

Keeping in touch...

Lonnie R. Hunt - News Editor

THANKS TO EVERYONE

Lots of thanks are due to lots of people this week. Through the paper this week, you'll find some stories and photographs of how things used to be. This is in recognition of the Courier's 90th year in business. The very first Courier rolled off the presses on Jan. 31, 1890. Lots of things have happened since then, and I guess that the Courier is one of the few institutions that has survived everything. Hope you enjoy the special pictures and stories this week.

I don't think I can remember everyone that contributed something for this week's special paper, so I'll just try to remember a few that went out of their way to be helpful.

Barker Tunstall and Charles Arnold provided several pictures that are printed in Section B. (Barker Tunstall also put up with a late-night phone call from me.)

Cyndy Floyd went out of her way to bring us a copy of the Courier from 1898. It belonged to her husband Carl's grandmother, Mary Kate Snowden of Grapeland. Thanks to all three of those. We have all the old papers (back to 1890) on microfilm at the Crockett Public Library, but it's hard to find the original copies.

Mrs. Willie Jackson brought in a big envelope full of old clippings that I really enjoyed going through. Among other things, I learned about the man from Alto that advertised for a wife (and got one) in the Courier classified section.

Eliza Bishop was more help than you could imagine. But then if you know her I guess you can imagine how much help she was. I don't think anybody living has spent more time than she has researching the history of Houston County. She got a lot of pictures and stories together.

Oh, and I can't forget Melba Irvin, the wife of Crockett Police Chief Les Irvin. She made us the best cake I have ever seen or eaten. (It was all gone by the end of the day, Melba.) Anybody else out there that wants to make something delicious for us, well...

And a special thanks, too, to Doug Wyman for the old picture on page one. It's the oldest picture of the Courier office that I have run across. Mr. Robbins, sitting in the left of the picture, was Doug's uncle. The man at far right I'm sure most of you recognized as W. W. Aiken. But we couldn't figure out who the man in the middle was.

