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For Immediate Release

Former Publisher Recalls “Hot Metal,” Weekly Period in new fictional book “Joel’s Hymn”

A former weekly newspaper publisher has turned part of his retirement period into a recall of weekly newspaper publishing. In *Joel’s Hymn* the fictional account of a newspaper based on the 20-year experience of the author who served as editor-publisher of a weekly community newspaper during what he termed the “Hot Metal Days.” Perhaps more correctly, the time of community weekly newspapers, Linotypes and Miehle news presses. The story is a fact-laden, rich account of the adventures and misadventures of such a periodical. It was a time that is rapidly fading into memory.

Eldridge F. Trott spent 20 years publishing the *Lincoln News Messenger* in Lincoln, California. He left the publishing field in 1969 in favor of teaching journalism at Shasta Community College in Redding, California, for the next 20 years. He sold the *News Messenger* to former CNPA manager, Ben Martin, and his wife, Carmela. CNPA named Trott the California Community College Journalism Instructor of the Year in 1986.

Trott wrote the book at the request of his children, who remember him principally as “A father not around too often. More likely down at the office working on the paper.”

Trott chose the novel form for his recall to prevent personal references to modern Lincoln area subscribers. The book deals with many of the headache problems of publishing, viz., covering the community issues, errant equipment, tragedies, comical incidents, long hours, facing the offset revolution. A background deals with the chaotic events of the 1960’s Decade.

Trott’s spouse, Lois, recently died of Alzheimer’s, and the difficulties associated with that illness also receives attention.

The book is available from Trott, P. O. Box 1107, Greenville, CA 95947. The \$20 cost covers the book, shipping and sales tax.