

Verni Brownfield

We hadn't been in business very long when it became apparent Derry and I couldn't hold down the fort ourselves. So, we hired Derry's wife, Verni, to help us. This was early 1973 and she helped us during our first decade.

Verni was charming, beautiful, and a whiz at keeping financial records. She'd been administrative assistant to Missouri's motor vehicle director. She took shorthand. In fact, I remember dictating letters to her in those early years. Then technology brought forth the little dictating machines which we later used. She also prepared all the invoices, typed the affiliate logs, wrote all the company checks and prepared the end-of-month stuff for the accountants. She was a gem. And, looking back on it, probably shook her head at this crazy kid and his stupid ideas. Of course she also had four children (six, if you count Derry and me). So, she had her hands full! It was helpful our office was just down the road from their home, so oftentimes Joy, Jay, Jon, or Jim would drop in to do their homework or hang out.

It was a comfort knowing someone was running the office while we were on the road.

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