

# Gentleman & Giant

## Lee Anderson's 70-year legacy

### INSIDE

- A look back at Lee Anderson's storied career
- Anderson was an early voice of constitutional conservatism
- Service a hallmark of newspaper publisher's life
- Anderson's friends and colleagues reflect on his many years of service in and out of the newsroom





In this undated photo, Lee Anderson kicks back in the Chattanooga News-Free Press office on 10th Street.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# LEE ANDERSON

## ‘Quintessential Boy Scout’ early champion of Chattanooga

BY CLINT COOPER  
STAFF WRITER

It may take a few years to get the ink out of his veins. On April 18, 70 years to the day after he began his job as a cub reporter at the Chattanooga News-Free Press, Lee Stratton Anderson ends his career at the Chattanooga Times Free Press.

“When you think about the millions of thoughts and words Lee has put to paper over seven decades,” said Jason Taylor, president and general manager of the Times Free Press, “it is nothing short of amazing. It’s no doubt those words and his dedication have helped shape Chattanooga for generations to come.”

Anderson, 86, who is associate publisher of the newspaper and editor of the Free Press editorial page, was a reporter, editorial page editor and publisher of the Chattanooga Free Press (formerly Chattanooga News-Free Press), the afternoon daily paper that merged with the

morning Chattanooga Times to form the Times Free Press in 1999.

Walter E. Hussman Jr., chairman of the board of the newspaper, said the longtime newspaperman possesses loyalty, dedication and passion and referred to him as “an inspiration.”

“Without all those qualities,” Hussman said, “no one would want to work that long. All those perfectly describe Lee Anderson.”

Anderson’s seven decades are thought to be one of the longest careers in the industry, but a spokeswoman for Editor & Publisher, a journal covering all aspects of the newspaper industry, said the maga-

zine keeps no such records.

The journalism bug bit Anderson, a Kentucky native whose family moved to Chattanooga when he was 4, early in life.

As a sixth-grader and having already managed a paper route, he started a newspaper at Glenwood Elementary School — “a purple, dim sort of thing” run off on a ditto machine — and later wrote editorials for the Maroon and White, his newspaper at Chattanooga High School.

At the age of 16, Anderson walked into the Chattanooga News-Free Press

See ANDERSON, Page 4

“Lee Anderson is a true lover of Chattanooga and every Chattanooga of any political or religious leaning who wants to have a true friend and is willing to look past differences and see affinities. Thus saith one poor old Watering Trough Democrat who likes and appreciates him.”



— Dalton Roberts,  
former Hamilton County  
executive

“Mr. Anderson is one of the nicest people you will ever meet. A true Christian man. Encouraging. Humble. Concerned. Interested in you. I never regretted a moment of being here, working for him. He loved coming to work, which made me love coming to work.”



— Linda Weaver, Lee’s  
secretary for 32 years





Lee Anderson sits next to President Ronald Reagan at the White House.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Anderson

● Continued from Page 4

the glamorous,” Stewart Anderson said, but also “the exciting cities in the news. He always made time for all of us. Nothing was more important than family.”

Her “humble” dad, she said, is “everything in my life” and “is always going to be with me.”

## CONSERVATIVE PIONEER

Before Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan became synonymous with conservatism, Lee Anderson was writing principled conservative editorials.

Half a century before today’s Republican candi-

dates used the term constitutional conservative, he was using it in his writings.

“I’ve never been political,” Anderson said. “I’ve never been partisan. I just grew up as a patriotic American.”

His study of history, his understanding of the principles of the U.S. Constitution and his UC major in history furthered his thinking, and “I grew into being a conservative,” he said.

Anderson said when he was a boy, Tennessee was a one-party state and “everybody was a Democrat.” So when he cast his first vote for president in 1948, it was for Strom Thurmond, “a states’ rights Democrat.”

The newspaper had always had a generally conservative editorial page, he said, so when he began writing editorials in the late

1940s they reflected his conservative nature and general philosophy.

Those tenets, Anderson said, came from being “brought up in Sunday school and church,” from a “moral background” ingrained in him by the Bible and by his mother, and in “doing the right thing.”

When Anderson became the News-Free Press editor at the age of 31, he said, “I was reputed to be the youngest conservative in the neighborhood [of Southern editors].”

Over the years, he met presidents from Harry S. Truman to George W. Bush, covered four national political conventions, State of the Union addresses and lunched in the White House with President Reagan several times.

For his writings, Anderson

won more than two dozen national Freedoms Foundation awards as well as honors from the likes of the Chattanooga Bar Association, the Tennessee Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Tennessee American Legion, the Chattanooga Sertoma Club and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

However, he said, “being editor and publisher of the Chattanooga Free Press and trying to serve the people of Chattanooga by giving them the news, giving them [opinions from a] principled, conservative, constitutional background and serving the public in public information” have meant the most in his career.

“It was all very impressive because I appreciate the United States of America, I appreciate our Constitution,

I appreciate our great country,” Anderson said. “And so it’s been a real pleasure to be involved in the history of the country and know some of the leaders along the way.”

## NEWSPAPER WARS

Anderson was just over three weeks into his job when his first experience in Chattanooga’s newspaper rivalry occurred, an incident that would portend events for nearly the next 60 years.

In 1942, with The Chattanooga Times losing money and the News-Free Press barely in the black, he said, the newspapers drew up a 10-year working agreement that was expected to extend the duration of the war.

Newspapers, according to Anderson, “couldn’t get

See ANDERSON, Page 6

“[Lee Anderson has] meant everything to Chattanooga. He’s done just about everything in Chattanooga, headed up every fundraiser there is. I thoroughly enjoy his newspaper editorials. ... He means the world to our community.”



— Grady Williams, longtime accounting and civic leader

“Lee Anderson is the rock of Chattanooga. He provides so much information and so much support to the Chattanooga community. He has just been someone I have grown up with, and learned to know and love in the community.”



— Sue Culpepper, city president of SunTrust Bank in Chattanooga

"[Lee Anderson] meant a great deal as the editor of the Free Press, I think he's meant a great deal as president of Chattanooga Rotary Club. I think he's made a wonderful contribution as chairman of the



annual United Way Drive, and of course the

Kiwanis Club honored him with their Citizen of the Year award. ... Distinguished Service Award. So I think he's meant a lot to all of the community."

— John P. Guerry, former CEO of First Federal Savings and Loan

"He has been a leader in Chattanooga mostly in Christian ways but working for the United Way, leading our Sunday school class, which I attended for about 40 years. He's a friend of anything that concerns Chattanooga. He loves this area."

— Gerry Stephens, retired executive with American National Bank and SunTrust Bank



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lee Anderson, front row on far left, attends a news conference at the White House with President George H.W. Bush.

## Anderson

• Continued from Page 5

lead [for type], couldn't get manpower. A good many were making joint operating agreements."

Eventually, he said, that agreement was extended, with revenue split evenly between the newspapers. But, by the early 1960s, The Times was spending more money and the News-Free Press was bringing in more money, he said.

"It was an inequitable situation," Anderson said, so News-Free Press Publisher "Roy McDonald decided the best thing to do would be to separate the two papers and go to it competitively."

The afternoon newspaper gave notice for dissolution of the operating agreement in 1964, and the newspapers separated in August 1966.

The decision, he said, was fraught with peril because

the Times had the financial resources of The New York Times behind it and the News-Free Press did not have other backing.

"They said it couldn't be done," Anderson said.

The situation got financially worse for the News-Free Press when the Times began to publish an afternoon paper, the Chattanooga Post.

"We were able to get our nose barely above water," Anderson said, comparing the newspaper to terrapins in a pond he observed as child. "That's what the Free Press did. It barely survived."

Then, one day, he said, he recalled a snoozer of a history course at Chattanooga High in which his teacher "droned on" about the Sherman Antitrust Act.

"The deal was," Anderson said, "you could compete as long as you didn't cut your prices below your actual cost." The Times, he said,

was "losing money, and they were competing with the Free Press at a loss."

In due course, he approached McDonald; then, with McDonald, he talked to the company lawyer and ultimately to the United States Justice Department in Washington, D.C.

When the assistant attorney general referenced a case Anderson had researched at the Chattanooga Public Library, "I knew ... we'd won the case," Anderson said.

On Feb. 24, 1970, in a consent decree, the Times was ordered to stop violating the Sherman Antitrust Act, and the News-Free Press was allowed to sue for damages. The News-Free Press sued for \$10.5 million, and The Times filed a suit of its own for \$21 million.

In late 1971, as the suit was about to go to trial, a settlement was announced, with the Times agreeing to pay the News-Free Press

\$2.5 million. The newspaper received a cashier's check for the amount on Dec. 10, 1971.

Less than two months after the settlement, on Jan. 24, 1972, Anderson said, the typographical union that served both papers made a decision to strike only the News-Free Press "because they thought we were more vulnerable economically."

Anticipating the walk-out, the afternoon newspaper had quickly cross-trained employees and switched to a computerized "cold type" system instead of the lead-based "hot type" system on which union members worked.

