

Local pens new business

By MEGAN VEIT
Staff Writer

For a 43-year-old Wapakoneta man, he says his beginnings in calligraphy is really serendipitous.

Before receiving a calligraphy pen set in a work gift exchange "years and years ago," Larry Landt limited his artwork to ink drawing.

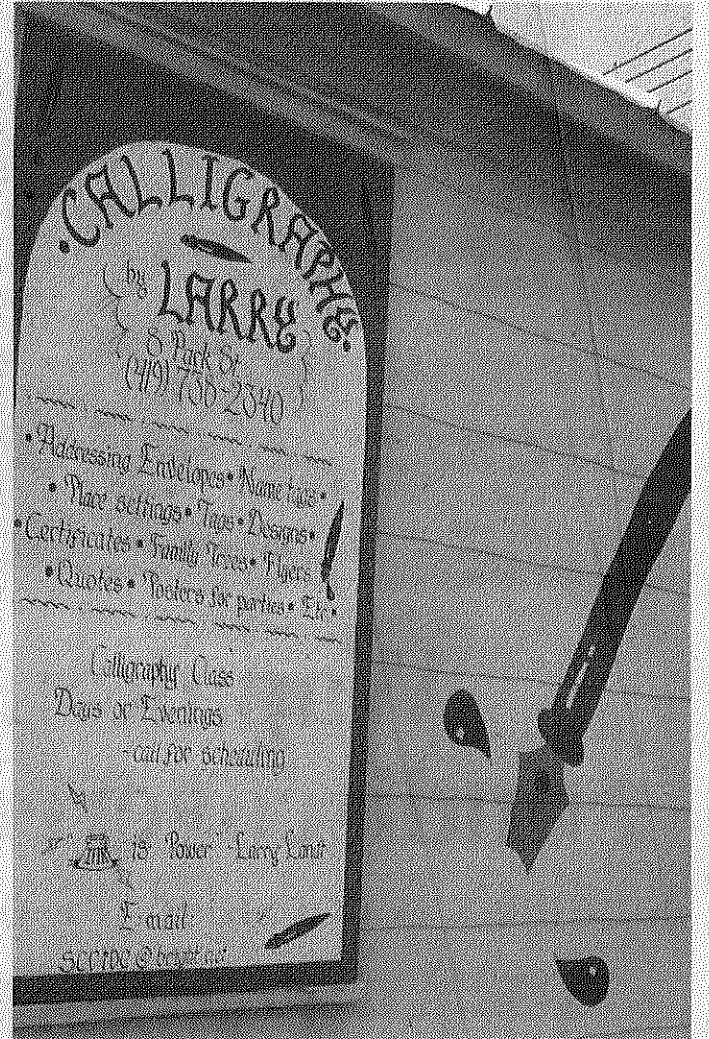
Upon receiving the calligraphy set, the artist started to teach himself calligraphy, using books as a reference and as a source for new ideas.

"If a book has something I haven't seen before, I'll pick it up," Landt said.

Landt, who began receiving requests from friends and family for calligraphy, decided to establish "Calligraphy by Larry." The business opened on Park Street in 2000.

"[The calligraphy] grew into a business on its own," Landt said of the increased demands.

The business remained a full-time operation until two years ago when he



Staff photo/ Kristin Reichardt

Larry Landt's business, Calligraphy by Larry, opened in 2000 after Landt began experimenting with a calligraphy set he received in a work gift exchange.

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shaped mints with chocolate.

They make the mints themselves using a recipe of their mother's, Marjorie Watt.

"Our mother used to make wedding mints," Holtkamp said, "and she passed away the year before we opened and we decided to use her recipe."

Another spe-

drizzled cialty

Take a taste:

The Chocolate Strawberry Cafe is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday; and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

recipe Holtkamp said is popular is the cafe's Raspberry Cream Pie.

But good food isn't the only thing waiting for visitors when they visit, Holtkamp said.

The antique house at the intersection of state routes 219 and 29 that houses the cafe is filled with rooms of col-

lectibles available for purchase named things like Ivy Garden and the Rose Arbor and the even the bathrooms are themed.

The upstairs bath is the Potting Shed and downstairs, the men's bathroom has a John Deere theme while the other bathrooms depicts flowers.

