



ILICA

NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America • Illinois Chapter

May/June 2003

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ILLINOIS MEMBERS ATTEND OKLAHOMA CITY CONVENTION



In February, over 200 LICA members, associates and their families attended the LICA winter meeting in Oklahoma city. Educational sessions were held, committee and business meetings were well attended and everyone had an all around great time. The National convention offers an opportunity to gain a tremendous awareness of what is happening in our industry. Information on the LICA summer meeting in Niagra Falls is included in the issue. Don't miss another great opportunity.



The state of Illinois was again honored in Oklahoma. For the fourth consecutive year, Illinois received an Award of Excellence "In Recognition of Outstanding Achievement by a State Chapter" CONGRATULATIONS to all members for making our chapter one to be proud of!!

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by Dwight Dunbar,
Consultant to ILICA

Springfield the day after TAX DAY - which is the costliest most agonizing day of the year for most of us for a thing, we Americans do supposedly voluntarily.

The Budget

By now, if you're involved with a school you have learned that the magic of balancing the budget without an increase in income or sales tax is costly. The \$250 per pupil boost in state payment to districts is coupled with doing away with grants to the districts. A friend of mine reminded me that the grants are used to fund a lot of special programs schools offer. He went on to explain that his district's net gain might well equal only about \$50 per student net gain and might cost his district some "enrichment" programs.

Since the endurance speech (it went on for 93 minutes) on the budget more that a little analysis suggests that if it sounds too good to be true then it probably is. Apparently it doesn't take a lot of digging to get to the truth. Speaking of endurance how many times did we get reminded there was a \$5.0 billion hole? It was a result of all the years of Republican Governors. We were also reminded that he only inherited the Budget Crisis.

From the Capitol Fax newsletter of political intelligence there is this item. A \$712 million slice was removed from re-appropriations for DCCA and DNR. Coincidentally that almost equals a governor's proposed increase in spending. "In other words he's cut a bunch of stuff that really doesn't exist yet in order to cover up a real increase in spending.

Even the magic of increased fees to balance the Budget some admit are not likely to be enacted. All the while the wide variety of special funds are being sucked into the budget Black Hole.

Whatever happens when it is all said and done we will all pay more in fees to the State. We will likely see reduction of programs offered. For some of the people, they'll get hit many times. Because increased costs to do business in this state will result in price increases of products and services.

To top things off the Governor doesn't seem to grasp the concepts of cash flow or meeting payroll because he's calling for not only a 5% administrative charge from the 500+ special funds but also plans to take, for his purposes, all the cash remaining after the appropriations are complete. The giant sucking sound is no longer being created by Chicago but by the second Floor of Statehouse.

Real Estate Sales

I don't understand how the sale of the Thompson Center in Chicago then leasing it back saves the State any net dollars. And the Toll Way Office wasn't built by state Funds. I can't think they're keen on the idea that proceeds from such a sale being pocketed by anyone other than the Toll Way Authority.

Capitol Update... (> p8)

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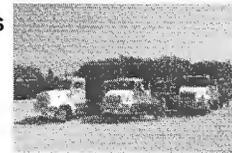
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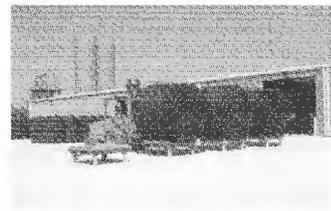
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi all, isn't spring in Illinois a wonderful thing, seventy° one day, snowing the next, but it is finally getting warm and green, the corn planters are starting to roll and we can finally get back to work, at this writing, mid april, Steve and I have only been able to work for a couple of weeks. We are still very dry here. I hope the April showers come soon, very hard to promote drainage work in a desert.

Thanks to the education committee and all that helped to put together the great drainage workshop. I was not able to attend but everyone I talked to said it was very good and well attended, again thanks to all great job.

I was at a contractors breakfast in Carlyle Illinois at the same time as the workshop, trying to gain some new members. We still need to be working hard on membership. I wish I had some great plan to get members, but all you can really do is ask and try to convey to the prospect what makes this a valuable organization to you, and ask everyone you can.

The certification committee met in March at the state NRCS office in Champaign, they now have a good feel for the direction they are going and are starting to work on some testing for the different lines of work that we are all involved in. It will be a good thing for the organization when it is all in place and running.

Most of the members who were at the certification meeting also attended a meeting the same afternoon in Danville, IL with the farm progress people to discuss putting on a tiling demonstration this fall. It would be great for the whole organization if we can get this put together. Ron Schlatter from Indiana has been working hard on this and it would be a great thing to get the LICA name in front of a lot of farmers and show them what we do best.

President's Message... (> p4)



ACTIVE

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815-998-2386

Richard Park – Area 3

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ILICA BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HERITAGE HOUSE

RESTAURANT

**3851 S. 6TH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
MAY 10, 2003**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

10:00 AM – Convention
10:30 AM – Rodeo
11:00 PM – Certification
Sub-Committees
1:00 PM – Certification
2:00 PM – Membership

Upcoming Meetings



ILICA BOARD MEETINGS

March 8, 2003
May 10, 2003
June 28, 2003
September 6, 2003
November 1, 2003

2004 Annual Convention
January 15-17, 2004
Brandywine Holiday Inn
Peoria

LICA MEETINGS

July 15-19, 2003
Niagra Falls, New York
Holiday Inn Select

BLAGOJEVICH MAKES TWO KEY APPOINTMENTS

First Latina to head McPier Authority

Experienced Downstate Legislator takes over Department of Natural Resources

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich announced the appointment of Leticia Peralta-Davis as chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and state Rep. Joel Brunsvold as director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

"Both individuals are well-qualified and bring with them impressive records of success in their respective fields," Blagojevich said.

Peralta-Davis, 44 succeeds Scott Fawell at the authority and will be one of the administration's highest-ranking Latinas. Her salary will be set by the authority. Fawell, who was fired by Blagojevich on his first day in office, was paid \$195,000.

Peralta-Davis is founder and president of the financial advisory firm Davis Financial, Inc., which specializes in debt financing, and chairs the Finance Committee for the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Housing Authority. Before starting her firm, she was a vice president at Bank of America from 1991 to 1993, and vice president at ABN/LaSalle Bank from 1988 to 1990.

She is a Chicago native and earned her bachelor's degree in accounting and her masters in business administration from DePaul University, and received her certified public accounting certification in 1983. In 1999 she was selected as the regional Hispanic Businesswoman of the Year by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She serves on the boards of the Metropolitan Planning Council, Children's Memorial Hospital and St. Benedict's High School Advisory Board.

