

# Ackley World Journal

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## INK, OIL & LEAD

New owner continues  
with Daggs' passion  
for presses



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The letterpress community is small. Everyone knows who has the equipment and everyone knows who holds a passion for the art. So, of course, Jay Endress of Peru, Ill., knew about Jim Daggs' massive collection of letter presses, Ludlow presses, Linotype machines, Heidelberg "Windmill" presses and printing equipment. And he knew of Daggs' tremendous reputation and willingness to share his knowledge with others.

When Endress learned of Jim's passing a year ago, he knew he had to reach out to Pat Daggs, Jim's wife. The phone call eventually led to a visit to Daggs' Ackley print warehouse and moved swiftly to Endress' purchase of the warehouse and the extraordinary collection.

### Awkward beginnings

"The initial call was awkward, but Pat was exceptionally kind and talked with me about Jim's love and his wonderful collection," Endress began. He quickly made the decision to visit the print warehouse with his friend of 20 years, Tim Fay.

Fay, also a friend of Jim's, had been in prior contact with Pat and was able to purchase a few of the specific families of fonts that Jim had collected over the years. Endress' mission was to reflect on what Jim had amassed.

"When you walk through those doors and actually see the collection, it's overwhelming. It left me speechless," Endress said. "I noticed the smell - ink, oil, and lead . . . I've not experienced that scent as strong in any other location. This was a working facility. A working print operation. You don't get that scent in any other way."

Endress couldn't contain his excitement and enthusiasm. He and Tim talked the entire way home. What would become of the equipment? It must be preserved, saved, and, more importantly, kept where it's at. The atmosphere and the passion that exists in the building cannot be duplicated. Their conclusion: the collection should be preserved, and it must remain in its current location in Ackley.

### A passion rekindled

Endress' visit, coupled with his conversation with Pat, had re-ignited a passion that had waned.

"Everything began snowballing," said Endress.

And a long story short, Endress acquired the presses and the building.

### The best of the best

Enter Dave Seat, one of the last individuals with the knowledge to fix the

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Jay Endress replaces a font tray on the press, a lesson provided by his friends and nationally known experts Mike Herbert and Dave Seat.