Newspapers.com by Ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/213074653

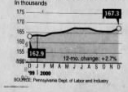
Downloaded on Jun 14, 2022

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Philadelphia Business

SECTION D MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2001 www.philly.com

Philadelphia Area Financial/Real Estate Jobs



Internet payment firms cut need for cash. Page 3

Bankruptcies 3
Calendar 8
Commercial Real Estate 3
Insider Transactions 5
Local Stock Watch 4
Stock-Quote Hotline 4

JOAN FATMAN KANES / Inquirer Suburban Staff

Asplundh family members and company executives include (from left) Christopher Asplundh, chairman and CEO; George E. Graham Jr., executive vice president; and Scott M. Asplundh, president. To become executives, relatives must go through seven or eight years of rigorous training.

Like the trees, Asplundh keeps growing

And a third generation is rising through the ranks to help run the company.

Peter Binzen
On Business

"Disciplined nepotism" describes Asplundh Tree Expert Co. of Willow Grove.

With 26,000 employees and sales last year of about $1.3 billion, Asplundh is the world's largest provider of "line clearance services" to utilities from Maine to California and beyond. Many of its aerial lifts, dump trucks, chippers, and other specialty equipment — more than 30,000 vehicles in its total inventory — are put to work in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

And it is getting even bigger. A recently announced deal to take over certain assets of the F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co., of Stamford, Conn., is expected to increase Asplundh's revenues by more than $50 million a year, and its workforce by about 1,300.

But the company, founded in 1928 by Griffith, Lester and Carl Asplundh, sons of a Swedish immigrant father and a Swiss immigrant mother, remains all in the family today.

About 140 Asplundh family members control more than 90 percent of the company's stock. It is one of the largest privately owned companies in Pennsylvania, and it ranks 172d among private companies nationally, according to Forbes magazine.

Griffith Asplundh headed the company from 1928 until his death in 1948, Lester from 1949 until he suffered a serious illness in 1952, and Carl from 1952 until his death in 1967.

Soon afterward, the second generation, which had been groomed for leadership, took over. Griffith Asplundh's son, Barr, served as president from 1968 to 1982, and was followed by Carl's son Edward from 1982 to 1992. Then came Edward's brother Christopher, who was president until the end of last year.

On Jan. 1, Christopher, 61, was named board chairman and chief executive officer, succeeding his brother Carl Jr., 65.

The new president is Scott M. Asplundh, 43, a grandson of Griffith Asplundh. And the new executive vice president is his cousin, George E. Graham Jr., 41, also a grandson of Griffith Asplundh.

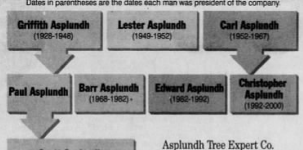
Altogether, 13 male Asplundhs work for the company. Eleven of them are in management positions at Willow Grove. The seven-member board of directors consists of Chris and Scott Asplundh and five Asplundhs who have retired from executive posts at the company.

Just having the Asplundh name does not guarantee a cushy job with the family business, however. Or any job, for that matter. There are no family sinecures. To get hired, Asplundh progeny must have college degrees, and they must have worked somewhere else — whether that means military service or en-

See ASPLUNDH on D8

The Asplundh Family Tree

Dates in parentheses are the dates each man was president of the company



Asplundh Tree Expert Co.
Headquarters: Willow Grove
Founded: In 1928 by three brothers

School to honor defunct center's student loans

CHI Institute in Broomall and Southampton will accept students of the failed Computer Learning Centers.

By Martha Woodall
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

While many area technical schools have offered to help students affected by the recent closing of Computer Learning Centers, only one school has obtained state permission to honor their loans.

CHI Institute, with sites in Broomall and Southampton, has been approved by the state to offer "teachout" services that permit students to continue their course work and transfer their student loans, said Pam Gallimore, an official with the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

She said other schools may also accept Computer Learning Center students without requiring them to pay additional tuition, but students should be sure to ask about the school's policy up front.

"Some are saying that, ethically and philosophically, they do not want to charge these students additional tuition," said Gallimore, bureau director for post-secondary education.