"Ms. Davis is well respected for her accomplishments as a businesswoman and community servant. She will help drive my agenda for reform by providing straightforward, fiscally-responsible leadership," the Governor said.

Brunsvold, 61, a Democratic legislator from the Quad Cities and former chair of the Illinois House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, is recognized as an authority on conservation and land use issues. He also served on the House Environment and Energy Committee. Throughout his tenure as a legislator, Brunsvold has worked closely with the department that he is poised to lead, often sponsoring its agenda in the General Assembly. He is currently a member of House Speaker Michael Madigan's leadership team and serves as chairman of the Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.

Brunsvold grew up in the Quad Cities area and attended Augustana College in Rock Island. He worked for International Harvester from 1964 to 1969 and taught school for Sherrard Community Unit 200 until 1983.

Brunsvold and his wife settled in Milan, where he was elected mayor in 1977. In 1983, he was elected state representative and has been re-elected ever since.

"I developed great respect for Joel when I worked with him as a member of the Illinois House. He understands the complexity of issues the Department of Natural Resources deals with and has significant experience as a lawmaker at balancing the demands of conservation and development," commented the Governor.

Brunsvold will be paid \$113,200.

President's Message... (< p3)

Be sure and remember the picnic and June meeting at Prairie Lakes, north of Marseilles, IL. golf in the morning, fishing for you Norm, and then lunch, followed by the board meeting. Keep in mind too the national summer meeting in Niagara Falls New York, it looks like a fun place and we will all need a vacation by the end of July so plan to attend.

Work fast, but always work safe, hope you all have a great spring season.

Stuart Anderson
President



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ILICA 2003 PICNIC COME JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO JOIN US JUNE 28TH FOR THE ANNUAL ILICA PICNIC, BOARD MEETING AND GOLF OUTING AT PRAIRIE LAKES, 2250 N. 32ND ROAD, MARSEILLES.

A GOLF OUTING IS ALSO SCHEDULED BEFORE THE PICNIC MEAL. TEE TIME IS SET FOR 9 A.M..

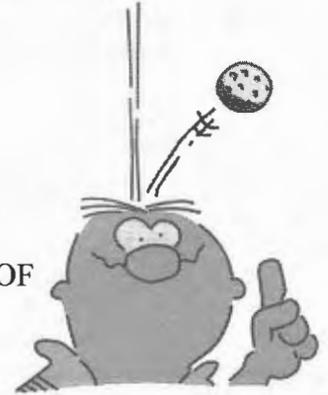
YOU NEED TO BE AT THE GOLF COURSE NO LATER THAN 8:45 A.M.

FEES ARE \$21 FOR NINE HOLES & CART.

A PICNIC MEAL WILL BE SERVED AT 12 NOON AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW.

DIRECTIONS TO PRAIRIE LAKES

Exit I-80 at Marseilles exit number 97. Turn north off exit ramp onto East 24th road. Go North on East 24th about 1.5 miles to North 32nd Road. There is a big sign there for Prairie Lodge. Turn right onto North 32nd road and go east about 1.75 miles to the lodge.



CLIP & MAIL

ILICA SUMMER PICNIC & BOARD MEETING

YES, WE WILL ATTEND THE ILICA BOARD MEETING & DINNER ON JUNE 28TH AT PRAIRIE LAKE IN MARSEILLES. PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING:



ADULTS - \$6 PER PERSON
CHILDREN- \$4 (AGES 4-12)
PRICE AT DOOR - \$8

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

GOLF AT PRAIRIE LAKE - T-TIME 9 A.M. BE AT COURSE BY 8:45 A.M.
\$21 INCLUDES GOLF FOR 9 HOLES PLUS THE CART (PER PERSON)

1. _____ 2. _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

\$ _____

MAIL To: ILICA

604 East State Street
Jacksonville, IL 62650

PLEASE SEND IN RESERVATIONS BEFORE JUNE 15, 2003

LICA GOES TO WASHINGTON DC

Once again, LICA Chapters have sent delegates to Washington D.C. there were several Legislative Issues which LICA wanted addressed. These issues impact all of us. LICA's voice was heard on March 14-19 when Illinois LICA member Steve Anderson visited State Representatives and Senators letting them know how LICA stands concerning various bills up before the legislature. Of particular interest to LICA were the following:

CAPITAL GAINS TAX REDUCTION

LICA Position: LICA supports legislation that lowers capital gain tax rates and provides incentives for long-term investment.

How It Affects Your Business: The capital gains tax is levied on all capital gains, including those attributed to inflation. It subjects income to multiple levels of taxation; deprives individuals and companies of money to invest; and deters property owners from selling assets. Equity investors in the construction industry - often employees, friends and family - are risk takers, building businesses and creating jobs. This activity must be encouraged to produce long-term economic growth. Lower capital gains taxes will provide incentive for construction companies to innovate, grow, create jobs, and increase wages.

PROTECT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF PRIVATE LAND OWNERS

LICA Position: Private property owners are constantly being deprived of their rights by never ending governmental regulation which effectively takes private property without any compensation. Private property owners are capable of developing land while simultaneously protecting sensitive environmental areas without government interference.

How It Affects Your Business: Governmental regulations slow down any use of private property for development or commercial use, thereby costing jobs, and slowing down the economy, effectively denying an owner the use of their property.

PERMANENT ELIMINATION OF DEATH TAX

LICA Position: LICA supports federal legislation to eliminate the Death Tax permanently on family owned business, family-owned farms and their employees. The Death Tax is the most confiscatory of all taxes. The Death Tax is unfair, anti-family, anti-business, and anti-jobs.

How It Affects Your Business: The federal estate tax is one of the biggest obstacles to family business continuity and growth because of the astronomical rate of 55% federal tax, in addition to state estate taxes, as well as income, business, and capital gains already paid over the individual's lifetime. The thousands of dollars spent on estate planning to minimize their tax burden could be better spent on business growth, job creation, and equipment purchases.

REDUCE THE NATION'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN ENERGY BY TAPPING DOMESTIC SOURCES OF OIL

LICA Position: LICA supports opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for oil exploration and drilling, as well as expanding the use of gasohol.

How It Affects Your Business: America's increasing dependence on Foreign oil, coupled with the increasing cost of oil, weakens our ability to compete globally. Instability in the Middle East further illustrates the need for expanded domestic oil exploration and production. Of ANWR's 18.3 million acres, less than one-tenth of the northern most 1.5 million acres would be affected by the development of the plan. Protecting valuable natural resources can be equitably balanced with the need to provide America's economic viability. Expanded use of gasohol would open additional marketing opportunities for farmers.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

LICA Position: LICA supports legislation seeking health care reform which does not include increased Federal mandates bureaucracy and litigation. LICA believes that competitive, market based forces and not governmental dictates will drive health care costs down and allow greater access to healthcare. The government must seek ways to control litigation in the health care services.

