

knowing you all...

BEFORE laying down my pen on January 31 and retiring from the newspaper game after just on 25 years in Dandenong, first as owner-editor of the "Journal", and since November, 1961, as editor for the new owners, The Dandenong Journal Pty. Ltd., I would just like to say a sincere "thank you" to all those good friends who have contributed to making this quarter-of-a-century such a happy and satisfying one.

IT HAS BEEN an exciting 25 years—one in which this whole district has made phenomenal growth—and the "Journal" has grown and prospered with it.

It has been a privilege to have recorded many of the interesting happenings, so soon to become part of our history, and also the smaller, more human things that are of just as much importance in our community.

TAKING over the "Journal" in 1939 was a challenge to a very young and raw newcomer to the ranks of newspaper owners. Every reporter hopes for the day when he might have his own paper and run it the way he thinks a paper

should be run. I was lucky — I set out to buy a paper at Yarrawonga and wound up buying one at Dandenong!

BUT WITHOUT the help, the friendship and the guidance found so freely along the inky way since then, the "Journal" could never have achieved the measure of success it has today. That help and encouragement came from all walks of life—from good friends who sent in items, gave us "news tips," were helpful critics and blasted us when we needed to be blasted, and the advertisers who showed their confidence in the paper.

I, TOO, have been very fortunate in my associates on the staff down through the year — a fine, loyal bunch who worked with me, rather than for me; who have been every bit as interested in making the "Journal" worthy of the district as those "up top." Men of the sterling type of the late Harry Tulloch, whom I fortunately "inherited" with the Journal, and others who followed in the same high tradition — many of them learning their trade here. On the journalistic side there is Marg Stork, who

started out as a junior reporter straight from school in 1939 and has been gathering news for the Journal almost ever since. Conscientious, keen, thorough, capable and loyal, Marg, has played quite a major role in making the Journal a personal paper for so many. The rest of the staff, with Tom Black heading the list for long, loyal service among the important "back-room" boys, could all be mentioned with equal justification because they are of the same calibre — not only loyal associates but firm personal friends.

WARM friendships, too, based on mutual interests, were found in newspaper contemporaries — men of the calibre of "M Swords (The Advertiser)" and Herb Thomas (Pakenham Gazette), to mention only two. Two finer friends and journalists you would not wish to find.

An army of voluntary contributors such as no other paper possesses — Andy Erickson, the doyen of them all has been sending in notes to the "Journal" regularly for 59 years, now — have been the very life-blood of this paper, and it would be impossible to name them all personally. But please accept my sincere thanks for all that you have done — you have given this paper its district character.

THIS LITTLE "farewell" to the Journal, its readers, advertisers, contributors, staff and other friends would be incomplete without a sincere acknowledgment to the wonderful help and support I have always had from my wife "Zig." For many years, until the new company took over in 1961, "behind the scenes" she ran the big press that prints the Journal, working long hours on a man-sized job, the while cheer-

fully putting up with being "married to a newspaper."

THESE ARE JUST some of the things that have made the past 25 years on the Journal a happy and satisfactory slice of 40 years in the newspaper game.

DANDENONG district has been good to us; has been "home" to us in that time, and we plan to keep it that way in our retirement. **AS ONE CHAPTER CLOSES, ANOTHER ONE OPENS.**

WHEN The Dandenong Journal Pty. Ltd. purchased this paper in November, 1961, they carried on the same staff. They generously gave me free rein as editor, and it is a great pleasure to be now handing over the editorial reins to my good friend, FRANK MOFFAT, with whom I have worked happily for the past four years. Frank is an experienced journalist from whom the writer learnt much — and he knows the Journal inside out. And he now has the assistance of a fine team, including HUGH BUGGY, one Victoria's outstanding journalists, BILL MURRAY, an experienced journalist from the "Oakleigh Times", and our own MARG STORK. What better team could any paper wish for?

IF THEY receive the same helpful co-operation, the same friendship and the same confidence that has been so freely extended to me, then their task will be so much easier.

Next year this paper will be celebrating its "century". It has been a pleasure to contribute in some small way to its achievements. May it go to even greater success — and may it always merit it.

Sincerely,

Greg Erickson