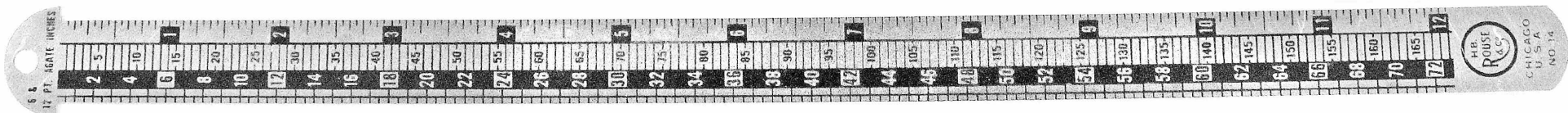


The staff created and presented this newspaper page to Gale Eilola who is retiring after a 47-year career with the *L’Anse Sentinel*. Friends are invited to a “Meet and Greet” for Gale at the *Sentinel* on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 10 a.m to 2 p.m. (See *real* feature story, p7!)

The L’Anse Sentinel

‘Pride of Pelkie’ hangs up pica stick



by Verry True

Gale Eilola has personally witnessed a lifetime of change wash over the newspaper business in a long and storied career at the *L’Anse Sentinel*. His employ with the Yooper weekly news empire stretches nearly a half-century.

Gale began his fruitful and fulfilling newspaper career as a teen fresh from the cow pastures of Pelkie. His first job was “Ink Bottle Replenisher” for the dedicated team of scribes who overnighted on Fridays, hand-writing the *L’Anse Sentinel* on papyrus, under deadline pressure for Saturday circulation.

A Finn of all trades, Gale soon branched out. He built the modern darkroom under the stairs of the ancient headquarters where the first Daguerreotype photographs were developed on silver plates with iodine.

Gale was quick to embrace incoming technology, manning up on the Linotype, melting lead in an iron smelter, and soon putting fingers to flying on that 90-character keyboard.

The apex of Gale’s historic career would come in the earlier years. When flames broke out on a steamy-hot late July day in 1983, it was Gale who single-handedly rescued many of the staff from certain smoky death in the tarred-roof tinderbox that was the Mainstay of Main Street for 87 years.

Yes, it was Gale, who upon sniffing smoke, politely knocked on the employee bathroom door, warning intrepid *Sentinel* reporter Nancy Bestofthem of the impending danger. Nancy has long been our invincible Lois Lane, but, hey, a girl gets caught powdering her nose once-in-a-while.

Gale raced down the stairs carrying famous columnist Harriet Clements to safety. She had fainted dead away, her stylish heels and sequined purse in hand. And

yes, it was Gale who shoved muck-raking reporter Rick Buck out the second story window onto the roof of the loading dock, armed with his trusty pinhole camera to document the chaos unfolding on Division Street.

Editor Verry True would not require rescue as he was at the far end of town playing hooky and buying door knobs for his new house when the fire whistle sounded and the horse teams raced to the *Sentinel*.

Gale’s work that sweaty, smoke-filled afternoon wasn’t over quite yet. In the shadow of the wildly burning building Nancy’s car was blocking the fire teams. In her haste to escape she had left the hand crank on her now smoldering desk. Gale heroically hoisted the mid-size sedan and lugged it to safety.

Gale’s career flew by once the new office was completed in 1985. He pioneered new roles in heating and air conditioning, hot wax temperature control, paper cutter tech, and new-fangled van maintenance.

Now that the mail was no longer delivered by Pony Express, it became Gale’s responsibility to keep up with the Post Office and circulation chores.

Gale is the very vision of an “early adaptor”. As his career and years advanced he became our first “IT”, taking on the mysterious challenges of computerization and ultimately retiring paper layout sheets, scissors and wax, the infamous Compugraphic machines and pica sticks.

(Of course, most of that stuff is still with us; Gale was never known to get rid of perfectly good “stuff” he might need in a future lifetime. In that regard he trained cub reporter Chris Jeep extremely well.)

These days as finished pages sail magically through the air to the plant, and Gale sails off into the sunset, we will never forget our “Pride of Pelkie”.



