees, Civic and Commerce, Country Club, Fire Department and First Lutheran Church. His wife, Pat, has been associated with a ladies' ready-to-wear store the past 2½ years as part owner. She previously was employed at the Free Press. They have three children, Susette 10, Shelly 7 and Tim 6.

Leslie and Laura Strand purchased the Independent Oct. 1, 1970, coming here from Minewaukan, where they had

been in the newspaper business for 13 years. They made the purchase from J.A. and May E. Gilje, who had owned and operated the business for 27 years.

Now in its ninety-second year, the Independent has had a number of owners. C.B. Craven and E. D. Lum sold the plant in May, 1909, to George Collins. The latter sold it to E.D. Seekins Jan. 1, 1929. After publishing the Independent for 15 years, Seekins sold to the Giljes.

Mrs. Strand's plans for the future are indefinite. She will be in Carrington for some time to close other business interests.

How it all began: Allen V. and Patricia Stock purchased the Independent in 1976. This article appeared on the front page of the Foster County Independent on December 17, 1975.

He was always a critic, but even more so a fierce defender of newspapers and of his community"

"Maybe 10 years ago I stopped in Carrington just before noon one day, popped in to the Independent office and invited Allen to lunch. He agreed, but said it was deadline day so it would have to be quick, because he still had a couple stories to write. We drove over to Subway, and two hours later he excused himself to go finish that week's

paper, which he did, on time and with complete stories banged out on his typewriter. His newspaper always came first, but so did his newspaper friends. "He was always a critic, but even more so a fierce defender of newspapers and of his community."

Steve Andrist
NDNA Executive
Director (2013-2020)

He told me that family should come first

Allen was great to work for and he taught me a lot. One thing I appreciated about Allen was how he encouraged his employees to put their families first, that was very important to me as well. I remember when he hired me, he told me that family should come first. He ALWAYS asked how my kids and grandkids were doing, even when I would see him after he retired and sold the business. Allen was a great story teller and

he loved to visit with people. He had a story about everything and it amazed me how he remembered them all. We would be talking about something at work and he would say, "oh that reminds me of when ..."; sometimes I would have to say, "Allen, I have to get back to work," and he would reply, "I will make it short." That always made me chuckle because if you knew Allen, you knew he didn't know how to make a story short!!

He taught me every aspect of the business

I was working for the offsale and Allen stopped by and offered me a job at the paper. He didn't like being told "No, I'm not interested." Finally after a few days I agreed to try it, knowing I knew absolutely nothing about his business. Fast forward 15 years, and what I didn't expect was a business who treated their employees like family. He taught me every aspect of the business, from inserting the circulars to printing, labeling, bagging and delivering. I loved

going out each week and talking to our local businesses about ads and office supplies.

Then came trophies, plaques, tournament books, etc. He taught me so much. He was like a dad to me in ways.

My favorite memory is this: I asked if I could borrow some caution tape he had in back. He said sure. That night my coworkers and I filled his office with

balloons and taped his door shut with that tape. He came in the next day and we were singing Happy Birthday. He was not impressed but he did love it. Just being tough AVS!

Rest in peace, AVS. I will miss you.

Linda Duursma



The end of an era: Allen V. and Patricia Stock sold the Foster County Independent to Amy Wobbema on October 1, 2021. This photo of Allen and Amy appeared on the front page of the Independent on October 25, 2021.

I will never forget what he taught me

Allen taught me everything I know about the newspaper business.

When he asked me to do an interview for the open reporter position, we met at Mel's Diner on Main Street here in Carrington. That

was 18 years ago.

Even though I left to work somewhere else a couple of times, he always hired me back when I told him I wasn't happy at my "new" job.

Allen loved music and

had many stories about his days playing in his band. In fact, Allen had a story about everything.

I loved hearing his stories, especially about his days working at the newspaper in Fessenden

as a young printer's devil.

He was always ready with a story about the Rainbow Gardens and the various restaurants within Carrington as well as other businesses no longer around.

I couldn't be more proud to have been associated with Allen Stock - the consummate community newspaper editor/publisher. No one person had more impact on his community than Allen in his long career at the Foster County Independent.

I'm reminded of a parallel Allen had with another worthy newspaperman, Thomas Henry Tibbles (1840-1928) of the Omaha Daily Herald, who was well-known for his assessment, "I turned to journalism, and before long had held every position on a newspaper

from reporter to editor-in-chief. Whenever a man gets into the newspaper business, he acquires the journalism disease - a malady harder to overcome than the opium habit. If any man ever recovered from the disease there are no records to prove it."

Rest in peace, my

friend, Allen. You served your community and our industry with dignity and grace.