"There were many violent incidents," Anderson wrote of the strike in a 50th-year history of the newspaper in 1986. "Acid was thrown on cars of those who continued to work. Some employees were threatened and attacked. Many pounds of roofing nails were thrown

on newspaper parking lots each night. Thousands of metal balls were lofted by slingshots onto parking areas during the before-daylight hours, breaking countless automobile windshields."

The newspaper, which advertised for new employees and received some 2,000 applications, survived and thrived. The union, according to the 50th-year history, spent more than \$2 million on the strike. Pickets finally disappeared in 1977.

In 1980, Anderson said, Times management came to News-Free Press management and requested a new joint operating agreement. Unwilling to return to the inequitable split, McDonald offered an agreement in which the News-Free Press received 80 percent of the profits and the Times 20 percent. The Times management agreed to it.

The agreement remained

See ANDERSON, Page 7

# Anderson

• Continued from Page 6

intact until first the Free Press and then the Times were purchased in 1998 by WEHCO Media of Little Rock, Ark., Hussman's company.

"No one can articulate the storied past of this newspaper better than Lee," said Taylor. "His eyes light up as he details the historic battle between the two dailies. It's in those moments, especially, that you realize you're standing next to a giant."

Paul Smith, president of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, another paper owned by Hussman, said the retiring editor is an "interesting combination."

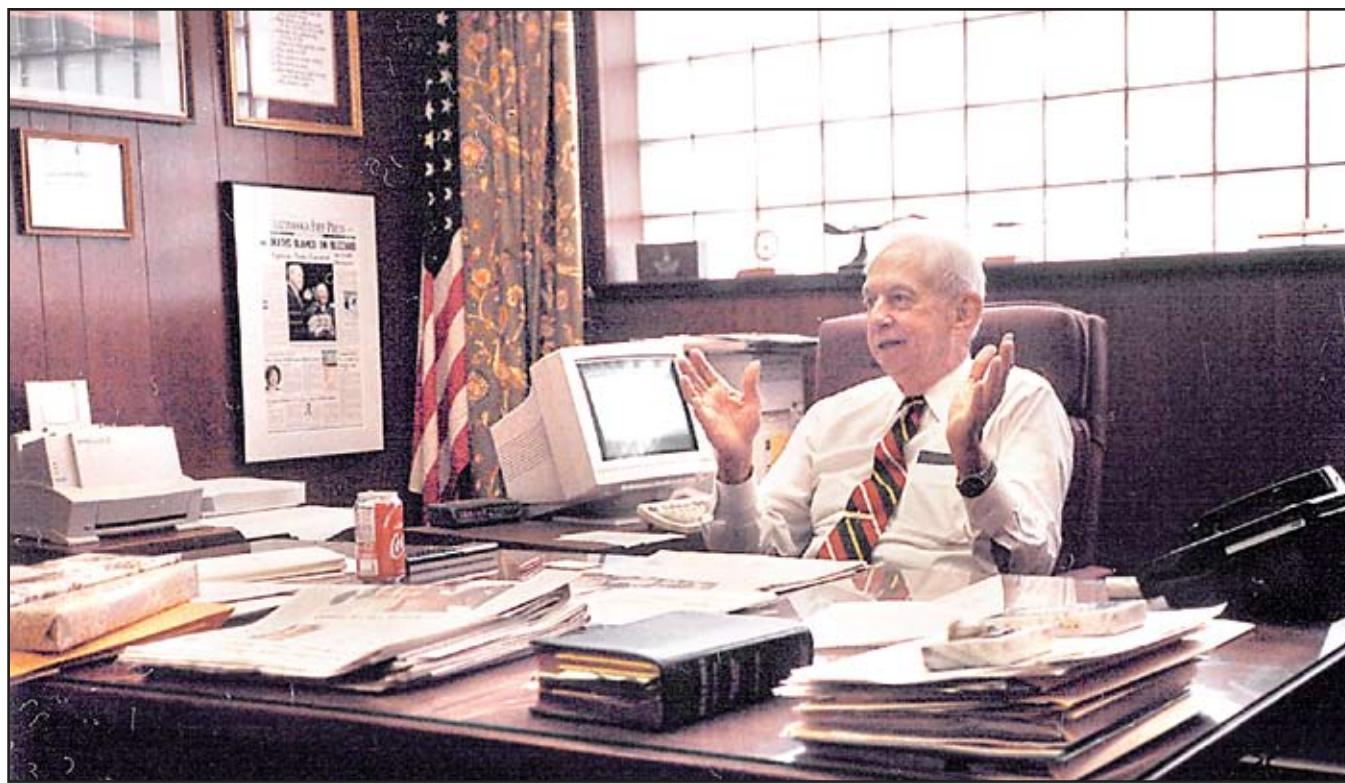
"He's obviously very passionate about the newspaper business," he said. "He's very aggressive. I know he was very aggressive during the newspaper competition here with the Times. But he's a real gentleman. A lot of times if you see people who are aggressive, they're not too cordial, sometimes. But he is, and I like that about Lee."

## "STILL KICKING"

Anderson, who routinely arrived at the Free Press before 5 a.m. and at the Times Free Press between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m., has nevertheless cultivated an active lifestyle outside the newspaper.

Telling his wife "I had an itch that hadn't been scratched," he fulfilled his Air Force desire and became a pilot, often flying photographers over news sites, buildings and road construction to obtain shots the competitors didn't have. In time, he flew craft ranging from gliders to balloons, once took the controls of an F-16 Air Force jet, and, as a passenger, made aircraft carrier landings and takeoffs in an F-14 jet.

"That was very rewarding to me," Anderson said, his lack of wartime flying having been somewhat mitigated.



Lee Anderson discusses the issues of the day in his office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

He also taught a Bible class at First Presbyterian Church, where he is an elder, for more than four decades.

"That was a real challenge because there were a lot of people [in it] who knew a lot about the Bible," Anderson said of the class that grew from five couples to more than 400. "So I really had to study to do that."

Hamilton County Court Clerk Bill Knowles said he'd visited the class and vouched for the teacher's soundness.

"[Lee] is a historian, a Bible scholar and a great promoter of God and country," he said. "He is a person of sterling character and possesses a friendly personality. He loves Chattanooga and our history. His journalistic skills will be missed by our community."

Over the years, Anderson was fortunate enough to travel to many of the places he taught about in Sunday school and mentioned in news stories, having climbed the Great Wall of China and the Cheops Pyramid. In addition, he has skied in Colorado; tried bullfighting in Mex-

ico; attended a belly dance in Turkey; toured India, Iran and the-then Soviet Union; and explored depths of 800 feet in a Navy submarine.

He, his wife, children and grandchildren also made three-generation trips to Egypt and the Greek islands.

In addition, Anderson, an Eagle Scout at 13, has been an author (he's written two books), an architect (he designed two houses in which his family lived on Missionary Ridge), a competitive tennis player, a car lover (he drives around Chattanooga in his signature Corvette) and a businessman (having been involved in a number of successful ventures).

One of those, Confederama (now the Battles for Chattanooga Museum), for which his wife once said she painted 5,000 tiny tin soldiers, remains open today on Lookout Mountain.

Smith said the editor's varied life has lengthened his career.

"It's a rarity," he said, "because most people don't have the commitment to do

that, but I think Lee balanced his life pretty well. He was real active. Probably if he hadn't been active away from the newspaper, he wouldn't have been able to last for 70 years."

Anderson ends his career at the newspaper with the same sunny disposition with which he greeted visitors and politicians of all stripes.

"I love Chattanooga," he said. "I have been here since I was 4 years old, and to be a part of Chattanooga and a part of its civic life and to be able to report on the news and the activities of Chattanooga for 70 years has been a real blessing for me, a real satisfaction. I've worked pretty hard at it [and] I have enjoyed it."

"It has been rewarding since the day I got the job. There have been happier days and harder days, but I've enjoyed all of them [and] I'm still kicking."

Pat Butler, president and chief executive officer of the Association of Public Television Stations board of trustees, longtime news execu-

tive and a former News-Free Press staff writer, said he'll never forget that Anderson gave him his first opportunity in journalism, provided encouragement along the way and supplied him with first-rate professional principles to live by.

"The ethos of being careful to get the story right, being fair and civil, and always thinking of the interests of our readers was created and nourished by [him]," he said, "and that was a great gift to our staff and our community."

Taylor said the community, in turn, is better because of Anderson's presence.

"Lee's personal and professional commitment to this community serves as an inspiration to us all," he said. "He was championing for a better Chattanooga long before it was the buzz-worthy thing to do."

Contact Clint Cooper at [cocooper@timesfreepress.com](mailto:cocooper@timesfreepress.com) or 423-757-6497.

"I think Lee has been our community historian. He knows history all the way back to Biblical times. He certainly is a scholar about the Civil War and I have read many, many of his editorials where he has continued to educate us about our very own history right here in Chattanooga, Tennessee."



— Sally Robinson, city councilwoman

"I'm a dangerous person to ask on this because I am a lot more liberal than Lee Anderson. He has been a force — such a force — that sometimes I've regretted his

power. Other times I have been grateful for his inspiration and his stability. So I'm of two minds. I am in awe of that record. He has just been Chattanooga. ... He's been Southeast Tennessee."



