



Illinois
State Historical Society

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August 11, 2021

Dear Illinois Centennial Business:

First of all, on behalf of the Illinois State Historical Society (ISHS), I congratulate you and your Illinois centennial business for achieving a truly outstanding milestone--100 years of continuous operation in the Prairie State. Through economic downturns, depressions, "adjustments," bumps, crashes, and countless minor and major crises, your company has succeeded for a century or more and has earned the respect of every business owner in Illinois and the Midwest. Our hats are off to you.

As members of the ISHS's 2021 class of Centennial Business Award recipients, you and your company were to be our guests at a special fete in September honoring your milestone. Unfortunately, the resurgence of the COVID 19 virus and its Delta variant has forced us to reconsider a public gathering that could impact the health of your employees, our membership, and the public at large. There does not seem to be any way for us to celebrate your achievement in any public format other than Zoom, and though we are not opposed to doing so, our instinct is to postpone the September gathering until Fall of 2022, when we believe the COVID crisis will be substantially diminished, if not eradicated.

We will, however, still send out your well-deserved recognition certificate and an invitation to another public celebration next Fall in Springfield, or elsewhere in the state.

Thank you for all you do to make Illinois a great place to live and work. Your history is the cornerstone of our future.

Sincerely yours,

William Furry
Executive Director, ISHS