Roger Bailey
Turtle Mountain Star
(1973-1998)
North Dakota
Newspaper Association
Executive Director
(2000-2013)

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He loved his flowers

Not long after I had been hired I had a phone call at work letting me know a very close relative had passed away. Allen had heard the conversation and came up to me after the phone call to console me. I could tell then he was a kind and compassionate man toward his employees.

There are a couple of things that stand out to me about Allen. He loved his flowers! He would come up to me and talk about all the different flowers he had planted in his flower gardens at home. He also loved to talk about the Rainbow Gardens and the big bands that would play there and how much fun it use to be. He would show me pictures upon pictures of how the gardens looked.

Renee Hopkins



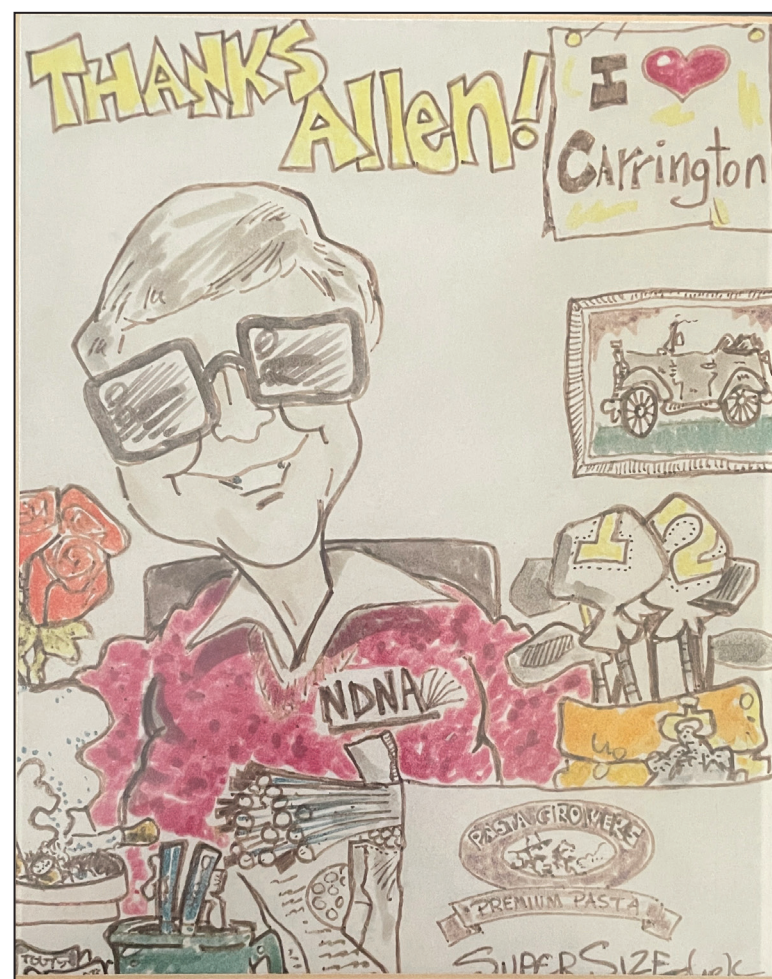
Sen. Kevin Cramer visited the Independent office one day, and Allen took some time to visit with him about local issues. In the background Allen's 50 Year Club award and other accolades from the North Dakota Newspaper Association (NDNA) are hanging on the wall behind Allen.

He always had stories

I worked for Allen most of my adult life and was always treated awesome. He always had stories to tell to keep life interesting. Knowing a family that long they kind of become family. He was always organized and ordered what

I needed so I could print. A couple of the machines in the back he only knew how to set up, but he knew everything about them. I will always remember my days at the FCI working for AVS, rest easy my friend.

Brian Duursma



This caricature of AVS was commissioned by NDNA and was given to Stock at the end of his tenure as president of NDNA in 1997. He proudly displayed it in his office at 1191 Main Street for 25 years.

His typewriter was his computer.

Allen always had a lot of stories to tell! He could remember details about events that happened many years ago. He was always interested in people and their stories. I remember one time he met this couple that was traveling on a motorcycle. A couple days later, he wrote about them in his column.

Another thing Allen loved was music. He loved to tell stories about when he was a drummer in a band in the '50s and '60s. He also liked to listen to music. He was very supportive of our local students and enjoyed attending their concerts.

Allen was interested in anyone that pursued music for a living. My daughter is a music therapist and when he saw an article in the Forum about a music therapist, he sent it to her. He told me a story about meeting the Osmond brothers and telling them about music therapy!

Allen loved typewriters! His typewriter was his computer, and he didn't use the Internet either. He would type his column on his typewriter and then I had to retype it! He also had lots of spare typewriters around for parts!

Lori Buchholtz

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