The cafe serves soups, salads, sandwiches to go with their pie.

They also have lunch specials through the week.

The Bicycle Museum of America, located in New Bremen, features more than 5,000 pieces of bicycle memorabilia and 200 bikes, dating from 1816 to the present.

Grand Lake-St. Marys State Park is Ohio's largest inland lake at 15,000 acres. It was constructed between 1837 and 1841 to serve as a federal reservoir for the Miami-Erie Canal System.

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Knitting an art

Local knit hobby into business

By MEGAN VEIT
Staff Writer

Hobby which began something to pass time boating excursions her newly retired and has expanded into business and Chris McClintock- of the one of a kind purses she knits. McClintock learned the from her sister-in-law, no longer makes the evening bags.

McClintock spent the six years on various trips along the United States waterways, extending down to the Gulf of Mexico with her husband, Steve McClintock. Wapakoneta Fire Chief Steve McClintock's trip into port opened the possibility to use her beading hobby.

"Larger cities have better stores," the woman said in reference to her cross-country travels.

Each purse, on average ranging between 3 and 4 inches in diameter, takes two weeks of work to complete. The bags are made with beads and lined and given a draw strings pattern cording.

A princess bag, one McClintock regards as the most popular style, takes one to two hanks of yarn. Each of these purses consists of 12 beads, while each holds nearly 300 beads. With these intricate patterns, McClintock spent up to two weeks working on her purses.

"My husband insisted I keep that one," McClintock said. The black purse is covered in a floral design from a pattern that McClintock learned to graph paper by bead.

"I usually work on two projects at a time," McClintock said.

She is currently working on three wedding purses for family members, each in varying stages of completion. By going on multiple projects in the evening, McClintock said she keeps



Staff photos/ Megan Veit
Chris McClintock began beading knit purses to keep her occupied while she traveled with her husband, former Wapakoneta Fire Chief Steve McClintock.

herself from becoming exhausted with any of them.

Some are found in her library of pattern books, while others are her own design. McClintock says she tries not to repeat color combinations, making each bag unique.

"The beads she works with vary in size and age."

McClintock's work with antique beads has taught her that sizing today is much more consistent; in her opinion.

"Beads are made better today," McClintock said.

McClintock also experimented in different ways to form the purses, trying crocheting for a more rounded look. However, McClintock prefers the tight structure of the knitted bags.

Her bags also include

small bags on longer straps, which she calls fairy bags. She found that these are popular among younger girls.

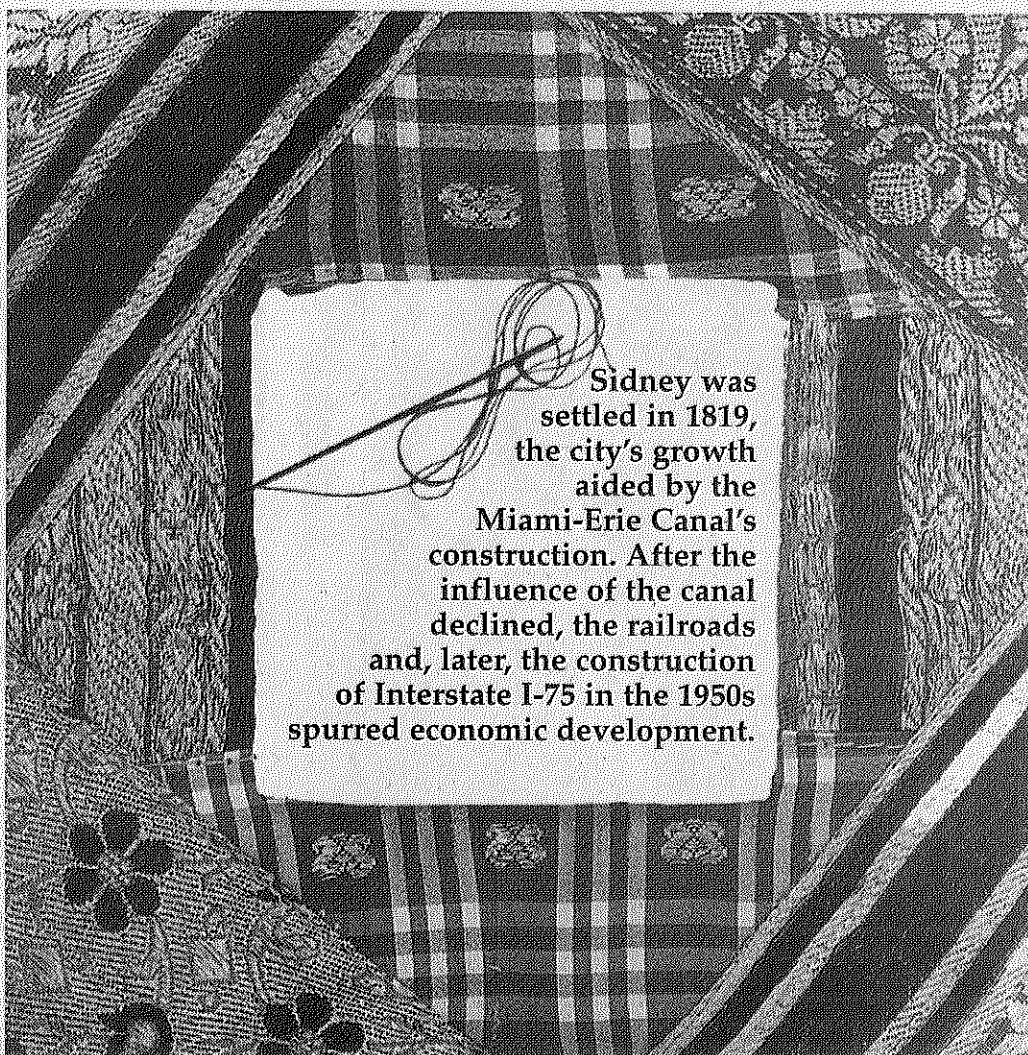
"They can fit a few quarters inside," McClintock said.

