

Copper and steel are sculptor's tools

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(F7A)



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Larry Carsell of Farmington stands next to the creation he hopes will be displayed at Leading Automation, where he is employed.

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The globe of the structure is 45 inches in diameter and was formed by bending stainless steel rods and welding them together. The continents on the globe were cut out of copper, and the band was made from steel.

"I specifically used these materials because it will be virtually free from upkeep expenses. I didn't want to use anything that needed to be painted, because every few years you would have to repaint it and there would be a lot of costs involved," Carsell said.

"BUT THE steel will rust down to a certain point and it won't go much further. The stainless steel will remain virtually as it is and the copper will oxidize into a bluish color that will make the continents stand out," he said.

"The colors of the sculpture should really look better the older it gets." When Carsell started on the metal sculpture, he never realized the work it would entail.

Basketball tryouts scheduled
Girls interested in playing junior varsity and varsity basketball for Harrison High School are asked to attend tryouts 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. today through Friday at the school.

"It ended up being quite a project," he said. "Even more than I initially expected. It seemed the more work I did, the more I realized that I was a long ways from being finished."

All that remains for Carsell to do is to finish sandblasting some of the surface of the base.

"I could keep detailing the sculpture for a long time, but you reach a point where you say, 'I'm finished.'"

"Making this sculpture is something I have always wanted to do," Carsell said. "It was fun building."

But Carsell needn't worry about finding a home for his larger-than-anticipated sculpture.

Leading Automation does want the sculpture, said Len Kearns, manufacturing manager of Leading Automation. "No question about that."

"But it did grow in size, and I'm not sure it will look right in the spot we had selected."

The president of the parent corporation, Hydromation, will be in town to select a spot for the giant globe.

For more information, call Judith Bloom, 476-4098.

Open house slated at insurance firm

Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company of America will open its recently expanded Colonial Williamsburg headquarters building in Farmington Hills to the public this weekend.

The open house will be between noon and 9 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The headquarters are located near 12 Mile and Farmington roads, bordering I-96.

"By example, we're saying yes to Michigan," said Richard H. Headlee, Alexander Hamilton president and Republican candidate for governor. "We're going to share our enthusiasm and confidence of doing business in Michigan with the people of Michigan."

Along with our physical expansion, new jobs have been created in Michigan, and within the past four years Alexander Hamilton has invested \$21 million in Michigan mortgages. In 1957, Phase I of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Corporate Headquarters was constructed on 12 acres. Phase II, which has just been completed, includes 2-1/2 story wings on the east and west sides of the original building, adding 77,000 square feet of office space and doubling the size of the headquarters.

Michigan contractors were exclusively involved in the construction of Phase II. Total construction costs will reach \$5 million. Office furniture and equipment for the recent expansion were purchased either in Grand Rapids or from other Michigan suppliers.

Tour guides will be located throughout the building explaining functions of the business and giving historical information. Visitors will be given refreshments and souvenirs.

The largest insurance company in Michigan, Alexander Hamilton has invested in various Michigan organizations, including its limited partnership in the Detroit Renaissance Center, the successful campaign to save Orchestra Hall and the new Coca-Cola Distribution Center scheduled for construction in Van Buren Township.

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