



Illinois  
Land Improvement  
Contractors Association

# NEWSLETTER

July/August 2002

No. 1

## LICA's 51<sup>ST</sup> SUMMER CONVENTION

### QUAD CITIES

Tours

Trade Show

Educational Programs

Ladies Program

Children's Program



July 17-20

Moline, IL

Be There!!

Information Inside

MIDWEST MAGIC ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER



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by Dwight Dunbar,  
Consultant to ILICA

### Session Dragged On

The initial adjournment date of May 17, 2002, for Spring Legislative Session zipped right on by and then some. Actual adjournment occurred June 2, 2002 late at night. Most members didn't leave town until Monday the 3rd.



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### Strange Session

Just about the time you think you have experienced everything while working with the General Assembly, you have to think again. This year I was sitting in a Senate Committee and witnessed a House Member present his bill before the Senate Committee. Now it's not unusual for House Bill Sponsors to attend Senate Committee Hearings to get a feel for the debate and even come to the witness table to answer questions - but present the Bill, that was a first for me.

Needless to say time hangs heavy on the rank and file legislator's hands during the overtime days. Since the Speaker and President didn't want to revive bills believed to be dead they kept a tight reign on things essentially declaring that substantive legislation other than Budget not acted upon by the 17th was off limits. There were a few exceptions on Bills for which the deadline had been extended. What wasn't off limits was the ability to turn Legislation into Resolution to get a sense of the General Assembly. One Bill Sponsor after another scrambled to do just that. Many of those efforts failed thank goodness!

Throughout the Spring Session everybody watched the budget hole get bigger and bigger. Maybe it was a good thing that no budget came together until the last day or two of June.

### Strategy & Leadership

One of the Legislative strategies for dealing with the budget crisis which surfaced right after the 17th was, "Send an unbalanced budget to the Governor and let him do the serious cutting."

The Governor's response to that, I believe, was calling the Special Joint Session on the 27th so he could tell them again what his priorities would be and offer solutions for them to consider. Increasing so called "sin taxes" - as much as the Governor suggested would allow for most of the "earlier revised budget" to remain in tact. Throughout the Joint Session address the Governor made the point "It's time to lead." The Senate Approved a Budget Bill without all the Governor's tax/fee increases the 31st, just before the 3/5's requirement went into effect. The House finally passed the Budget Bill June 2nd.

The Governor determined that the Budget sent to him was out of balance by just over \$500 million and put his line item veto pen to work. Then he called a Special Session of the General Assembly for June 10th. The end

came quickly as the Senate sustained 212 of the Governor's 234 vetoes. The word was that these cuts would cost thousands of state jobs. The harsh reality is the State employees' union - AFSCME - irked the Governor and you really don't want to have George mad at you. The veto pen cost them jobs and more than a little goodwill among legislators.

### Scandal Spreads

It may not be reported in every corner of this State, but all the time we were watching *Capitol Update...* (con't to page 3)

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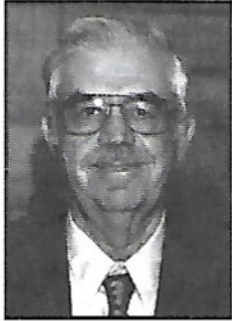
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have had lots of rain, but now it's starting to dry up so we can get back to work.

Please put July 19-21 on your calendar. This will be LICA's Summer Meeting and there will be lots of activities, tours to John Deere, ladies and childrens programs and educational sessions. It's a time to have some fun and learn. I hope you bring the family and take advantage of this opportunity to attend a National Summer Meeting right here in Illinois.

The Certification Committee continues to work on a Certification Program for Illinois. We will keep you updated on their progress. It should be a good thing for our members and also help in membership promotion.

