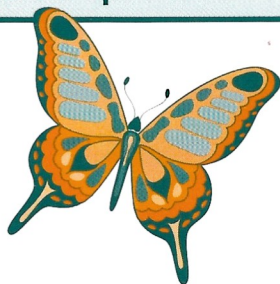


Illinois
Land Improvement
Contractors Association

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2002

No. 2



Spring is in the air!



INSIDE:

- ✿ ILICA's 45th Annual Meeting and Convention
- ✿ Legislative and Regulatory Issues
- ✿ 2002 ILICA Directors and Alternates
- ✿ 2002 ILICA Committees

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by Dwight Dunbar,
Consultant to ILICA

Bills Keep Rolling In

"There's no reason to have over 2300 bills!" was the comment uttered as I went into the Senate Bill Room last week.

This sort of comment always prompts some discussion. The Bill Room staff agrees with my assessment that nothing much beyond the Budget will get done this year. My own sense tells me Senate President Philip want his members to have plenty of time to campaign – that can't be done when you're in Springfield legislating.

On the opposite side of the dome last week much of the discussion centered around limits on Bill. The early directive from the Speaker Madigan and Minority Leader Daniels clearly said each House member would be limited to three. But it would now seem that might not be the case.

Just over 3050 new Bills have been introduced this "off year" – or about 1/2 the number introduced last year. 882 Senate Bills have been introduced and 2171 House Bills have been introduced.

No General Assembly Help for A Growing Budget Hole

Someone finally looked at reality and assessed the full impact of the State's revenue shortfall and the FY '02 deficit come to close to \$1.1 billion. The Governor and CMS has told the union they'll have to come-up with a plan for all employees to take 4 furlough days before the end of June.

This is wreaking havoc on budget planning for FY '03. My own sense is that some budgets will end-up close to FY '00 levels. That's a lot different from what was even promised for the current fiscal year. I am also convinced that the last thing Governor Ryan wants as part of his legacy is a deficit budget so he can be accused of "spending our children's future."

The rest of this update will be devoted to a summary of what is in the legislative website I mentioned at convention.

About the General Assembly Website

The Illinois General Assembly maintains in conjunction with it support units a web site. The Legislative Information Service – LIS – now maintains many of the legislative reports which those of us here every day get paper copies of for our records. The electronic address for the General Assembly Website is: <http://www.legis.state.il.us/>

At this site you can find out the status of all legislation and read either the full text of bills or a

Capitol Update... (con't to page 14)

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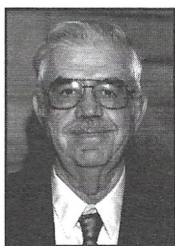
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Davenport, IA
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Hannibal, MO
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Moberly, MO
660/263-8200



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I will be working with the certification and education committees in the up coming months concerning the certifying of contractors and possibly having a license number for each certified contractor. When the board meets in March, the certification and education committees will be developing proposed guidelines and procedures to accomplish this certification, by certifying earthmoving, septic, landscaping contractors, and home builders. This could possibly attract new members.

I will be attending the national convention in Birmingham this month, and also the lobby session in Washington, D.C. in March.

The workshop in East Peoria in February was very successful. The attendance was down a little probably because of the nice weather. I hope everyone has a safe and profitable year.

Forrest Davis
President



ACTIVE

Jeff Litwiller
Litwiller Excavating – Area 3
16974 Deemack Rd.
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309-359-5057

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Bill Lee – Area 8
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217-846-3221

Jasan & Kurt Haas
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Mt. Carroll, IL 61053
815-947-2570

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James A. Graves – Area 3
Streitmatter Land Improvement
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309-695-6631

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Hurst & Sons Farm
Improvement
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Elmwood, IL 61529

Matthew Hoene – Area 6
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Sisel, IL 62462

Brian Hurst – Area 3
Hurst & Sons Farm
Improvement Inc.
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Yates City, IL 61572

Gary Kaiser – Area 8
C.F.C.O.
R.R. #2, Box 95
Lawrenceville, IL 62439

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Subscription price \$1.00 per year, issued bimonthly: January-February; March-April; May-June; July-August; September-October; November-December.

READ THIS

**ILICA BOARD MEETING WILL
BE HELD AT THE
HERITAGE HOUSE
RESTAURANT
3851 S. 6TH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
MARCH 9, 2002**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**11:00 AM – Convention
1:00 PM – Education
2:00 PM – Membership
1:00 PM – Certification
1:00 PM – By Laws
2:00 PM – Associates**

Upcoming Meetings



ILICA BOARD MEETINGS

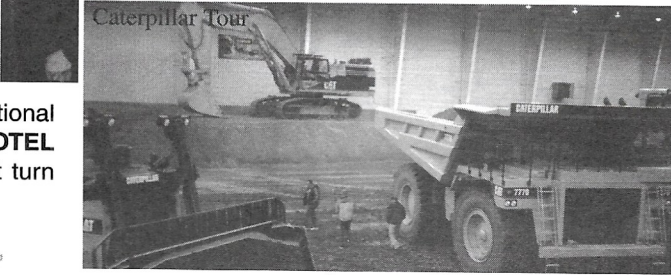
March 9, 2002
May 11, 2002
June 22, 2002
September 7, 2002
November 2, 2002
2003 Annual Convention
January 16-18, 2003

LICA MEETINGS

July 16-20, 2002
Radisson Hotel
Moline, Illinois
February 17-22, 2003
Oklahoma/Tulsa, Oklahoma
July 15-19, 2003
Buffalo, New York

ILICA'S 45TH ANNUAL MEETING & CONVENTION "MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION"

The 45th Annual Meeting & Convention of the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association was held at the Holiday Inn Brandywine in Peoria, January 17-18-19. Hats off to Convention Committee Members, Stan & Miriam Seevers, Joe & Jackie Streitmatter, Bev & Bill Dean, and Mark & Kate Baker for providing us with an educational, and well planned convention. Recognition also goes to our Education Committee for their continued success in finding speakers and topics that were timely and relevant for our educational sessions. The weather cooperated, **THE HOTEL WAS OUTSTANDING** and we had a great turn out.



Thursday morning started with 70 attendees taking an informative tour of the Mossville Caterpillar Plant and then it was on to Edwardsville for a full line formal demonstration followed by lunch in Cat's Administration Building.

