



The Journal Printing Company machines for distributing books and newspapers have come to an end of production, but the building has been restored to demonstrate the history of its walls.

Journal building full of history

BY SHANNON WALTER
Staff Reporter

Whirring machines and yelling voices once filled the air of the Journal Printing Building downtown, but are now replaced with happy voices at wedding receptions, strumming guitars at concerts and anxious faces at sorority rush events in the Wooden Nickel Banquet Hall.

William Kernode, editor of the "Weekly Kirksville Journal," started the Journal Printing Company in 1865. This was the first republican paper in the county, according to the "History of Adair County" by Eugene M. Violette.

Samuel Pickler bought the paper in 1873. He made several changes to the name, but the morals and political position of the paper remained the same. He lacked a building until 1885 when it moved to the south side of The Square where Gardner-Collier Jewelry Store is now. A fire ravaged the building in 1890, destroying all of the equipment and files, according to Violette.

Francis Link officially formed the Journal Printing Company in 1897 to print books and newspapers instead of putting out its own newspaper. The building at 119 S. Elson St. was erected in 1905, according to the 1987 Historic Inventory of Kirksville.

Francis maintained the position of publisher until he passed it to his son Charles in 1922, who passed the company to his son Robert in 1940, who was publisher until 1979, according to the 1987 Historic Inventory of Kirksville.

The Journal Printing Company closed its doors in 1984 after running for 119 years. It still remains standing with the company name still on the façade.

Robert Link's daughter Mary Giovannini said she spent quite a bit of time at the Journal Printing Company as a child when her father was the publisher.

"I grew up going to work at the Journal Printing Company,"

she said. "I would walk from the Greenwood School downtown all by myself. Times were very different then. We wouldn't think of letting kids do that now, but it was very safe at that time."

Giovannini left Kirksville for college and returned, and after getting married, worked at the journal for about five years.

Giovannini usually worked as the bookkeeper or the secretary. She said she knew all the employees and fondly remembers working in the bustling building.

"The people that worked there had all worked so long they were pretty much family," she said. "They took care of each other."

The Journal Printing Company was very proud of the equipment within the building, which included Miehle and Cottrell book presses and a Lanston Monotype type-setting and casting machine. Many people suspected that the stockholders had to sell all their stocks to buy the equipment, but it paid off, according to the History of Adair County.

"There was a great big folding machine that I think did 16 folds," Giovannini said. "I just loved to watch to it work. It had arms and mechanisms, and I couldn't even begin to describe it."

The company was printing four monthly publications for ATSU (then named the American School of Osteopathy) and a weekly publication for Truman (then named the North Missouri Normal School) in 1910. It was also printing several books, according to the "History of Adair County."

"We all had a lot of pride in the Journal Printing Company," Giovannini said. "They put out a very, very good product. Of course, forget about computers, and the printing business was very different. It was quite a production."

Violette attributes the success of the Journal Printing Company to Francis Link. "He began to learn the trade in 1868 ... Since that

time he had some connection with the paper [until 1922]."

The building also was home to the Southwestern Bell operators on the second level, which is now split into apartments, Giovannini said.

"When I was a little girl, their phone number was number 5," she said. "There was no prefix. Of course that was pretty easy to remember." Dan Vogt said he purchased the Journal Printing Building in 1992 with no ideas about what to do with it. He also owns the Wooden Nickel, the Round Barn, a tattoo shop and his office, and also the barbershop next door to the Printing Building. He knew the city was about to condemn it for its structural problems.

"We tore the roof off, modernized the apartments and we had an exercise place there for a little while until making it into the banquet hall," Vogt said. "I didn't want the building to be torn down, and I decided to fix it up. Then the banquet hall idea came later."

He ran into only a few problems during renovations. "One time the pipes broke, and we had to kayak through the basement to turn the water off," he said. "The building was not built very well structurally. So we had to jack up the front of the building."

He said it was important to embrace the history. Vogt has photographs of the building adorning the exposed brick walls to showcase the company's legacy.

Katie Cagle, Vogt's assistant at the Wooden Nickel, handles scheduling of reservations for the banquet hall and runs the events in the building.

"We probably have at least two or three weekends booked up in every month," Cagle said. "Sometimes it's very hectic, but the events are always fun."

Historical Places

Fire chief dedicates life to fighting blazes

BY HANNAH DOUGLAS
Staff Reporter

Humble heroism is rare to find, but in Kirksville, heroes are all around us.

