

Making his mark in world of film, video

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working on films such as "Risky Business" and "The Dollmaker." His other children are a medical technologist and a student at New York University studying theater lighting design.

"If my kids could have half as much fun doing what they want to do as I could," Smith said, he would be happy.

ALTHOUGH HE would always

make room for a child interested in working with him, Smith said, involving families in a business often causes the loss of good management personnel who believe there is no path to promotions.

"If family members run a business, it has to be perceived that some of the top jobs could go to the kids. It can be a discouraging factor."

"I believe a company either operates for the benefit of its owner, or its employees," Smith said. "I hope mine works for its employees."

As entrepreneurs often do, Smith

keeps a finger in many pies, and wants a controlled growth "in response to needs of our clients and markets. There's no need to get bigger just for the sake of getting big."

The 1985 national Presidential Proclamation Award by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers was presented to Smith last fall at the society's award luncheon in Los Angeles.

"SMITH'S CURRENT commitment to interweaving video and film post-production techniques is exem-

plary of this dedication, and has resulted in opening new technologies to educational, industrial, religious and motivational communicators," a society release said.

Smith is a 1949 graduate of the University of Colorado, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business.

"Involvement is a big word" in any business, he added. "When you're involved you can share in the excitement — if not, you're just a bystander."

An outbreak of flu forces school to close

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land County Health Department communicable disease section. Cases of

Type B influenza were confirmed and Type A reported in other parts of the state recently.

"Widespread" outbreaks were re-

ported in many other states. "They seem to be running ahead of last year," Blonstein said, although no numbers reported were available. "We're hearing more than last year."

assistant superintendent for instruction.

The district normally sees a 5-percent absentee rate. With current outbreaks of the flu, it has climbed to 10-14 percent at the secondary level, and slightly higher at the elementary level, he said.

Downtown — in spotlight

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Downtown Farmington Development Committee task force, which may be converted to an nine-member Downtown Development Authority (DDA) soon, as recommended by the consultants.

"One of its (the city's) strengths is the determination of its people, as reflected by the study and steering committees," according to the report.

The report also advocates the development of an upscale, moderate-priced, 80-100-room hotel or inn downtown, the immediate revamping of the lighting systems downtown and the development of downtown housing.

THE COUNTY is also receiving reports of high absenteeism in school districts — figures of between 10-30 percent have been logged countywide, he said. "Every year, we know the flu is going to spread pretty quickly through certain segments, including schools."

Absentee levels in Farmington Public Schools are monitored daily, and were higher than usual during the past two weeks, according to Lynn Nutter,

Two weeks ago, the student absentee rate rose to 20-25 percent at East Middle School. When a school reaches a 30 percent absenteeism, the county health department is called, Nutter said.

Working with county officials, school administrators decide on a school-by-school basis if one should close, he said.

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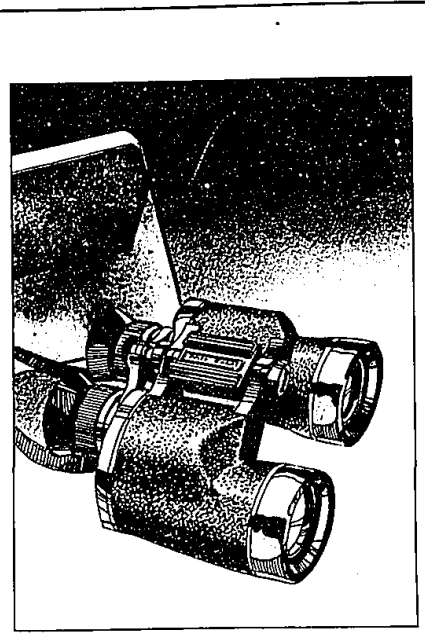
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