The General Session began with "Insurance 101" presented by Nathan Oland from Federated Insurance. Leneau Bulthuis with Pripisco, Inc. gave us "Marketing Tools and Tips for Contractors" followed by Tony Rapplean a licensed Physical Therapist from Methodist Community Outreach who talked about back safety. The Board of Directors Meeting was held at 3 p.m.

Thursday

Thursdays activities continued with the Early Bird Get together co-sponsored by Roland Machinery and ILICA that started off with a Mardi Gras Parade marching from the well packed Exhibit Hall to the Holidome where we listened to the sounds of John Phillips and his River City Dixie Land Band. Here, four "Oldie Wed" couples participated in a spin off of the Newly Wed Game. We heard some curious answers to some very simple questions like "How many pictures are hanging in your living room? And What Brand is Your Washing Machine" Isn't it funny how differently men and women look at these things!! And then of course, the evening ended with a visit to the Hospitality Rooms sponsored by our Associate Members.



Bill Dean Host of the new "Oldie Wed Game"



Thanks to all our associates for sponsoring the nights entertainment and especially to Roland Machinery for once again providing great food, drinks and prizes.

Friday

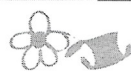
Friday began with devotional service, opening of a well packed Exhibit Area and the General Session which included Reports from the following; ILICA, LICA, Current Legislation, NRCS, FSA and AIDD. These reports were given by representatives from each of these agencies. Thanks to Altorfer Inc and Patten Tractor & Equipment for again sponsoring our noon luncheon. After lunch Educational Sessions included a panel discussion by our contractor members on "Accidents & Incidents" followed by Matt Smith of J.L. Hubbard Insurance who critiqued these incidents and gave us insight on how to prevent future mishaps. Next session was "Interpretation of Prevailing Wage Law" presented by John Freitag from Dept of Labor and then Pat Strong from the Illinois Dept of Revenue talked about "Sales & Use Tax Issues".

Thanks goes again to our dinner sponsors Martin Equipment of IL,

Springfield Plastics and ILICA. For the evening entertainment this year we had our 2nd Annual Auction where Norm & Jim Roth from Roth Auction Service helped us to raise some funds for ILICA.

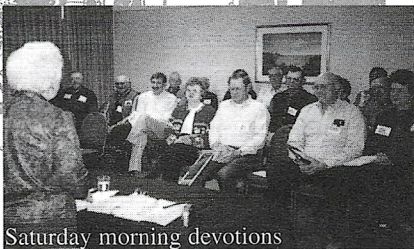
Thanks again to our Associate Members and ILICA Contractors for donating some great auction items.

AUCTION



Saturday

The Devotions Committee started our Saturday morning off with inspiration and song and those who attended appreciate their efforts. After breakfast, door prizes were handed out to the lucky winners and General Session started back up with Educational Session which included "Lubricants for Today's Market" and "Leasing vs Purchasing".



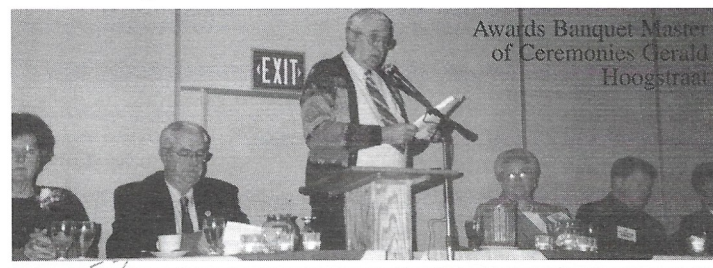
Saturday morning devotions

The Membership Campaign Luncheon was held at noon and members were awarded plaques for their efforts in signing up new members.

First place went to Wayne Littwiller, Second Place to Richard Anderberg and Third place to Joe Streitmatter. Thanks to all who participated in the Campaign and KEEP THOSE NEW MEMBERS ROLLING IN!!!

The annual Business Meeting began at 2 p.m. Forrest Davis was elected President, Stuart Anderson- Vice President, Joe Streitmatter-First Vice President, Steve Anderson- Treasurer and JoAnn Huff - Secretary. Directors and Alternates were chosen by their respective Districts making up our new 2002 Board of Directors. All yearly reports were given.

The evening ended with of course, our Annual Awards Banquet. A big thanks to Gerald Hoogstraat with Eastern Illinois Clay who did a SUPER job as Master of Ceremonies and of course, Congratulations to all award recipients!



Awards Banquet Master of Ceremonies Gerald Hoogstraat

Ladies Program

Our ladies enjoyed another great program this year. On Friday, the ladies boarded a bus for the Specialty Shops of Washington Square where there were more than 20 unique shops filled with collectibles, gifts, home accessories, primitives furniture and more. They were served a delightful lunch at Messie Bessie's Tea Room and then on to a stop at "Mary's Collectibles Gifts and Home Furnishings". In the afternoon



Missy Moln with "Creative Memories"

Ladies had a choice of attending a wine tasting demonstration by Sherry Adkisson with "Wine Savvy" or learning how to transform their old snapshots into a treasured heirloom put on by Missy Moln with Creative Memories.

On Saturday, Ella Maxwell from D.A. Hoerr Nursery talked about spring planting, what you can do with herbs and answered questions. Next, Carolyn Hanethl from Soderstrom Dermatology Center talked about "Taking Care of the Skin You're In" and helped us with other related skin problems. Then, Miriam Seevers was on hand to help everyone create their own special pin with "Jewelry In the Making, Your Creativity at Work". Thanks to Miriam and all her "jewels"!!

The 2002 Convention was filled with wonderful food, great fellowship, opportunity to meet new and old friends and to learn something new with great educational programs. The Convention Committee has decided to return to our new friends in Peoria at the Holiday Inn Brandywine on January 16-17-18. If you have ANY suggestions for entertainment or educational programs, please call the ILICA office or let our committee members know.



