

Business leaders lauded

Six businessmen have been selected to join the Canadian Business Hall of Fame.

The laureates will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the fourth annual Canadian Business Leadership Conference (CBLC), held in Toronto.

The laureates are: L.L.G. (Poldi) Bentley, who succeeded in transforming a small veneer mill in British Columbia into one of Canada's largest integrated forest industries, Canadian Forest Products Limited; Edmund C. Bovey, retired chairman of Norcen Energy Resources Limited, whose sense of industrial development and community involvement, spearheaded the growth of Norcen's integrated organization; Henry Birks (1840-1928), whose innovative retailing genius created the world's largest family-owned jewellery merchandising institution, Henry Birks & Sons Limited; Samuel Bronfman (1891-1971), a Canadian whose insistence on quality transformed his company, The Seagram Company Limited into the world's largest producer of wines and spirits; Donald Gordon (1901-1969), a man whose energy and courage brought him through four successful careers including the presidencies of the Canadian National Railway and British Newfoundland Corporation; and Joseph Vachon (1906-1966) who, pioneering automated production concepts in his bakery, built one of the largest food industries in Canada, Vachon Incorporated, now integrated with Culinar Incorporated.

The Canadian Business Hall of Fame, established in 1979 by Junior Achievement of Canada, honours Canadians who have made "outstanding and enduring contributions to improve the products, the processes, the efficiencies or the human relations of business".

The intent is to honour leaders both living and dead: those currently occupying active executive positions do not qualify, as their books are still open.

More than 11 000 teenagers in 67 Canadian communities are actively involved in the Junior Achievement of Canada organization. In addition to the regular learn-by-doing program that offers young people the opportunity to manage their own miniature businesses, Junior Achievement has introduced a new in-class educational course called Project Business, that brings the expertise of qualified business people into Grade 8 or 9 classes.

First test-tube twins born

An Ontario woman has become the first in North America to give birth to twins conceived in a test-tube.

Kit Rankin of Oakville, near Toronto gave birth to the twins, Collin Patrick Hugh and Gregory Robert Ian at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital on March 25. On hand for their arrival into the world — two weeks ahead of schedule — was test-tube conception pioneer Dr. Patrick Steptoe, who helped conceive the babies in a portable laboratory in England.



From left to right: Ian Rankin, Dr. Steptoe, and Dr. Richmond-Peck, who delivered the twin boys to Kit Rankin.

The twins were a surprise to some of the hospital staff because ultrasound tests had convinced them Mrs. Rankin would have a girl and a boy but both she and husband, Ian, felt certain they would be boys.

Collin Patrick Hugh is named for Steptoe and father Ian's late father. Gregory Robert Ian is named for Dr. Gregory Richmond-Peck, who delivered the children, Dr. Robert Edwards, who pioneered the revolutionary petri-dish fertilizer technique, and for father Ian.

The babies were conceived by the in-vitro technique — using Mrs. Rankin's own eggs fertilized by her husband's sperm.

The first attempt to implant a two-day old embryo into Mrs. Rankin last July was a failure and so on the second attempt the couple doubled their odds of having a baby when two eggs were extracted and fertilized.

Mrs. Rankin, who has two children

from a previous marriage, could not conceive naturally because her fallopian tubes were removed following two ectopic pregnancies in which the fertilized egg develops outside the uterus.

When both fertilized eggs were implanted, Mrs. Rankin said she thought it was "terrific" with twice as good a chance of success. "We laughed," she recalled and said: "Oh, wouldn't we love to have twins, but we just hoped we'd be lucky enough to have one."

World-wide business communications system planned

Canadian telecommunications carriers are planning to offer a new world-wide business communications system.

The new international standardized service, called Teletex, will allow office text machines from different manufacturers to communicate with each other. The Computer Communications Group (CCG) of the Trans-Canada Telephone System has announced that the new system will be made available to Canadian users over the public telephone network probably by fall.

It is expected that Britain and Sweden will also introduce Teletex into commercial service later this year, to be followed by service in other countries in 1983.

Teletex is the first such service in North America that conforms to international standards developed by the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee.

CCG is working with terminal manufacturers to develop equipment incorporating the Teletex standard. Siemens Electric Limited of Pointe Claire, Quebec, Olympia Business Machines Canada Limited of Toronto and Olivetti Canada Limited of Toronto are all reported to have equipment ready that conforms to the standard. Micom Company and AES Data Limited, both of Montreal, and Wang Laboratories Incorporated of Lowell, Massachusetts, are vendors who expect to be involved in some capacity with the new system.

Michael Corlett, CCG's general manager said that international agreement on standards by carriers and terminal manufacturers will bring the "office of the future" concept closer to reality. Users will be able to select a terminal by most manufacturers and still be able to communicate with products in Canada and abroad made by other manufacturers.