

'Boy Wonders' in printing

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The Randolph Ledger

You might call Tony Johnson and Tim Nelson boy wonders of the business world.

Actually, at the ripe old ages of just-turned-22, they're not boys any more. But the two were just 19 when they went into business, acquiring the PIP Printing franchise in Asheboro.

During the summer, Johnson and Nelson became award-winning businessmen. At the PIP national convention in Nashville over the Fourth of July, they received an award for the highest percentage of growth of all PIP franchises in the Southeast region, which stretches from North Carolina south to Florida and west to Texas.

To that award they added another for four-color process in the category of all franchises 2 years old and under. Their award-winning entry was a business card for the Comfort Zone.

"We were real excited," said Johnson, who says he and Nelson are the youngest owners ever in the franchise. "We had no idea we'd win any type of award."

Johnson and Nelson bought the

PIP franchise at a good price from the previous owners because, Johnson says, "the store was doing poorly." The two assumed all the company's loans and set out to succeed in business.

The pair came to the business from different routes. Nelson received an A.A. degree in Printing Technology from Chowan College in Mufreesboro. Johnson, who also attended Chowan, had worked for three years at a PIP franchise in Burlington, the hometown of both. At the time he left, Johnson had been production manager for a year.

The partners bought the shop three weeks before Nelson graduated from college.

For six months or so they commuted to Asheboro from Burlington. "We'd sleep in the back on

the floor," says Johnson. "When we could not stand it, we'd go home and take a shower, spend the night and come back." When they couldn't take traveling between home and office any more, they rented a place in Randleman for a year. Last December the two eliminated the drive altogether by buying a house in Asheboro.

Johnson and Nelson have made a lot of changes in the printing shop since they took over. They have added a second copier, laminating equipment, a bookbinding machine, and electric collators. "We have some of the most sophisticated equipment around," says Johnson.

The company has also added a two-color press and a fax service. "We're going to try to offer 24-hour turnaround time," Johnson says.

The franchise's territory covers all of Randolph County.

The young owners think of their business as filling a need between quick printers and commercial printers. "We can handle almost any business," Johnson says. "Word of mouth helps us out a lot. We hope that any time someone needs something quick, PIP comes to mind."

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Order of Lux et Veritas Inductees

These seven faculty and staff members were recently inducted into the Order of Lux et Veritas to join 18 charter members inducted last year. Each has provided 25 years of service to the college, and each received a Chowan watch and certificate of induction. Those recognized included: (from left) Dr. R. Hargus Taylor, chaplain; Herman W. Gatewood, chairman,

Department of Graphic Communications; Stephen H. Davenport, assistant to the director of physical plant; Philmore L. Boone, chief groundskeeper; Robert W. Brown, professor of music; Carl H. Simmons, professor of mathematics; and Charles L. Paul, professor of history and geography.