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▲ **Top photo:** Barnaby family from left to right: Paul Sr., Paul Jr., Steve, Dale and Betty.
Barnaby through the years.
Bottom left photo: Store across from the County Courthouse in Sycamore.
Bottom right photo: Barnaby's current location prior to remodeling.

Barnaby Printing



▲ **Left photo:** Betty, Paul Sr., and Paul Jr. accepting plaque from Farm Bureau for their use of Soy Ink.



Right photo: League Champs; Dale, Steve, Paul Sr., Paul Jr., Paul H.

FAMILY AND FORETHOUGHT

As the saying goes, a family that plays together stays together. How about the family that not only plays together, but also works together? Paul Barnaby Sr. and his sons have successfully run the Barnaby Printing business since its beginning in 1963.

“Running a family business can be very rewarding as you share your stresses and successes with your loved ones,” said Paul Sr., company founder. “I think we have an unusual situation here. All three of my sons stayed in the area and have helped me run the business. We are a close family that really prides ourselves on working hard and having fun. We enjoy coming to work every day and seeing each other. We like it so much we even spend our free time together.”

Barnaby family members show their drive and determination for success whether at work or play. No matter the task at hand, they always strive to be the best. A good example is their success on the softball diamond. The family has played on numerous local softball teams and has been a part of various local tournaments, winning several. Many Saturdays you will also find father and sons together on the greens and the fairways of DeKalb County.

“We enjoy cheering each other on and spending time together in a competitive atmosphere,” said

Steve. “We have our strengths. Some of us are younger and more athletic, while some are older and less athletic, but experienced and knowledgeable about the game. We each have our role, and it’s been a winning combination.”

Just as everyone has a role on the ball field, they all play a key part in the success of Barnaby Printing.

The story of Barnaby Printing began in 1963, when Paul Sr. bought the California Street Print Shop in Sycamore and renamed it Barnaby Printing. His energetic ambition, drive for success, and 14 years of experience in the industry proved to be the right combination. By 1967, the business had outgrown its space and moved to 114 State St., across from the County Courthouse in Sycamore.

In addition to printing, Barnaby expanded its services by offering office supplies. Paul’s wife, Betty, joined the effort at that time. After a late night at the office, Paul came home and laid out his briefcase with all his paperwork. Betty turned to him and said, “I think it’s about time I take over doing the paperwork.” She helped by running the office and the office supply store. “She enjoyed coming into work every day. She just loved the people and interacting with everyone,” reminisces Paul Sr.



Barnaby continued to grow and expand its services. Paul Jr. joined the staff in 1972, after his service in the Air Force, while Dale joined the family team in 1976. In May, 1977, they celebrated the grand opening of their 10,000-square-foot building on DeKalb Avenue, the business' current location, which has since added 5,000 sq feet for a printer and 10,000 sq feet in additional space. Then, in 1981, Steve, the youngest of the sons, left his job at the sheriff's department to join the family firm.

The Barnaby family business has been able to prosper over the years because of its willingness to change with the times and by taking risks and being at the forefront of technology. Barnaby Printing was among the first to make film for plates using a digital imagesetter. It also was among the first to purchase a full color printing press and was the first to use soy ink, for which it was recognized by Prairie Farmer magazine and the DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

Barnaby Printing also was one of the earliest adapters of e-commerce for printing companies, with Yahoo being its first customer in 1995. Yahoo found Barnaby Printing on the World Wide Web (www.barnaby.com). Because it specialized in reprints, Yahoo asked Barnaby's to print several thousand copies of the Rolling Stone Magazine in which they had just been featured. It was then Barnaby family members realized they were in a new era of printing.

Barnaby Printing also was among the first in the area to adopt the internet and digital printing as the wave of the future. The family recognizes it hasn't been just technology that has made them successful for more than 40 years. Paul

Jr. said, "I have a great family who has partnered with me and has been open-minded enough for me to be free to try new things. We have a great group of employees, many who have been with us from the beginning. Together as a team, I'm confident we will continue to be honored in our field of endeavor."

Partnerships have also been a big part of the Barnaby Printing success. Over the years, they have partnered with multiple businesses to expand the printing services. Those partnerships have allowed the company to offer state-of-the-art products from paper, copiers, typewriters, computers and software, to telephone and communication systems.

In 1985, Barnaby Printing partnered with Resource Bank. "They had the confidence in us that some other banks didn't. They saw our vision and believed in us. Resource has been supportive from the beginning. They are always there for us, keeping us alive during the transitional periods, but also believing that what we were doing was the wave of the future," said Paul Sr.

Although a lot has changed over the years for Barnaby Printing, there are certain aspects that will never change. "Our customer service and customer loyalty have always been a priority," said Steve. "If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be here today. It's important for us as a family business to make every customer feel like they are the most important customer, and we strive to do that every day."