— Dr. Spencer McCallie, retired headmaster of McCallie School

# Seventy years in the news

"Lee Anderson's contribution to journalistic excellence is unsurpassed. Incredible that he



can daily produce superb editorials while providing out-

standing community leadership. He's one of a kind!"

— Joe Decosimo,  
co-founder of Joseph  
Decosimo and Co.

"Lee Anderson is a journalism institution in this region. For decades, readers of the Chattanooga Free Press and more recently the Chattanooga Times Free Press have turned daily to Lee's



editorials for insight and opinion. As he retires,

Lee Anderson leaves behind an impressive legacy of community service and deep love for this nation."

— Jim Coppinger,  
Hamilton County mayor

## Dec. 15, 1925

Born in Trenton, Ky.

## 1930

Moved to Chattanooga.

## 1931

Made first contribution to Community Chest, later United Way, as a first-grader.

## 1942

As a high school junior, got an after-school job at the Chattanooga News Free Press, covering the police beat.

## 1943

Graduated Chattanooga High School and entered the University of Chattanooga. Volunteered for the Air Force aviation cadet program at 17, spent 21 months on active duty.

## After World War II

Returned to work at the newspaper and to college at the University of Chattanooga, where he was the first president of Sigma Chi, president of Blue Key and the Interfraternity Council, and chairman of the Honor Council Indoctrination Committee.

## 1946

Began covering politics and the state Legislature.

## 1948

Graduated from the University of Chattanooga. Began writing



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lee Anderson cuts a cake with his wife, Elizabeth "Betsy" Williams McDonald, at their wedding in 1950.

editorials and was named associate editor.

They have two children: Corinne Elizabeth Anderson and Mary Stewart Anderson.

## 1950

Married Elizabeth "Betsy" Williams McDonald, daughter of News-Free Press owner Roy McDonald.

## 1957

With Pendell Myers, founded Confederama, a tourist attraction

highlighting area battles in the Civil War, off Cummings Highway in Lookout Valley. Now known as the "Battles for Chattanooga Museum," it's located on Lookout Mountain.

## 1958

Named editor of Chattanooga News-Free Press.

## 1957

Named to serve on the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission.

## 1963

Won Tennessee American Legion's Andrew Jackson Award for supporting "with words and actions the ideals of God and country, Americanism, strong national defense and vigorous law enforcement."

## Feb. 21, 1964

Nominated for president of the Chattanooga Downtown Rotary Club.

## May 3, 1968

Presented first-ever Liberty Bell Award of the Chattanooga Bar Association.

## July 22, 1969

Re-elected chairman of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County chapter of the American Red Cross. Announced plans for new chapter house at 801 McCallie Ave. at a cost of \$30,000.

## Aug. 1, 1969

Chosen to lead Group III of the United Fund Campaign for the Greater Chattanooga Area.

See TIMELINE, Page 9





Lee Anderson and his wife, Betsy, stand outside their house while it is still under construction in 1950.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Timeline

• Continued from Page 8

### Feb. 13, 1970

Presented with Sertoma Club's Freedom Award. The speaker noted Anderson has made "more than 2,000 speeches throughout the nation on Christian, political, historical and other timely subjects."

### Aug. 14, 1971

Chosen to lead large firms division of the United Fund Campaign for the Greater Chattanooga Area.

### Sept. 2, 1973

Chosen to lead Group III of the United Fund Campaign for the Greater Chattanooga Area.

### Feb. 18, 1979

Became Chairman of the 24th annual Greater Chattanooga Area United Way campaign, with 3,500 volunteers aiming to raise \$4.3 million.

### 1979

Presented the Tennessee Law Enforcement Officers Association award for support of professional

law enforcement, and the Sertoma Freedom Award.

### 1980

He and wife, Betsy, are among recipients of the Family Foundation's first "In God We Trust" awards. He also received the Arthur G. Vieth Memorial Award of the Greater Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce for "outstanding contributions in advancing the understanding of the American free enterprise system."

### 1983

Appointed by Gov. Lamar Alexander

to the Tennessee Industrial and Agricultural Development Commission. He served until 1987

### 1984

Awarded the national Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor for "leadership, trustworthiness, service and patriotism."

### 1985

Served as chairman of the American Lung Association Christmas Seal campaign in Chattanooga.

See TIMELINE, Page 10

"Lee Anderson's been called a great many things by a great many people, not all of whom have been complimentary. That's part of the deal when you put your opinions in print for the better part of seven decades. One thing he could never be called, though, is a vacillator. Having set his course long ago, he has yet to waver and that's a rare thing, indeed."



— Bob Gary Jr., a former Times Free Press staffer who is now editor with the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association.

"I had been at the paper for about six months when Betsy Anderson, Lee's wife, came into the newsroom. As I walked by her and Lee, she stopped me and said, 'Rink Murray! You are my favorite reporter, because you use small words and short sentences.' Lee looked at her with amazement. 'Betsy,' he proclaimed, 'I tell all my reporters to use small words and short sentences.' This was true. I learned this indirectly when I first got to the paper and I called one of Lee's editors and asked, 'How do you spell odious?' The editor said, 'B-A-D' and hung up on me."

— Dr. Rink Murray, who served from 1991 to 1993 as a reporter and is now a physician in Chattanooga

“While crafting sophisticated editorials on global issues, Lee never forgot that all news is local. His successful focus on making the NFP the paper of record for Chattanooga contributed immensely to the city’s growth and prosperity. On a personal level, I’ve used Lee’s local news philosophy all around the world, finding it as valid in



Moscow, Zagreb, Dubai and Rangoon as it is in

Chattanooga. I’m grateful to have learned that and much more from Lee and wish him well on this very special occasion.”

— Steve Ellis, a staff writer in the summers of ’68, ’69 and ’70 while a student at the University of Georgia, and now a principal at Saylor Company Public Relations Counsel, which does crisis and communications management for foreign governments, corporations, nonprofits and high-visibility individuals. He lives in Darnestown, Md.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Lee Anderson sits in the cockpit of a small aircraft.

“In the fall of 1971, upon returning from duty as an information officer in Vietnam, and with a portfolio of personal project photos of Vietnam in hand, I interviewed with Lee Anderson for a position as a photographer with the Chattanooga News-Free Press. Lee informed me that they didn’t have an opening for a photographer, but that with my experience in combat journalism, he would give me a try as a reporter. My first assignment was to write a story presenting both sides of the Tellico Dam issue — highly controversial at the time. After several days of interviewing conservationists, landowners and TVA leadership, I spent an entire

weekend crafting what I thought to be an exceptional story — albeit long at 17 takes (pages). With great confidence, I placed the story on Lee’s desk late on Sunday night. On Monday morning,



I sat with other reporters in the ‘city room’ waiting for Lee to read and edit the story, and give me his comment of approval. Unknown to all of us at the time, Lee was busy in his office Scotch-taping the 17 pages together end-to-end. An hour before deadline, Lee emerged from his office holding this makeshift banner — that had been my story — aloft over his head and

streaming behind him as he walked across the city room and announced to all within earshot, ‘Ladies and gentlemen, the Free Press has just found its newest photographer.’ As they say, the rest was history. I have Lee to thank for a career in photography rather than misplaced years as a writer. Lee’s support of my efforts to develop as a photographer and to expand the role of engaging photography in the paper has been appreciated to this day. Thank you, Lee.”

— Robin Hood, a photographer at the Chattanooga News-Free Press from 1971 to 1979 who won the Pulitzer Prize for photography in

1977

## Timeline

● Continued from Page 9

### April 2, 1985

Won his 18th Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge award for his editorial, “We the People.”

### 1986

Named civilian chairman of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Armed Forces Week, which won a national Freedoms Foundation award.

### 1987

Presented the first national editorial award of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation at the State Department in Washington, D.C.

### 1990

Named publisher of the Chattanooga News-Free Press and president of the Chattanooga Publishing Co.

### Sept. 30, 1990

Awarded International Freedom of Mobility Award by the National Automobile Dealers Association in recognition of his efforts “to continually espouse ... the great freedoms we enjoy as Americans.”

### 1992

Named chairman of the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund drive and awarded first annual Taxpayer’s Friend of the Year award by the Citizens Taxpayers Association of Chattanooga.

### May 1993

Presented the first annual Goodwill Ambassador of the Year award by Goodwill Industries. Served as grand marshal at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Armed Forces Day Parade.

See TIMELINE, Page 11

# Timeline

• Continued from Page 10

## Dec. 20, 1993

Presented the national Sigma Chi fraternity's "Significant Sig" award.

## 1994

Presented the Silver Beaver Award by the Cherokee Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. Reigned as king of the Chattanooga Cotton Ball.

## 1996

Presented Kiwanis Distinguished Service Award, inducted as honorary member of the Golden Key National Honorary Scholastic Society, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

## 1998

Inducted into Alpha Society, UTC, became board member of Chattanooga Foundation, presented Distinguished Alumnus Award from UTC.

