

A HALF CENTURY OF NEWS



# PHOEBE

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO

*The* MOOREFIELD EXAMINER

August 21, 2019







Phoebe with granddaughter Caitlyn

1969 - 2019

# Editor/Publisher Phoebe Fisher Heishman Celebrates 50 Years

By Jean A. Flanagan  
Moorefield Examiner

John Lennon wrote, "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans." It describes perfectly the career of Phoebe Fisher Heishman.

Phoebe celebrates her 50th anniversary as editor and publisher of the Moorefield Examiner this month. "I didn't make decisions with planned effort. Life just happened," she said.

Phoebe grew up in Moorefield, graduated from Moorefield High School and went to West Virginia University. She worked for Senator Jennings Randolph and later traveled to San Francisco to work with the Federal Reserve Bank.

In 1968, she returned to West Virginia University to work at the first public television station in the state. "I was very fortunate to be able to come back to West Virginia," she said.

In September of that year, Phoebe's father, Ralph E. Fisher, died suddenly. Her mother, Katherine, who had kept the Moorefield Examiner alive while Ralph was in the Navy, again took the reins. Phoebe would make the drive from Morgantown to Moorefield on weekends to help.

"Mother asked me to think about coming back to Moorefield full time," Phoebe said. "She had been working at the paper most of her life and she was just tired. She told me if I didn't want to come back, she would probably sell the paper."

"I had planned to come back to Moorefield eventually, just not in 1969. I wanted to 'see the world.' I had been to Califor-

nia, and wanted to go to Hawaii and on to Australia."

Phoebe told her mother she would try managing the Examiner for five years. "If I wasn't happy, I'd consider a change," she said.

"When you grow up in a family that had been in the business since 1902, it was part of my life, my heritage. It was really a no-brainer. When you grow up in Moorefield, you are very aware of things like tradition and heritage."

"And I had a lot of community support. A lot of people wanted me to take over the Examiner."

While covering the news in Hardy County, as well as managing the publication of the paper - the Examiner had its own printing operation then - was hard work, Phoebe found she enjoyed what she was doing. She even found time for a social life and reconnected with David Heishman, a young man from the east side of the county.

"I had known David," she said. "He was Doc Heishman's boy. He was a land surveyor and we could be seen on Sundays, riding around the county, looking at parcels of land he was hired to survey."

"In those days the Examiner had correspondents all over the county. We became the subject of some of those correspondents' reports."

In 1976, Phoebe and David were married. They have three children. Their oldest daughter, Hannah, a U.S. Army and Iraqi War veteran, has assumed the role of Assistant Publisher.

Phoebe said the Examiner was, at

times, on the unpopular side of controversy.

"We didn't support the teachers' strike in 1990," she said. "And we were sometimes on the wrong side of the poultry industry, when we sided with the environmentalists. But we took a controversial stance for the good of the community."

It goes without saying, the most difficult time in Phoebe's career was during the 1985 flood.

"It's hard to imagine, no water, no electricity," she said. "There was complete devastation, not just in Moorefield, but all over the whole county and a big part of the state."

"I would sit in the Recovery Committee meetings every day and hear about the animals, the farmland, the people we had lost. It was devastating."

"My proudest moments, though, are remembering that we published a newspaper every week."

Volumes could be written to describe the changes in the newspaper industry Phoebe has experienced in the 50 years. From linotype, to paste-up, to desktop publishing, to electronic publishing, the industry is struggling to keep pace. But Phoebe sees other changes.

"The community's support of the newspaper through advertising has all but disappeared," she said. "People used to feel good about advertising to support the newspaper. Now they think they can do everything online and through social media and small community newspapers all over the country are folding. They don't understand that not everybody has com-

puters or is on social media.

"And this is the first time in my life, I have felt under attack by the President of the United States."

Phoebe said it is scary that community newspapers are folding or being bought by large corporations and sometimes shuttered.

"The Examiner is the only permanent record that has a chance of survival because it's printed, a written record," she said.

"We are the watchdogs of local government. If there is no Examiner, no one would know about the decisions made by the town councils or the county commission. No one would know how our tax dollars are being spent, what for and how much."

After 50 years, Phoebe and David, too, are looking to step back from direct management of the Examiner. Daughter Hannah will be assuming the publisher's role at the end of August.

Phoebe will continue researching and compiling Glancing Backwards and contributing to Examiner Says. David will continue writing his Unbased Opinion. And they both look forward to enjoying their granddaughter.

