

# Book printer thrives despite Internet age

By **SUE MAYFIELD GEIGER**  
Correspondent

It's no secret that today's technology has put a mighty dent in the book publishing industry. With the ever-growing influence of the Internet and the invention of the Kindle and its successors, book store chains are struggling to survive, and publishers are racing to keep up with all the plot twists in a digital age.

Yet, in League City, one printer of books has more business than it can handle.

America's Press, 551 state Highway 96, is a father-and-son enterprise owned by Bill and Joel Turner.

With seven employees and three Heidelberg digital printers among others,

the independent printer is able to keep paper and ink flowing and provide quick turnaround for its customers. About 90 percent of the firm's business is printing books — paperback and hardback. America's Press also does jobs for other printing establishments that aren't geared toward books.

Its clientele of book authors — there's more than 200 — has America's Press shipping from Los Angeles to Maine.

More than 30 of those authors live in Galveston County or the Clear Lake area.

From fiction to cookbooks, America's Press has developed a niche for independent authors. It also provides resources to authors to ease the tedious task of getting their books in final form.

"We recommend starting with small



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News

Joel Turner checks page proofs on the color printer at Americas Press in League City that he owns with his father, Bill Turner.

runs because we want to help the author have a conservative business model, plus it's easier and more economical to make subsequent changes," Joel said.

Before digital printing, most authors were required to print about 5,000 books, an amount that can be expensive for some.

With digital printing, independent authors can print from 50 to 250 books. Just 10 years ago that was impossible.

"We don't do as much design as we do layout," said Joel, who is willing to work with authors on some aspects of design if they provide materials. "What makes our job most interesting is that we get to meet the authors."

America's Press prints about 5,000 books a week, with print runs of mainly paperbacks, Bill Turner said.

"But we do our fair share of hardbacks as well," he said.

The books end up in Barnes & Noble and other national bookstores as well as on the bookshelves of avid readers.

"A short run gives you something to sell to a large publisher," Joel said. "If you can bring a large publisher a business model that works, you will pique their interest."

There was a time large publishing houses didn't think much of independent

publishers, Bill said.

"But that has changed," he said. "They now realize that helping us is a means for them to find new writers and new books."

Local writer Mary Margaret Carlisle said that having her book published locally as opposed to nationally gave her an opportunity to get to know the printer, tour the shop, take a look at example books and see the quality of printing.

"You not only have the advantage of having access to a proof quickly, but also there are no shipping fees," said Carlisle, author of "It's Always About The Rain."

Editor Nancy Daly graduated from Ursuline Academy in Galveston just three months before Hurricane Carla destroyed the school in 1961.

"Sister Elizabeth Webster wrote an account of their struggles during the storm," said Daly who kept a copy of those notes. "I was in the last class to graduate from the old building and decided it was time to get Sister Elizabeth's dramatic account into public form."

You can read about the last days of Ursuline in "A Light Went Out."

For author contact information, email America's Press at [info@americas-press.com](mailto:info@americas-press.com) or call 281-557-4300.

## Bookmarks

A few local America's Press authors:

"A Light Went Out: The Ursulines of Galveston in Hurricane Carla" by Sister Elizabeth Webster, edited by Nancy Daly

"Gibbons Street" by Sue Mayfield Geiger

"It's Always About The Rain" by Mary Margaret Carlisle

"Rough & Tumble Texas Political Combat" by Lloyd W. Criss Jr.

"The Garhole Bar" by Hardy Roper

"The President Looks Like Me" by Tanya Michelle

"Time Spent" by Sharon Goodwin

"For the Love of God" by Johnny Taylor

"Goodnight Mrs. Dinglewall! Sleep Tight!" by JoAn Watson Martin