How It Affects Your Business: In recent years, Congress has considered proposals calling for broad health care consumer protection and quality standards. Unfortunately, the "Patients Bill of Rights" would rely heavily on employer mandates, new Federal bureaucracy and the threat of litigation to achieve these goals. Of particular concern is a provision that would expand malpractice liability to health care plans and employers. Proponents argue that employers are shielded from lawsuits by this legislation, but the language is murky at best, and does not fully exempt employers from lawsuits. A company could be sued simply for selecting a health care plan. The only way an employer might protect himself is to not provide any health care benefits.

OPPOSE EXPANSION OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (FMLA)

LICA Position: LICA opposes any attempt to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to cover non-health related absences or to include employers with fewer than 50 employees.

How It Affects Your Business: Expansion of the FMLA could create new and substantial administrative and staffing burdens on small business. The FMLA now requires firms employing 50 or more to grant up to three months leave without pay to their employees for the birth or adoption of a child, care of a sick relative or personal health conditions.

The regulations cover more than 300 pages, and are very complex. Among the many deficiencies of the FMLA is the definition of "serious health condition" (which is vague and confusing) and the intermittent leave provisions which are complicated and difficult to administer. This places an especially heavy time and expense burden on small companies. Small business cannot afford consultants and attorneys to help them comply with all these rules and regulations.

CARA (CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT)

LICA Position: We strongly oppose this act. Our nation is founded on the principle of Private Property Ownership and history has shown that in countries where this is not the case, private citizens lose their "stake" in the country. The Federal government already owns over 30% of the land and is doing a poor job of managing that.

The bill has no protection against condemnation of private land. It allows grant money to environmental and animal rights organizations. It allows the government to grab land for nearly any reason if land or water is suitable or capable of being made suitable for feeding, resting or breeding by wildlife. Our taxpayer funds can be used to meet the perceived needs for wildlife and the habitats on which wildlife depend.

If anyone would like to volunteer to represent the chapter next year in Washington D.C., please contact the legislative committee or the ILICA office. This is important and we need active participation! (Thanks again Steve for representing ILICA)

A WIN-WIN SITUATION!

You could be a winner, Illinois LICA could be a winner, and a fellow contractor could be a winner. Here's how...

When you sign up a new contractor member, Illinois LICA's voice becomes stronger as we protect our industry.

In addition to the contractor benefit package, the new contractor member will receive a FREE registration to the 2004 ILICA Winter Convention

And you could qualify for one of the prizes being offered during the National LICA Membership Drive. The Membership Drive contest ends Feb. 7, 2004.

Here are the prizes:

- \$ 500 cash; ½ off the Lexington Winter Convention registration and one free raffle ticket when you sign up 10 new contractor members.
- \$ 250 cash; ½ off the Lexington Winter Convention registration, and one free raffle ticket when you sign up 5-9 new contractor members.
- \$ 100 cash; ½ off the Lexington Winter Convention registration, and one free raffle ticket when you sign up 3-4 new contractor members.

PREOCCUPATION: OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

Are you preoccupied at work? You are if you:

- suffer a series of uncharacteristic trips and falls.
- are making more or unusual mistakes.
- often have trouble concentrating.
- tend to talk and work at the same time (a particular hazard for those who work with heavy equipment).

Clear your mind and environment of distractions. Many serious injuries occur when workers don't stay focused, unintentionally compromising safety.

ILLINOIS ONE-CALL SYSTEM REACHES MILESTONES

The Illinois One-Call System received and processed a record 1,069,651 underground utility locate requests from excavators in 2002. In addition, 509 new members joined JULIE, Inc., increasing total membership to 1,478. These totals represent significant increases of approximately 7 percent and 52 percent, respectively.

"In 2002, JULIE representatives implemented a successful public safety campaign to build awareness and educate excavators about the importance of safe-digging practices in Illinois," said Mark Frost, executive director of JULIE, Inc. "The record number of underground utility locate requests and significant increase in membership are both strong indications that our ongoing campaign has been effective. As we move forward, we will continue to focus on safety-related issues and expand outreach of our education campaign through a variety of proactive methods."

THE TOP 20 COUNTIES IN ILLINOIS FOR LOCATE REQUESTS FROM EXCAVATORS IN 2002

Cook • Will • DuPage
 Lake • Kane • McHenry
 St. Clair • Madison • Winnebago
 Sangamon • McLean • Champaign
 Peoria • Kendall • Tazewell
 Rock Island • LaSalle • Kankakee
 Macon • DeKalb

"Amendatory language to the Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act went into effect last year that creates a true one-call process by daily penalizing all non-participating underground facility operators who were not members of JULIE, Inc. by Jan. 1, 2003," Frost continued. "Unfortunately, there were utility facility owners and operators that did not comply with the state law before the deadline. We expect membership to continue to grow during the first quarter of the year."

Capitol Update... (con't from page 2)

BOMBS

US Senator Peter Fitzgerald after days of pushing the poll numbers that showed he was re-electable. He then announces he'll not be a candidate for re-election.

Carter Hendren, Chief of Staff for Republican Senate President Pate announced he is electing to take retirement. He had agreed to stay on to get things up and running for Republican Leader Frank Watson, and apparently concluded the work was done. Brian McFadden, former Senate staffer and Chief of Staff to Springfield's outgoing Mayor Karen Hasara has been named to succeed Hendren.

Speaking of Pate Philip, he announced that he was willing to have former House Minority leader Lee Daniels be appointed as his replacement when his resignation becomes effective after Spring Session. They were hardly more than polite to each other for a number of years when they were both part of the "4 tops" as the legislative leaders were referred to.

Representative Hartke got final instruction to clear the air on his being named to the Director of Agriculture post. Senates President Emil Jones suggested that he become a co-sponsor of the Bill to study racial profiling. The Governor then suggested that Hartke also meet with minority leaders from the Chicago, before he sends his name forward. Chicago truly has the Governor's ear.

Bin Money:

A lot of the talk around Springfield is about the Philip Morris bonding level for the Company to appeal the Madison County Judgement award of \$10.0 billion against it.

WHY LICA?

Land Improvement Contractors of America is the largest organization specifically serving the national and local needs of professional land improvement contractors.

You should belong to LICA if you are a contractor who builds or does work on . . .