L’Anse firemen weren’t the only heroes on that Monday in July, 1983. As the *Sentinel* burned ‘Eilola from Pelkie’ was in overdrive rescuing damsels, carrying cars. . .



January, 2019



January, 1981

And they say he hasn’t changed a bit

Words can’t describe. . .

by Nancy Bestofthem

Good Housekeeping has awarded its Seal of Approval to Gale Eilola for Excellence in Office Keeping.

“Words can’t describe it,” said honorary judge Martha Stewart. “Honestly. Let’s just rope it off for posterity.”

“Tut tut, Martha,” said fellow judge Drew Scott, that guy from HGTV that fixes up homes with his twin brother. “We just took down the ropes around from the archeological excavation after ancient floppy disks were discovered in Gale’s old desk. Get on with the story!”

Eilola came to the *L’Anse Sentinel* as a mere lad fresh from the hayfields of Pelkie, and immediately began squirreling away vital tools of the trade. A little lead here, a pica stick there, then typewriter ribbons, film canisters and more recently, memory sticks and card readers.

Also, stacks of ancient *Sentinels*, repair manuals, Pelkie history books, meeting agendas, computer paper and

sheet music from his solo at the Pelkie School Christmas Program back when he was in kindergarten.

“Not only does he exhibit an eclectic style—he also sings like a canary!” Martha crooned.

Eilola’s office sets the bar pretty high in his workplace. Editor Verry True removed ceiling tiles above his desk to carry Eilola’s Industrial look over to the second story.

Reporter Nancy Bestofthem’s overhead light was removed before she got there because it gave the former reporter migraine headaches.

Still and all, it’s got that Industrial edge.

His office is a little bit Country, too, as Eilola noticed one day when a map of Branson, MO, got crowded off his layered bulletin board and fluttered to his desk.

Eilola immediately picked up the phone, booked a bus tour and has been “caching” whatever he could carry in points across the U.S. since.

Eilola born to be on board

by Nancy Bestofthem

Gale Eilola is the consummate Chairman of the MOB (Mother Of all Boards).

The retired but never retiring *L’Anse Sentinel* Plant Manager is a man among commissioners. Also, trustees, representatives, committee members and any other group of persons who gather to govern. You got a board? Gale’s on it!

His career began shortly after birth when he rallied fellow nursery members (girls too of course) to lobby for better bassinets. The little people were soundly defeated by the ruling party, only because they were pacified by pacifiers until they nodded off again.

You can’t keep a good man down, and Gale eventually woke up to a life dedicated to public duty. If a seat was empty he scrambled to fill it, starting with the Pelkie school bus, then the church pew and right on up to local government.

The Fair Board, County Board, Board of Education mark a few of the rungs on Eilola’s ambitious climb up Baraga County’s political ladder (on loan until the fire

department needs it back for fall chimney cleanings).

And Gale is still onboard. “Gale is a real asset to the County Board,” said County Clerk Windy Goodrow. “Without him, we’d have an empty chair.”

“You can count on Gale to keep business running smoothly!” said fellow County Commissioner Will Rollcall. “He votes on everything, usually with his right hand.”

As Eilola’s long and sometimes illustrious career with the *L’Anse Sentinel* draws to a close after a rewarding run of nearly 50 years, he looks forward to devoting even more time to his first loves: Growing too many vegetables and relentless camping.

Also, local politics. As Eilola parted ways with his beloved former staff members at the *Sentinel*, showering the building with gravel as he spun the tires on his fifth wheeler, his battle cry could he heard ringing through the land.

“Vote for me, and I’ll give ya’ more tomatoes than my opponent!” Gale bellowed. “And there’s always a spot around my campfire for constituents!”

How ’bout some corn?

Gale prides himself for his resume of the corniest jokes a proper Finlander can tell. For example:

A Finn from da Yoop decides to get away from winter for a bit and goes all out

with a vacation to Hawaii. Upon arriving in Honolulu he is greeted with a lei of flowers and a warm “Aloha from Hawaii!”

