

## Local couple celebrates 30 years in business



By **Brittany Wilson**

Posted Oct 19, 2018 at 12:01 AM



Local couple Roy and Rita Carroll had a dream of starting their own locksmith business, and through much hardship and perseverance they opened a shop in Bastrop which, on Friday, October 19, celebrates 30 years of being open.

The Carrolls first lived in Baton Rouge where Roy apprenticed as a locksmith under his brother. The couple eventually decided they wanted to start their own business and made plans to locate in Bastrop as Rita grew up there and wanted to return. "My brother gave us a few pieces of equipment, and we found a building we could afford," Roy said. "We only had about \$500 at the time."

They named their business ABC Locksmith, and among other things the shop makes keys, repairs locks, sells doorknobs and deadbolts.

Slowly the business grew, helped by the Carroll's perseverance. Rita learned the business too as her husband's apprentice, and working together they were determined to succeed.

"I made up these little hand-written cards and took them around to every business in Bastrop to introduce myself to everyone," Roy said.

They did face challenges early on and finding a place to live was one of them. They first lived at Rita's fathers, but eventually Roy set to work building a wall to divide the shop into their business and living quarters. The home consisted of a bed and a washtub from Feed and Seed. He used a heating element for warm water. They made due with what they had.

"We used an old coke machine for a refrigerator," Roy noted.

The Carrolls have been at several locations throughout the years and today they are at 410 Garfield Street. Their shop is located in a small portable building near the trailer they call home today.

"It may not be much but we own it, and the trailer and shop are all paid for," Roy declared.

The Carrolls seem very proud of their accomplishments and aim to continue their hard work. They appear happy with how far they've come.

"We started out with practically nothing," Roy quipped. "People said we needed at least three to five thousand to start off and we did it with \$500."

The Carrolls have come a long way from where they started and hope to continue to persevere into the future.