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- Ditch Lining
- Excavating
- Foundations
- Irrigation and Wells
- Lank Leveling
- Reclamation
- Septic Systems
- Sewage Treatment
- Stream Banks
- Utilities
- Water Treatment
- Dams and Structures
- Drainage Systems
- Farm Ponds
- Grading
- Land Clearing
- On Site Waste Treatment
- Seeding and Sodding
- Sewer and Water Lines
- Sprinkler Systems
- Surveying
- Water Conservation
- Campsites and Parks
- Golf Courses

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION AND CORNERSTONE EXPOSITIONS JOIN FORCES

Chicago, April 16, 2003 - The Land Improvement Contractors Association (LICA) has joined forces with Cornerstone Expositions in order to increase its dedication to the LICA membership base through enhanced visibility at the series of CONEX tradeshows that Cornerstone offers.

"We're excited to forge this new relationship," said Gerry Biuso, executive director of the LICA National Chapter. "This will allow us to better serve our existing members and to actively recruit new members at the CONEX series of shows that Cornerstone produces."

Eileen Oswald, president of Cornerstone, adds "Establishing this national relationship is just our first step in a successful future with LICA. We look forward to working with the individual state chapters in states where we currently hold tradeshows."

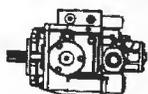
As a result of the partnership, LICA will actively participate in ten of the CONEX shows - CONEX Minnesota in Minneapolis; CONEX Wisconsin in West Allis (Milwaukee), CONEX Illinois, Rosemont (Chicago); CONEX Ohio, location to be announced; CONEX Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia; CONEX Metro, Secaucus, New Jersey; MASCON, Boston, Massachusetts; CONEX Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina. The Show held in Chantilly, Virginia, is operated under the name CBSS, the Contractors & Builders Supply Show.

As a first step in working with local state chapters, Ms. Oswald has met with Illinois' Executive Director Jo Ann Huff to discuss possible coordinated efforts at the CONEX Illinois show in Rosemont on February 4 & 5, 2004.

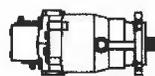
Ms. Oswald has also been invited to the July mid-year meeting in Niagara Falls to meet with additional state executive directors chapter presidents.

*When I was a young man I observed
that nine out of ten things I did were
failures. I didn't want to be a failure,
so I did ten times more work.*

George Bernard Shaw



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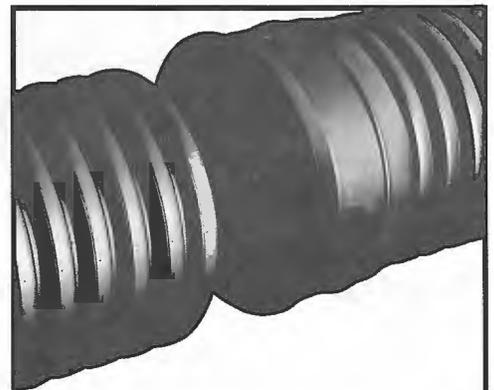
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NATIONAL LICA 2004 SUMMER MEETING JULY 15-19, 2003 HOLIDAY INN SELECT - NIAGARA FALLS, NY

TOURS

Tuesday, July 15 - "The Sweetish Tour"

We will travel to the home of Linda & David Rule in Arcade, NY for a refreshment stop at their maple sugar operation, proceeding south with a stop at the sand & gravel operation of Norm Ungermann. Then on to Sprague's Sugar House where we will have a maple sugar party and tour. We are looking for a brief stop on the way back to the falls. [Cost: \$35 each].

Wednesday, July 16 - "Manufacturing Plants"

We will tour two manufacturing plants in Canada, working with Ideal Drain Tile, London, Ontario and RWF Bron in Woodstock, Ontario. They will provide us with lunch and the tour of their plants. We will have brief stops along the way. [Cost: \$30 each]

Thursday, July 17 - "Ladies Tour"

Niagara-On-The-Lake Candle Plant tour with lunch, stops at historic sites, and a wide variety of shops [Cost: \$20 each]

Friday, July 18 - "The Niagara Clipper"

Dinner and cruise on the river, with music and dancing. [Cost: \$50 each]

Saturday, July 19 - "The Canadian Tour"

See the falls from the Canadian side with dinner in the Revolving Skylon Tower. [Cost: \$55 each for adults; \$25.00 each for children]

Important Information!

- It's important to register early in order to guarantee a seat on these tours or a hotel room!
- If you're crossing into Canada, you will need a copy of your Birth Certificate and a photo ID (driver's license) with you.
- If you have questions, contact Bob Yunker, New York LICA Executive Director at 217-278-2619.

SUMMER MEETING EVENTS

Thursday, July 17

- Opening Breakfast with Keynote Speaker Tom Ryan; Assistant Vice President; Public Safety, Parking and Emergency Services; State University of New York; Oswego (Retired) Topic: "How Safe Are We?"
- All day seminars and exhibits, including "On Site Wastewater Treatment."
- Ice Cream/Soda Party with National Raffle Kick-Off

Friday, July 18

- Committee Meetings
- Regional Meetings
- Seminars
- Optional Dinner & Dancing Cruise

Saturday, July 19

- Breakfast
- Board of Directors Meeting
- Optional Sightseeing Tour to the Canadian Falls

REGISTRATION & RESERVATIONS

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THE HOLIDAY INN SELECT, 300 THIRD STREET, NIAGARA FALLS, NY
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| GENERAL REGISTRATION — POSTMARKED AFTER MAY 15, 2003 | | |
| EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION POSTMARKED BY MAY 15th, 2003 | (DISCOUNT) | |
| Members, Contractors, Spouse, Associates, Government Employees, Consultants | \$ 200.00 | \$ 250.00 |
| Youth: 13 - 15 years of age | \$ 100.00 | \$ 150.00 |
| Child: 12 - years and under (children 3 years and under are free) | \$ 75.00 | \$ 100.00 |
| Non-Member: (Note \$50 will be applied toward membership) | \$ 250.00 | \$ 300.00 |

| PRINT NAMES FOR NAME BADGES | COMPLETE FOR CHILDREN | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| | YOUTH AGE ___ CHILD AGE ___ | |
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| TOTAL TOUR REGISTRATION (Please complete the tour registration and return with this form) | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

| | |
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| TOTAL TOUR AND CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT TO | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

