

of Journalism. Emerson got married and moved east to work on Capitol Hill as a speechwriter for then-U.S. Sen. Jim Pearson, a Kansas Republican—then for his successor, Sen. Nancy Kassebaum.

But Emerson quickly grew bored with his duties and began looking around for a newspaper to buy. He considered some in the Rocky Mountain area, but quickly realized he'd never afford one. In 1981, a broker approached him with a proposal to buy a stridently right-wing daily in northwestern Vermont. The St. Albans Daily Messenger, then owned by publisher William Loeb, had never made money. Emerson bought the paper and quickly improved its reputation and financial performance.

Three years later, Gordon Mills, owner of the Addison County Independent, approached Emerson and asked him if he was interested in buying his newspaper, too. Emerson declined but suggested he contact Angelo, who at the time was running the Yates Center News, a small, struggling weekly in southeastern Kansas.

So in August 1984, at age 30, Angelo bought the Vermont weekly. Four years later, he turned it into a twice-weekly paper. Today the Addison County Independent has a staff of 21 employees, seven of whom (including Angelo) work in the newsroom. Angelo insists that his commitment to news coverage continues to pay off. Though he says he's made only a modest investment in the paper's website over the years, in 2009 the Vermont Press Association named it the state's best.

Meanwhile, the Lynns have continued to acquire flailing newspapers and turned them into money-making ventures. And they've done so with seemingly boundless energy.

"As Angelo likes to say, we're always the last ones on the treadmill," Emerson says. "You may be smarter than us, but you'll never outwork us."

Indeed, as kids, Emerson and Angelo spent most summers at a family cabin in Colorado. Each morning they'd wake at the crack of dawn, load their packs and spend the next 10 to 14 hours hiking to a summit.

That commitment to rigorous outdoor exercise hasn't flagged. Emerson and Angelo are well past 50—in a rare show of vanity, Emerson declines to disclose his age, and Angelo won't betray his brother. But neither looks or acts it. Trim, hale and handsome, the brothers have chiseled bodies and resting heart rates that would be the envy of men half their age.

Both routinely compete in marathons, triathlons, canoe races and other competitions that demand iron-man stamina. Angelo skis 40 to 50 days per year. Last year, he competed in the Canadian Death Race, a three-day endurance course that traverses a raging river and three mountain summits and includes 17,000 feet of elevation change.

Never one to be outdone by his younger brother, Emerson recently took on a 3100-repetition weight-training workout challenge. He completed it in under one hour and 50 minutes.

"We're excessive," Emerson admits unapologetically. "The two of us are extraordinarily competitive. But it's never me against him or him against me. It's 'Let's see what we can do.'"

That drive for peak performance is reflected in their careers. Both are self-described workaholics—Emerson is still married, Angelo divorced—and are intimately involved in every detail of their publications, from writing daily editorials to selling ads to distribution. On a recent visit to Seven Days, Angelo's station wagon was filled with newspapers that needed delivering.

"I have never met anyone in daily journalism who has maintained such a high level

of energy day after day after day," notes Chris Graff, the former Associated Press writer who ran the Montpelier bureau for 26 years. Speaking of Emerson, he recalls, "When I was at the AP, his routine was to arrive at work at 5 a.m. every day—and he wrote an editorial every day."

But the Lynns' competitive spirit doesn't come with a bullying or predatory attitude. The brothers have helped fellow Vermont publishers, including those at Seven Days, who benefited from Angelo's free advice when this paper launched. Angelo was also on hand when a group of journalists and publishers gathered recently in Grafton to discuss working cooperatively in the digital age.

M. Dickey Drysdale, editor and publisher of the Herald of Randolph, calls the Lynn brothers "the best gift that Kansas has ever given to Vermont journalism." Drysdale, who's been at the Herald since 1971, says Emerson and Angelo have given him business advice and suggestions for advertising campaigns over the years, never expecting anything in return.

"You can sometimes get the idea that press lords are supercilious and very, very serious," Drysdale adds. "Both [Emerson and Angelo] seem to approach their jobs with a high seriousness, but also a cheerful attitude that makes them fun to deal with and makes their newspapers very approachable."

The Lynns say they don't view other community newspapers as competition, even in markets where they compete for ad revenues. As the state's biggest dailies shrink in size—lately, the Monday Burlington Free Press has had fewer pages than the Monday Messenger—neither brother sees any reason to alter their course.

"I don't think you get stronger because other people get weaker. You're stronger because of your adherence to your mission," Emerson concludes. "We're not having to rediscover that local news is important. We've been doing that forever. That's our bread and butter."

HILLSBOROUGH AGREEMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to call the Senate's attention to a significant agreement that was signed late last Friday night to preserve the current government in Belfast and continue the long road toward permanent peace in Northern Ireland.

The 12 years since the signing of the Good Friday Peace Accords have not been easy ones for the people of Northern Ireland. The power-sharing government was suspended in 2002, the British resumed direct control, and violence has flared at times. However, all sides have been committed to working towards the blueprint for peace worked out in 1998—the Irish Republican Army formally ended its armed campaign in 2005, the St. Andrews Agreement returned control of the government to Northern Ireland, and all sides have resisted a resurgence of the brutality of the past.

In recent months, disagreements over a variety of issues have threatened to bring down the fragile government again—tensions over British control of prosecutors, the judiciary and the police, and the rights of the Protestant Orange Order to parade through heavily Catholic neighborhoods have prevented both sides from moving forward.

I commend the Northern Irish First Minister Peter Robinson of the Democratic Unionist Party and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin who met at Hillsborough Castle near Belfast with Prime Minister of Britain, Gordon Brown, and Taoiseach Coven of the Republic of Ireland, whose leadership has been vital. Friday's agreement set April 12 as the date for the transfer of the Judiciary and Police forces to local control, and laid out a plan and timeline for the resolution of disagreements on parades before "marching season" in July of 2011.

Northern Ireland's long peacemaking process has been difficult, demanding painful concessions by both sides. Yet both sides also seem to have reached a point where return to the conditions of the last 40 years is no longer an option. The last few years have seen opportunities for Northern Ireland to return to sectarian strife, and yet both sides, their leaders, and the people of Northern Ireland have looked over the edge and stepped back with the knowledge that no matter how difficult the road forward is, the road back must not be travelled.

I am proud of the critical role the United States has played in the process. Former President Clinton was intimately involved in the Good Friday Agreement, and Secretary of State Clinton deserves a great deal of credit for her part in these talks. All of us in this chamber also are proud of the role that former Senator George Mitchell played at crucial junctures earlier in this long process. I assure the people of Northern Ireland that this Senator—and all Americans of good will—remains committed to remaining with them every step of the way.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments and contributions of black Americans to our Nation.

This month, we honor the brave citizens who struggled and fought throughout the years for a better day for their children. A day when everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

One of those brave citizens was Portland resident Dr. J.N. Merriman, who in 1914—united with a few pioneering spirits—commissioned Oregon's first NAACP chapter, a mere 5 years after the nationally acclaimed organization was formed.

The work of Portland's NAACP chapter and Urban League helped to spur a grassroots movement that succeeded where many previous campaigns had failed, repealing in 1926 and 1927 the State's sordid exclusion laws. These Jim Crow laws, written into the State's Constitution, prevented African Americans from living freely in the State, settling, owning property or voting.

It is in the spirit of these pioneering Oregonians and so many brave citizens of every color across this country, that