

HAPPY 50TH COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS!

By MAYOR EUGENE P. FLINN, JR.

June 17, 2008

It is my pleasure as Mayor of Palmetto Bay to extend congratulations to Executive Editor Michael Miller and Publisher Grant Miller, to their families, writers, advertising executives, pressman, and staff for 50 years of the Community Newspapers.

Fifty years! The Golden anniversary! This is a milestone truly worth celebrating.

It is hard to imagine the joy of the patriarch of the Miller clan, Ronald Herbert Miller, whose vision started the Community Newspapers 50 years ago. It's rare in today's world for a community business to last five decades. It's even rarer for one to remain a family business and thrive in an ever-changing market place.

And apparently it wasn't easy in those early days. I recently read the plaque again beside the front door of your operation on 62nd Ave. in South Miami, commemorating your father's life and work. It describes how he "somehow had the insight to hang on when things were difficult... and despite all the obstacles that got in your way, you never gave up."

Michael and Grant Miller certainly have taken those words to heart by building Community Newspapers into a strong and successful local business, by keeping it fresh, and by reaching out to various communities. They have managed to bring areas together and, at the same time, celebrate the unique qualities of each community. Today, the Millers produce newspapers that serve 12 community markets under 14 different banners, including the *Palmetto Bay News* that covers the village where I so proudly serve as mayor.

Community Newspapers has built communities, has kept the residents, business owners and patrons up to date and, at times, has stirred the pot over these past 50 years. It has chronicled youth athletics, scholastic achievements and human interest. It has provided warm and thought-provoking editorials. And, of course, Community Newspapers covers local politics like no other news organization in the Miami area.

The Community Newspapers has been read in a now incalculable number of foreign countries, atop the summits of mountains, read by U.S. Presidents, foreign dignitaries and almost found its way into space. And they are just beginning.

1958 was the first year. Let's compare the changes in some key areas in Miami:

	1958	2008
Consumer Price Index	\$29.00	\$214.00
Average Yearly Wages	\$4,600	\$36,358
Gallon of gas	25 cents	\$4.10 (and climbing!)
Median Home Price	\$2,390	\$384,400

Here's some other events in 1958: The Ford Edsel and the first Datsun go on sale in the US Nikita Khrushchev becomes Premier of the Soviet Union; Nelson Rockefeller elected Governor of New York; US passenger jet flights start with a National Airlines Boeing 707; the first Trans Atlantic passenger jetliner service begins with flights between London and New York on the new Comet Jet; Elvis Presley is inducted into the Army; and, General Charles de Gaulle becomes Prime Minister of France.

Of all the above, only the Community Newspapers still remains 50 years later. Quite an accomplishment.

I also recently visited the Community Newspapers' web site. It is a remarkable example of how a newspaper site can be well organized and maintained. I found my way to their company mission, which I wish to share with you:

The mission of Community Newspapers is to publish lively local neighborhood newspapers that are well read and are a positive part of those communities. Community Newspapers allows voices, large and small, to be heard and assists local businesses in expanding and succeeding in the communities in which they serve.

Not one day goes by, and not a single edition is published without the Miller team staying true to their promise.

One last note, I remind you that no single component of the Community News is outsourced. It is still produced 100 percent locally. Therefore, I encourage everyone to continue to read your local edition, patronize the local advertisers, and to enjoy the Miller brothers' brand of quality coverage, writing, editing, printing, and distribution that takes place entirely within Miami-Dade. This is our local hometown newspaper. Let's support it and enjoy it together – for another 50 years.

Again, my warmest congratulations to you, Mike and Grant. Keep up the great work and the vital service you provide for our community.

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