NEW YORK LICA CONVENTION ACCOUNT

**107 LAKE STREET
PERRY, NY 14530**

Attn: Robert Yunker

**TOUR REGISTRATION
52nd LICA SUMMER CONVENTION
HOLIDAY INN SELECT— NIAGARA FALLS, NY— HOSTED BY NYLICA**

NAME: _____

CO. NAME: _____

| DATE | NAMES | AMOUNT | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2003 | MAPLE SUGAR TOUR Home of David & Linda Rule Norman Ungermann, Sand & Gravel Operation with Lunch & Tour at Sprague's Maple Farm | \$ 35.00 EACH | |
| WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2003 | MANUFACTURING PLANTS Tour to Ideal Drain Tile and RWF BRON Trencher Plant | \$ 30.00 EACH | |
| THURSDAY, JULY, 17, 2003 | LADIES TOUR NIAGARA-on-the-LAKE Candle Plant, Lunch, Historic Sites, A Wide Variety of Shops | \$ 20.00 EACH | |
| FRIDAY, JULY, 18, 2003 | THE NIAGARA CLIPPER Dinner Cruise on the River Music & Dancing | \$ 50.00 EACH | |
| SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2003 | THE CANADIAN TOUR The Falls with Dinner in the Revolving Skylon Tower | \$ 55.00 EACH children \$ 25.00 | |

TOTAL TOUR REGISTRATION

Registration Policy: Only individuals registered and badged may attend convention events. The spouse/ guest of a registered member need not register to share a room or tours, but must register to attend convention meals, programs or functions. No registration will be processed without payment. A \$30.00 processing fee will be incurred on cancellations requested, postmarked before June 15th, 2003. Cancellations requested after June 15th, 2003 will be made in emergency cases only. I cannot guarantee rooms at the lower price after that date.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2003 LICA RAFFLE

TOP STATE

Carolinas

CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

Don Loken, Minnesota

CONTRACTOR WIFE OF THE YEAR

Linda Rule - New York

HANCOR ON-SITE AWARD

Steve Robertson - Carolinas

2003 RAFFLE WINNERS

Grand Prize

Cat 247 Multi-Terrain Loader

Joni Hey - New York

2nd Prize

John Deere Construction Gator

Lori Wilson - Virginia

3rd Prize

Trimble/Spectra Precision Lazer

Mark Baker - Iowa

4th Prize

\$1,000-Volvo Construction Equip.

Nancy Micsky - Pennsylvania

5th Prize

\$500 Coupon - Agri-Drain Products

Ken Porter - Nebraska

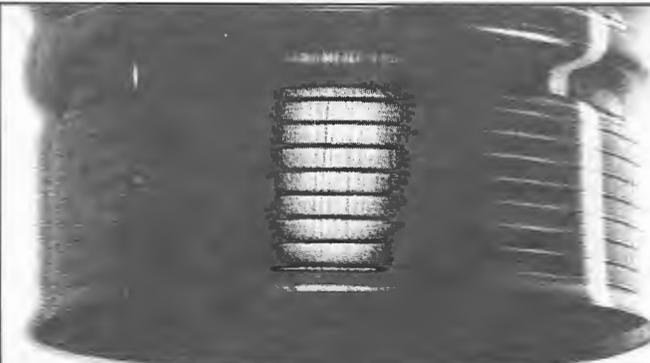
6th Prize

\$500 Coupon - Agri-Drain Products

Ken Porter - Nebraska

Congratulations to the winners and our sincere thanks to all who purchased tickets. State chapters receive a portion of each ticket sold. Illinois received a check for \$160.00.

Thanks for your participation!



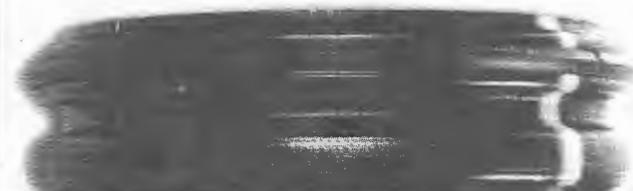
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YOU THINK A GALLON OF GAS IS EXPENSIVE?

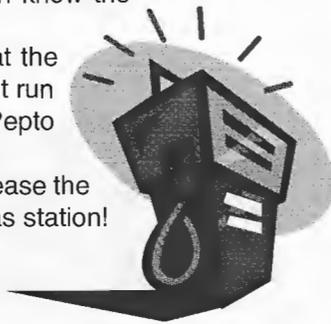
To make one think, and to put things in perspective check out these prices:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Diet Snapple 16 oz \$1.29 | \$10.32 per gallon |
| Lipton Ice Tea 16 oz \$1.19 | \$9.52 per gallon |
| Gatorade 20 oz \$1.59 | \$10.17 per gallon |
| Ocean Spray 16 oz \$1.25 | \$10.00 per gallon |
| Brake Fluid 12 oz \$3.15 | \$33.60 per gallon |
| Vicks Nyquil 6 oz \$8.35 | \$178.13 per gallon |
| Pepto Bismal 4 oz \$3.85 | \$123.20 per gallon |
| Whiteout 7 oz \$1.39 | \$25.42 per gallon |
| Scope 1.5 oz \$0.99 | \$84.48 per gallon |
| Evian Water 9 oz \$1.49 | \$21.19 per gallon! |

And the buyers don't even know the source of the water.

So, the next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on water, Scope, Whiteout, Pepto Bismal or Nyquil!

Just a little humor to help ease the pain of your next trip to the gas station!



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TOOL BOX TALKS

HOISTS, CRANES & SCISSORLIFTS

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES



These are the suggested general guidelines for hoists and cranes. Your business may require additional safety guidelines to meet your specific safety needs.

The proper installation, operation, testing and maintenance of cranes and hoisting devices are a continuing responsibility of the owner/user. All hoists and cranes should be inspected per OSHA guidelines. This includes annual, as well as daily pre-use inspections. These should be documented, signed, and dated. Special attention should be paid to load hooks, ropes, brakes and limit switches.

- The safe load capacity of each hoist should be clearly posted on the hoist body.
- All employees working with hoisting apparatus should be trained on safe lifting/rigging practices and operating rules.
- The operator is responsible for compliance to | safe procedures and to maintaining safe operating conditions of the lifting equipment.
- A load should be picked up only when it is directly under the hoist.
- All hoists should be attached to their supports and have adequate design factor for the maximum loads to be hoisted.
- All lifting hooks will have operating safety latches.
- All slings will be inspected prior to use.
- Each control cord should be nonconductive, unless they are grounded.
- Each control cord should be clearly marked " hoist" or "lower. "
- Equipment should be kept away from energized power lines.
- When a crane is being used, standard hand signals should be posted at the site. Employees operating the crane should be trained in the hand signals, as per the construction industry guidelines.

Only trained and certified employees should be allowed to operate any hoisting or crane device.