Precision Intakes

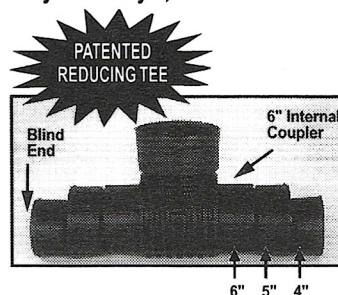
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Awards Were Presented To:

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Norm Kocher

Mrs. Contractor
Janice Litwiller

Director of the Year
Dave Hurst



Merit Awards:

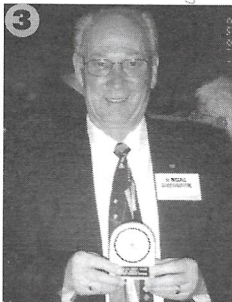
Wayne LiLwiller

Joe Streitmatter

★ **3** Al McCall

1 Clyde Day

2 Carol Kiley



Service Awards:

4 Tim Malone, DC, NRCS

Joy Severns, Administrative Co-ordinator, Tazewell Co. SWCD

5 Don Jenkins, IL Central College

6 Robert W. Frazee, Extension Coordinator, U of I

7 James Evans, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS

Kim St. John, Prairie Rivers RC&D

8 Carol & Charlie Blye, Landowners

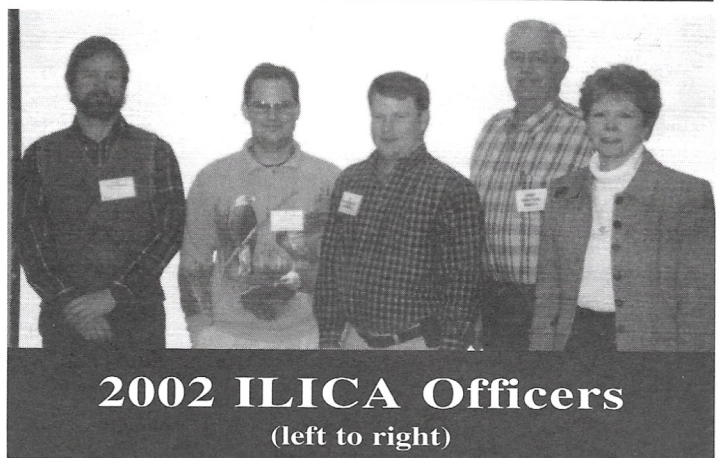


Congratulations to the well deserved recipients!

Thanks to all our sponsors:

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2002 ILICA Officers

(left to right)

Steve Aderson, Treasurer

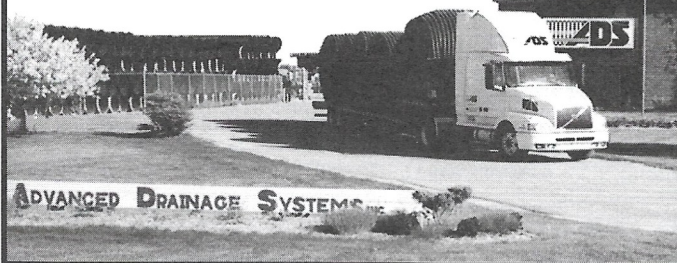
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Forrest Davis, President

JoAnn Huff, Secretary/Executive Director

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2002 Board of Directors

(left to right)

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Stuart Anderson	Arlyn Folkers	Scott Day
Steve Anderson	Don Becraft	Dave Hurst
Wayne Litwiller	Joe Streitmatter	Sam Mackey
Ron Maschins	Forrest Davis	Craig Carroll
Ken Carpenter	Bill Dean	

MY FORGETTER!

My forgetter's getting better
 But my rememberer is broke
 To you that may sound funny
 But to me, that is no joke.
 For when I'm "here" I'm
 wondering
 If I really should be "there"
 And, when I try to think it
 through,
 I haven't got a prayer!
 Oft times I walk into a room,
 Say, "what am I here for?"
 I wrack my brain, but all in vain
 A zero, is my score.
 At times I put something away
 Where it is safe, but, Gee!
 The person it is safest from
 Is, generally me!
 When shopping I may see
 someone,
 Say "Hi" and have a chat,
 Then, when the person walks
 away
 I ask myself, "Who was that?"
 Yes, my forgetter's getting better
 While my rememberer is broke,
 And it's driving me plumb crazy
 And that isn't any joke.

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GOVERNOR RYAN ANNOUNCES GREEN GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Governor George H. Ryan announced February 13, 2002 seven state agencies have been recognized with the first Green Government Awards for their leadership roles in carrying out the Governor's Green Illinois Executive Order.

The initial Executive Order in April 2000 created the Green Government Coordinating Council to help agencies under the Governor incorporate more environmentally sustainable practices into their day-to-day functions—from the goods and services they use, to the waste they generate. A second Executive Order issued in December 2001 expanded the initiative.

"By reducing energy use, conserving raw materials, cutting down on waste generation and using environmentally-friendly materials, these agencies are not only setting environmental standards, but often they save money at the same time," said Governor Ryan.

The awards were presented by Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director Renee Cipriano to the Department of Agriculture, Department of Central Management Services, Department of Corrections, Department of Lottery, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Public Aid and Historic Preservation Agency.

"These agencies have gone the extra mile and are role models for environmental leadership and protection," said Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director Renee Cipriano, who co-chairs the Coordinating Council and presented the awards today.

Details on the achievements recognized for each agency follow:

• Department of Agriculture

Waste Reduction

- Reusing wooden shipping pallets, which accompany paper product orders, for the storage of chemicals, books and other materials.
- Recycling wood chips from tree pruning and tree removal.
- Mulching leaves for plantings around State Fair grounds.

-Worked with agricultural chemical supply groups to recycle 123,536 pounds of plastic pesticide containers.

Energy Efficiency

-Instructed employees to power down computers and switch off lights and the end of each day.

Resource Efficiency

-Purchased flexible fuel vehicles that can use ethanol (or E-85 fuel) for field and administrative headquarters fleets. Many of the agency's field units are almost entirely made up of E-85 vehicles.

Water Conservation

-Utilized recycled water from the nearby sanitary district for racetrack maintenance, dust control and plant watering at the State Fair grounds.

Pollution Prevention

-Scheduled press runs in the agency's print shop by ink color to minimize ink use and chemical waste generation.

