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**100 years plus of business**

**Century-old area companies still going strong, though they've changed over the years**

**By**[**BILL ECHLIN**](mailto:bechlin@record-eagle.com) **Record-Eagle staff writer**  
      TRAVERSE CITY - Nobody knows for sure how many there are, but quite a few northern Michigan firms, large and small, have been in business for 100 years or more.  
      Many have gone through major transformations over the past century, but some still show traces of their original forms.  
      McGough's Inc. at Lake and Eighth streets in Traverse City still sells hay and animal feed, for instance. It has long since transformed itself from a feed and grain mill and farm supply operation into something much more suburban, Now they also offer bird seed and feeders, grass seed and pet food.  
      It's closest connection to farms these days is feed and supplies for the horsey set and food for deer. Still, the old red frame buildings look like something straight out of an Edward Hopper painting and art students sometimes use the mill house as a subject for their work.  
      Tim Lampton, co-owner of McGough's with the Oleson food stores family, said the original McGough's mill was built on the Boardman River across the street around 1890 by Scotsman Joseph McGough.   
      In his office, Lampton displays the store's oldest known receipt - from an 1892 delivery of coal to a Traverse City home. McGough bought a hay and coal delivery business when he came to town and then built his milling operation on that. Over the years, he said, the business migrated a few hundred feet across Eighth to its present location, where the mill house could be served by the rail siding there.  
      "If you go to many of the small towns around the region, you will find nearly every one of them still has some traces of a feed and grain mill and it's always on the railroad tracks," he said. "We stopped delivering coal about 10 years ago but we still sell a few bales of hay."