ASSISTANCE IS A PHONE CALL AWAY

With a record number of new members joining in the past year, JULIE reminds its members that representatives of the JULIE team are available to assist with employee safety presentations and to answer questions about the state law and policies. In addition, several member companies, including ComEd, Nicor Gas and SBC, have damage prevention contacts available to meet with you and assist with specific questions about locating procedures.

Damage Prevention team numbers, including NEW Nicor Gas contact phone numbers, are available at www.julie1call.com

Public Relations/Field Liaisons

Central/Southern Illinois

Raymond Muhs

618-662-2118 (office)

618-843-2513 (cell)

Northern Illinois

David Van Wy

847-635-7992 (office)

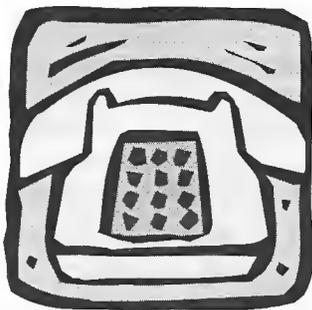
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Requests for Safety Materials

815-741-5000

Database Changes

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All that man builds is from the land.

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or even abuse it,

and yet many unthinkingly and

unknowingly pass the land by.

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Will be the deciding factor, of his survival

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WHAT IS TECHREG

TechReg is an internet application which will make it easy for Technical Service Providers to register and become certified and USDA Customers to find certified providers. TechReg is an outstanding example of how the USDA is trying to serve the public effectively and efficiently through electronic means.

Who are Technical Service Providers?

Technical Service Providers are individuals certified to provide assistance on behalf of USDA. Technical assistance includes conservation planning & design, layout, installation, and checkout of approved conservation practices. NRCS and conservation districts have traditionally provided these technical services and will continue to do so. What's new is the USDA will now reimburse producers for technical assistance provided by Certified Technical Service Providers

Interested in becoming a Technical Service Provider?

Find out how easy it is to become a USDA Technical Service Provider by checking out the "Roadmap to becoming a TSP". The TechReg system is now available for online registration and certification. You will need a USDA user account and password. Information is available online or through a USDA Service Center. An even more streamlined certification process is available to members of "Certifying Organizations" already partnering with USDA. Contact one of these organizations today and

become certified. NRCS will be working with partnering Federal, State and private organizations to provide training to those individuals who want to become a USDA Certified Technical Service Provider.

How do I get a user account and password?

On your computer browser type in www.nrcs.usda.gov On left hand column, click on electronic government. A page will open titled USDA Service Center Agencies Online Services, go to Register Now and click. Follow instructions to print form AD2016. Complete the form with a notarized signature and mail or fax to your local service center.

BOSSES AND LEADERS

A boss walks around creating fear. A leader walks around creating confidence.

Bossism usually creates resentment. Leadership will breed enthusiasm.

A boss always says, "I". A leader always says, "We".

A boss makes it a habit to fix the blame. A leader takes the time to fix mistakes.

A boss knows how to do it. A leader shows how to do it.

Bossism makes work drudgery. Leadership makes work interesting.

A boss relies on authority over employees. A leader relies on cooperation with employees.

A boss drives. A leader leads.

My advice to you if you're a boss? Begin to lead.

Hire At Your

Own Risk

*In just one month
FMCSA issued fines to
155 companies
totaling nearly \$1
million.*

.....

But do fines tell the story of what companies lose every day by making poor hiring decisions?

Thorough background screening and substance abuse testing can uncover unflattering information about your applicants. Or, depict the kind of employee you want working for you: safe, reliable with past employers who wish they could hire them back.

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GABBING WITH THE GALS...



Looking at a past column I see that we have had 30-degree weather in past years so it should be nothing new. doesn't keep us from complaining about it, does it? The weather is most likely the main item for folks to talk about it, good or bad. Actually, what you see is what you get so it really is redundant to talk about it. Talking about spring weather, that is.

April is famous for acknowledging the worth of secretaries. Now that term has lots of meanings for different people. At our place we do jobs that are more or less of a secretary as the case may be. In other words, we do more than answer phones and write letters - if a person would list all they do in a day (no matter the occupation) they would be surprised at how much they do. We are all versatile, some of us more than others. It gives you a clear picture of how talented we are and may not even know it. When Julie came into the picture, it was worth a week's salary to get those directions through someone else's brain. This gal believes that Julie should take their operators for a trip to the world known as 100E 300 N in order that that they can understand we have no house number or street name to refer to. It is a good bet that some of them have never been out of the city. I have had to ask for a supervisor more than once. Patience sometimes goes by the wayside and somehow aspirin comes into the picture!

People are always trying to build a stairway to heaven. Some are like towers, some are only a few steps high, but there's never been one that was high enough to make it all the way to god. That's when a soul has to stand on the top step and call up and say, "Here I am. Please lift me up the rest of the way!" And god hears you. He reaches down and takes you home. We see evidence of this all the time. All of my family have been taken home and I am it. It is mind-boggling when you think about it any length of time. Even if we have all of our immediate family, there is still a sadness to be the only one available in your mother and father's family. We had a rude awakening of this recently when our pastor of 21 years died suddenly. You get accustomed to being a family of church people with the same pastor all that time and whammo! Things change overnight. . .The same feeling happens when friends who are your age pass away. Gives reason for thought doesn't it? No sermon intended here, and enough deep thoughts for now.

More get-well cards have come in for me since the last column and thanks so

much to all of you; they are so pretty and notes inside very nice. I am back to driving now; have to wear a brace on the right leg for awhile yet and it is pretty heavy. But much better than a month ago, so for all prayers I also thank you. Using a cane but that's much better than the walker. Also back to cooking easy meals and am sure hubby is glad of that! Still have to do the exercises but they get easier all the time. Not only will I be glad when the doctor releases me but so will the insurance company.

We had a magician for dinner last night. When we served him some stewed rabbit, he tasted it and left the table immediately. Father said it was very unusual because it's probably the first time on record that a rabbit made a magician disappear.

We are planning "Cousins Get Together" on Easter Sunday. I mentioned previously about relatives being called home so cousins are mostly the only ones left. If your different families live a distance apart then what happens is the only times you see them is at funerals. In order to prevent this, we need to visit from time to time just because. Hoping for good weather and a good turnout. Some people shy away from the word "reunion" so that's why we chose to call it a "get together". Good things to eat and good company makes for a good time for all. Might have a sing-a-long among the visiting.

Most of you know that son Scott is building a new home. When a friend toured the house that was semi-finished he asked what style of architecture it is. Scott replied he wasn't sure but thinks it's Reminiscence. (Jus kiddin', Scott.)