• Central Management Services

Waste Reduction- Estimated benefits of the below practices: diverted 132 cubic yards of materials from landfills and saved approximately 680 trees

- Replaced the mailing of hard copy bid solicitation packets with one-page bid announcements.
- Posting award notices in electronic bulletins
- Increased Internet posting of bid information for vendors to reduce paper use, postage and waste.
- Encouraging vendors to download solicitations from electronic bulletins. Some bids are no longer copies and mailed to vendors.

Energy Efficiency

- Completed project to replace fluorescent light fixtures with more energy-efficient T-8 fixtures at the Marion Regional Office Building (Anticipated savings is \$8,000/year)
- Replaced HVAC system with more energy efficient system controlled by computer management software at Marion Regional Office Building. (Estimated electrical savings is \$1,725/year. Estimated savings on gas is \$566/year.)
- Replaced fluorescent bulbs and electronic ballasts (Estimated 15% to 20% savings in energy use) and insulated steam and condensate lines at Elgin Regional Office Building (Estimated 5% to 10% savings in gas use.)

I-CYCLE Program

-Collected and recycled the following materials from 221 state facilities:

- *2,441 tons of mixed and white paper
- *140 tons of cardboard
- *13,562 lbs. of metals
- *Kitchen grease
- *Photographic chemicals

Resource Efficiency

-Utilizing compressed material products to construct agency signs rather than natural wood products.

Water Conservation

-Installed energy efficient flush valves in urinals and toilets at the Rockford Regional Office Building (achieved a savings of two gallons of water per flush.)

-Installed new water nozzles at E.J. "Zeke" Giorgi Center and Champaign Regional Office Building (Increased water efficiency by 5 to 15 percent.)

Pollution Prevention

-Installed 900 feet of new steam lines at the Elgin Regional Office Building. (Reduced boiler chemical use from 400 lbs/year to 200 lbs/year).

Recycle Contents Products

-Purchased \$2,901,535 worth of recycled content products including:

- Bins (100% purchased made with recycled content).
- Corrugated Boxes (100% purchased with recycled content).

Governor Ryan Announces Green... (con't to page 15)

HEAVY EQUIPMENT— MOUNTING & DISMOUNTING

It might seem trivial to have a training session on how to get up and down and sit properly on a bulldozer. The fact is that many workdays are lost because of slips, trips, and falls on and from heavy equipment. The following toolbox talk can help prevent heavy equipment and slip, trip and fall accidents.

Pre-operational inspection—You should always perform a pre-operational (pre-shift) inspection on equipment you plan to operate. The inspection should include checking that: (1) Access ladders, steps, guardrails, and handholds are securely fastened and in good condition. Ensure there are no loose, bent, cracked, or missing parts, and (2) walking and/or stepping surfaces are free of debris and/or slippery substances and that non-skid surfaces, where required, are in good shape.

Getting up and down—Believe it or not there are proper ways of climbing up, getting into or out of cabs and seats, and getting down and off of equipment. You should:

- Always use handrails, face the ladder or steps, and

maintain three points of contact (two feet and one hand, or one foot and two hands) at all times.

- Always use anti-slip surfaces for climbing or stepping.
- Never jump from or to ladders, steps, or walkways.

Cab inspection—You should check "sitting" equipment weekly to ensure:

- Door latches work and doors can be opened from the inside or out.
- Seat suspensions operate properly. Any loose, binding, broken, or missing parts must be repaired before use.
- Forward and rear adjustment, weight compensators, and other adjustable features work properly.
- Employee transport vehicles have a seat for each employee and that it is firmly attached.

Seat belts—Motor vehicles are those that operate on highways and at off-highway jobsites not open to public traffic including dump and pick-up trucks. Seat belt rules for this equipment are: (1) Seat belts and anchorages must be installed and used, and (2) seat belts and accessories must be checked at the beginning of each shift to ensure they are safe and free of apparent damage that could cause failure.

When using materials handling equipment (earthmoving equipment such as scrapers, loaders, crawler or wheel tractors, bulldozers, etc.) OSHA says: "When seat belts are provided you must use them, whether the rules call for them or not."

In the worse case scenario, employees that fall from moving equipment are run over and end up in the hospital or are killed. It happens all the time. **Don't let it happen at your worksite.**

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SUCCESS CYCLE

Success at age 4 is not wetting your pants

Success at age 12 is having friends

Success at age 16 is having your drivers license

Success at age 20 is having sex

Success at age 30 is having money

Success at age 50 is having money

Success at age 60 is having sex

Success at age 70 is having your drivers license

Success at age 75 is having friends

Success at age 80 is not wetting your pants

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES

1. Farm Bill Gaining Momentum in Senate

The Farm Bill debate gained momentum in the Senate last week as that chamber voted 73-26 on a motion to limit debate and avoid delaying tactics on the legislation. Agriculture Committee Chair Tom Harkin (D-IA) reported the bill - S. 1731 - as ready for consideration by the full Senate.

At a press conference Thursday, Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) said, "We're not going to leave until the Farm Bill is finished." Daschle would like the bill on the President's desk by Christmas but thinks reconciling differences between the House and Senate versions can't be completed until late January or early February.

The Senate is debating the Farm Bill with the first major amendment on the Dairy Program submitted by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID). Votes on this and other amendments are expected today. Harkin indicated in a floor speech yesterday that he thought the farm bill debate in the Senate could be finished by the end of Wednesday.

President Signs Agriculture Appropriations into Law

President Bush signed the conference report on the fiscal year 2002 Agriculture Appropriations Bill on November 28. The bill included a \$66 million increase for NRCS's Conservation Operations account making the total for that account \$779 million for this current fiscal year, which includes funding the agency's Conservation Technical Assistance Program. The original House agriculture appropriations bill included a \$70 million increase and the Senate a \$90 million increase. The bill also included \$10 million for watershed rehabilitation, \$48 million for the Resource Conservation and Development Program, \$6.8 million for the Forestry Incentives Program and improved the technical assistance funding for the Conservation Reserve Program.

Additionally, the President signed the VA/HUD/Independent Agencies FY 2002 funding bill into law on November 26. The bill, which funds the Environmental Protection Agency, includes the Clean Water Act's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program. Section 319 remained level with last year's - \$238 million.