## 1999

At the merger of the Chattanooga News-Free Press and The Chattanooga Times, was named associate publisher and editor. Continued writing editorials.

## 2001

Presented the 2001 National Awards Top Honor in Adult Community Category by Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Has won 28 Freedoms Foundation awards.

## 2011-12

Chosen as public face of United Way annual campaign, with more than 70 years of continuous participation.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**Above:** Lee Anderson, second from right, waves from atop a camel during a trip to Egypt. **Below:** Anderson, sitting center, gathers with the newsroom staff in 1992.



"Not only is Lee Anderson one of the most learned and knowledgeable



people whom I have ever met, he is, even more

importantly, perhaps the kindest and most understanding employer for whom I have ever worked. While he maintained high standards for his reporters, he was generous in handing out praise and diplomatic when finding fault. When I muffed an assignment or missed a lead in a story, he pointed out my mistakes and shortcomings in a way that helped me to improve. I never heard him speak to anyone in a way that did not meet the highest standards of the Christian faith that he exemplifies in every aspect of his life. ... I salute him for his decades of faithful service to the newspaper that he loves and wish him many more happy, productive years."

— Dr. Steven Epley, associate professor of English at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and formerly a reporter at the Chattanooga News-Free Press

"I've always considered him a man of integrity. I think he is probably the greatest individual I ever met in my life. I've met a president, I've dealt with people at almost every level in over half a century, and I've seen people under all kinds of pressures and conditions. I've never met a fellow who could handle a situation better than Lee."

— J.B. Collins, who retired in 1999 from the Chattanooga Times Free Press after being with the paper for 59 years

"Lee Anderson has been a civic leader without par. He has been a patriot without par. He has been a news gatherer and interpreter without par. Yet it is his faith in Christ, and therefore, his love for his fellow man, that has been his most outstanding trait. With Lee, the newspaper's employees were as important as the product. He walked his talk."

— David Cooper, who served as a reporter, copy editor, wire editor and news editor at the News-Free Press and the Times Free Press

# Editor reflects on newspaper changes

By MIKE PARE  
STAFF WRITER

When Lee Stratton Anderson started his career as a newspaperman 70 years ago, he recalls banging away on a rusty manual typewriter to hammer out his stories.

Today, he operates in a modern digital newsroom filled with much quieter computers as well as smartphones and sleek tablets.

Back then, a newspaper published one edition a day that was often delivered to readers' homes by a teenager on a bicycle. Others waved the paper while yelling "Extra" on street corners.

Now news flows 24 hours a day online, and it is often delivered via Tweets and text messages.

Anderson has seen dramatic changes over seven decades that started at the Chattanooga News-Free Press, which later became the Chattanooga Free Press and, ultimately, the Times Free Press.

In the newsroom of yesterday, reporters at afternoon papers such as the Free Press hastily typed out stories as they tried to meet pressing noonday deadlines. Smoking was common, though there was no alcohol in the newsroom, Anderson said.

Today, smoking is banned not just in the Times Free Press newsroom, but on the entire newspaper campus. And reporters filing stories for the next day's morning newspaper work under less pressing evening deadlines, though they file stories for the newspaper's online edition ([timesfreepress.com](http://timesfreepress.com)) all day long as the news unfolds.

Anderson said there were always women in the newsroom, and they were especially prevalent during World War II when fighting-age males were pressed into military service.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Bill Hobach; Roy McDonald, publisher and founder of the Chattanooga News-Free Press; Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington; Everett Allen, senior executive of the News-Free Press; Lee Anderson; and Clifford Welch, treasurer of the News-Free Press, dedicate a new printing press at the newspaper.

Anderson recalls that when television emerged as a major force in American life, some people said it would make newspapers obsolete.

But newspapers continued to do well and he expects the Chattanooga Times Free Press to do so in the future amid the rise of the Internet.

"We cover everything so much," said the associate publisher and editor of the Chattanooga Free Press opinion page. "There's no substitute for local news."

Early in his career, he said, the newspaper was printed with the help of linotype machines, by which characters were cast in type metal

as a complete line.

That laborious, time-consuming process faded away over the years. In 1999, a new Flexographic press sharply improved the quality of the printing at the Times Free Press.

A hallmark of the Free Press was the amount of news to advertising the paper delivered to readers each day, Anderson said. While many newspapers offered 30 percent to 40 percent news compared to advertising, the Free Press provided 60 percent to 70 percent news, he said.

Anderson quipped that people would say, "If anybody moved in Chattanooga, the Free Press would cover

it." That included not just so-called "hard news," but social news such as engagements and marriages.

"We gave the hard news and depth that others in TV and radio couldn't do," he added.

J.B. Collins, who worked with Anderson at the Free Press and the Times Free Press for 57 years before his retirement in 1999, remembered when there were competing newspapers in the city.

"I spent most of my life doing that," said Collins, 94, who covered the City Hall beat for decades. He would "battle it out" with Chattanooga Times reporters on a

daily basis for key stories, he said.

Because the Free Press was an evening newspaper, daily deadlines were around noon, Collins said.

"I had one foot at City Hall and one foot in the Free Press door," he joked.

Despite the changes over the years, Anderson said newspapers are more vital now. The Internet provides "a whetting of the appetite" for news, he said.

"We need them all," Anderson said about the variety of news platforms, adding they help people stay informed.

Contact Mike Pare at [mpare@timesfreepress.com](mailto:mpare@timesfreepress.com) or 423-757-6318.

## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS HELD

- Sigma Chi Fraternity Alumni Association and active chapter president
- United Way of Greater Chattanooga board of directors, 1979 campaign chairman
- Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau, president
- Rotary Club president
- Chattanooga Chapter of American Red Cross, president
- Retired major, U.S. Army Reserve.
- U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission advisory council member
- Chattanooga-Hamilton County Civil War Centennial Committee chairman
- Public School Bible Study Committee, vice chairman
- Tennessee Industrial and Agricultural Development Commission
- American Lung Association Christmas Seal campaign chairman
- Chattanooga-Hamilton County Armed Forces Week civilian chairman
- Chattanooga Ophthalmological Foundation board member
- American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund Drive chairman
- University of Chattanooga Foundation

## AWARDS & HONORS

- 1963 Tennessee American Legion's Andrew Jackson Award
- 1968 Chattanooga Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award
- 1979 Tennessee Law Enforcement Officers Association Award
- 1979 Sertoma Freedom Award
- 1980 He and wife, Betsy, were among recipients of first national "In God We Trust Awards" from the Family Foundation
- 1980 Arthur G. Vieth Memorial Award from the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce
- 1984 National Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor
- 1986 National Freedoms Foundation Award
- 1987 First national editorial award of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation, presented at a State Department dinner in Washington, D.C.
- 1990 International Freedom of Mobility Awards from National Automobile Dealers Association
- 1992 First "Taxpayer's Friend of the Year Award" from Citizen Taxpayers Association of Chattanooga
- 1993 Goodwill Ambassador of the Year
- 1994 Chattanooga Cotton Ball King
- 1995 Kiwanis Distinguished Service Award
- 1998 UTC Distinguished Alumnus
- 2001 National Awards Top Honor in Adult Community Category from Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
- Listed in "Who's Who in America"

# Service a hallmark of Anderson's life

By SUSAN PIERCE  
STAFF WRITER

Along with Lee Anderson's 70-year career at the newspaper, his record of community service is also lengthy and illustrious.

Many of the values that Anderson espoused in his editorials for decades have their roots in childhood affiliations.

For example, Eva Dillard, president and chief executive officer United Way of Greater Chattanooga, noted his commitment to that agency spans eight decades.

"Lee Anderson has been a longtime supporter and great friend to United Way ever since he began giving in 1931 as a first-grader at Glenwood Elementary School," she said.

"Whether he was making policy decisions as a board member, writing one of his many editorials advocating for United Way's work, raising funds as our annual campaign chairman in 1979, or helping us film a campaign video, Mr. Anderson has always gone above and beyond in his dedication to United Way."

Dillard said that 80-year dedication was commended by United Way Worldwide, which recently recognized Anderson as "the longest continual donor in the worldwide United Way system."

His lifelong work with organizations that played pivotal roles in his life also was praised by other civic leaders.

"The University of Tennessee campus is very proud of Mr. Anderson's accomplishments," said Jayne Holder, director of alumni affairs at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. "We are honored to call him a distinguished alumnus."

Anderson served his alma mater in many ways, including his service as a longtime trustee on the UC Foundation and remaining engaged with Sigma Chi Fraternity, she said.

Anderson was instrumental in colonizing the Sigma Chi chapter at then-University of Chattanooga. In addition to being a founding member, he served as the fraternity's first president.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lee Anderson sits at his desk at the Chattanooga Free Press.

*“Lee Anderson has been a longtime supporter and great friend to United Way ever since he began giving in 1931 as a first-grader at Glenwood Elementary School.”*

— Eva Dillard,  
president and chief executive officer  
United Way of Greater Chattanooga

He led the chapter in acquiring its former house on Oak Street, served as president of the Sigma Chi Alumni Association and was awarded Sigma Chi's national award, "Significant Sig," in 1993.