“Oh, Eilola from Pelkie!” the Finn proudly responds.



HEADQUARTERS--Gale’s private office suite served as the nerve center of operations. Prehistoric floppy discs

and several copies of “Pionering in Pelkie” were discovered during a recent archeological dig.



HOME AWAY FROM HOME--Front office work station is fortified with supplies to carry Gale through the long

hours of deadline pressure, last-minute address changes and PDF-ing to get those pages to the plant on time.

Schwinn Breeze going for the gold

This year I will celebrate a half century. No, not my birthday. That train left the station during a previous administration. And no, not Eisenhower. I am typing about my Schwinn Breeze, purchased from Longwood Cycle in Chicago on July 19, 1969, by my cousin, Carol.

Much later, don't even try to guess, she gave her bicycle and paperwork to me.

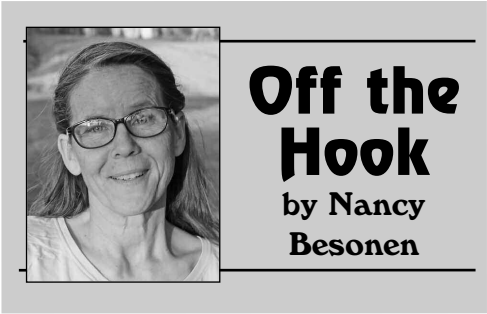
The bike is the grand dame in a long line of lesser rides I have known. The first was a little red two-wheeler with an adjustable cross-bar for boys or girls. Its training wheels barely hit the sidewalk, worn down by the three brothers they trained before me.

I babysat for 70 hours to buy my next bike for \$35. It was a Kelly green sting ray with butterfly handlebars and a banana seat. I learned how to do wheelies on it, spin out, and change my own flat tires after I spun out on sharp rocks in the alley.

A 26" blue Sears bike followed, bought from a woman my mom worked with who won it but didn't want it. It carried me through high school and college and up north, then was parked in favor of a stout red bike from Gambles that could better support a baby

seat.

The Schwinn arrived about the time the babies started pedaling themselves. Carol is a good and responsible cousin who always excellent care of her bicycle. I am only



including a recent photo because Carol lives down in Naperville, IL and is not a subscriber. I am also including an excerpt from the original Owner's Manual because the testimony inside is, as we say 50 years later, "Epic!" Dr. Paul Dudley White, noted American heart specialist, expounds on the benefits of biking. Prepare to hit those pedals at a run:

"We as bipeds need something to help us keep the blood circulating from the lower part of our body. The leg muscles are very important. When they contract, they squeeze the veins and actually pump blood up toward the heart. By keeping fit, we help the heart."

"Psychologically, too, exercise such as cycling has a very good effect on the brain, on the mental state and on the psyche. Instead of using tranquilizers, I advise muscular action—even to the point of fatigue, so that you won't need medicine to tranquilize you."

"We have a great problem today, and have had right along because we no longer use our legs properly, of being subject to thrombosis; that is, blood clotting in our leg veins. This is a hazard—a great hazard—to life because blood clots can go from our leg veins to our lungs and kill us."

From one biped to another, I am heartened to learn that I can both tranquilize myself and dodge death by blood clot, just by pedaling my Schwinn Breeze around the neighborhood.

The booklet also lists cool Schwinn acces-

sories I wish Carol had bought in 1969, then hand down to me along with her bike. They include a Schwinn racing cap for 79 cents, handlebar lamp for \$2.49 and a tire repair kit for 30 cents, for when I spin out on our road.

My Schwinn Breeze is showing its age these days, much like its rider, but still cruises with style and lives up its claim in the Owner's Manual that Carol kept so well: "America's Favorite Bicycle."



TURNING 50--It's a Breeze!

Lifestyle

Eilola wore many hats in Sentinel career

Printer the link between hot lead type and electronic age

by Barry Drue

The LAnse Sentinel staff is marking transition as two long-time employees are set for retirement.

Gale Eilola will end a career spanning 47 years on April 3, 2019. (See our staff "gift" newspaper page for Gale on page 6!)

