

Hampton may yet come 'full circle'

By Jeff Counts
staff writer

Will William Hampton come full circle?
The Bloomfield Hills resident has been a state representative and circuit court judge, returning to the practice of law as a partner in one of the area's fastest growing legal firms.

Kohl, Secrest, Wardle, Lynch, Clark and Hampton, located in Farmington Hills, serves as attorney for a number of area communities, including Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington and special counsel for Bingham Farms. They even represent the humble village of Goodrich. And the firm recently replaced the Brennan and Bibeau firm as the main counsel for West Bloomfield Township.

Although his law practice occupies most of his time, he said he thinks about politics "from time to time."
"A lot of the people who I served with in the Legislature are in Congress now," he said. "I've been ap-

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— William Hampton

proached several times to run if (William) Bloomfield steps down." Bloomfield, 65, a Republican, was re-elected in November to the 18th District seat. He has been in Congress since 1986.

Hampton said: "If the opportunity came up, it's something I'd really have to think about."

HAMPTON KEPT his hand in Republican politics this year, holding fund-raising events for George Bush and Pete Dawkins, the Michigan native and Army general turned stockbroker who ran for the U.S. Senate in New Jersey. Dawkins lost.

On the election of a Republican governor in Michigan, Hampton said

he doesn't see it happening.

"(John) Engler is being lined up, but unless something trips Blanchard, I don't see it," he said.

"If Bush is still popular that could help Engler," he said. "Engler ran Bush's campaign in Michigan, and he (Bush) could make an appearance that could help."

BUT WHILE POLITICS and municipal law may be Hampton's forte, he's also known for his work in defending Jay Kogan, the owner of Oakland Mall, who was charged with trying to strangle his wife with his belt and with hiring a contractor to kill her. "I'm proud that Kogan never spent a day behind bars," he said

the criminal charges stemmed from a divorce.

Kogan was charged with felonious assault in the alleged attempted strangulation of his estranged wife, incident to murder for the alleged attempt to arrange his wife's murder and larceny in a building. The charges were either reduced or dismissed.

Also, he handled the case of Karen and Robert Larsen of Bloomfield Township who were arrested for hiring a group of people to kidnap Mrs. Larsen's daughters and deprogram them of their alleged cultist beliefs. The Larsens weren't charged.

CURRENTLY HE is representing Hattie Belkin in the divorce proceedings against her husband, Dr. Maurice Belkin, an osteopath. The future of what has long been one of Birmingham's more expensive, highest fashion women's store, Hattie's Inc., is at stake.

Hampton was born in Pontiac and graduated from Michigan State University in 1960 and Wayne State Uni-

people

versity Law School in 1983. After that he returned to Pontiac to practice law with his father in their firm of Hampton & Hampton.

He was elected to the state House in 1984 when former Birmingham Eccentric publisher Henry Hogan decided not to run for re-election.

JUDGE ED SOSNICK, who was elected in November to the Oakland County Circuit bench, remembers Hampton as a man who "could have been a judge at the age of 8."

"He listened, and then he made his decision," said Sosnick who was a trial lawyer in the Oakland County prosecutor's office when Hampton was a judge. Sosnick said Hampton's outstanding attributes were preparation and temperament.

But while Hampton has been at many trials, he said he finds it the



William Hampton

most difficult part of being an attorney.

"It's draining," he said. "People's lives and finances are at stake. Taxpayers' money is at stake."

"There's so much pressure when you walk in the courtroom," he said. "I'm just exhausted at the end of the day."

Students help famous figures breathe again

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Some 200 Farmington elementary students learned the key elements of leadership this month as they dressed in costume and presented themselves as famous figures from history and the present.

Farmington's first Night of the Notables gave students a chance to select such well-knowns as founding father George Washington, inventor Thomas Edison, emperor Julius Caesar, Queen Victoria, and children's author Laura Ingalls Wilder, to study them, and to share what they had learned.

Held on Tuesday, Dec. 13 and Thursday, Dec. 15, the program allowed parents and visitors to interview and mingle with the "famous figures."