She said the state Department of Education has been advising students to attend the schools' information sessions so they can ask questions about the situation. The financial-aid issues can be complicated, depending on the type of loans students are using to pay their tuition.

"If they don't really know what the options are, it leads to great confusion," she said.

Computer Learning Centers, a Virginia company that offered technical training at 25 sites across the country, closed its doors abruptly Jan. 22. Three days later, it announced it had filed for bankruptcy and would liquidate its assets.

The company's action affected 10,000 students, including 1,800 at area centers in University City, Northeast Philadelphia, Plymouth Meeting and Cherry Hill.

Government agencies and a long list of schools are trying to help students continue their training.

"This is a tremendous endeavor in terms of the number of students affected," Gallimore said. "We have not had to face anything like this with a school closure in the proprietary market."

She said other area schools may decide to apply to offer teachout services.

"Several proprietary schools are interested but are looking at their own space issues," Gallimore said.

Student records are being collect-

See LOANS on D2

Company to launch its synthetic bone

By Kent Steinriede
FOR THE INQUIRER

Orthovita Inc., of Malvern, is poised to take advantage of the aging of the North American and European populations.

The publicly held maker of medical devices received approval from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration in December for Vitoss, a synthetic bone material for spine damage. Orthovita plans to launch the product in the United States this month at a meeting of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons in San Francisco.

Surgeons can use Orthovita's Vitoss in bone grafts to repair spinal damage.

Treating spine injuries and ailments is the fastest-growing segment in the orthopedics market, according to Orthovita officials. Vitoss can be used by surgeons during bone-graft procedures. An estimated 500,000 bone-graft procedures are done in the spine, and an additional 100,000 procedures are performed in trauma cases, Orthovita chairman David S. Joseph said. He estimated the size of the bone-graft market at $300 million.

More than 650,000 spine operations are performed each year. Many are done to treat osteoporosis, primarily in women. Others are the result of middle-aged adults refusing to accept that they are getting older, said Bruce Peacock, president and chief executive officer of Orthovita.

"It's aging baby boomers like myself, out there still trying to be active, injuring their lumbar spine, or guys who should know better out skiing and playing basketball," he said.

See ORTHOVITA on D8

Some districts try online system to fill substitute teacher openings

By Kathryn Masterson
INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

For years, the secretary in the Spring-Ford Area School District's personnel office worked evenings and early mornings, calling substitutes in hopes of finding replacements for absent teachers.

As the Montgomery/Chester County district grew, filling 30 to 40 open spots each day became more time-consuming. When her secretary retired in the spring, personnel director Betty Pehlman came with a common business solution: She outsourced the task to a private company.

But it wasn't a typical temporary-employment agency. Instead, the Spring-Ford district chose Frontline Data Inc., of Malvern, one of just a few companies nationwide that places substitute teachers over the Internet.

So far, so good, according to Pehlman. "Jobs are picked up sooner, and sub fulfillment is quicker," she said.

Frontline Data has applied for a patent on a system known as Aesop, for Automated Educational Substitute Operator, company vice president David Shafer said. To date, more than 30 districts, including several in New Jersey, Texas and Missouri, have switched to the online system.

With Aesop, teachers in a district can log on to the Web site, type a password, and access a calendar to record their sick days, personal days and other absences, Shafer said. Districts pay for the service based on the number of regular employees they have.

Substitute teachers hired by the districts also are given access to the online calendar, which allows them to select among the openings shown, he said. In more traditional situations, substitutes only have the option of accepting or declining a job offer from a caller.

School districts can limit which substitute teachers can fill certain classes, Shafer said. The districts can also print out reports to see which vacancies have been filled, as well monitor the attendance patterns of their regular faculty.

For jobs that are not filled ahead of time online, Aesop will call the list of substitute teachers, as pre-In-

See SUBSTITUTES on D8

Andrew Cassel's column does not appear today.

BARBARA JOHNSTON / Inquirer Suburban Staff

Frontline Data of Malvern created Aesop, a system that tracks teacher absences and substitute opportunities. Adam Tice (left) is the firm's senior software engineer; Tom Vibert is director of product development.

Copyright © 2022 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

Powered by Newspapers.com