Second Amendment Upheld by Appeals Court:

Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth District, have

held that ...'the right of the people to keep and bear Arms,' guaranteed by the Second Amendment, is not the exclusive domain of members of active military units, as claimed by gun control groups, but "that it protects the rights of individuals...to privately possess and bear their own firearms...that are suitable as personal, individual weapons." The court's endorsement of the Second Amendment was part of a 77 page ruling in which the justices decided that the Texas district court erred in dismissing the indictment of Timothy Joe Emerson, accused of violating a restraining order forbidding his possession of a firearm. The Appeals Court ruled that Emerson had forfeited his own right to possess a firearm, but other Americans retain the right under the Second Amendment. (*Liberty Matters News Service*)

Funding Our Own Destruction

The U.S. taxpayer, through the generosity of federal agencies, is providing money to fund the conservation projects of 20 major environmental groups. In 2000, \$377,000 a day went to organizations whose mission is to wrest control of property from private owners. The biggest winner was The Nature Conservancy, which last year received \$37.5 million. The Forest Service granted \$30,000 to The Lands Council, a group that favors a ban on commercial timber sales on public forests. The Forest Service also bank rolled the activities of the National Forest Foundation to the tune of \$82,700 to pay consultation fees to a retired Forest Service employee and \$123,500 spent to recruit new members. Their efforts only garnered \$13,000 in new membership fees. A Website dedicated to erasing "urban sprawl," www.smartgrowth.org, is written and funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The same day the National Wildlife Federation sued the EPA over water quality, it applied for a \$70,000 EPA clean-water grant, which was granted. The federation won its lawsuit and even got the government to pay its legal fees of \$14,000. The flow of taxpayer dollars is not confined to U.S. borders, either. Last year, more than \$37 million flowed to environmental projects in foreign countries to pay for sustainable farming projects and eco-tourism events. Maybe the Bush administration needs to be asked why we are funding organizations that seek to destroy our liberty. (*Liberty Matters News Service*)

Small Business Bills Stalled:

Legislation to assist small businesses adversely
Legislative and Regulatory... (con't to page 11)

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Legislative and Regulatory... (con't from page 10)

impacted by the terrorist attacks is stalled after the Administration announced opposition to the appropriations required in the bills. The "American Small Business Emergency Relief and Recovery Act," H.R. 3230 and S. 1499, both contain a provision that would ensure that small business federal contractors locked out of federal facilities due to security measures taken after September 11 would be entitled to equitable relief. That relief could include contract price adjustment or an extension of the time for performance of the contract. Either action would require a review from the head of the contracting agency and the Small Business Administration. The bills also authorize a \$100 million fund to pay for price adjustments.

EPA Posts Draft Arsenic Implementation Guidance:

November 28, EPA posted a copy of a draft State Implementation Guidance Manual for the arsenic regulation for review and comment. While the text on the EPA web site indicates that the draft guidance is based on the proposed arsenic regulation (June 2000), the executive summary of the guidance document contains a description of the events up to and including EPA Administrator Whitman's statement in October 2001 that the final arsenic MCL would remain at 10 micrograms per liter.

A copy of the draft implementation Guidance Manual and appendices can be found at the following web address: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ars/implement.html>

DOI Seeks Law Enforcement Authority

Circulating inside Interior is a draft bill, which would give specific DOI employees full law enforcement authority. The draft title of the bill is "Department of Interior Law Enforcement Clarification Act of 2001." It specifically authorizes DOI officers to carry firearms, make arrests without a warrant, execute orders, warrants or subpoenas and other powers usually reserved to Federal Law Enforcement agencies and local sheriffs and police. At every opportunity, DOI has tried to acquire this authority, most recently by rewriting regulations during the Babbitt administration. But all attempts to do so have wisely been struck down by Congress and public opposition. But unfortunately DOI is using the recent terrorist attacks as justification for expanding its agencies law enforcement authority. As pointed out by Congressman George Nethercutt (R-WA) who has requested a meeting with Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, DOI officers already have the necessary authority they need which allows them to work with local law enforcement. Nethercutt questions the wisdom of giving such broad police powers to a department with a history of misusing the limited power it currently assumes. Contact your Congressman immediately to alert them to this draft bill and ask them to support Nethercutt's opposition of the bill. Also, contact the Secretary of Interior's office directly and voice your concern. Our best opportunity to stop this ill-conceived idea is before it is ever filed. [DOI Draft Law Enforcement Bill Secretary of Interior's Letter Congressman Nethercutt's Letter to Norton](#) (*Liberty Matters News Service*)

Conservation Groups Buy Grazing Allotments

Conservation groups are using another weapon to rid the West of cattle, with the help of the courts. The Arizona Supreme Court recently ruled that state Land Commissioner, Dennis Wells, erred by refusing to allow environmental groups to bid on grazing leases. Citing federal law that states the sale or lease of government land must go to the "highest and best bidder at a public auction," the Court opined that the environmental groups have a place at the bargaining table. Attorney Tim Hogan praised the Court's decision and called it a victory for Arizona's public schools which are beneficiaries of trust and share in lease proceeds. But "Doc" Lane, of the Arizona Cattlemen's Association argued that the ruling will result in losses in revenue for Arizona's schools in the long run. If conservation groups gain control of grazing allotments and drive ranchers away, there will be no one left to bid when the leases mature and the environmentalists have achieved their goal of cleansing the land of cattle. Justice Frederick Martone voted in favor of the Land Commissioner's actions, saying he should not be forced to accept a bid on grazing land from any individual or groups with a different agenda. He could also have added that the environmental groups have the unfair advantage of using million of dollars of tax-free funds, while the rancher must pay for the leases with his own money.

In a related story, the Grand Canyon Trust has purchased the grazing rights to 256,000 acres in the Grand **Legislative and Regulatory...** (con't to page 17)

2006 BIO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE COMING TO ILLINOIS

Biotechnology will be the focus when the world's largest ~~biotechnology showcase~~ — the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) International Conference and Exposition — comes to Chicago's McCormick Place in 2006. The conference, which last summer attracted more than 14,000 biotechnology leaders from around the globe to San Diego, displays the latest biomedical devices, pharmaceuticals, agri-science, and bio-remediation, as well as innovations in research and development.

BIO President Carl B. Feldbaum said the 2006 show will be the first held in the Midwest. "The strength of the Midwestern biotech community, which we have observed first-hand during the site selection process, really lays to rest the notion that the biotech revolution is an East Coast/West Coast phenomenon in the U.S."