"I have absolutely no regrets," Phoebe said. "It's been a hell of a ride. I've gotten to meet people and do things I would have never had the opportunity to do. Working at the Examiner made being a mother easier because I worked next door."

"I can't believe it's been half a century."



**RECOGNITION FROM JOE MANCHIN  
UNITED STATES SENATOR**

**PHOEBE FISHER HEISHMAN**

It is my privilege to congratulate Mrs. Phoebe Fisher Heishman for her 50 years as publisher of the Moorefield Examiner and the Hardy County News.

Local newspapers are valuable assets to their communities and the Moorefield Examiner and the Hardy County News has been a real treasure, serving all its readers, whether in beautiful Hardy County or elsewhere throughout the state. It has been a dependable, objective and trustworthy source of current information, and through expanding markets and ever-changing technologies and delivery systems, the steadfast dedication of the Moorefield Examiner team under the leadership of Phoebe has consistently ranked among the best in the state.

Phoebe's unwavering dedication will leave a lasting legacy with the countless lives she has touched within this special community. Again, I am sincerely grateful for her remarkable years of service, and I am honored to wish good health and much happiness to her in the days and years ahead.

**With warmest regards,  
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator**

**RECOGNITION FROM SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO  
UNITED STATES SENATOR**

**DEAR PHOEBE,**

Please accept my warmest congratulations on the occasion of your 50th anniversary as Publisher of the Moorefield Examiner. As you celebrate this special milestone, I would like to thank you for the positive impact you have had in your community, as well as the entire state of West Virginia.

An active news media can encourage civic engagement and education, which is vital to the thriving democracy of a small community. Having spent the past 50 years dedicated to delivering quality news to the residents of the South Branch Valley, you have encouraged the flow of ideas in our great state and performed a vital service for our communities.

I appreciate your role in informing West Virginians and your dedication to providing high-quality news to the people of Moorefield and Hardy County. Again, I offer my congratulations on this special anniversary and wish you all the best in the years to come. It is an honor to represent you in the United States Senate.

**Sincerely,  
Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator**



West Virginia members of the National Editorial Association met in Washington, March 17, 1972. From left, Phoebe Fisher, Editor, Moorefield Examiner; Walter D. Tetrick, Publisher, Mineral Daily News Tribune; Mariwyn and George Smith, Editor, Parsons Advocate; Linda Wilson, Secretary, West Virginia Press Association; Senator Robert C. Byrd; Mrs. Walter Tetrick; Senator Jennings Randolph; and Jane Price Sharp, Editor, The Pocahontas Times.

Over her career, my mother has felt a great responsibility to Hardy County to report the news. No matter what, the newspaper goes out. There was a day with bad weather in the 90s, probably a blizzard, when the good people who normally do all the things it takes to put together the newspaper each week couldn't make it to the Examiner office. Hannah, James, and I were teenagers and home from school.

Phoebe Heishman is resourceful; she put her kids to work. We sat in other people's chairs in the Examiner office and typed up handwritten pages, proofread text, and generally followed her orders -all to help her put the finishing touches on that week's paper and make the printer's deadline. The world went back to normal the next day, but I still love the memory.

**Hilary Heishman**



**DEAR PUBLISHER AND FRIEND, PHOEBE**

Congratulation on 50 yrs of publishing the Moorefield Examiner and Hardy County News.

You have done a superb job covering all the events of Hardy County: the good, the bad, the questionable, the tragic and the joyful! You made each Published ahead of you proud of what you accomplished. Now, as you pass the torch to another generation of McCoy/Fisher descendants, be proud, too, of the competent young woman willing to take the paper into the future with the same commitment to community she learned from her mother.

**Your Friend of more than 50 years,  
Judy Patterson**

One of my favorite quotes is, "Everybody's young, only at different times." Hard to believe, but June and I have known Phoebe longer than 50 years. We two, newlyweds from Elk Garden and Keyser, and this young lady from across the mountain in Moorefield met at WVU Journalism School in 1961 and have been friends since.

After graduation, we both ended up on Capitol Hill -- she working for U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph and I for Congressman Harley O. Staggers. Phoebe was an incredibly hard worker -- intelligent and, well, a subtle (at times) wit. You can see it coming through a sparkle in her eyes.

She taught me the ropes of Capitol Hill and once a week after work (June and our boys were living in Keyser and I commuted), Phoebe and I would head out to a Capitol Hill piano bar for a quick drink before going home.

