

Celebrate over 100 years as we honor Doris Miller with an open house at *The Oberlin Herald*



WITH A CAR FULL OF PAPERS, Doris Miller helped deliver *The Russell Daily News* sometime in the 1950s. Her job included everything from taking classifieds to setting pages in type to helping print and deliver the newspapers. She says she also kept a watchful eye on the carriers and swept the floor.

Starting at age 16, tomboy took to job in paper's backshop

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Doris Tittel Miller printed her own wedding invitations, and by the time she was married in 1951, she had been working at newspapers for almost five years.

She's been at it ever since, putting in nearly 50 years (with a couple of breaks) in back shops and at the front counters of newspapers in her hometown of Russell, Lyons, Iola, Burlington and Oberlin.

These days, she's semi-retired, working Saturday mornings at *The Oberlin Herald* doing ads and typing correspondent copy into the computer.

Over the years she's handled marriage, children and divorce and kept on working at her craft.

While the computer is her instrument today, she used to play a different tune, putting lead type together, as this excerpt from *The Lyons Daily News* of Nov. 28, 1966 shows:

"Spending eight hours a day with double trucks and deadlines, slugs and squirts, ems and ens might not appeal to most women. However, Doris says she likes it and doesn't mind the daily pressure that mounts toward presstime. After putting the paper to bed, she then goes home to the equally challenging task of putting youngsters to bed.

"Although new in her present job, Doris has had considerable experience in printing, a trade which few women enter. Perhaps most who do are involved not by choice but by the fate of having married a country editor who needs help in the shop. However, the occupation has advantages, in allowing a woman to earn a man's wages, and to find a job almost anywhere. Doris says she has been surprised at how easily she has found work wherever the family has moved."

Born in Russell County, Doris Tittel was ever a tomboy. When she wanted a job at 16, in 1946, her Aunt Martha suggested she ask at *The County News* in

Russell, whose publisher, Lowell Hogue, was looking for a boy to sweep out the shop.

She started sweeping and was soon throwing handset type. When *The County News* was sold, Mr. Hogue got Doris a job baby-sitting.

Within two weeks, she walked into the *News* office and told Russ Townsley, the new publisher, that she worked there and asked what to do.

"Whatever you did before," he replied.

Doris was back in the news business.

After marrying Raymond Miller in 1951, the couple moved to Oklahoma but soon returned to Russell. From 1954 to 1957, Doris ran her own print shop. In 1957, she returned to *The News* and in 1960, she moved to Chase and Hutchinson. In 1963, she started full-time at *The Lyons Daily News* while raising her three children, Connie, Roger and Richard.

In July of 1971, she went to work for *The Iola Register*. Later, she moved to Burlington when the Iola paper switched from hot metal to offset.

She worked for *The Burlington Daily Republican* until 1976, when she moved to Oberlin and started work at *The Herald*. She made the switch from lead type to "cold" paper type and then to computers.

Besides her family and her job, Doris loves baseball, fishing and playing Bingo. She belonged to a bowling league for many years and helped with youth softball both as a coach and an umpire.

Back in 1973, she was interviewed by *The Russell Daily News* about her job.

"I always work as long as it doesn't interfere with my bowling," she said, "and that's the truth."

She doesn't bowl or work much anymore, but there's still Bingo and watching the Colorado Rockies on television, along with the occasional visit with her nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



LEARNING TO USE new Macintosh computers, *Oberlin Herald* News Editor Connie Grafel (left) looked over Doris Miller's shoulder in this picture published in April 1988.