DCCA Director Pam McDonough, who, along with Illinois Agriculture Director Joe Hampton made a presentation to BIO executives on Illinois' behalf during last summer's BIO Exposition, said the selection is important to the region's continued economic development.

"We are delighted to win a spot in the rotation," McDonough said. "It will create opportunities for us to promote biotechnology and agri-science, as well as help highlight all of the innovation occurring in incubators in Illinois and the Midwest."

McDonough added that 12 Midwestern states have joined Illinois in committing their support to help produce the conference and exposition in Chicago.

In recent years, Governor George H. Ryan has been joined by the General Assembly, local leaders and private technology companies in efforts to strengthen the Illinois biotechnology industry. In particular, the Governors VentureTECH program has funded investments in technology-driven programs, earmarking nearly \$375 million in funding for biotechnology initiatives, including funding for medical and research facilities at the University of Illinois, Northwestern University, Southern Illinois University, the Illinois Institute of Technology, the University of Chicago, Loyola University and Rush-Cohn Medical Center.

"Being selected through a competitive selection process as the host of this conference is recognition of our vigorous commitment to the biotechnology industry in Illinois," the Governor said.



ERGONOMIC RULING DELAYED INDEFINITELY

As a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks, officials of the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) have delayed until at least the fall of 2002 any announcement on a new ergonomic standard.

OSHA officials said that priorities in all government agencies have changed due to national security and the immediate repercussions of the Sept. 11 attacks. Some say this could spell the end of any further attempt to develop federal ergonomics legislation.

However, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao has identified a set of principles that the Department of Labor should follow as a starting point for creating a new ergonomics initiative. These include:

- **Prevention.** Place greater emphasis on preventing injuries before they can occur.
- **Sound science.** Base ergonomics initiatives on the very best and most up-to-date science and research available.
- **Incentive driven.** Focus on cooperation between OSHA and employers.
- **Flexibility.** Take into account the different characteristics of businesses and their varying degrees of compliance ability.
- **Feasibility.** Fully examine the costs of ergonomics compliance to small businesses in particular.
- **Clarity.** Common sense instructions must be short, simple and easy to comprehend.



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

synopsis. This site also contains the Illinois Constitution and Illinois Compiled Statutes – the laws we live by.

Legislative calendars are also accessible at this site. Not knowing your legislator is no longer an excuse since courtesy of the State Board of Elections you can find that out also. It will tell you his/her Capital address, District address and their Committee assignment.

Both the House and Senate operating Rules are available to the enthusiast as well as their respective Journals.

Depending upon the support unit some of the information may not be completely current. However, LIS has always had bill status up to date the morning following any session day so that information is reliable and current. The following is a brief summary of information available at this website.

Legislation & Laws

Legislation (Bills) Status & Text
Public Acts
Illinois Compiled Statutes
Legislative Reports
Illinois' Constitution

Legislative Resources

Legislative Support Services
Find Your Legislator
(Courtesy Board of Elections)
Congressional District Map
Legislative District Map

Senate

Roster Journals
Committees Votes
Schedules Transcripts
Rules

House of Representatives

Roster Journals
Committees Roll Calls
Schedules Transcripts
Rules Live Session
Audio

Live Session
audio/video

Legislative and Regulatory... (con't from page 11)
 Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. Spokesman for the group, Bill Hedden, said they plan to petition the Bureau of Land Management to let the trust end most of the grazing in the allotment. Since 1996, the year of the Clinton stealth land grab, the GCT has paid ranchers for grazing rights on about 500,000 acres of the monument. The trust has spent more than \$1 million on buyouts in southern Utah. The goal is to sweep out the cattle and let the land "go back to a more natural productive condition." Environmentalists May Outbid Ranchers Conservation Groups Buy Large Grazing Allotment... (Liberty Matters News Service)

President Offers Stimulus Proposal but No Agreement Yet:

President Bush proposed a package of roughly \$100 billion in tax cuts and aid for displaced workers when he believes has the support of enough lawmakers to become law. The President's plan would: provide tax rebates for those who did not receive one earlier this year; accelerate the 27 percent income bracket to 25 percent to January 2002; allow businesses to immediately deduct 30 percent of qualifying new business investments for a 36-month period, starting on September 11, 2001; increase Section 179 expensing \$25,000 to \$35,000; and extend the carryback period for net operating losses from two years to five years. The President left open the AMT question with the hope that a compromise can be reached on that issued to ret. Congress is expected to return next week when final action may take place on the stimulus bill.

Senate Has Not Yet Acted On Terrorism Insurance:

In the latest developments, Majority Leader Daschle (D-SD) has indicated that he may provide time on the Senate floor to debate terrorism insurance. One of the determining factors is if substantial support can be found among other Senators. Some Senators remain unconvinced of the importance of this legislation.

Bioterrorism Bill Moving in the House:

The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001 (H.R. 3448) was passed by the House, and an identical measure has been introduced in the Senate. H.R. 3448 would provide \$2.9 billion to protect public

infrastructure, such as drinking water systems, while the Senate measure would provide \$3.1 billion. The bill would also fund facility renovations at the Centers for Disease Control to ensure more secure buildings.

Small Construction Companies Benefit Under New IRS Policy:

On Monday, December 10, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced a broad expansion of the cash method of accounting that puts an end to the sticky "cash versus accrual" accounting question that has plagued smaller construction companies over the last 10 years.

Under the new guidance, the IRS will allow most smaller service providers - including construction companies - with annual revenues under \$10 million to be on the cash method of accounting rather than the accrual method. The cash method of accounting is the most practical accounting method because it recognizes income and expenses when the cash is actually paid to the company or by the company. The IRS has largely ignored the \$5 million exception for small contractors and has aggressively sought to force the accrual method on small contractors by applying a test to determine whether the contractor maintains inventories. The new policy will not require inventory tests to be applied to contractors and will also increase the cash accounting 'safe harbor' to \$10 million.

The revenue procedure is still in proposed form, but the IRS says businesses can rely on it for taxable years ending on or after December 31, 2001. A comment period is open until March 2, 2002.

Which Records Should You Keep and HOW Long Should You Keep Them?