One evening in winter, it was dark as we cut across the Capitol lawn heading to the Capitol. When we came to the tall Taft Carillon bell tower, they were still trying to get the lighting right. As we trudged up the hill, the brilliant lights were in our eyes -- which is why I ended up knee deep in freezing water in the Robert Taft basin which circles the carillon. Phoebe laughed all the way to her car. I trudged into the lobby of my hotel, soaked, mumbling something about a car that just splashed me. I figured they wouldn't believe the truth.

Later, I worked for Governor Hulett C. Smith, who was very close friends with Phoebe's parents, particularly her dad, Ralph. Every now and then when I needed to check my instincts against some difficult problem, I would find myself drinking iced tea on the front porch of the Fisher residence. I valued that time and advice.

A few years ago, we ended up at a WVU journalism reunion together. The advances in the journalism school have been amazing over the years, as have the innovations at The Moorefield Examiner. It is the state's pre-eminent weekly newspaper under Phoebe's careful, meticulous, maternal watch. She treasures its long legacy and builds on it.

Congratulations Phoebe -- to you and to your marvelous family, both past and present. The people of Hardy County benefit from your devotion to them. Don't ever change.

**Jack Canfield  
Charleston, West Virginia**

When, as a wet-behind-the-ears young newspaperman, I met Phoebe through the West Virginia Press Association, I already knew enough about weekly newspapers to be in awe of anyone who could run one. Then I learned Phoebe was far from just "anyone." We in journalism, especially at daily newspapers such as the one where I work now, can do our jobs very well - dotting all the i's, crossing all the t's of the profession - without becoming foundational parts of our communities. Not so with Phoebe. She and the paper are integral parts of the fabric of the Moorefield and greater Hardy County community.

Down through the years - more than a third of a century since I first met her - Phoebe and I have known some true giants of community journalism. Many of them are gone from among us, now. In too many places, weekly newspapers that were pillars of their communities for generations are but shadows of what they were once. Far fewer young people are willing to dedicate the enormous amount of work required to reap the deep satisfaction that goes with community journalism. Hardy County is fortunate indeed that the Heishman family - in the past, now and for the foreseeable future - has understood those rewards and has been eager to seek them through a weekly newspaper from which many of the "big guns" of journalism on the national stage could learn much.

Just a few years ago, we in the Press Association recognized Phoebe with the highest honor we can bestow, the Adam R. Kelly Premier Journalist Award. It is a testament of the regard in which hundreds of people in our profession hold her as a colleague, a role model and a servant of her town, county and state. I have looked up to her for many years and will continue to do so - and I count her as a dear friend. As my wife will tell you, there are very, very few people who possess all the qualities necessary for me to both look up to them AND treasure their friendship.

From one ink-stained Hillbilly wretch to another, then, congratulations, Phoebe.

**Mike Myer, executive editor,  
The Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register**

**PHOEBE,**

I had more fun and satisfaction working for Phoebe for a few years mid 2000 than at any time in my prior 40 years in journalism. The sauce was "editorial" meetings in her parlor when she shared rich history of people, places and events of the homeplace she loves so much. That deep affection does not retire.

**Dick Hughes**

**CONGRATULATIONS PHOEBE**

On your 50th Anniversary as publisher of the Moorefield Examiner.

I remember meeting you at a WV Press Convention at Canaan Valley over 35 years ago. Your knowledge and encouragement that first meeting have helped me during times despair.

You were then and are now a role model for all journalist.

**Sandy Buzzerd  
The Morgan Messenger**



**CONGRATULATIONS** to an awesome lady who not only recorded our milestones, preserved our memories, and told our tragedies but, you did it all with grace, love, and compassion. Congratulations on your achievements through the years and thank you for your dedication.

**John and Charlotte Bowman**

**CONGRATULATIONS, PHOEBE,  
FOR YOUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY  
IN JOURNALISM AT MOOREFIELD!**

You are...“A tried ‘n’ true journalist, with much stature, indeed,  
One who makes us all look up to you with glee!”

**Your ole friends,  
Dave Corcoran, Sr. & Staff,  
Glenville Democrat/Pathfinder**

**MS. HEISHMAN**

In August, 1968 (a year before you showed up on The Examiner’s masthead) I decided I needed a place outside Washington, and began exploring nearby West Virginia. I was lucky enough to find Hardy County, and I found my dream home -- a hundred and ten acres south of Mathias. As I’ve often noted, my place is larger than the Vatican! I showed up on the deed books in Moorefield on October 9th, 1968.

