

My Silent Partner - Terry Guilford

by Lynne Belluscio

Every so often someone will say, "Hey, I liked your article in the *Pennysaver*." And I usually respond, "It's sure good to know that someone is reading them." But that's not the whole story. No one ever tells Terry Guilford: "Hey, you did a great job with Lynne's article." Because, if you really want to know the truth, each week when I push the "send" button, it's Terry who formats my words for the *Pennysaver*. And it's Terry who strips in the photos. "Make it look good, Terry." And she does. And sometimes, I'll say, "Haven't found anything that works. See what you can find." And she does.

Terry has been my silent partner for a lot of years and she told me last week that she is retiring. "You have got to be kidding! Who's going to fix everything?" Well indeed, she is retiring after 32 years at the *LeRoy Pennysaver*. So we were reminiscing about some of the more "memorable" articles. Terry didn't work on the early articles. It wasn't until after Christine left that Terry was given the task of doing my stories. Neither she nor I remember which was the first article, but it's been quite a while. Of course there are the annual flamingo stories. I started writing them in the spring of 1989. I sometimes fly an idea past her and ask her "What do you think?" If she laughs, I know it's a good one.

Of course, I remember the "chandelier" mistake - - and given all the articles, Terry has done, I think that might be the only mistake she has made. I certainly have made many. The chandelier story was to be

accompanied by a photo of a chandelier - - hanging from the ceiling. Only problem was that when the *Pennysaver* came out, the chandelier photo was upside down. More of a stalagmite than a stalactite. And I don't think anyone noticed.

I am a terrible speller. Never won a spelling bee in my life and almost failed freshman English in college because of my spelling (no spell check - - two misspelled words and the professor would fail the paper.) Once in a while Terry would send a message - "Are you sure you spelled that right? Or, is that what you want to say?" She catches the mistakes, thank goodness.

Terry also sets the Historical Society newsletter. That's a whole different situation. I email her seven or eight pages of copy. She puts it in the right format and then she sends it back to me to print out. Then I literally cut and paste and insert photos - - or leave blank spaces where I want photos to go. Sounds easy, but Terry has the patience of Job. I have this idea in my head of how I want the newsletter to look, and sometimes I just throw clippings and notes on her desk and tell her to "make it fit." She's good, and not once has she ever thrown me out of her office, although I am sure there were some times. She still reminds me of the "potash kettle" newsletter. I had taken lots of photos of iron kettles and to most people, one kettle looked like another, but each one was a little different. And then I had a hard time trying to remember which description went with which kettle. It was a challenge to say the least. But she persevered and the newsletter came out just fine.

I will miss stopping by to see what screen savers she had on her computer screen. Terry is a phenomenal photographer. She captured the hungry black bear at their bird feeder. And the woodpeckers and warblers. And the hummingbird on the nest. I think my favorite is a family of chipmunks, all standing up in a row. Terry showed me

a great photo of the sun coming through the trees in her yard. In fact, that photo won a prize. She is a very talented photographer. I hope after she retires, she has the time to do more photography.

In the last couple of years, Terry has submitted some of my articles for the New York State small newspaper association review. We were both happy that the "Curly Clips" article about paper clips was recognized and given an award a few years ago. Like I said, I won the award, but Terry made it look good. Last year, when I wanted to put together the *LeRoy HistorySaver*, with a col-

lection of my *Pennysaver* articles, it was Terry that made it happen. She even set my favorite page with all the historical "classified ads."

This week Terry will print number 3 of this year's Historical Society Newsletter and will do one last *Pennysaver* article. It's been a pleasure working with you Terry. I hope next week, you'll be in your back yard with your camera.