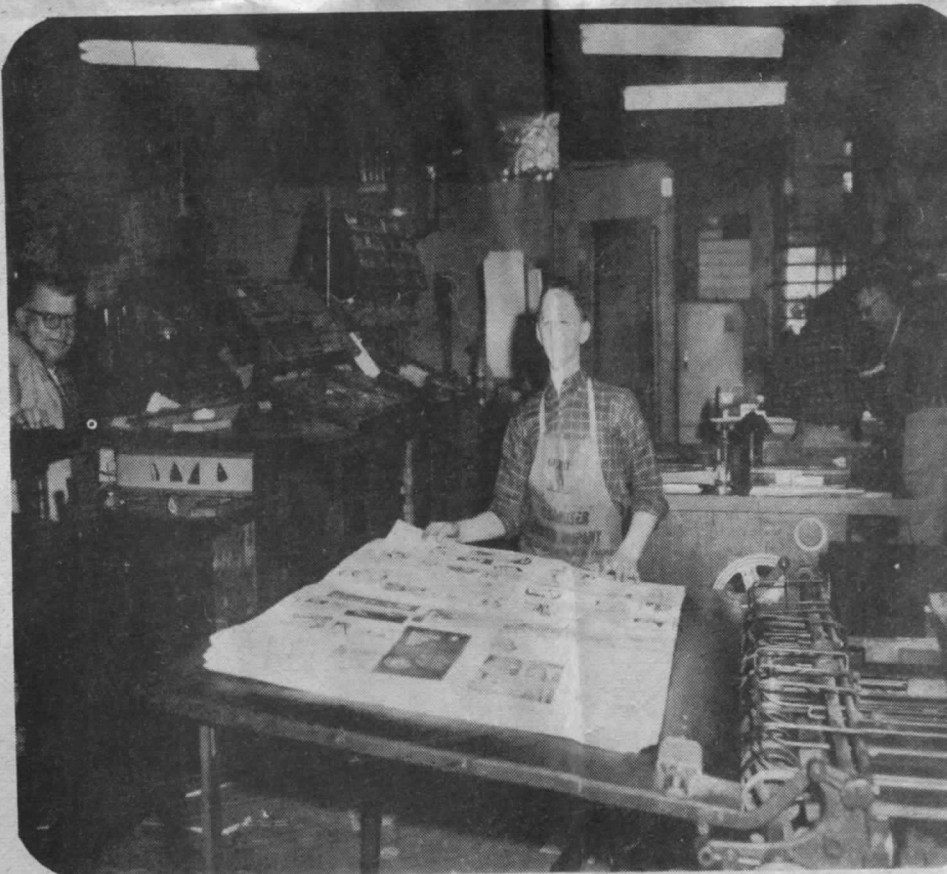
TELEVISION NEWSCASTER

Some of you get KBTX-TV out of Bryan see a lot of Debbie Ramsey of Crockett. I understand she is a newscaster for the station. The other night I just happened to be watching another ABC station when the local news came on. They had a filmed report by Debbie about a gift to the Texas A&M Library. The report was picked up by ABC news and made available to all its stations across the country. That's quite an accomplishment. Lots of other television news people would like to have had the national exposure.

COUNTING IT DOWN

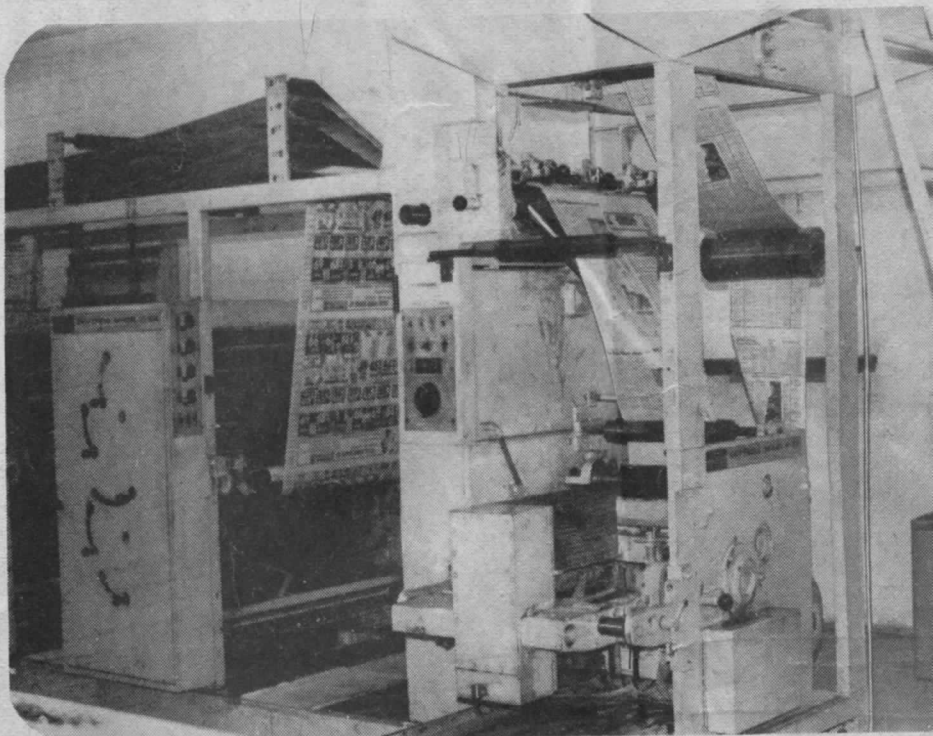
I had to tell you about this sign in the Crockett Bulldogs' dressing room at the CHS Gym. It's been up since the beginning of zone play. It reads something like this:

- '1 win from a 20-win season
- 3 wins from a zone championship



IT'S CHANGED A LITTLE

NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION has undergone many changes since the first Courier was published 90 years ago. Bobby Welch, son of Billy Welch and the late T.J. Welch, former Courier co-owner feeds sheets of printed newspaper into a folding machine (above) in photo taken during the late 1950's. Today, the Courier is printed on an offset printing press (below) which prints and folds 16,000 papers per hour.