Not too long after that (I’m too old now to remember just when) I started subscribing to the Moorefield Examiner and Wild, Wonderful West Virginia. I still have boxes of the old magazines, but the newspapers, with the exception of a few articles and obituaries, are long gone.

Over the years I’ve made many friends from the waves of Washingtonians (and others) who have washed over the Lost River Valley, as well as a number of local residents.

As the decades came and went, I have invited friends in large numbers, and many family members, to visit the Lost River Valley. I am inviting all my 11 (remaining) first cousins and their families to a family reunion next June. Almost without exception, all have agreed that West Virginia is indeed, “almost Heaven.”

I carry with me copies of our grandchildrens’ birth notices published in the Examiner over the years. You’ve also published several of my Letters to the Editor. And now, as I approach my 80th birthday, I find myself reading the obituaries first!

Under your leadership, the Moorefield Examiner has always brought Hardy County into focus, and provided me with the essence of home. Thank you again and again.

**Bob Knisely**

**PHOEBE**

Congratulations Phoebe Fisher Heishman on your 50th year as the Editor of the Moorefield Examiner.

**Our best wishes,  
the South Fork General Store**



Phoebe with daughters Hannah and Hilary and husband David.



Accepting an award for general excellence at the 2010 West Virginia Press Association convention were Mike Mallow, Phoebe, Jean Flanagan and son James Heishman.





Phoebe with Carmen Silliman

Like so many in our great Hardy County community, I owe Phoebe a huge debt of thanks. As a former journalist and weekly newspaper publisher in Maryland, I had hoped that when I retired to our cabin in Mathias, I would be able to return to the world of weekly journalism where stories and efforts focus on things that matter to local residents. After a meeting with Phoebe, I had a beat—the Planning Commission-- as well as encouragement to work on a variety of stories running the gamut from transportation to poultry growing and landslides on South Fork Road. And I have relished every bit of it, basking in the glow of this award winning weekly paper, and even contributing in a small way. Thank you Phoebe, for this opportunity and for your lifetime of dedication to the newspaper and the community it serves so faithfully.

**Lon Anderson**

## PHOEBE

Phoebe, you are the heart and soul of such a great paper! There are not enough good things to be said about this accomplishment. Thank you for your hard work all these 50+ years. And thank you for the personal welcome you have given me when our paths crossed with the visiting Finnish Students and otherwise.

**Claudia Tidwell**

## DEAR PHOEBE,

I believed my path to your door was Divine Providence leading me to a kindred spirit. Thank you for the opportunity to do a job I sincerely enjoy, in a place I absolutely love and with people I admire and respect. Best wishes for whatever the future may hold.

**Jean Flanagan**

## PHOEBE

Thank you Phoebe...for 50 years of service! From all of us here at Hardmans Hardware.

**Will Runion**

## DEAR FRIEND OF SO MANY YEARS

How proud we all are of your time given to continuing our only county paper. How many awards from the WV Press Association have been heaped on this paper from those who judge and commend papers like yours.

Your mother and father would be in amazement at what all you and your staff have accomplished since the days of Chick and Bill setting hot type and cranking out the weekly Examiner.

So glad you left the big city and came home! Congratulations!

**Big hugs - Love ya'  
Carmen (Dee Dee)**

Phoebe, I'm so proud of having spent part of my working life with The Moorefield Examiner. I'm so proud of you – a hometown girl - who has taken such pride and care in sharing your honest view of the world and the realities of our shared trek into the future.

I've searched all our old newspapers for The Old Timer columns. Such a record, so much history of our families, friends and community folks.

In the Old Timer printed 21 October 1942, my Grandma Katie Ann Wolfe said she had subscribed to and read The Moorefield Examiner (and predecessors) since about 1877. My family and I have been reading the same paper published (basically) by the same family ever since.

During your fifty years of service to your hometown, your community, your county, your friends and neighbors who rely on you and your family, who trust and depend on you; you have been a faithful, trustworthy, honest and honorable “just the facts” publisher, writer, news relayed, and recorder of the growth and development of our beloved home among the beautiful hills of West Virginia.