Students from Flanders, Beechview, Wooddale and Eagle elementary schools who participate in the district's gifted program did the project as part of a unit focusing on people of achievement and leadership.

"It was a lot different than just doing a report," said Tess Kelly, a coordinator in the district's DELTA, or gifted, program. The acronym stands for Differentiated, Enrichment, Leadership, Talent and Ability.

"They had to research, they had to tell a story. They had to really become that person."

THE STUDENTS were allowed to

pick a person they admired for the project. Their selections were as diverse as the students' interests.

"What it is basically, is a leadership model," said Kelly. "If students understand what made them (notable people) successful and what they had to overcome... chances are greater they (the students) will be successful."

The unit focused on four areas of learning for the students:

- research — learning about the person's life,

- project planning. "all good managers need to have planning strategies to be leaders," Kelly added.

- language of leadership — the students each did video news speaking skills.

- personality analysis — students reviewed each person's leadership style, including how they got people to follow them and what type of person they were.

At the Night of the Notables, costumed students remained in a stationary position, while parents and visitors approached them, asked questions and tried to guess who each person was. Kelly said much of the project was videotaped and may be used to show other teachers how to do such a program in the future.

All DELTA students in the district are participating in units focusing on change, as did the leadership one, ac-



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Above, DELTA coordinator Pan Hanje helps fifth grade students prepare for the Night of the Notables program, held last week and involving 200 Farmington elementary students. From left, Brian Lewis is Dwight Eisenhower, Erika Jablin is Betsy Ross and Erin Benson is Ben Franklin.

cording to DELTA coordinator Joelle Kunske. Each term students focus on aspects of change including personal, historical, technological or aesthetic.

WL classroom blending holiday conifers, science

By Carolyn DeMarco
staff writer

Want to know which Christmas tree to buy? Go to the experts, the students in Ed Scharrer's basic biology class at Walled Lake Central High School.

In a botany overview, Scharrer's class plan calls for a December study of conifers — evergreen trees — a perfect opportunity for a Christmas tree lab experiment. For the past five years Scharrer has repeated the lab each December in his ninth grade special education classes.

All Walled Lake students are required to take one year of biological science and one year of physical science. Scharrer's students, many of them non-readers, needed shorter

units and activities to keep them interested in the sciences and simple laboratory experiments, which showed a practical application.

Scharrer hit upon a lab to determine which evergreens popularly used as holiday decorations kept their needles the longest and therefore made the best Christmas trees.

"I had never seen an experiment like it in publishers' lab manuals. It's very simple, and it does illustrate an important difference in conifers or Christmas trees."

THREE YEARS AGO Scharrer sent the information to Prentice-Hall Publishing in answer to a request in the lab manual for original lab experiments as part of a national contest. Scharrer's experiment was judged one of the top 20 of more than

200 entries and was published within the last year in a textbook supplement.

Before the Walled Lake classroom experiment begins, students must learn to identify by characteristics 16 conifers brought in by Scharrer.

Freshly cut branches of the three most popular trees purchased at Christmas time — firs, spruces and pines — are placed in three empty containers and three water-filled containers. After two weeks the student researchers touch the branches and record needle loss.

Their expected conclusions based on past experiments:

- If water is added to freshly cut trees, all will keep their needles for at least a two-week period.

- On the basis of needle loss, firs and pines are preferable to spruce.

Some non-scientific conclusions reached are that Scotch pine is still the best buy for the money, but some buyers may prefer the short needles of the spruce. Firs are more expensive than the other two varieties, running this year more than \$3 per foot.

"I TRY TO DO experiments which will verify published facts," Scharrer said. In past years the class has experimented with "tree saver solutions."

"We did not have convincing results but that may be because of the short time (two weeks). I can't think of anything else besides keeping it in water that will help it last longer. Just remember a fresh tree will take up water, 'drink' it faster than an old tree. You need to test it daily."

And Scharrer? What kind of tree will be buying?

He hesitated. "Well, I prefer fir. But to tell you the truth I don't want to pay \$35. This is the year I'm going artificial. It makes sense."



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DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Rick Counts labels bottles for a Christmas tree lab experiment in Ed Scharrer's basic biology class at Walled Lake Central High School.