Mary Rogala, advertising manager, will retire in May, 2019, after working at the Sentinel for 17 years. She also spent 24 years at The Detroit News. (We will write a story on Mary's career when she steps down in a couple months.)

Gale, a talented vocalist, graduated Baraga High School in 1971. He attended Northern Michigan University for exactly one semester in the music department. It didn't take him long to find his life's vocation.

"It wasn't for me. I couldn't handle it—I didn't get any sleep!" Gale said of the NMU stint.

He worked at the Pelkie rink and with 4-H for a time.

"I started as a proofreader at the Sentinel in April, 1972. I worked for Dick Christison. At that time we were paid in cash.

"Karl Menge and Rosa Kantola trained me on the linotype (press). I worked in the print shop under Bud Stanford."

Stanford unexpectedly

learned he was one year older than he thought, and that he qualified for retirement. Gale suddenly was running the print shop.

"I had a week of training with him!" Gale noted.

He was hand-setting letterpress and hand-feeding and auto-feeding print jobs. The print shop in the old Sentinel building had a 15-inch Chief, a 17-inch Chief, and with the job orders to print Celotex ceiling tile package labels, came a 25-inch press.

"There were folders, collaters, a spiral binder. I did wedding invitations, the small shops needed statements, memoriam cards, we printed ballots.

"Ballots were a lot of work. You had to rotate the names so each candidate got to be on the top of the list. Eventually the ballots were done by DoubleDay, but we still did ballots for proposals," Gale said.

"We did Jingo Vachon's books (entertaining stories steeped in the area's Finnish culture), two Pelkie history books, two LAnse Pageant books and some high school reunion books," Gale said.

Current owner Ed Danner purchased the LAnse Sentinel in August, 1976.

"Gale came with the business when I bought the Sentinel in 1976," Danner noted. "His job changed when

we had our fire that destroyed our building and contents in 1983. We used to have a commercial printing operation that Gale managed. When we started pricing what it would cost to replace all the printing equipment we needed and analyzing that cost with what commercial printing grossed, we decided to phase out the printing operation and concentrate on the newspaper.

"Gale carried a lot of hats since 1983 -- from building, equipment and computer maintenance, to being our contact with the central printing plant we have an interest in in Eagle River, WI, to managing our retail sales, to managing the composition room, to becoming circulation manager in later years," Danner continued. "He has been a valuable and versatile employee for many years."

Gale continued to oversee printing jobs as the paper farmed out printing to Hahn Printing and the Satern Brothers in Eagle River and some jobs to the Ontonagon Herald.

Gale operated the large vertical camera in the darkroom, creating half-tones, layouts and paste-ups sent to the plant in Eagle River.

Eventually, after the new building was ready to move into in 1985 the electronic age came calling.

The old scissors and hot wax paste-up full-size news-

paper pages that were sent to the plant for printing were becoming a thing of the past.

The electronic age

"Chris Ford and I got the PCs started. That brought the electronic age. It's been fun. I'm always looking for better ways of doing things. . .

"Computers have been good—when they work!" Gale added.

There were many frustrations and learning curves that came with the conversion to electronic lay-out and sending pages directly to the plant through the Internet.

July 13, 2004, President George W. Bush drew a huge crowd to the Superior Dome at NMU. And your editor was there, hung up with security

because he didn't know the steps necessary for press clearance to a Presidential event. And who did security call back at the office to verify the editor's status? Gale!

And that July 14 edition became the first sent electronically to Eagle River. There were some glitches, but we were off and running.

By July 21, 2004, the first full color photos were printed. The Aura Jamboree and two features on the Bush visit appeared in color on the front page.

Gale assumed additional duties as other staff moved on. He took over subscription and circulation duties, and has prepared the electronic lay-out pages to be sent to the

plant for printing. He's the production manager and has sat on the Wisconsin-Michigan Publishers board in Eagle River.

"Gale has also willingly served his community for decades as he has been a fire chief in the Pelkie area, a member of the Baraga School Board, a member of the Copper Country Intermediate School Board and a member of the Baraga County Board of Commissioners, as well as the governing body of his church. He still serves on some of these boards today.