Long after graduating, his affiliation with the university remained strong. As an alumnus, he was inducted into the university's Golden Key National Honor Society and the prestigious UTC Alpha Society.

In 1998, he was named UTC Distinguished Alumnus and appointed to the board of the UC

Foundation.

He has been an advocate for Boy Scouting, long since concluding his days in Troop 30, where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

The local Cherokee Area Council of Boy Scouts honored his lifelong commitment with the Silver Beaver Award in 1994. Nine years later, he became the first Chattanooga to receive the National Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from Boy Scouts of America.

The national award acknowl-

edges Eagle Scouts of 25 years or longer who have distinguished themselves on the national level, are recognized leaders in their field and who have a strong record of volunteerism, according to Kevin Beirne, senior development director of the Cherokee Area Council of Boy Scouts.

"Only one in approximately 1,000 Eagle Scouts is ever awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award," Beirne said. He noted just two Chattanoogaans — Anderson and Tom Edd Wilson — have been so honored.

A charismatic speaker, Anderson has logged more than 2,000 speeches to audiences throughout the nation on a variety of Christian, historical and political topics.

His erudite delivery has made the elder at First Presbyterian Church one of its most sought-after teachers. He taught elementary and high school Sunday school classes before starting a couples class in 1965. From those founding five couples, that Sunday school class has ballooned to one attended by hundreds.

Anderson's patriotism and views are reflected in the editorials he has published since being named editor of the then News-Free Press in 1958.

The respect those editorials earned him from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Chattanooga chapter, won the editor 28 Freedoms Foundation awards. Chapter members say that is more than any other local recipient.

He also received the Freedoms Foundation's Principal Award for the top editorial in the nation in 1979 and the top national honor in the adult community category in 2001.

"Mr. Anderson has received several George Washington Honor Medals, many of them for distinguished citizen or distinguished volunteer. He has probably received most all of them," said Chris McSpadden, local Freedoms Foundation president.

Contact Susan Pierce at [spierce@timesfreepress.com](mailto:spierce@timesfreepress.com) or 423-757-6284.

“Wow, what a first job from which to launch my journalistic career. The greatest thrill — and scariest challenge — came three years later when you tapped me to replace the iconic Bill Hagen as church editor. You took a chance with me, and I’m forever grateful. You encouraged me along the way, and you pressed me to stretch and hone my skills. I don’t know



how many times you pushed me to write shorter

features. Well, Mr. Anderson, here I am 35-plus years later finally able to write 225- to 250-word sidebars. I thank God for you, that you have stayed faithful to serving Jesus Christ and proclaiming His Word. And that you’ve stayed true to your journalistic calling. Thanks again for allowing me to be a part of such a wonderful newspaper heritage!”

— Richard Greene, who became a staff writer at the News-Free Press in the 1970s and is now assistant editor of Decision Magazine in Charlotte, N.C.

# Tenure at newspapers spanned tumultuous times in America

BY CLINT COOPER  
STAFF WRITER

In the nearly 54 years since Lee Anderson became editor of the Chattanooga News-Free Press, the country has fought in wars, endured the Cold War and its aftermath, pushed through the civil rights struggle, seen the assassination of a president and close calls on two others, and weathered a terrorist attack.

Through it all, Anderson has been “a hard charger, full of enthusiasm” and “a good newsman,” said Walter E. Hussman Jr., chairman of the board of the Times Free Press.

Anderson himself recalled several of the country’s most intriguing moments during his tenure as editor of the Chattanooga News-Free Press, which later became the Chattanooga Free Press:

■ **The Cold War:** “It was a very tense thing. We didn’t believe in any compromise whatsoever with the Soviet Union. ... We were not trying to overthrow the Soviet Union. [We were concerned] with aggression throughout Europe and throughout Asia. But it was a very tense time.”

■ **Assassination of President John F. Kennedy:** “We replated [the paper to get the news out the same day it happened]. We tried to get out at 2 o’clock every afternoon. I remember going up to the composing room and directing the replating of page one with the streamer [headline] on it about the assassination.”

Anderson said he already was scheduled to speak to the typographical union that evening (Nov. 22, 1963) at Wimberly Inn (a then-restaurant on Brainerd Road). After the assassination, he went home and researched the country’s history



of assassinations and presented his talk that evening.

“It was a peculiar time because it was a festive banquet dinner. I was speaking on one of the darkest days in the history of the nation [after] the assassination of the president.”

■ **Segregation:** “We believed in states’ rights. We didn’t believe in denying anyone any rights but believed in individual choice. The Free Press policy at that time was to have whatever schools people wanted to attend — that they could attend segregated schools or integrated schools. We had a three-school policy

that you could go to a black school, a white school or an integrated school. [Each person] could choose his own school, and I believe that we were the only paper in the country that had that sort of policy. We didn’t believe in imposing upon anyone [but] in letting each one choose — black, white or integrated.”

■ **Vietnam War:** “We supported the war very strongly. ... We were for no pulling [of] punches. We said we’re in a war, [and] when you’re in war, you go all out. So we were for no limit on what we would do. When you’re in war, you try to win it and get out as quickly as

possibly victoriously. But it dragged on and on and on because [there were] very bad policies they had at that time. I remember visiting in Vietnam at that period when Vietnam was divided. It was a scary time. South Vietnam was barely holding on. It was a terrible feeling to see that that was the situation.”

■ **Panama Canal Treaty:** “We didn’t see that there was any reason for the United States, which had built the Panama Canal, in an isthmus that was granted to the United States at a time of a revolution down there, [to sign a treaty ceding the canal to Panama]. We didn’t see any reason for the Panama Canal, which we built and which we operated, should not continue [under U.S. leadership]. We built it, we owned it, we should operate it.”

■ **Election of Ronald Reagan:** “I grew up as a conservative Southerner. The left wing switch of the Democrat Party [to being less conservative] was quite a contrast to that. I remember Ronald Reagan as a movie actor. And I was very much surprised [at Reagan’s rise], but he enunciated his policies very well. I remember he came to Chattanooga, and I met him at the airport and rode with him into Chattanooga, where he made a speech. Later, he invited me to the White House for a dinner. There were several occasions where I met with him. I liked him very much, and he had very conservative views, and I did, too. I was a strong admirer of President Reagan and [went] to the convention where he was nominated.”

Contact Clint Cooper at ccooper@timesfreepress.com or 423-757-6497.

“Lee is a great man, someone I’ve admired and listened to for quite some time.



He has been a wonderful influence on this community. He came up through the ranks, understood the community and the need for change and helped lead change through his leadership of the editorial department.”

— Former Hamilton County Mayor and current Deputy Gov. Claude Ramsey

“Lee Anderson is a great man of principle and integrity who has brought a lot to this city not only through his editorials but also his investment of time as a volunteer — in Rotary, in the United Way, in his church. He is the finest example for people to look at as they lead their lives.”

— John Germ, Campbell & Associates, community leader and volunteer

# An early voice of constitutional conservatism

BY DAVE FLESSIONER  
STAFF WRITER

Lee Anderson has penned more than 50,000 editorials over his 70-year newspaper career, extolling his brand of constitutional conservatism long before Barry Goldwater, Ronald Reagan or the modern day tea party championed the cause of a strong military and limited government.

Anderson said he learned the values of conservatism early in life through Sunday school, the Boy Scouts and the military.

"I've always been conservative and I've always loved history, which I think shows the value of conservatism," the 86-year-old editor of the Free Press editorial page said. "I'm not a partisan Republican. I'm a constitutional conservative."

After serving as an Air Force cadet during World War II, Anderson began covering the courthouse and politics for the Chattanooga News-Free Press and began assisting then-editor Brainard Cooper with editorials.

He was covering the 1948 presidential campaign when Cooper had a heart attack and Anderson was asked to fill the void.

He became editorial page editor at age 22 and hasn't stopped writing his opinion pieces since.

In 1948, the first presidential election in which Anderson could vote himself, he endorsed then-South Carolina Gov. Strom Thurmond, who ran as the segregationist States Rights Democratic Party (Dixiecrat) candidate. Like many Southern editorial writers in that day, Anderson supported state segregation laws even after the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 declared state laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students unconstitutional. Anderson opposed federal efforts to enforce the high court ruling against state segregation mandates, claiming such federal actions violated the 10th amendment rights of states to govern themselves.

Early in his career, most

of those in office were Democrats. But Anderson gave an early voice to the rising Southern, conservative Republican Party. Since his 1948 endorsement of then-Democrat Thurmond, Anderson has consistently endorsed Republican candidates for the White House.

"Lee's editorials, I think, have been a driving force in changing this community into a more conservative area," said Harold Coker, a former Hamilton County commissioner, GOP congressional candidate and longtime Republican activist. "When I moved to Chattanooga in 1961 there were not a lot of conservatives or Republicans. But Lee has always championed conservative government and made a substantial impact on many people, including me."

In Tennessee's then Democratic-leaning 3rd Congressional District, Anderson gave voice to a young 31-year-old Republican challenger, Bill Brock, who in 1962 was trying to become the first

Republican elected in nearly a half century.