During the brief period of time when I worked for and with you, I remember only two directives: 1) service to the people and 2) avoid negativity and any story appearing in the newspaper that may, in any stretch, be considered libelous or even hinting of such – honesty and integrity have always been your watch words.

I still read The Moorefield Examiner, page by page. It is news reporting to be proud of and it keeps improving!

My total and heartfelt Congratulations! for a career of excellent work and dedication of service to all your fellow life mates. As you prepare to enjoy a bit of relaxation, you leave your family's legacy in good hands.

**With love and best regards,  
Elizabeth Wolfe Whitener**

## PHOEBE

Congratulations on 50 years! Thanks for your many contributions to Hardy County and the community.

**Best wishes always,  
David J. Workman**



Phoebe Heishman has been an integral part of Moorefield and Summit Community Bank, formally South Branch Valley National Bank. We have great respect for Phoebe in regards to her numerous years of service to the Moorefield Examiner and Summit Board of Directors. Her collective years of service is admirable and greatly appreciated by our Moorefield Office of Summit Community Bank. We Love You Phoebe.

Congratulations, Miss Phoebe! You hold a special place in my heart!

**Kelly Moran**

Congratulations to my friend and colleague for 50 years as the publisher of the Moorefield Examiner! You are truly an inspiration and I wish you the best!

**Teresa Ely**

Celebrating this beautiful lady on such a wonderful milestone. Thank you for all your love and support throughout the years. You have been such an inspiration and mentor.

**Much Love Momma H!  
Love your favorite  
Angie Zirk**

It is with utmost pride that I honor my colleague and friend, Phoebe Heishman for 50 years at the Moorefield Examiner. Since 1969, the Examiner has flourished under her leadership and guidance, elevating our local journalism across West Virginia as a shining beacon in the pursuit of truth, fairness, and depth. Phoebe's commitment as a faithful public servant is unparalleled, and has inspired all of us to strive to forge a more connected, informed, and unified community. I also recognize her 40+ years of service on Summit's Board of Directors and thank her for her vision as well as her meaningful oversight of our area's best interests and growth. Her legacy is beyond compare and one Moorefield will treasure always.

**Congratulations Phoebe  
Charlie Maddy**



**THANK YOU, PHOEBE**

From the past and present Hardy County West Virginia University Extension Agents – Thank you for helping us connect with the community in the beginning and thank you for your continued support through the years.

Wishing you the best in your next chapter.

**Miriam Leatherman, Dave Workman, Jane Jopling,  
Tammy Wimer, Vicki Fertig, Liz Metheny, Alex Straight**

**THANK YOU PHOEBE**

for hiring me for my first adult job at the Moorefield Examiner.

The lessons I learned working with you working at the Examiner benefited me profoundly throughout my life. The weekly program of building a newspaper, taught me that there is a step by step, day by day process to everything in life.

Typesetting, I acquired some excellent typing skills that serve me well today in this keyboard-driven world.

Inserting advertisement supplements (hundreds of them) into the paper, by hand, one by one, I learned teamwork and the VALUE of efficiency.

Proofreading, taught me attention to detail... and kept me in the know about my community!

Watching Stanley drive that van with the paper to the printer each week.... through rain, sleet and snow....

I learned patience, and observed true determination and dedication.

My days selling advertising (I still have my business card framed with a group of others), inspired me to complete my bachelor's degree in Marketing and Communications. Even today, I remind myself that it ALL comes down to how you sell it.

Those Thursdays after the paper went out, throwing darts and having a beverage with the team, taught me that you CAN be friends and work together. In fact it is the best way to BUILD A TEAM.

Each week, I learned lessons about the power of good work ethic and setting priorities, I learned that HISTORY is made EVERY SINGLE DAY, but most of all, I learned that people WILL give you a chance - what you do with it is up to you.

SO, THANK YOU PHOEBE for taking a chance on me, Your choice has opened doors for me everyday of my life, and for the valuable lessons you taught me during my years at the Moorefield Examiner.

Congratulations!! on 50 years of publishing HISTORY!!

**Love, Susi (Jones) DuPuis**

**PHOEBE**

Thank you on behalf of the Hardy County BOE and office of the Superintendent for your continuous dedication to the community and education over the past fifty years. Your kind smile and warm personality is one of a kind. You'll forever be the legendary voice of the Examiner!

**Sheena Van Meter**

**PHOEBE**

Thank you for coming back to Moorefield and keeping the Moorefield Examiner a viable business. Your time & energy over the past 50 years is greatly appreciated. Take time now to rest & relax as the next Fisher/Heishman family members move forward with the company.