The Hickory Creek



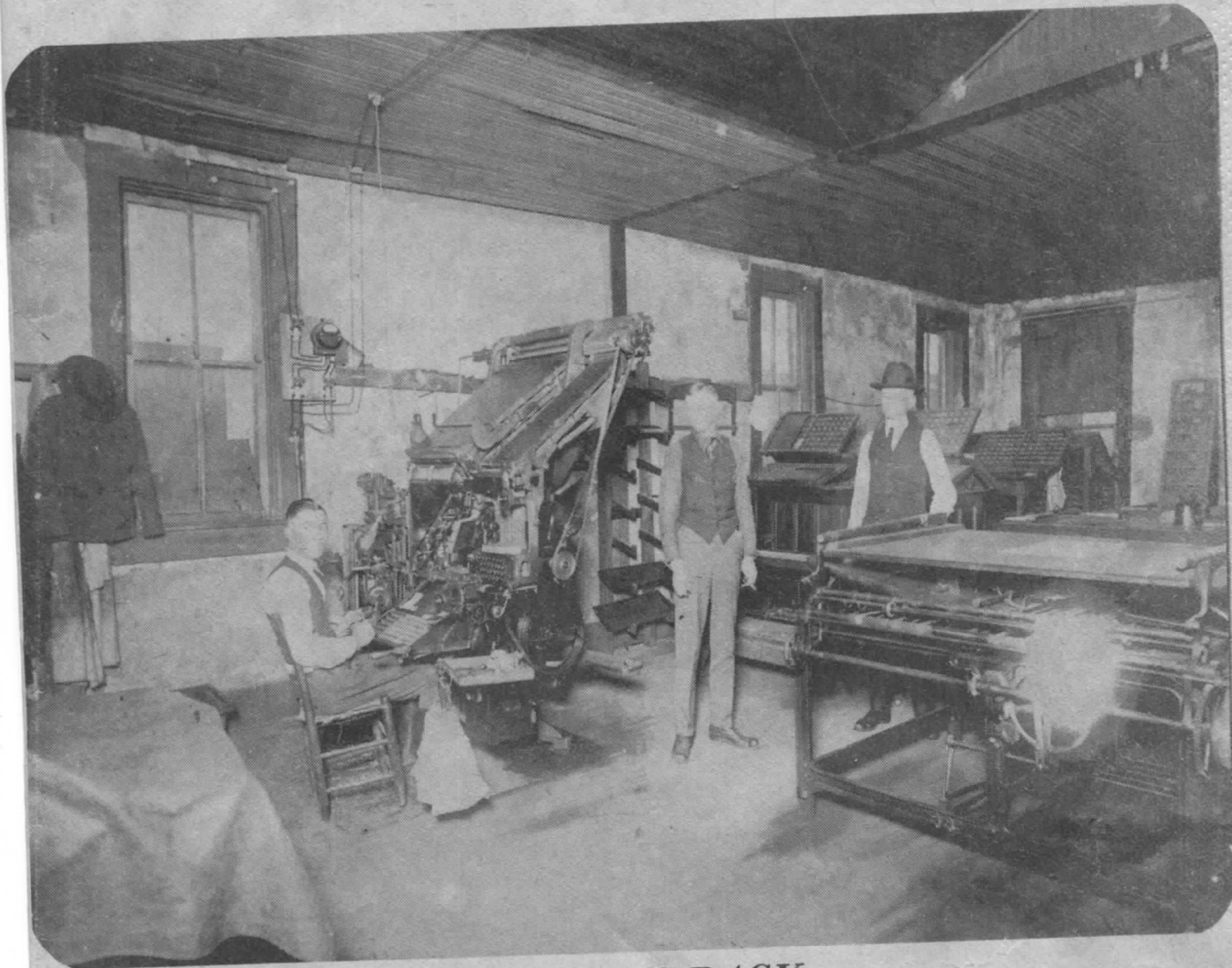
County Courier



Sam Houston

Thursday, Feb. 1, 1979

Price 20 Cents



LOOKING BACK

THE OLD CROCKETT COURIER OFFICE was quite a bit different from the office of today. This picture, believed to have been taken in the early 1930's, shows Dawson Robbins at left, an unidentified man in the center, and W. W. Aiken at right. Aiken published the Courier for some 60 years. Robbins was the county

clerk of Houston County for a number of years. The first Courier was published Jan. 31, 1890. Lots of changes in the county and the paper have occurred since then. See more special stories and photos inside.

Assault charges filed

A Crockett man was arrested early Sunday morning charged with aggravated assault on a police officer. The assault stemmed from a reported family disturbance at

Johnson Grass Farm explained a note: The Hickory Creek Philosopher on his

the city during the last week. Three persons reportedly received minor injuries Saturday in an accident at Fourth and

Cleta McElyea Spence of Route 3, Crockett was injured Tuesday morning in a one-car accident on S. Fourth Street in front of Brookshire Brothers Supermarket. The investigating