

INK IN HIS VEINS

Former editor still rolls with letterpress print projects

By CHARLIE BIER
cbier@hcnonline.com

Kuyk Logan doesn't miss newspapering.

Not much, anyway.

But don't check that fact with the retired Houston Post managing editor.

Just ask his 8 x 12 Chandler & Price letterpress printer. The model's been turning out stories since 1902.

"It's over 100 years old, but it prints beautifully," Logan said of the press, which along with four others, including an 1889 Pearl, sits in his Grogan's Mill garage workshop. Smelling of kerosene, walls papered with historically-significant newspaper fronts, the snug space is crammed with ink, tools and accessories used for printing before these "things called the computer came in," Logan said.

The workshop - tabbed Prints Charming Ink - also houses thousands of pieces of lead and wooden type, with characters and letters representing 200 fonts.

"I have a lot of fun out here, setting type and sorting type," Logan said.

Acquired through antique shops, flea markets and dealers, he laughs



Photo by COLTER RAY

"It's over 100 years old, but it prints beautifully," Logan said of his Chandler & Price letter press, which along with four others, including an 1889 Pearl, sits in his Grogan's Mill garage workshop.

about owning more stuff than he knows what to do with.

"The problem is I keep adding on," Logan said. "Some people collect stamps, some people collect baseballs. I collect printing (supplies)."

Adding to Logan's fun, there's always the odd printing job, say rolling out a stack of business cards

for a family member. Or, he might crank up the press to print a batch of wedding invitations for a close friend.

"I'm out (in the workshop) about once a week, sometimes more often. And in the Christmas season, I'm out there a lot, printing cards and stationary," he said.

Still, there are limits to Logan's

love for the craft, which is the process of printing from an inked, raised surface, according to Meriam Webster's dictionary.

After a long career in communications, teaching and journalism, including his 1969-1983 run at the Houston Post, Logan hangs his shingle out selectively.

"I have a lot of people who call to

have something printed, and I have to politely turn them down," he said.

For one thing, the labor-intensive jobs can be time consuming. Depending on size and complexity, they can take anywhere from several hours to all day.

No, Logan prints for reasons oth-

See LOGAN, Page 14A

LOGAN

Continued from Page 1A

er than profit.

"On days when it's rainy I like being in (the workshop) best," he said.

For Logan, the printing bug bit in 1944, when the 11-year-old ordered his first hand press from a Johnson and Smith catalogue.

"Back when I was a kid, you could go to the dime store and buy a little tiny metal press with rubber type - you still see some at antique shows - but that wasn't cutting it. I needed a bigger press," he said. "They had one in (the catalogue) for \$15. I sent them the money, and they sent me the press. This was right in the middle of World War II. I started learning how to set type and run a little press. It just kind of grew. It's an infectious hobby."

Letterpress printing may be enjoying a bit of a resurgence, accord-



Photo by COLTER RAY

ing to Logan.

He said he's been reading about increasing demands for letterpress-printed pieces, prized for the distinctive stamp.

Kuyk Logan's Chandler & Smith letterpress has been rolling since 1902.

"People want letterpress printing because there's a different quality. The type has a crunch to it because the type actually bites into the paper," Logan said.

GRAFFITI

Continued from Page 1A

the house," Poff said.

The Fox Run Property Owners Association pressed the charges, she said.

She is hopeful Badgley's charge is dropped to a misdemeanor because the paint was removed from the fence and building by a power washer, and it just needs a bit of paint.

"It was ... all up and down the main boulevard on Fox Run, Poff said. "My son volunteered to clean it off, and they told him no."

Charges regarding graffiti are based on repair estimates collected by law enforcement, Sclider said. Deputies call several companies to

make a spray painted area look as it did before.

"It's not just the power washing; you have to be able to match the paint," Sclider said. "We had a house in The Woodlands with a painted driveway that was egged, and it was the same type of incident. We had to go ask for a couple estimates for power-washing and painting."

The repair estimates determine the charges a person can face, he said. Graffiti is criminal mischief, a Class C misdemeanor if the damage is less than \$50, according to the Texas Penal Code. If the damage is at least \$50 but less than \$500, the charge is a Class B misdemeanor. And, if the damage

\$1,500, it is a Class A misdemeanor.

A state jail felony charge means the estimated damage is at least \$1,500 but less than \$20,000.

While Sclider doesn't believe graffiti is any more of a problem now than in recent years, he said the Sheriff's Office takes property damage seriously.

Whether Badgley has learned anything from this is still up in the air, his mother said.

"As of this point, I don't think he's learned anything from it," Poff said. "I don't think it's done anything for him. We're not doing any more spray painting. ... I wish it would have woke him up spending three days in jail, but it hasn't. I hope



Looking to SPRUCE UP YOUR RESUME

Give it a little punch that will open doors to new opportunities!

In a short amount of time you can earn a certificate to marketable skills in:

- accounting
- professional bookkeeping
- office as