Audit Reports	Permanent
Bank Deposits	6 Years
Bank statements	5 Years
Cancelled Check(s)	3 Years
Certificates of Insurance.....	Coverage Period, + 3 years
Contracts & Leases	Permanent
Corporate stock Records	Permanent
Daily Sales Records.....	3 Years
Depreciation Schedule.....	Life of Asset, + 3 years
Employee Records.....	Period of Employment, + 3 yrs
Employee Time Cards	3 years
Entertainment Records	6 Years
Expense Reports	5 Years
Financial statements	Permanent
General Ledger & Journals	Permanent
Insurance Claims.....	3 Years After Settlement
Insurance Policies	Permanent
Inventory Records	3 Years
Loss Reports	5 Years
Minutes of Meetings	Life of Company
Paid Vendor Invoices	3 Years
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ILLINOIS GETS TOP RANKING AS A "DIGITAL STATE"

State jumps from 49th to 1st in just three years

A prestigious national study, which ranks states on their utilization of digital technologies to deliver services to citizens, has named Illinois and Kansas as the two best states in the nation.

The fourth annual Digital State Survey, conducted by the Center for Digital Government and The Progress & Freedom Foundation, found Illinois ranked first or near the top in eight digital technology sectors, including e-commerce/business regulation, taxation/revenue, management/administration, GIS/transportation, education, law enforcement and the courts, social services, and digital democracy.

The ranking pleased Governor George H. Ryan, who said the survey demonstrated that the state's investment in technology is paying off.

"This is great news for the people of Illinois," the Governor said. "By emphasizing the use of technology and investing in it, we have fundamentally changed the way government operates and serves people. This is the culmination of a goal that we set when I took office. I wanted Illinois to be a leader in the use of technology as well as a leader in the high-tech economy of the 21st Century. With this new ranking, we have accomplished both of those goals."

"When you consider that in 1998 Illinois was ranked 49th, it is obvious that there is a strong commitment and dedication to technology under the current administration," added Cathilea Robinett, executive director of the Center for Digital Government. "Illinois has exemplified all of those areas we consider to be important and really stands out as a 'Digital State'."

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said the agency has worked diligently to help build a high-tech infrastructure that encourages additional technology development in Illinois.

"In the last fiscal year alone, DCCA's Bureau of Technology and Industrial Competitiveness funded establishment of two Illinois Technology Enterprise Centers, provided nearly \$5.6 million in Technology Challenge Grants to assist with development and commercialization of new technologies, participated in 42 trade shows and other events to recruit high-tech firms to Illinois, and instituted new programs, including the High Tech School-to-Work Program and the Eliminate the Digital Divide Program."

McDonough said DCCA also continues to improve technologies that help the public access information about agency programs, such as on-line, one-on-one assistance with business start-up and tourism information, community profiles, information on available sites and buildings, and many other services.

"Illinois has made amazing progress in the past three years in the use and implementation of government technology," said Jeffery A. Eisenach, president of The Progress & Freedom Foundation. "Illinois clearly understands the importance of technology and has committed the financial and human capital to becoming a national leader in the field."

In Memorium

Floyd McClintock ELMWOOD

Floyd J. McClintock, 80, of Elmwood died at 11:08 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, 2002, at Graham Hospital in Canton.

Born Jan. 30, 1921, in West Point to James and Letha McClintock, he married Carrie Schulz on July 10, 1952, in Peoria. She died March 22, 1999.

He also was preceded in death by one brother.

Surviving are one son, Eugene (and Linda) Polen of Elmwood; one brother, Eldon of Basco; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A World War II Army veteran, he was a member of Elmwood Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He had owned and operated Floyd McClintock Land Improvement Contracting in Elmwood. He also had been co-owner of Southport Sand & Gravel near Elmwood for 15 years. He retired in 1983.

He was a member of Illinois Land Improvement Association and Operating Engineers Local 649 in Peoria.

He was serving as director of the River Valley Antique Association of Chillicothe.

Memorials may be made to River Valley Antique Association.

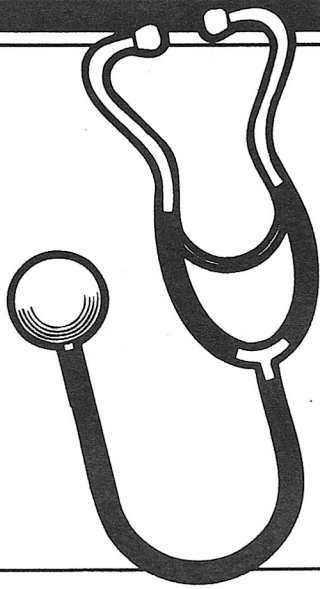


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WINTERTIME DRIVING

Fair or foul weather, driving always presents hazards. But winter months curse drivers with conditions that are far different than those they face during the summer.

Tips For Winter Driving

1. Be able to see and be seen. Clean all the snow and ice off of your windshield, other windows, outside mirrors, lights and reflectors. Make sure your vehicle is equipped with good wiper blades, and that wiper arms are exerting enough pressure on the blades to ensure a clean sweep. If moisture or ice builds up on the inside or outside of your windshield, stop and clean it off.
2. Tires. Tires with good deep treads are essential for good cornering and handling on slippery roads. Check the air pressure frequently to maintain the manufacturer's recommended pressure.
3. Get the feel of the road. Occasionally try your brakes or gently depress your accelerator while driving. When you have found out just how slippery the road is, adjust your speed accordingly. Rising temperatures greatly increase the slipperiness of ice and snow.
4. Stretch your "following" distance. Knowing that winter surfaces increase stopping distance three to 12 times, the smart driver increases his normal dry road following distance. Heavy trucks require a longer stopping distance on slippery roads than passenger cars. And don't tailgate.
5. Brake before curves. All vehicles are particularly sensitive to overpowering, oversteering and overbraking on curves. Unseen hazards around the bend may require an evasive action, so turn your steering wheel slowly and smoothly, keep a constant speed in the turn, and pump your brakes carefully if

it's necessary to slow down or stop.