Fire chief Randy Behrans of the Kirksville Fire Department said he does not consider himself to be a hero, but those who know Behrans.

"I think we're all heroes," Behrans said of his coworkers. "We've all been on the front end of that nozzle and had to put out that fire."

Behrans said the fire service is not a one-man-hero type job, but like any career, it is a learning experience that requires training.

"It was just a job opening, and I applied for it," Behrans said. "I liked it when I got hired, so I stayed."

He said the Kirksville Fire Department makes more than 1,000 runs in response to calls each year, mainly to put out fires, but also for duties such as rescues or inspections.

"It's just been rewarding be-

ing able to take care of a lot of people in a lot of different situations," he said.

When the station receives a call from someone, Behrans said he understands that the predicament could be a person's worst nightmare.

"It might not be your best day, but when we take care of your problem it's a good day for us," he said.

Behrans said he has noticed how everyone in Kirksville and surrounding communities knows about him, because he has been in the media often in his five years as fire chief.

"It's just part of the territory," Behrans said, expressing that he would like to be able to remember the names of the people who know him.

During the 28 years he served as a firefighter, Behrans' shifts at the station were 24 hours on duty and 48 hours off. He had another job during his days off in the family construction business, a lifestyle choice to which he had to adapt.



Amy Vicars/Index

On his days off, Fire Chief Randy Behrans helps run a family construction business.

Joe Schilling, captain of the Kirksville Police Department, who has known Behrans for 18 years, said Behrans' skills in construction were handy to have around when they were in the service together as firefighters.

"Randy is one of those guys you can always rely on," he said. "When a call came in, you knew where he would be."

He said Behrans' background of fighting fires and

aggressive fire attack helps to get the job done.

"Nobody can tear a ceiling down like he can," Schilling said, stating that those working with Behrans would always want him to help with cleanup.

Schilling said camaraderie in fire service is essential.

"You really get into a close-knit [group] with these guys, because you have to trust one another," he said. "They become as close as brothers, or even closer."

hometown Heroes!

Schilling said he was on the A-shift with Behrans and would spend plenty of time bonding.

Many times after a shift was done, Schilling said Behrans would find a recliner to sit in and read, and that's when fellow firefighters would try to make noise nearby to disturb Behrans, just to get under his skin.

He said keeping a light-hearted work environment is how they maintain that edge.

"You work together and have good time[s], but know that when those alarms go off, you've got to rely on each other to get the job done," he said.

Schilling said he still has that bond with Behrans as they both have moved up in rank.

"He stays open, where you can always come in and talk to him," he said. "We still bounce

ideas off of each other."

Mari Macomber, city manager of Kirksville, said she has been Behrans' supervisor since 2003.

Macomber said Behrans is a good ambassador and a supportive team player who represents the city well.

"He listens, he's flexible," she said. "He has the best interests of the city at heart."

Macomber, who sees Behrans at weekly meetings, said he puts forth the effort and is a dedicated, approachable employee who makes sure they follow through with their goals.

"That's one thing you'll learn about Randy," she said. "He's one of the most helpful people I've ever met. I think that's amazing."

Plug into free CHECKING with FREE monthly iTunes® DOWNLOADS

PLUS, 10 FREE DOWNLOADS JUST FOR SIGNING UP.*

UNLIMITED NATIONWIDE ATM FEE REFUNDS and NO MINIMUM BALANCE.



Learn more at www.mabanktunes.com

Monthly Qualifications: Make 15 debit card purchases • Access online banking • Receive e-statements

*Earn iTunes® download refunds up to \$9.90 with initial account opening regardless of qualifications. Earn up to \$4.95 in iTunes® download refunds each cycle the minimum qualifications are met. 5 and 10 downloads are based on \$0.99 per download (excluding taxes). Sales taxes may apply potentially reducing the number of downloads reimbursed. If you do not meet the qualifications per cycle, your account will still function as a free checking account; however, it will not receive ATM refunds or iTunes® refunds for that time period. No minimum balance required, however, you must deposit a minimum of \$50 to open this account. Available to personal accounts only. A \$29.00 NSF/OD charge will be charged for each overdraft created by checks, in person or ATM withdrawals, or by other electronic means as applicable. iTunes® must be purchased with your debit card associated with your REAL Tuning account. iTunes® is a trademark of Apple, Inc. The program is not endorsed by iTunes® or Apple® nor is there any actual or implied joint venture, partnership or relationship of any kind between the Bank and Apple®/iTunes®.