**Donna Alexander**



**PHOEBE**

We treasure our friendship. Congratulations and Best Wishes from your friends across the mountains.

**The Hartleys and the Meyers**

**PHOEBE**

Best wishes on your retirement and many thanks for the 50 years of your service in keeping the community informed by means of the Moorefield Examiner.

**Jim and Anna Mae Sherman  
Milam, WV**

**PHOEBE**

Phoebe, Thanks for letting a know-it-all kid do some sports writing almost 50 years ago and thank you for your wisdom in bringing Dave Wilbur then Carl aboard to promote our student's achievements.

**Mike Funkhouser**

**PHOEBE**

Thank you for the tea at your kitchen table, the history lessons, the encouraging words of support and thank you for welcoming me to Hardy County. Now that you're "retiring" I look forward to more afternoons in your kitchen.

**Michele  
Hardy County CVB**

**DEAR PHOEBE**

Congratulations on your 50 year anniversary as publisher of the Examiner. You have been a great benefit to the community, the region and the state. While many small publishers have failed, the Examiner has thrived due largely to your leadership. The many journalist awards that you and your staff recently received are a tribute to your leadership.

**Congratulations and thank you for a job well done!  
Ralph and Barbara Bean**

**PHOEBE,**

Congratulations! I have always admired you, thank you for being a role model. I hope you enjoy your well deserved retirement.

**Jessica Welton**

**PHOEBE**

I was working overnight shift at a convenience store in my darkest hours when you put me to work in the designing ads. My life has been infinitely better because you gave me a chance I probably didn't deserve. It has made all the difference. Thank you!

**Mike Mallow**

These happy memories and more are not for sale: Sir Thomas Pub, Mountain Mama, Karin's cabin, The Dungeon. Isn't it great that we share them? Well done, Phoebe!

**The Hayward**

**PHOEBE**

Phoebe, you have always been my biggest supporter, motivator, and most of all my wonderful friend. When you walked into Hardy County Preschool holding the hand of the cutest little girl, Hannah, I knew we would be friends. In the coming years, I had the pleasure of teaching your son James. You became more than just a parent of a child in preschool. Over the years you became the person who listened to me, who corrected me, who disagreed with me and agreed with me. You became my person. You encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and stand up for what I believed in. You were there the day I married my best friend and you were there the day to hold my hand and provide a shoulder for me to lean on and cry. You are so many things to me. But simply you are my friend and a person that I admire. I love you Phoebe. Thanks for all of the wonderful memories and for all the ones to come.

**Love,  
Carol Shockey Zuber**

**CONGRATULATIONS PHOEBE,**

Phoebe for your 50 years service to Hardy County. The Best of Luck to you. Thank You and we wish you the Best

**Fox's Pizza/ Mullin's 1847 and the Keplinger Family**

**CONGRATULATIONS PHOEBE**

on your 50 years as newspaper publisher. That's quite an achievement! I'll always remember getting acquainted with you over an ice cream cone at Oglebay Hall in 1959. Since then you've been a dear friend and Kappa Delta sister. Enjoy your retirement. It's about time!!

**From Barbara Eberly Campbell**

**PHOEBE**

Congratulations on your great service to our community for the past 50 years! **Love Memorial Board of Directors and Staff**

**PHOEBE,**

Congratulations for 50 years of service to Hardy County! Without your leadership, the 'Examiner' would not be the dedicated, local, award-winning cornerstone of our county that it is. Here's to you!

**Capon Valley Bank, Larry C. Curtis**

**DEAR PHOEBE,**

Congratulations on your truly outstanding half-century of service to the people of Moorefield, Hardy County, W.Va. and the nation as editor of your prestigious family-owned newspaper, the Moorefield Examiner. As a former third generation newspaper owner, editor and publisher I can most certainly appreciate and applaud the wonderful job you have done in objectively and effectively presenting the news and providing beneficial opinion to your readers over the last 50 years. Through your fine newspaper you have been a vital voice to and for the people.

I thank you, salute you and offer you the very highest of praise for a job well done.

**D. Boyd Dotson, Jr.**

PHOEBE

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to grow roots in Hardy County.

When I came to work for the Examiner in 1999, I had lived here for two years, but because I had been working in Winchester, I had not made many connections beyond my immediate family. That changed when I joined the Examiner. You and David sent me out into the county and provided me with unwavering support as we produced great content for the newspaper and embarked on the journey toward digital newspaper production.