"Having the active support of the Free Press and Lee Anderson helped not only articulate my message but gave me the credibility to get elected," he said.

Brock went on to serve four terms in the U.S. House before being elected to the U.S. Senate and appointed as chairman of the Republican National Committee, U.S. trade ambassador and U.S. labor secretary.

"Lee labored early in those political vineyards of conservative thought which made all the difference in the world," Brock said.

Even his Democratic opponents give Anderson credit for his civility and constancy over many decades.

"While we have differed on a lot of issues, he has laid out his position consistently through the years for the public to consider and we wish him well in his retirement," Hamilton County Democratic Party Chairman Paul Smith said.

Anderson's conservative voice has often been in stark contrast to the liberal editorials exposed by The Chattanooga Times. The Free Press and the Times battled for readers for 63 years before the two daily papers merged in 1999 under the ownership of WEHCO Media, the Arkansas company owned by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Publisher Walter E. Hussman.

As a combined paper, the editorial pages of the once-competitive dailies have survived with the Times editorial page aptly on the left and the Free Press editorials appearing on the right. Today the Times Free Press is the only U.S. newspaper that continues to run two editorial pages.

"The South used to be solidly Democrat, but its changed through the years," Anderson said. "I haven't changed, but I think this region has."

Contact Dave Flessner at [dflessner@timesfreepress.com](mailto:dflessner@timesfreepress.com) or at 757-6340.

"Lee has done so much for this community I would not know where to start. His work through the paper has been thought-provoking and challenging. I would be totally exhausted if I had done the amount of community work that he has done."

— Judge Neil Thomas,  
Hamilton County Circuit  
Court judge

"Not only is Lee a great editor; he's a great influence. The Bible wisdom every day [on the Free Press editorial page] is a good example.

He is one of the greatest newspapermen in the whole country. Lee was honest in his reporting and writing. He is honest in his daily life. He is well-loved and respected."

— Former Free Press  
colleague and Hamilton  
County commissioner  
Curtis Adams



## In his own words: A selection of editorials

### Pearl Harbor — terrorist style Sept. 12, 2001

America is at war.

We as a nation and as a people have been victimized by aggressive attacks by cowardly, hating, vicious terrorists who seek our destruction as a nation and as a people.

The United States was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001 — in a way unparalleled except by the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

Americans will meet the test.

The major difference between the attack on Pearl Harbor and those on New York City and Washington is that in 1941 we knew immediately

that our enemy was Imperial Japan. And we knew how we had to defend ourselves. But today, our enemy is initially anonymous, ill-defined, and there is no "front" where we must stand in defense and mount an offense against our enemies.

But as Americans responded in unity to Pearl Harbor, Americans now surely will stand in unity and determination in defense of our country. And difficult as it may be, our people will not be vanquished and will defeat our enemies, whoever they may be.

In recent years, terrorists have continuously attacked our friends elsewhere in the world. Terrorists have bombed airliners, attacked varied public facilities, blasted American barracks in Lebanon and Saudi

Arabia, set off murderous explosions at two U.S. embassies in Africa and bombed the USS Cole in Yemen.

In February 1993, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center with a bomb. Other plots have been averted and defeated, often with little or no public notice.

We have been under continuing threats by evil forces throughout the world. It was not with complacency but without any sense of immediate danger, however, that we were shocked and horrified early yesterday morning.

An aircraft crashed into one of the two towers of the World Trade Center, New York City's most prominent skyline feature!

Was it a tragic accident? Any doubt about that was settled only

minutes later as horrified millions of people watched in person and on TV as a hijacked American Airlines 767 airliner from Boston was crashed into the second World Trade Center tower!

As smoke billowed and death and injuries afflicted many of the 50,000 people working in the towers, a horrified nation watched the 110-story structures collapse.

Meanwhile, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., another airliner was crashed into the Pentagon, the nerve center of our national defense!

President George W. Bush cut short an education-promoting trip to Florida and took off in his com-

See EDITORIALS, Page 16

"One of my most memorable experiences of Lee Anderson was on the search committee when Dr. [James L.] Fowle retired [as pastor of First Presbyterian Church]. We went to a little 'church in the round [near Miami] where we were listening to Ben Haden. He [Lee] tapped me on the shoulder, and I looked and two of the people were Sen. [George] Smathers and Billy Graham [in the audience]. We recommended Ben Haden to a committee and the committee went along ... and Ben Haden came to become pastor at the church. I never forget that when Ben said, 'Is your church a church of believers?' I said, 'We absolutely are.' And then Lee had a deeper thought, 'We believe we are believers, Ben.' Lee has been a tremendous factor in our church."

— Scott L. "Scotty" Probasco Jr., retired chairman of the board of American National Bank & Trust Co. and later SunTrust Bank in Chattanooga as well as a longtime elder along with Lee Anderson at First Presbyterian Church

## Editorials

● Continued from Page 15

mand center, Air Force One, even as the White House, the Capitol building and other federal buildings in Washington were evacuated.

Were additional attacks coming immediately? Are others planned in days to come? No one could answer. All air traffic was grounded. Throughout the nation emergency precautions were taken. And our shocked people reached out to those who were killed, injured and disrupted, as is characteristic of Americans.

At Pearl Harbor, the death toll was about 2,400. At New York and Washington yesterday, the death toll was surely far greater. Our national heart is broken by this tragedy. But our national will is strengthened.

We are at war. We will not be defeated. It is a war different from any other we have ever faced. But America will survive. America will be victorious. America will prevail.

May God bless America, and may all Americans seek to live in these troubled times to be worthy of his blessings.

## 'What is man?'

July 21, 1969

The "man in the moon"? Yes, and he's real. In fact, it's "men" — two of them on the moon. Count 'em!

Man's greatest achievement in science and exploration was achieved last night as Neil Armstrong stepped out of the lunar landing vehicle, climbed down a ladder and became the first man to set foot on any body beyond the Earth in space.

He was soon followed by Edwin Aldrin, who joined Armstrong in shoveling up samples of the adhering fine dust and rocks that cover the moon's surface. ...

This historic event did not create the squealing sort of excitement but rather an overwhelming, marveling sort of admiration for the men who took the important steps that made the moon voyage possible and for the men whose courage and ability have been crowned with success thus far.

The men of Apollo II have made it all look easy because they and so many others took the hard problems that stood in the way of success and overcame them by method and dedication.

TOMORROW'S WEATHER: CLEAR, 70-80, Hazy 80-90, Sun 90-100, High 90, Low 70, Wind 10-15, Breeze 10-15, Rain 0.00, Snow 0.00, Fog 0.00, Ice 0.00, Hail 0.00, Thunder 0.00, Wind Chill 70, Heat Index 80, UV Index 6, Air Quality 100, Water Temp 70, Soil Temp 70, Plant Growth 100, Animal Health 100, Human Health 100, Overall Status 100.

**CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS** CITY EDITION  
Full Associated Press and United Press International Wirephoto and News Service  
CHATTANOOGA, TENN., 2346 MONDAY, JULY 21, 1969  
38 CENTS

# MOON WALKERS START HOME

## TV Camera Relays Highlights of 'Giant Step' Into Space

**LM LIFTS OFF TO LINK WITH ORBITING SHIP**

Armstrong, Aldrin  
The World With  
Video Spectacular

**SPACE CENTER, Houston (UPI)—**The two Apollo men who successfully landed on the moon's surface this morning are being hoisted with their mobile command module to the orbiting lunar module.

**ARMSTRONG'S FOOT** was the first to touch the moon's surface. The first step was taken by Armstrong, right, and Aldrin, left, in the lunar module. The two men were hoisted to the orbiting lunar module by a crane. The lunar module was launched from the Earth by a Saturn V rocket.

**Flag Unfurled in Ceremony by 2 Spacemen**

**Armstrong's Foot (arrow) First on Moon**

**Aldrin, left, Sets up 'Solar Wind' Experiment**

**Flaque Unveiled by Armstrong, right, and Aldrin**

**CONG SHELL 18 TARGETS**  
Little Damage Seen; 212 Reds Killed  
By WALTER WINTERMAN  
WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Viet Cong shell and mortar attacks on the hamlet of Binh Hoa, 10 miles from the border with Laos, were reported today. The Viet Cong killed 212 of the 250 men in the hamlet. The damage to the hamlet was minimal. The Viet Cong also fired several rockets at the hamlet.

**Moon Men Caourt Like Two Tourists**  
By JERRY SEBY  
NEW YORK (UPI)—The moon men, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, stepped about the surface of the moon, got up an American flag and walked around the lunar module.

**Nixon Says Call to Moon Most Historic**  
By DOUGLAS R. CORREIA  
WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Nixon today called the moon landing the most historic event in the history of the United States. He said the moon landing was a great achievement for the United States and for all of mankind.

**Police Still Seek Knife**  
By JERRY SEBY  
MIAMI (UPI)—Police today were still searching for a knife that was used in the slaying of a man in Miami. The knife was found in a trash can in Miami.