The word for this issue is "television". When Rambling Rose was first home from the hospital, rest was required and she discovered daytime television. Not soap opera, thank you. Mysteries are my forte. I could watch "Murder She Wrote" either in the morning or afternoon when it was repeated, Perry Mason in between, Diagnosis Murder in between. Of course even watching what you like gets boring after awhile. When the war started you had a front-row seat. Now that we have been saturated with it, makes everybody want to abandon television altogether. The more channels available, the more programs you don't care about. Which reinforces the old adage that there is something good and bad about most everything. The

Rambling Rose... (> p19)

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PROTECT YOUR HANDS

Let's take a minute here to talk about your hands. How would your life be affected if you lost a finger? Not Much? A lot? How about if you lost your thumb? No problem you say? Try using any tool effectively without your thumb. What if you lost a hand? Or both hands? I know of one person's grandfather who lost both of his hands and forearms in a farming accident when he was a kid. While he was a remarkable and successful man, there were many things that people with two good hands take for granted that took him years to master. Like eating with a fork, (he refused to use prosthetics), or dealing from a deck of cards. What would you do if you lost your hands? Think about it. It probably would not be what you are doing now.

All accidents just don't happen, they are caused by not paying attention and by not thinking of what can go wrong before it goes wrong. I am sure that you can think of instances in your own life where you or somebody you know or love was injured because of these simple reasons. The grandfather who lost his hands as a young boy did so because he didn't shut down the threshing machine before he tried to unclog it. You may be shaking you head and thinking that you would never to such a thing. But how many times A DAY do you do something that could result in an accident to yourself or those around you? Someone, somewhere suffers an injury every single day, every single hour and probably every minute.

The construction trades and manufacturing industries are especially prone to hand injuries. There are rough materials to handle, objects to be stacked and stored, tools

to be utilized, equipment to be operated. All pose special risks to hand injury. To come up with a list on how to protect your hands in each and every situation would be impossible. The list would be never ending. Each new advance in technology also advances the opportunities for people to damage their hands and they will, be it by operating a 100 ton press or testing a circuit board.

People usually approach their tasks "at hand" in one of two ways: they either don't think of safety at all before they jump into the task or they think that they "won't or "can't" hurt themselves. Wrong. They will. If not today then most likely sooner than later. Do the smart thing: Before you begin a project, or take up a tool, or start a piece of equipment, think of the accident that CAN and WILL happen unless you make sure that it doesn't. Apply the "what if" criteria of safety to what you are doing: What if...the knife slips while I am stripping this wire? Will I cut myself? What if. . .the screw driver slips off this stubborn screw I'm trying to remove from this box in my hand? Will I punch the screwdriver through the palm of my hand? What if...that pallet of material falls off the fork lift while I am holding this gate open? Will my hands be crushed?

Keep your mind on your hands. "Hand Safety Sense" is just plain ol' "Common Sense"...use yours BEFORE you lose yours. If your coworker seems to be lacking in common sense then use yours BEFORE they lose theirs. Keep your mind on safety first and your hands will continue to provide you We with a way in which to achieve your personal goals.



WEBSITE PROVIDES EASY ACCESS TO COMMENT ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

E-government took a huge leap forward this week with the launching of www.regulations.gov. At "Regulations.gov," you can find, review, and submit comments on Federal documents that are open for comment and published in the Federal Register. According to a study by the Office of Advocacy, small businesses are hardest hit by regulations. Firms employing fewer than 20 employees face an annual regulatory burden of \$6,975 per employee, a cost nearly 60 percent above that facing a firm employing over 500 employees.

RIDDLE ME TREES

1. What tree signs and languishes?
2. What tree is made of stone?
3. What tree grows near the ocean?
4. What tree always has a partner?
5. What tree is pulled from the water with a hook?
6. What tree is often found in bottles?
7. What tree is the straightest tree that grows?
8. What tree is older than other trees?
9. What tree is found after the fire burns out?
10. What tree keeps animals warm?
11. What tree can be found in people's mouths?
12. What tree is very sad?
13. What tree is won on your feet in the summer?
14. What tree does everyone carry in his or her hands?
15. What tree is an awful grouch?

- | | |
|---------|-------------------|
| A. Gum | I. Sandal |
| B. Plum | J. Weeping Willow |
| C. Fir | K. Elder |
| D. Palm | L. Cork |
| E. Pine | M. Lime |
| F. Ash | N. Beech |
| G. Pear | O. Bass |
| H. Crab | |

answers at bottom of page

Rambling Rose... (< p17)

drawback is we still have to pay for it.

Looking forward to coming to the picnic meeting wherever it is going to be. It will be great to see all of you again and: "be out among 'em". Trying to be in the office several hours a day; found out that too many hours makes this gal hard to get along with. That will surely change one of these days. Maybe I should be good or Secretary Day will pass unnoticed, right?

May is the month to plant those flowers so enjoy their beauty and pray for rain. Good crops and gardens wished to all from.

...Rambling Rose.

Useless bits of information

* * *

A crocodile can't stick out its tongue.

*

China has more English speakers than the United States.

*

Every time you lick a stamp, you are consuming 1/10 of a calorie.

*

"I am" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

*

If you keep a goldfish in a dark room, it will eventually turn white.

*

If a person yelled for eight years, seven months and six days, they would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.

*

Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand.

*

The names of all the continents end with the same letter they start with.

*

The shortest war in history was between Zanzibar and England in 1896. Zanzibar surrendered after 38 minutes.

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The business person who is out in from has an active organization behind him.

CRAZY DRIVING DRIVES US CRAZY

Discourteous driving irritates everyone and each of us is probably guilty of it occasionally. Unfortunately, we don't always recognize our own driving habits that may drive someone else crazy.

Auto accidents are the leading cause of death among workers in the country and the largest claims expense for Federated. According to our industry loss studies, inattention or distracted driving is a contributing factor in more than 65 percent of vehicular claims. Other factors are failure to yield and following too closely, which may also be related to distractions.

We are too often in a hurry and try to do too many things at once. Some people read, shave or apply make-up while driving. We sometimes laugh about news stories of bizarre driving behavior. But, the common



distractions that often cause accidents are behaviors such as talking on cell phones, eating, reaching for objects, tuning the radio, changing CDs, attending to children, daydreaming or thinking about something unrelated to driving, or falling asleep.

Distracted drivers are worse than discourteous—they are dangerous. Federated has several programs and materials to help you keep your drivers attentive and safe.