I met a lot of county residents and learned about our communities by working at your paper, especially through publishing old photographs in a weekly series, working on Heritage Weekend and Poultry Festival supplements, and finally by producing the Century of News supplement in November 2002. That supplement marked 100 years of McCoy-Fisher-Heishman family ownership of the Moorefield Examiner.

If anyone wants to learn about Hardy County and understand the newspaper where Phoebe, her parents, her grandparents – and now her children -- have dedicated so much of themselves, start there. You'll come away with a sense of place as well as a portrait of a family and a great lady who has worked hard for decades to tell and document our stories.

Phoebe, wishing you all the best!

Kristen Colebank,  
Former advertising and production manager  
at the Moorefield Examiner

PHOEBE

I hope you know you are special in so many lives. Hope you know how many of us you mentored and led. It was always fun being around you and I missed you at the Kappa Delta reunions. Take care my dear friend and know that you are loved and appreciated.

Be well and I am sure you will not just ride off into the sunset.  
Love, Bonnie Ellis

PHOEBE

I met Phoebe Fisher Heishman at Girls State at Jackson’s Mill in the summer of 1959. After a spirited campaign, I think we ended up as Justices of the Supreme Court. My campaign slogan was “Have Gavel, Will Travel”...I’m sure Phoebe’s was equalizing and mesmerizingly effective! In the process, we discovered that our mothers were good and true friends worthy of emulation! We ended up at WVU in sorority houses across the street from each other and carried on (yes, some would call it that....) throughout those fabulous college years filled with a modicum of learning, and a lot of friendship and laughter. After college, I subscribed to the Moorefield Examiner to keep up with her community endeavors. I so valued her yearly Christmas greetings...always the same signature! And on every state and federal election day I could call and ascertain how the vote was coming from Old Fields precinct! I still treasure the beautiful silver ice bucket she gave us for a wedding present and I recently sent her a picture of it and was immediately reminded that it looked like it needed polished....it did! Suffice it to say, I have rarely had the pleasure of seeing her, but that wonderful low-pitched growler of a voice on the phone has entertained and educated me many times. She was kind to my son, Booth when he ran for Governor...and I respect and admire her outstandingly successful progeny! A life of service, a commitment to community, a care for the culture and history of West Virginia, a piercing and perspicacious intellect, and a vibrant love of life...Phoebe Fisher Heishman, may you live one thousand years!!! Congratulations on a life well lived and a calling well answered!

Kay Huffman Goodwin

CONGRATULATIONS

Phoebe on 50 years as Editor of the Moorefield Examiner!  
The Fraley Families

When I wrote for the Examiner some ten years ago I saw how Phoebe helped many people very quietly, never asking for credit or expecting accolades. Congratulations Phoebe!  
Bob Alcock  
Saint Augustine, Florida

50 Years of Examiner Staff

**Former Employees**  
Leona “Mousie” Reynolds  
Lola “Bootie” Halterman Vance  
Forrest “Jungle” Wolfe  
Grover “Chick” Charlton  
William “Bill” W. Vance  
Loy High  
Elizabeth Wolfe Whitener  
Judy Wolfe Simmons  
Nancy Hill  
Jim McGoldrick  
John Gallagher  
Beth Hefner  
Diana Scott  
Mildred “Midge” Carr Kessel  
Karen Hite  
Susi Ely  
Glenda Liller Smith  
Mary Bensenhaver Hines

Mark Whetzel  
Mike Morris  
Stanley Davis  
Paul Turner  
Tabby Ashenfelter  
Bill Murphy  
Tara Gashler  
Sue Kite Halterman  
Charles Silliman  
Muriel Anderson Taylor  
Aura Taylor  
Keith Compton  
Christine Raines Nash  
Cindy Sites Wilson  
Terri Harman Liggett  
Lennie Viola  
Mary Hammond Golliday  
Susie Hardy Goodall  
Gary Mongold

Ellen McNeill Riggleman  
Frances Kite Liller  
Ralph Strawderman  
Janette Riggleman Heitz  
Nellie Boswell Thomas Raines  
Loring Heavener  
Bonita Shockey Fraley  
Cliff Greer  
Lewis Coby  
Tom Dolly  
Ron See  
Relenee Cook  
Melvin Shook  
Junior Siever  
Mrs. Gladys Sherman  
Freda Veach  
Peggy See Thorne  
Yvonne See  
Brenda Pinter

