

The business continued to flourish under the government's PIK (payment-in-kind) program and in 1985, two major equipment lines, J.I. Case and International Harvester, merged to become Case International. This merger eventually precipitated another partnership. On November 1, 1987, two Logan County farm equipment dealers joined forces, Schmidt Implement Company and Marcotte International, Inc. of Lincoln, Illinois. This merger became operational under the name of Schmidt-Marcotte, Inc., resulting in the closure of the Marcotte dealership on Woodlawn Road in Lincoln. With the merger came the construction of two more buildings and doubled the number of employees.

William (Bill) Marcotte brought to the business 21 years of association with International Harvester products. Bill graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1966 with a degree in agriculture. He worked for International Harvester as a sales representative out of their Peoria office. In 1973, he was transferred to Lincoln, Illinois as an assistant manager and purchased the dealership in 1974. He had been owner/operator until the merger in 1987.

In 1992 Schmidt-Marcotte further enhanced their central Illinois leadership in agriculture implement sales by merging with Evans Implement of Lawndale. David Evans closed his business in Lawndale, purchased stock in Schmidt-Marcotte, and joined the Schmidts and Bill Marcotte as a business partner. This merger provided the company with their second major farm equipment manufacturer—New Holland—as well as several short line companies including Kinze, an industry leader in planting equipment.

David Evans' family has been involved in the farm equipment business since 1953. That year his grandfather and uncle, John Cox and John R. Cox, started Cox Implement Company, an Allis-Chalmers dealership in Lincoln. Cox Implement flourished and in 1966 they moved their business to Lawndale to accommodate the business' growth and need for space. In 1979, David and his father, Tom, bought the dealership and operated it under the name of Evans Implement. As the years passed, the Allis-Chalmers dealership grew with the addition of Steiger, Kinze, New Holland, and a host of short line companies. Tom Evans retired in 1991. That same year Dave's son, Tim Evans, joined the business. Tim, currently the office manager of Schmidt-Marcotte, is a fourth generation family member involved in the farm equipment business.

Schmidt-Marcotte's merger with Evans resulted in greatly expanded customer services in areas including sales and parts.

Schmidt-Marcotte, Inc., currently operates with Steve Schmidt as president, Bill Marcotte as vice-president, and Dave Evans as treasurer, and currently employs 30 individuals. In December, 1998, Michael Schmidt will graduate with a degree in agriculture from Western Illinois University, and plans to join his father, Steve, in the business, marking five generations in the farm implement business.

In closing, a celebration marking their 100 years of service will be held in Atlanta, Illinois at the business on July 25, 1998.

#### TRIBUTE TO CADET SHIRER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. MASCARA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cadet Shirer, a lifelong Western Pennsylvanian, a very special person who is celebrating his 100th birthday.

Mr. Shirer was born and raised in Westmoreland County in the community of Alverton, Pennsylvania, on March 31, 1898. He still calls Alverton his home, a community which also is the residence of his two children, Thomas and Joyce, and their families.

I want to take this opportunity also to honor Mr. Shirer for his dedication to his country. At the age of 19, he joined the Army to defend his country during World War I. He served in the E Company of the 10th Pennsylvania Infantry, and later as a member of the medical troop that was shipped to France.

He is one of the few remaining World War I veterans in Western Pennsylvania, and the last surviving charter member of the Veterans of World War I and the VFW Post in Scottdale, Pennsylvania.

His commitment to the ailing troops did not end with the signing of the Armistice. For 20 years, beginning in 1961, Mr. Shirer took it upon himself to help veterans in Westmoreland County by providing them with the necessary transportation to the nearby Veterans Administration Hospital in Pittsburgh.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Shirer at several events in my district. He is a distinguished man who still proudly wears the Army uniform when attending veterans events. What strikes me most about him is his ability to recite by memory John McCrae's great war poem, "In Flanders Fields," and the Gettysburg Address, remember, without the assistance of notes. He is truly a remarkable man.

In your honor, Mr. Shirer, we are having a flag flown over the Nation's Capitol building today. I join Mr. Shirer, his children, his grandchildren and his great grandchildren in wishing him a very happy 100th birthday. He stands as a symbol for all veterans who have fought to keep this country's freedom.

#### A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NEUMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight for a very special reason. A lot of times we talk about having a vision for the future of this country, and we talk about a social vision for the future of this country and we get all confused about Washington's role in that social vision. This morning I was reading the Washington Times, and there is an article that I would just like to call everyone's attention to, because it says a lot about this vision.

We talk a lot, first, about education and how we can make education num-

ber one in the world. We talk here in Washington about how if we get out of the way and get control of education back into the hands of the parents and the community, and we get our parents back actively involved in making the decision on where their kids could go to school, and what should be taught in the schools. If we can get the parents involved actively in these kids lives, then education will once again be number one in the world, and that is the best thing we could do here in Washington.

This article this morning that I was reading talks about a lot of the other implications of getting the parents back involved in the lives of the kids. This article was a national study of 12,000 teens, and they found the influences of family, school and personal character, and they found that these influences can either protect teens from all kinds of problems or result in teens having more problems.

Listen to some of these results, because these are the issues we talk about here in Washington, and we sometimes get hung up out here in Washington about how Washington can fix these problems.

How do we stop teenagers from cigarette use? Listen to what they found in this survey of 12,000 students. Cigarette use among teens: How do you slow it down? Number one, parent, family, connectedness. Parents and family doing things together.

Number two, parent at home before and after school, at dinner time, and at bedtime.

Number three, parents and teens do activities together regularly.

Notice what is missing from this list? There is no new Washington program to solve the problem, but rather parents involved with their teenagers.

Let's go on to another one. Alcohol use among teens. You see this idea of getting parents back involved in education of their kids is going to have a lot of side effects. Let's talk about alcohol use among teenagers.

Number one among these 12,000 students surveyed, number one to slow alcohol use among teenagers, parent-family connectedness.

Number two, parent at home before and after school, at dinner time, and at bedtime. And listen to this one: Teen religious identity. You want to slow down alcohol use amongst teenagers? Parents need to be involved with their kids once again.

Marijuana use, how do you stop marijuana use amongst teenagers? Again, no new Washington program, no new Washington spending, number one to stop marijuana use amongst kids, remember, this was 12,000 students surveyed: Parent-family connectedness. Parents doing things with their kids.

Number two, parents at home before and after school, at dinner time and bedtime. Notice the consistency here. When the parents are around for their kids, the abuse of whether it is alcohol or cigarettes or marijuana goes down dramatically.