**Walk 'Almost Too Much in One Night'**  
By UNITED PRESS INTL.  
DENVER (UPI)—A woman who walked 100 miles in one night to raise money for a charity was today being treated in a hospital. She had a severe case of exhaustion.

**CAVALIER HIT BY WALKOUT**  
Production Ceases At Cooler Factory  
By JERRY SEBY  
DENVER (UPI)—The production of the new Chevrolet Cavalier was today suspended at the GM plant in Flint, Mich. The workers went on strike because of a dispute over wages.

**Luna 15 Lands On Moon**  
By JERRY SEBY  
MOSCOW (UPI)—The Soviet Luna 15 lunar lander today touched down on the moon. It was the first Soviet lunar lander to reach the moon.

**Apollo Schedule**  
By JERRY SEBY  
WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Apollo 11 mission is scheduled to launch on Sunday, July 16, 1969. The mission will last about 14 days.

**Armair Pilots Land 'LEM' In World of Make Believe**  
By BOB GILBERT  
DENVER (UPI)—A group of men today landed a model of the lunar module on a field in Denver. The model was built to look like the real thing.

**Partly Cloudy Tuesday**  
By JERRY SEBY  
CHATTANOOGA (UPI)—The weather today is partly cloudy with a high of 80 and a low of 60. There is a chance of rain in the afternoon.

**Clear Picture Of Big News**  
By JERRY SEBY  
CHATTANOOGA (UPI)—The moon landing is a historic event that will be remembered for generations to come. It is a great achievement for the United States and for all of mankind.

**Today's News-Free Press**

Chattanooga	10
Atlanta	10
Birmingham	10
Charlotte	10
Cincinnati	10
Cleveland	10
Dallas	10
Denver	10
Detroit	10
Houston	10
Los Angeles	10
Memphis	10
Minneapolis	10
Miami	10
Mobile	10
New York	10
Philadelphia	10
Pittsburgh	10
Richmond	10
Salt Lake City	10
San Antonio	10
San Diego	10
Seattle	10
St. Louis	10
Tampa	10
Wash. Post	10
Wichita	10

It is a proud day for all Americans to be a part of this country in its latest triumph. ...

In connection with this moon mission, it was the suggestion of the father of Edwin Aldrin that the astronaut reflect upon verses from the Eighth Psalm that say:

"When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

"For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor.

"Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands: thou hast put all things under his feet. ...

"O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"

## VW, welcome to Chattanooga!

July 16, 2008

Chattanoogaans of course are overjoyed by the announcement that Volkswagen will build a new \$1 billion, 2,000-job assembly plant at Chattanooga's Enterprise South industrial park.

But we believe this is very good news for Volkswagen, too. VW, we welcome you to a wonderful community, a great city with fine people, a place of beauty, opportunity and a wonderful way of life. ...

We welcome to Chattanooga

VW's head of operations in North America, Stefan Jacoby. We want to make the decision that he and other members of his firm have made one of the greatest triumphs in their business careers.

Volkswagen's plans call for the new plant to be in action by 2011. That's not far away! Meanwhile, there will be many good jobs created locally for construction, long before cars start rolling off assembly lines.

And making those VW vehicles here will bring many other companies that will be eager to make varied contributions to facilitate VW's production. That should mean immeasurable additional constructive and beneficial economic activity for all concerned in the years ahead. ...

We Chattanoogaans surely want to prove ourselves to be good hosts and good neighbors to our newcomers.

Many, many people deserve much credit and appreciation for the beginning of this magnificent achievement.

Gov. Phil Bredesen has been untiring and unstinting in his efforts. He noted that Democrats and Republicans had worked closely to make this great step forward for Tennessee and Chattanooga possible.

Tennessee's Commissioner of Economic and Community Development Matt Kisber's service has been invaluable. Gov. Bredesen said it would not have been possible without him.

Hamilton County Mayor Claude Ramsey has been diligent in his efforts to prepare for and justify this day.

Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield has been persistent in his effective efforts to realize this accomplishment.

Former Chattanooga Mayor and now-U.S. Sen. Bob Corker worked a long time for this happy result.

Sen. Lamar Alexander, who was instrumental in bringing the first big automobile plant to Tennessee, now is due credit for his part in another major triumph with Volkswagen.

U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp has been a dedicated cheerleader and effective cooperative worker to achieve this industrial development, which is part of widespread progress in the Volunteer State.

Many others — many who will not get enough credit but deserve it — are appreciated. They include leaders in the Chattanooga Area

See EDITORIALS, Page 17



# Editorials

● Continued from Page 16

Chamber of Commerce, such as Tom Edd Wilson, and his staff, along with many in various levels of the staffs of state, county and city governments, along with many private citizens, too.

But all of us should realize that this is just “prologue.” The future — the best — is yet to come. ...

## From the valley of the shadow

June 1968

From the time the news first came of the attack on Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, there really was no hope, but Americans hoped and despaired. And now the news has come that the almost inevitable has occurred, that the wound has been fatal.

Frustrated citizens from one end of the country to another are shaken by their inability to seem to come to grips with the immediate and long-range challenge to a society that we want to be ruled by law and order, not coercion and murder.

Formerly apathetic people are not so apathetic today. The atmosphere of tolerated violence may be changing to a demand for enforcement of the law to prevent single crime or mob outbursts, or to punish them firmly if they occur.

There is an inclination to label ours as a “sick” society. But it really is not. It is more a “lazy” society, a “concerned-too-late” society, an “irresponsible” society, a “don’t-get-me-involved” society. ...

Americans, perhaps because of our very freedom, have long had a tendency to wait until too late. We did it at Pearl Harbor. We are doing it in Vietnam. We have done it in the cases of President Kennedy and Dr. King and Sen. Kennedy. Our tardiness does not reflect a viciousness on the part of America but too great allowance to those who are vicious, internationally and individually. ...

We badly need to look up from the valley of the shadow of death, and to rise up from it, not in our strength but in the strength of the things in which we believe that have brought us this far, and can lift us so much higher.

## The Ten Commandments

Sept. 21, 2001

There is no question that the Hamilton County Commission majority reflected the sentiments of the majority of the people of our area when it voted to post the Ten Commandments in the County Courthouse. The principles of the Ten Commandments surely are embraced by moral people of many faiths.

The decision to post the Ten Commandments in a public building of course arouses some critics who demand the secularization of society and who have a confused understanding of what the Constitution of the United States and the Founding Fathers said and intended.

Our country was established on the sound principle of freedom of religion. That standard must be defended and upheld. But there is nothing in the Constitution that requires government to pretend there are no such things as spiritual faith and values.

There is nothing in the Constitution that calls for a “separation of church and state,” although such is mistakenly suggested by some with great fervor. What the Constitution actually provides is for freedom of religion, prohibiting governmental imposition of a state church — and barring the state from restricting the free exercise of religion.

That such was the intent of the authors and adopters of the Constitution was clearly demonstrated at the time the Constitution was written and ratified. This is what the Constitution’s First Amendment says about religion:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. ...”

That’s it. That’s what it says and that’s what it means.

Correctly, there has been no action by Congress or any other governmental body in America to establish a national church or religion, and there should be no action to prohibit the free exercise of religious faith. ...

It is unfortunate that there are some who choose to be affronted when no such thing is intended. It is unfortunate that some seek to impose an exclusion of public expressions of moral and religious values.

The most important thing, however, is not whether the Ten Commandments are posted in a public building but whether we, the people, are posting them in our hearts and displaying them humbly in our lives.

## My Lai reaction

March 1968

The nation has been shaken by the reports of atrocities at My Lai.

Some people have used this situation to smear and dishonor all that American stands for.

Others have recoiled by being sharply critical of the accusers and the accusations, angry because the news has come out.

There is no question that American reaction has been strong. The reason for the anti-U.S. campaign in this connection is that some desire to destroy our nation, or have been duped by those who would destroy us into making quick generalizations over a very terrible but rather isolated flaw. The reason for the defensive reflex is that most Americans know that what happened — even if accepted in the very worst possible light — is not representative of the American standard but is totally contrary to it, an aberration amidst the horrors and pressures and psychological reactions to war.

Steps have been taken to bring to trial men charged with involvement in the atrocities.

This only re-enforces what everyone should know, that murder is in conflict with American policy.

But in the case of the Communists who have murdered in far greater numbers at Hue and elsewhere across South Vietnam, the needless, vicious infliction of death was in concert with their bestial policy.

Have you heard of any Communists being brought to trial by Communist governments for killing civilians?

Have you known of Nazis trying Nazis for World War II civilian murders?

It should be easy for any clear-eyed, honest-minded person to see that though a massacre may be Nazi-like or Communist-like in result, it is far, far different in the case of Americans because it is against the ideal of our people and our nation rather than a reflection of it. ...

The enemies of America are using the My Lai incident to try to discredit the altruistic sacrifices of

our people in attempting to prevent a murderous Communist takeover of the South Vietnamese, who can be made Red only by conquest. ...

That Communists are killers does not justify murder by Americans, but a massacre by Americans does not justify Communist aggression or provide reason for us to surrender to it.