McClintock started creating the bags when she found she had small stores of beads and cotton curl thread left over from larger projects that were just enough to make these miniature purses.

McClintock uses the work to "keep her hands busy."

"It's relaxing," McClintock said. "It's my creative outlet."

To express her creativity freely, she prefers to sell bags she has already completed instead of taking orders, as family members have suggested.



Sidney was settled in 1819, the city's growth aided by the Miami-Erie Canal's construction. After the influence of the canal declined, the railroads and, later, the construction of Interstate I-75 in the 1950s spurred economic development.

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decided to change his hours of operation.

Calligraphy by Larry is now open by appointment during the summer. When Landt is not in the office, he can be found working in Wapakoneta City Schools as a part-time custodian.

"They're the best employer I've ever had," said Landt.

He uses his time off to "relax and do a little drawing, socializing" at Lucky Steer.

Most of Landt's business consists of work done for weddings.

"I do the outside and inside envelopes ...," Landt said. "They're usually more formal, done in black ink."

Landt also creates place cards, registers and poster-sized signs for weddings and parties in the area.

Landt utilizes all types of calligraphy, but he said nearly 90 percent of his orders are for the Italic styling.

"Gothic is a lot more formal when it comes to strokes," Landt said.

Landt said he feels this limits the artist's creati-

ty, which he enjoys challenging himself through freestyle calligraphy.

"I'm experimenting with them," Landt said.

He also uses three types of mediums including felt tip pens, steel tips and pens requiring ink wells. While the steel tips last forever, Landt said the life of felt tips varies.

"Some last a long time and some don't," he said, noting he prefers felt tips to ink wells.

But Landt's steel tip pens over all, pointing to its "time saving ability and fluid motion."

"I just enjoy art in general," Landt said.

He said he hopes to expand outside of calligraphy and drawing to painting. Landt took classes in high school, but he developed his own style of art which he describes as a "modern,

fantasy" style.

The artist also creates cartoons with a sarcastic and satirical flame.

"The cartoons are for my own enjoyment," Landt said.

One example hangs in his office, a caricature resembling himself with a caption reading "This job would be great if I weren't the boss."

The cartoon hangs among various quotes Landt said he finds inspirational.

"Words are powerful. Ideas are great," Landt said of the phrases surrounding his work space.

Then Landt pointed to a sign hanging on the south wall as his favorite. The poster, which Landt created, reads, "True contentment is enjoying what you have."

“
True contentment is enjoying what you have.
”

— Larry Landt

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