Patti Rexroad  
Serena Cline  
Vicki Pratt  
Judy Burns Patterson  
Vickie Charlton Riggleman  
Jill Wolfe  
Kristen Colebank  
Greg Turner  
Rick Bergdoll  
Donna Barr  
Joy Bailey  
Dick Hughes  
Dave Wilbur  
Charles Riffey  
Tara Booth  
Lisa Duan  
Diane Hypes  
Angel Blizzard  
Carissa Kuykendall

Faye Staley  
Dixie Twiddy  
DJ Bosley  
Kathy Bobo  
Clara Kight  
  
**Present Employees**  
Peggy Wratchford  
Sharon Martin  
Mike Mallow  
Jean Flanagan  
Carl Holcomb  
Carolyn Burge  
Courtney Dawson  
Janet Bennett  
Dominique Allen  
Paul Washington



## PHOEBE

I remember lamenting to you that I enjoyed my work but the deadlines were sometimes tiring. (Almost all of our work has a relatively short deadline.) You looked at me and said “Yes, I know all about deadlines.” Just think that deadlines are no more your responsibility. Relax and enjoy good books and the grandchildren.

**Lucille Gohdes**

## PHOEBE

Congratulations on 50 successful years as publisher of The Moorefield Examiner! What a wonderful legacy of community service. I have enjoyed knowing you since our days as KD's at West Virginia University, and have great respect for you not only as a journalist, but also as a sister and friend.

Wishing you a long and enjoyable retirement,

**Sister Lyla Cosner Howell**

*“Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, it only saps today of its joy.” –Leo Buscaglia*

I know that much of the public can't fully appreciate the total commitment required to be a Publisher of a local newspaper. I grew up in a family that had newspaper work and press writing integrated in multiple generations. I was and still am keenly aware of the responsibilities to readers the business of a weekly local newspaper has for presenting the news and for meeting deadlines week after week after week. Kudos Phoebe for your 50 years as Publisher of the Moorefield Examiner. Wow have you seen changes. The business of weekly newspapers is evolving and as you pass the torch to your skilled next generation publisher, here's wishing you the freedom to do and see and just be... without deadlines.

**Lisa Kesecker**

## PHOEBE

Congratulations on making it in this business for 50 years! It has been a true pleasure to serve with you in the West Virginia Press Association. Our conversations have always been enjoyable and enlightening.

You are a true community journalist who has worked diligently for the betterment of your community. You are a fine example of a country editor... always factual, honest and a ferrous advocate for what is true and right.

I wish you well as you embark on the next 50 years.

I am truly proud to call you, my friend!

**Sincerely,**  
**Ed Given, publisher**  
**Braxton Citizens' News & Braxton Democrat-Central**

## PHOEBE

Congratulations on your retirement and for your 50 years of service of keeping our community informed by means of the Moorefield Examiner. Many thanks!

**Best Wishes,**  
**Deb Sherman-Phares**



Phoebe's first edition as editor – August 20, 1969

## DEAR PHOEBE,

Having known you from my Pocahontas County, WV, childhood, throughout the years since my matriculation at WVU, I have valued your stellar friendship. Through phone calls, e-mail, and visits to Moorefield and to your office we have kept in touch. Every year when the WV Press Association held their annual meeting, I read my Wheeling newspaper to see what recognition you had won. What a service you have provided to and for Hardy County citizens .Following in your Mother's footsteps, you have merited the praise for your accomplishments as one of the few women to edit a newspaper. Sincere congratulations to my dear friend and Kappa Delta sister.

**Jeanne Sheets Carter**  
**Wheeling, West Virginia**

I have a great and loving admiration for Phoebe Heishman. She has been a true leader for so many years and an inspiration to women in our community. I have tremendous respect for Phoebe who has worked so hard in an industry that has been challenging for so many years.

## PHOEBE,

Thanks for 50 years of service to the community.

**From your friends at Lost River Artisans Cooperative**



# Thank you



Summit proudly congratulates Phoebe F. Heishman for ***50 years of service*** to the Moorefield Examiner.

We thank you for your many contributions to the community and your tenure on Summit's Board of Directors.

We celebrate this exceptional achievement and your many years of dedicated journalism that have woven the intricate fabric of our community with the magnitude of the human experience.

With love and best wishes,  
Your friends at Summit