"With Gale's retirement, I finally get to be the senior staff member at age 74 and after 43 years of owning the paper!" Danner quipped.

The passing parade of Sentinel employees

Editor's note: When Barry Drue came to the LAnse Sentinel in 1979 he was told, "Everybody in town has worked at the Sentinel!" And it sure seems like it.

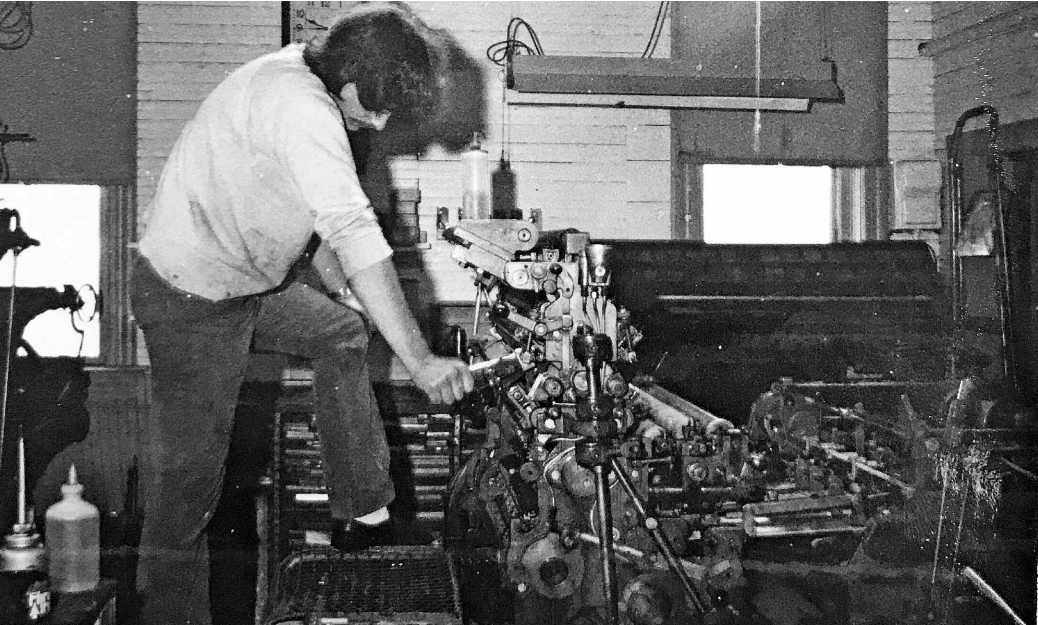
At our recent retirement dinner for Gale Eilola and Mary Rogala, staff had a great time trying to recall all the employees who worked here during Gale's 47-year tenure. The majority worked in LAnse and a few worked at our sister paper, the Copper Island Sentinel, in Calumet. So sorry if we missed someone!

The Sentinel family

Richard & Sharon Christison
Ed & Jane Danner
Betty Ann Pyhtila
Nanny (Marie) Sikkila
Florence Tollefson
Jean LeClaire
Fern Roy
Carol Lee Jestila
Sally Hofer
Karl Menge
Rosa Kantola
Bud & Eleanore Stanford
Martin Juntunen
Howard Peterson
Ruth Hubbard
Scott Phillips

John Raffel
Paul Peterson
B.G. Bradley
David Mataczynski
Tim Froberg
Richard Kinnunen
Tom Caylor
Howard Grosbeck
Charles Beck
Rick Buck
Jan Baderstadt
John Spagnoli
Rod Smith
Jackie Smith
Jackie Cutler
Harriet Clements
Linda Witz
Lucille Conley
Pam Quayle
Paula Comstock
Mary Ann Schulze
Ted Hartman
Doug Sladek
Maria Sladek
Polly Kahkonen
Tracey Kahkonen
Fred McDonald
Patrick Kempainen
Joe Schutte
Stanley Budreau
Harry LaFerner
Don Petosky
Jack Elliot
Jim Haun
Andrew Maki
Ron Eilola
Mari (Kempainen) Koponen
Ruth Kelley