Source Federated Insurance Company Industry Loss Studies - Year-end 2001

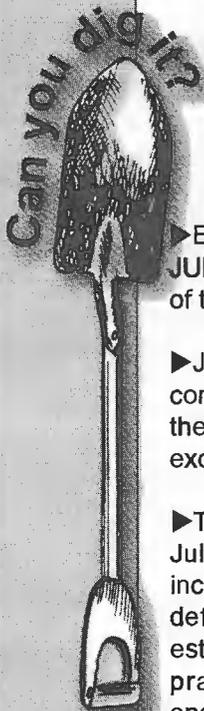


JULIE

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Digging responsibly is the only way to dig. If you can dig it, you must call JULIE first!

- ▶ Excavators are reminded to call JULIE two working days in advance of their excavation project.
- ▶ JULIE will notify member utilities companies allowing them to mark their underground facilities at the excavation site.
- ▶ The new legislation took effect on July 1, 2002. Significant changes included the ICC penalty process, definition of important terms, and establishing reasonable business practices. Excavators are encouraged to view the full text at www.julie1call.com.



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DID YOU KNOW??

The face of money in the U.S. will soon change. The U.S. Treasury announced plans to add subtle background colors to the \$20, \$50, and \$100 bills as early as fall 2003 for the \$20 bill, with the \$50 and \$100 bills to follow about a year later. No decision has been made on color schemes.

The hope is that the colored bills, called the NexGen series, will help deter counterfeiter. Changes will not be made to the \$1 and \$2 bills because they are rarely counterfeited; changes to the \$5 and \$10 bills are being considered. The Treasury has repeatedly told Congress

the importance of changing the larger bill every seven to 10 years. The last changes were made in 1996 when: the presidential portraits were enlarged; a watermark portrait, visible when held up to the light, was inserted; colorshifting ink was added to the number in the right-hand corner; and other subtle changes were made. The changes will remain on the new bills.

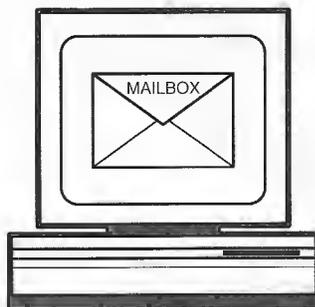
Despite the 1996 changes, counterfeiters printed \$47.5 million in "free" money during 2001, mainly by computer.

The Treasury also hopes that adding color to the bills will help consumers differentiate between denomination

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WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM SOCIAL SECURITY?

Many financial planners will tell you that individuals need 70 - 80 percent of their preretirement income to live comfortably in retirement.

But according to government estimates, Social Security replaces only 40 percent of the average worker's pre-retirement income. For highly compensated individuals, this percentage may be much less. The remainder must come from other sources such as employer pensions and personal savings.

What benefit amount will you receive?

A worker must have 40 quarters of work coverage to be eligible for Social Security benefits. Therefore, 10 years of work is needed. The Social Security Administration (SSA) determines your benefit amount based on a formula that starts with your 35 highest earning years during which you paid into the Social Security system. Each year has a maximum cap, so even if your income went over this cap, maximum earnings levels will be at the cap rate.

Nest, an index is applied to return the approximate value of your earnings in current dollars. All 35 years are totaled and then divided by 420 (the number of months in 35 years). This returns the average indexed monthly earnings.

The rest of the equation is a bit like computing your income tax: The first pre-determined dollar amount of monthly income is multiplied by 90 percent. The next pre-determined amount is multiplied by 32 percent and the final predetermined amount (if any) is multiplied by 15 percent.

These numbers are added together and rounded to the next lowest dollar. This returns the maximum monthly retirement benefit at full retirement age. For instance, if you retired in 2002 at age 62 and had received the maximum earnings amount since age 22, your average indexed monthly earnings would be \$5,499, and your maximum benefit would be \$1,382. If you retired at age 70 in 2002, your average indexed monthly earnings would be \$4,165 and your monthly benefit \$1,988. Confused? Fortunately, there are two simpler ways to determine how much you can expect to receive from Social Security:

1. Check the annual statement you receive from the SSA three months before your birthday. If you do not receive one, it may be because the SSA does not have an updated address for you. You may request a statement online at www.ssa.gov, or phone the SSA at (800) 7221213.
2. Calculate your expected benefits using the SSA's benefits calculator:
www.ssa.gov/planners/calculators.htm.
This calculator will even help you determine the

break-even age for delaying retirement past your minimum retirement age.

What is the right age to retire?

The earliest a person can start receiving Social Security benefits (barring disability or some other special-needs circumstance) is age 62. However, to receive the maximum monthly benefit you are entitled to, you will probably have to work longer.

For those born in 1937 or earlier, the full benefits retirement age is 65. This amount is stepped up two months each year after 1937 until 1960 when full retirement age is 67. Increased benefits accrue for those opting to delay receiving benefits beyond their full retirement age.

When determining when to begin collecting benefits, it is important to consider many factors, including your life expectancy, financial needs, desire to continue working, etc. Generally speaking, the SSA has reduced the amounts for early benefits payout commensurate with the longer payout period and increased the benefits for later payout commensurate with the shorter expected payout period. In other words, barring a life expectancy outside the norm,

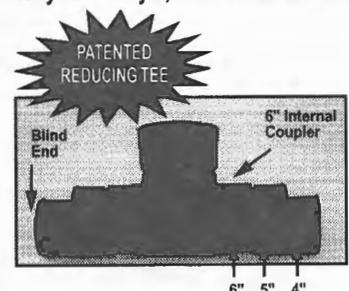
Social Security... (> p23)

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Social Security... (< p22)

you will probably receive close to the same total amount of benefits no matter when you begin receiving them.

What spousal benefits are available?

If both you and your spouse retire and begin receiving benefits, your monthly benefits will be the greater of: (1) your combined monthly benefits, or (2) the monthly benefit of the higher earning spouse plus one half of that amount. For instance, if your monthly benefit was \$1,50 and your spouse's was \$800, you would receive a total of \$2,050. If your monthly benefit was \$1,250 and your spouse's was \$375, you would receive a total of \$1,875 (\$1,250 plus half of \$1,250 or \$625)

Social Security also provides survivor benefits, disability benefits and cost of living increases. To learn more, visit the SSA Web site at www.ssa.gov.

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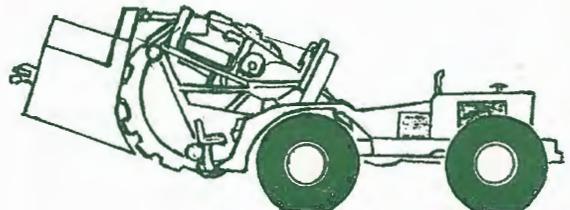
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