6. Pump your brakes. The key to stopping under control on slippery surfaces is to avoid locking the wheels. A rapid pumping of brakes will provide short intervals of braking and of rolling wheels alternately and will enable you to maintain steering control while stopping.
7. Use proper lights. Never drive with parking lights instead of headlights in winter's early dusk and poor visibility. Parking lights can cause an oncoming driver to think you are farther away than you are. Keep headlights clean; dirty ones can greatly reduce your own seeing distance at night.

A couple of men – John and Dave – were hiking when they spotted a mountain lion staring at them. John froze in his tracks, but Dave sat down on a log, tore off his hiking boots, pulled a pair of running shoes from his backpack and hurriedly began to put them on.

"For crying out loud, you can't outrun a mountain lion!" John said.

"I don't have to," shrugged Dave. "I just have to outrun you."

Retirement is when you look at a project you've put off for years and say, "I'd sure like to sink my teeth into that!" And your spouse says, "Wait, I'll go get them."

A woman said to a man at a cocktail party, "You know, you look just like my third husband."

"Oh, really? How many times have you been married?"

"Twice."

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SAFE LIFTING TECHNIQUES



The National Safety Council has reported that handling of material accounts for 20% to 25% of all occupational injuries. These injuries occur in every part of every operation. In the construction industry, employees may be required to lift heavy bags. The following illustration provides suggested methods of lifting.



Raise bag upright.



Put one knee down against bag.



Put bag up your leg.



Rest bag on edge of knee.



Stand upright.

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GABBING WITH THE GALS...



Would you believe this gal went back to school for a short time? Actually, it was a "Coffee" for senior citizens to visit our new junior high school and have a social hour. Quite nice of the faculty to think of us oldies and they did a great job. Some of the sixth-graders escorted us on a tour of the building and you better believe they know what every nook and cranny is for. When the design came out it had no stairs, but they do have two sets of stairs; it worried this worrier that the children would not get enough exercise. Howsomever, when you stand at one end and see how long the corridors are, no need to worry because they will do plenty of walking by the end of the day. The walls are painted ivory which makes the halls look longer than what they are; it also is very light and cheery and being brand new doesn't hurt anything either. Our granddaughter Kenzie will be in the first graduating class in the eighth grade from this new school in May of this year.

What is the most interesting part of a daily newspaper to you? For me, it is the Letters to the Editor. You really get some eye-openers at times to see what some folks really think. One that I agree with was in last week and their opinion was that we don't need terrorists to come over here from another country - we already have them in the guise of teen-aged girls behind the wheel of a new car. It really is scary and they have taken that title from the boys. If the speedometer goes to X, then you must drive it at X miles per hour and stop on a dime providing your head doesn't go through the windshield. Some of them are more scary than the scary movies we used to go to see. Then there are the letters that are in rebuttal of someone else's letter and it can go on for several days. What is so odd is that one will have a very definitive opinion that someone else doesn't agree with; however, the person who disagrees thinks the newspaper should not print the first one's opinion. Now I ask you - is that freedom of speech? Why is this freedom only for what one person believes? Maybe that is a clue as to why we are in the mess we are in right now - we have not learned to be tolerant with others.

Our thanks to the convention committee for another great meeting. Food was great, entertainment rated a ten, and all in all it should have been advantageous for all in attendance in one way or another. Hubby and I had no trouble with exercise; our room was a quarter of a mile from the elevator. Gives you a lot of time to think of this and that while walking to and from your room. It is amazing what a little "thinking time" can do for you. Perhaps it's a good thing our memory doesn't last like it used to; some of the things we think about are just as well off not remembered.

With the re-districting, we see quite a few signs up here and there listing someone to vote for in the election. Since

new people are springing up everywhere, there are more than a few names that are totally unfamiliar. This will be the year when we will have to resort to all kinds of literature and try to figure out who we feel comfortable with to vote for. Then if we can put a face to a name it would help also. So, as Arte Johnson would say, "ver-r-ry interesting".

In a past column the writer referred to some young people as not believing we could have a depression. Wonder if they have changed their minds what with all the large companies "down-sizing" and some even closing up. We certainly want to believe we will "rise again" and be better than ever. Time is on our side. Maybe not for us oldies but certainly for the young 'uns. Time was when one could salt away a little something for "a rainy day" but rainy days sometimes get way ahead of sunshiny ones. Handling money is one trait that is not available to all people. Just discussing how some of us have bad money habits and never learn how to handle money in spite of having enough to start with. It is a talent like other avenues - you have to have a lot of discipline with money in order to be successful with it. And chances are if you do not have discipline in other areas, money will never be conquered by you. We all seem to want our cake and eat it, too.

Looking forward to Birmingham and seeing friends from all over our country again. Even though the writer has some leg problems, as long as they can be made to walk it behooves me to be at the scene of the action. At least it's a city that has not had famous visitors such as land improvement contactors; we might put it on the map! By the way, congratulations to the two chairpersons for making all directions to Birmingham so easy to understand, especially for those of us who don't get around in the cities so well. Maybe the traffic will be a tad bit slower down yonder; they are more polite, I've heard; if they run over you they say "Sorry". (Jus' kiddin', folks.)

The word for this issue is "money". We have it for such a short time anymore that we almost forget what it looks like. If the banks keep having their way, there are probably not many years left to handle money. This gal is not enamored of all this new technology stuff because it takes away your privacy and the privilege of doing something for yourself. Plus there is a danger of someone obtaining your number and wiping out your bank account. They try to tell us that they are saving money. Foey. If they value their customers they can spend a little money to make us happy. Technology is one of those things the experts get hold of and squeeze it to do everything under the sun whether or not it is feasible or useful. Money was meant to be seen and handled. It did take a bit of time to get used to the new printing but it's looking better all the time. Between the banks and the government, they don't want you to get a chance to look at your money. Let them have the people who can't handle money, they never see it for very long at a time anyway.

We wish a very happy Easter to all, hope your gardens are all plentiful, flowers beautiful and please smile a lot.

..... Rambling Rose

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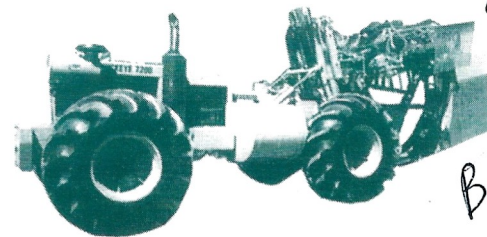
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