## How the system works

March 21, 1979

With the report that corporate profits last year rose 26.4 percent, President Jimmy Carter’s inflation fighter, Alfred Kahn, called it a “catastrophe,” and almost every report has pictured the situation as though something terribly bad had happened to America.

The saddest fact of all is that such reactions indicate that people in places of leadership and public opinion do not understand and appreciate the wonders of the free enterprise system.

Increased profits are good news, not bad! ...

From those profits come some of the money that goes into building plants and buying equipment. And that makes jobs, putting money into the people’s pockets.

Some of the profits will go to pay people for investing their money in the enterprises that serve us by producing goods, services and employment.

We wonder if those people who are complaining about profits being high and who are calling the situation a catastrophe would be happier if the report were one of losses rather than of profits.

If that were the case, there really would be a catastrophe. Unemployment would be higher. Business failures would be increasing. Everyone would be hurting. ...

If profits are too high, that will invite competition. If somebody is getting a big handful of “goodies,” rest assured that the nature of mankind will stimulate others to rush into the market to grab a piece of the action.

The obvious result will be an offer by others of goods and services at a lower level of profit, so they can get a slice of the market by offering a lower price. ...

But let government step in and there’s real trouble. If government seeks to hold down profits, it holds down competition and quality and opportunity.

“He’s meant so many things to this community over the years. You look at the job he’s held in this community, what he’s done in Chattanooga.”

— Duffy Franck, retired president of First Tennessee Bank in Chattanooga



“I have known Lee Anderson for my entire adult life and have seen firsthand his love for our community and witnessed his contributions to making it a great place for our citizens to live and do business. Over his long career, Lee’s views have always reflected his strongly held beliefs and deep devotion to the city and country he loves. I congratulate him for his remarkable dedication to the newspapers of record in Chattanooga.”

— U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn.



# Part Renaissance man, part 'just Lee'

"Lee Anderson is the north point on the community's moral compass. His ability to interlace spiritual values into the context of local, national and world events has made his editorials truly unique."



— Chattanooga Mayor  
Ron Littlefield

"Honestly, the paper and Lee Anderson go hand in hand. To me Lee Anderson sometimes is the voice of reason. He is such a big promoter of our city and of the whole state. He has done a tremendous job cheerleading the great things our city has done."



— Kim White,  
president of River City Co.

I've known Lee Anderson indirectly since reading the Free Press as a child and directly from my 10 years at the paper, but I can't settle on any one thing about him that stands out the most. So in no particular order, here are a few of the things that make Lee Lee — a person like none I've ever known. (And lest I seem impertinent, he won't hear of me calling him Mr. Anderson. "I'm just Lee," he says.):

■ He has a staggering knowledge of history.

Have you ever been in the company of someone who was expert on, say, popular music or French cooking or botany? You know, the sort of person who effortlessly fields almost any question on his subject of choice. When it comes to history, that's Lee.

He consumes books in a single gulp, storing up events from antiquity through today that make their way into editorials and prove afresh that "there is nothing new under the sun" — no matter how much the utopians think they can reinvent human nature or start history from scratch.

Wanna know about the McKinley assassination? Ask Lee.

Hazy on Reconstruction? He'll bring you up to speed.

Miss that Sunday school class on Nebuchadnezzar? Scan the Anderson files.

It's astonishing how much he knows.

■ He is imperturbable.

There must be times when Lee gets mad. I've

just never witnessed it. I have yet to hear him raise his voice to anybody. He has, in fact, an otherworldly capacity for patience, even in the face of jarring nastiness. I recall a critic who suggested it was craven of Lee to support the Iraq war because — the critic assumed — Lee knew nothing of war. Lee, who enlisted during World War II and also served in the Reserves, would have been justified in pointing out his record. But he didn't.

On the lighter side, he told me of a local political foe who once likened him to a warthog or some similarly unappealing mammal. He shared the story with a laugh, though, evidently having taken no offense.

■ Lee is courteous to a fault.

Political candidates by the hundreds, if not thousands, have marched into his office seeking endorsements. Some got them; most didn't. But in my 10-year experience, Lee strove to make the great and the unknown alike feel well-treated by the time they left his office. Not by offering fulsome praise or hints of an endorsement he didn't plan to deliver, but by showing interest in their lives and experiences. Many candidates whom Lee declined to endorse — including some whose views he resolutely opposed — nonetheless enjoyed praise in editorials for having the right motives and an admirable desire to serve.

■ Lee is deliberate about showing kindness. He often remarks on what a good investment kindness is: It costs nothing but yields an enormous return.

He has a bundle of note cards with the birth dates of friends and acquaintances from over the years, and

all those individuals get a treasured phone call on their special day. It is also typical of Lee to set aside ideological differences and reach out with a call or funeral home visit when a political opponent suffers the loss of a loved one.

■ Lee has a Kentucky-Tennessee hybrid accent that I can't quite pin down. I like the way he pronounces "buffet," though. It sounds like "boo-fay." (Which brings to mind the fact that he previously had a secretary named Faye Ray — not to be confused with Fay Wray, who famously screamed in 1933's "King Kong.")

■ Lee loves Chattanooga. Many people adore this city and seek its success, but Lee is among the most enthusiastic.

■ He is rather less fond of long but unproductive meetings — quietly referring to one tedious gathering as "purgatory." And he is baffled by politicians and others who seek an audience of editors and reporters at the paper but then have no clear point to make.

■ At 86, Lee has an energy level that would be the envy of a 10-year-old hopped up on cotton candy. Divine intervention alone explains how anybody could manage the range of church, civic, family and professional responsibilities that Lee has juggled since the '40s.

■ Lee enjoys life more than anybody I know.

He likes mowing. He likes working. He likes traveling. He likes Big Band music. He likes the biscuits his secretary Linda sometimes brings to work. He likes his church. He likes time with family. He likes going out to eat on Friday nights. He likes to watch the news. He

likes Coca-Cola. He likes to swim. He likes "Gone With the Wind" — and the fact that he saw its Chattanooga premiere. He likes to reminisce, though not so much that it crowds out his desire to learn new things. He likes tennis. He liked the harrowing competition of Chattanooga's newspaper wars, but he also likes the Times folks who are an integral part of the Times Free Press.

■ Forgive the cliché, but Lee is a Renaissance man. He has an unquenchable desire to know and understand. Yet his upbringing and faith keep him more grounded than practically anybody I know.

You see a fusion of broad learning and common sense in his unpretentious writing — derided by elites as simplistic. What the elites don't get is that Lee doesn't view writing as an esoteric exercise meant to freeze out people who haven't had the advantages of a high-class education. He wants to persuade the factory worker as surely as the investment banker, and he has never let some off-putting need to impress the persnickety get in the way. He wouldn't even call them "persnickety." Come to think of it, he probably wouldn't darken the door of "esoteric," either.

■ And last but not even in the same area code as least, Lee isn't shy about introducing you to the most important person in the world: Jesus Christ.

He begins his traditional Christmas Eve editorial: "Christmas is about Christ. Or it is about nothing."

And he means it. *Steve Barrett is a former columnist for the Free Press opinion page, who worked with Lee Anderson from 2001 to March 2012.*



Steve  
Barrett  
Commentary

## The quotable Lee Anderson

■ **On big-government schemes — and on high-tech but malfunctioning paper towel dispensers:** "It's one of those 'good ideas' that don't work."

■ **On a political candidate who touted her long years in a local government office but struggled to list accomplishments from that time:** "Does she have 20 years of experience or one year of experience 20 times?"

■ **On the doomed campaigns of many a candidate, Democrat and Republican alike:** "Oh, he'll be lost in the high weeds."

■ **On President Carter:** "He's a fine Christian man. He just had no judgment."

■ **On being as young as you feel:** "I've been at the paper 70 years — and I'm only 17."

■ **On the educational opportunities afforded him by the teachers at his beloved Chattanooga High School:** "If I failed to learn anything there, it was my fault."

■ **On Chattanooga:** "It's the finest place in the world. It's pretty everywhere you look. The people are friendly."



Lee Anderson, associate publisher and editor of the Free Press opinion page, proofs one of his editorials. Anderson will leave his post April 18.

STAFF PHOTO BY TIM BARBER

# Saying Thank You to a living legend



A high school junior picked up a job covering the police beat for the Chattanooga News-Free Press until he was called to service during WWII. Seven decades later, Lee Anderson has left a prominent mark on the news industry.

While covering everything from politics and the state legislature to writing his own editorials, Mr. Anderson made it a point to not only bring the community the news but also be a part of the community. He's served as chairman of the United Way campaign and the local chapter of the American Red Cross, president of the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau and president of the Chattanooga Downtown Rotary Club.

His titles within the publishing realm include reporter, author, editor, associate editor, associate editor and publisher. Lee Anderson currently serves the Chattanooga Times Free Press as associate publisher and editor.

As we celebrate his storied career of 70 years, we also say:

Thank you.



Covering local news  
then and now.

Lee Anderson

Celebrating 70 years of  
journalistic excellence.

Chattanooga Times Free Press

in print | online | in your community