Shelly Jestila
Kathy Edwards
Cathy Newland
Linda Borgen
Karen (Eilola) Harris
Daryl Anderson
Kristy Hendrickson
Janine Barrett
Barry Drue
Nancy Bessonon
Melissa Newland
Chris Ford
Nick Lincoln
Keith Almli
Amanda Rinkinen
Kelly Krolik
Mary Rogala
Gina Weir
Diane Velmer
Christa Johnson
Sharon Mattson
Judy Bozicevich
Tammy (Eilola) Golde
Heidi (Eilola) Gregrich
Nathan Eilola
Lindsay Danner
Jordan Danner
Derrick Danner
Lee Arten
Genevieve Smith
Kate Flynn
Kathy Magnuson
Sue Dollar Cadeau
Janet Supanich
Tony LaPlante
Pat Miller, Jr.
Brian (Alatalo?)
Della Cowall



Gale Eilola cleaning Sentinel's Chief 25 printer, circa 1973.

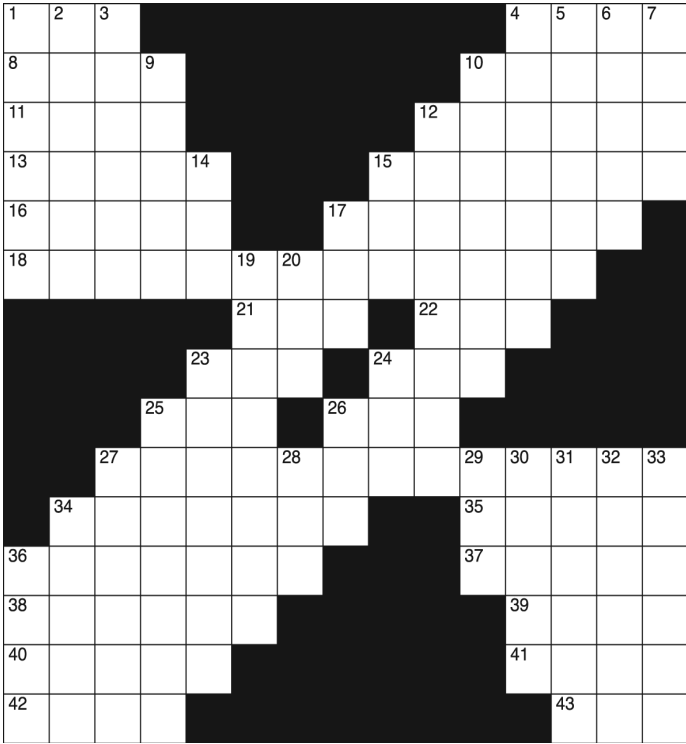
Crossword puzzle March 27, 2019

CLUES ACROSS

- Defense Department
- Diminutive hoopster Webb
- Cools
- Chili con __
- Quantitative fact
- Enliven
- A woman of refinement
- Where royalty live
- Beverage made of oatmeal
- Replaced
- UK's largest city
- Obamacare
- When you expect to get there
- Deutschland

CLUES DOWN

- Consumed
- Paddle
- A way to consume
- "Walter White"
- The opera has one
- Honk
- Disorganization
- Secret political clique
- Recounted again
- Converts to leather
- Consisting of a single element or component
- Therefore
- Clownish
- The habitat of wild animals



Solution found in April 3 Sentinel

CLUES DOWN

- Dreary
- Book page size
- Become less lively
- Grassy plain
- Attached a figure to
- Hungry
- NY-based department store
- Pedestal
- Single-celled animal
- National capital
- China's chairman
- Al Bundy's wife
- Acid in all living cells
- Told

CLUES ACROSS

- Displays heartbeat
- Softly
- Swiss river
- Small chapel
- Electronic countermeasures
- Asian nation
- Neither
- Peacock network
- List of candidates
- Medieval garment
- Type of juice
- "Coach" actor
- Puerto Rican dance music La __
- Texas politician Ted