

Historical businesses sought

The Historical Society of Michigan is continuing its search for centennial businesses operating in the state. As a Bicentennial project in 1976, the society sponsored a contest to locate the oldest businesses in Michigan. Because of the enthusiastic response, the recognition of centennial businesses has been integrated into an ongoing program of the society.

According to Gordon L. Olson, president of the Historical Society of Michigan, the program was created to serve two purposes: to encourage Michigan's citizens to become aware of the state's rich business and industrial heritage, and to stimulate interest in preserving the state's important commercial and industrial history. The program now seeks to stimulate the entire business community.

There are more than 500 centennial businesses that have been located through an intensive search conducted by local historians throughout the state, according to Tom Jones, executive director of the society.

"THIS MOST exclusive group of businesses has been honored in community ceremonies sponsored by historical societies and chambers of commerce," Jones said. "Ceremonies include a presentation of a handsome, personalized certificate officially designating the company as a Michigan Centennial Business."

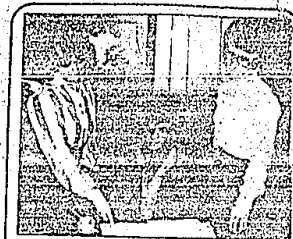
The diversity of Michigan's rich business heritage is evident through the many businesses that have been recognized by the society.

Applications for centennial business certificates should include the complete business name, address and phone number, the name and title of the chief executive officer, documentation (for copies of documentation) of founding date and the name and address of the person submitting the application. Applications should be mailed to the Historical Society of Michigan, 2117 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor 48104.

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Keeping in touch with science

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"The students' everyday teachers remain in the classroom during McAdaragh's weekly visits. It's a team approach, not just me in front of the class," McAdaragh said. "Hopefully, if they (the teachers) weren't comfortable with science, they'll become a little more so after seeing how things can be handled."

McAdaragh uses many teaching aids provided by the Science Curriculum Improvement Study (SCIS) program, which been in place for about seven years in the district.

"Plus, I carry a trunkful of my own stuff around," she said.

McAdaragh's fifth graders studied energy transfer by observing how a twisting rubber band can make a small dish turn. Other of her students have grown beans, observing whether they grow better in the light or dark.

"They have a lot of graphing and charting to do with the beans," McAdaragh said, "keeping track of data and putting it on a graph."

Both the students and their teachers seem to be enjoying the new system, McAdaragh said.

The responses from the teachers have been that

the students like seeing a different face teaching science," she said.

APTER TEACHING science at East Junior High School for 12 years and at Farmington High for three, the new system "is a change of pace for me," McAdaragh said.

"It gives me a lot of flexibility that I've never had before," she added. "I finished my Ph.D. and this job gives me an opportunity to use some of the curriculum background."

"We're trying to get the experience of science in contact with students at an early age. There's a lot of research showing that if you only do it as a content, or textbook, kind of thing, students will start turning off to it as early as the fourth grade."

Farmington is one of the few districts in Oakland County attempting "to impact science in elementary schools," according to McAdaragh.

McAdaragh, who grew up in Redford Township, has always liked science. "It's always been my thing," she said.

In addition to her doctorate, McAdaragh holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from Eastern Michigan University.

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Candidate field is narrowed

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Trustees selected the men last Thursday night from eight semifinalists previously interviewed. The board now plans to conduct background checks in preparing to name its choice on April 12.

"NOW the tough part starts," said school board president Michael Manore.

In the next few weeks the trustees plan to investigate the finalists by checking with references as well as visiting them on their jobs and talking to their co-workers.

Manore said trustees will discuss the results of their findings at a special meeting to be called on Wednesday, April 11, in the school board offices on Middlebelt in Livonia. Then, the candidates will be invited back to the district on April 12 for 20-minute interviews. The school board will announce its decision that evening.

Manore described board sentiment on the three finalists.

"Davis was perceived as someone with a great deal of knowledge, experience and someone that would lend a continuation of stability within our district," he said.

He said Shiber was perceived as a "dynamic individual who also was extremely knowledgeable." While Shiber did not have experience as a school superintendent, Manore said he appeared to have "an excellent grasp of the job. He was viewed as a young, dynamic individual who could come in with a lot of new ideas."

About Kirksey, Manore said, he also seemed "very knowledgeable about education. Obviously, he has good experience dealing with people and I think that's very important. Although he has never been a superintendent, he does have a good understanding of the job."

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