The Membership Committee is planning a Membership Contest that will start in the fall. It takes ALL of us---not just committee members---to have a successful campaign. Promote your association! We have lots to offer----Term Life Insurance, Drug & Alcohol Testing Programs, Newsletters, Training Opportunities, latest information on Laws & Regulations, Winter & Summer Conventions, Opportunity to gain organizational & leadership skills, and much more. Keep this in mind when you're trying to recruit a new member. If you're uncomfortable about signing up a new member, just turn the potential members name into one of the committee members and they'll take over.

Hope to see lots of you in Moline, meantime Stay Cool and Keep Safe!!!

Forrest Davis  
President



## NEW MEMBERS

### AFFILIATE

Doug Black  
PRINSCO, Inc.  
2670 Hwy. 137  
Oscalooosa, Iowa 52577  
612-804-9442

Jody Getz  
PRINSCO, Inc.  
RR2, Box 179  
Moweaqua, IL 62550  
320-212-9385

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

this strange session play out and the budget grow to crisis proportions we saw more indictments in the Governor's campaign scandal being handed down. The latest three are virtually impossible to understand - it may be simply the effects that greed and power have on some people. There seems to be a growing feeling that George will be indicted before he leaves office - I'm not sure I share that feeling!

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**JOANN HUFF**

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**Forrest Davis, Manito**

Vice President  
**Stuart Anderson, Marseilles**

1st Vice President  
**Joe Streitmatter, Wyoming**

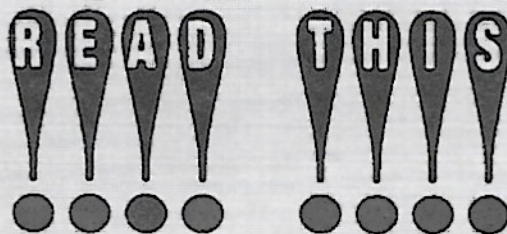
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**JoAnn Huff, Jacksonville**

Treasurer  
**Steve Anderson, Marseilles**

Educational Adviser  
**Michael Hirschi / Kent Mitchell**  
University of Illinois

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**ILICA BOARD MEETING WILL  
BE HELD AT THE  
HERITAGE HOUSE  
RESTAURANT  
3851 S. 6TH STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2002**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
11:00 AM – Convention  
1:00 PM – Education  
2:00 PM – Membership**

## Upcoming Meetings



### ILICA BOARD MEETINGS

June 22, 2002  
September 7, 2002  
November 2, 2002

2003 Annual Convention  
January 16-18, 2003  
Holiday Inn Brandywine, Peoria

### LICA MEETINGS

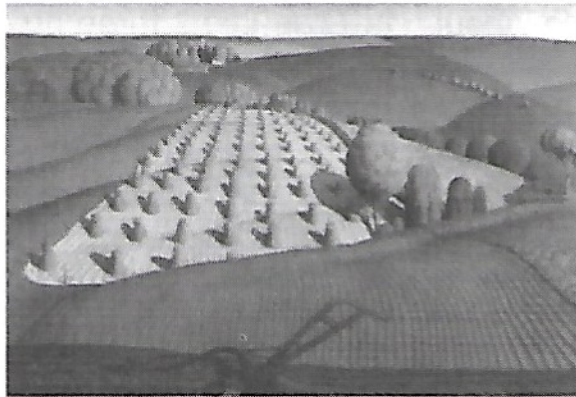
July 16-20, 2002  
Radisson Hotel  
Moline, Illinois

February 17-22, 2003  
Oklahoma/Tulsa, Oklahoma

July 15-19, 2003  
Buffalo, New York

**All Roads Lead to Moline  
and The Mark Conference Center  
for the  
51<sup>st</sup> LICA Summer  
Convention & Trade Show  
July 17 – 20, 2002**

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and man's creativity converge.*

*Where powerful rivers and sweeping plains provide  
breathtaking views and industrial opportunities.*

*Where interstate highways and railroads crisscross  
the meandering Great River Route.*

## All Roads Lead to Moline, IL on July 17-20, 2002.

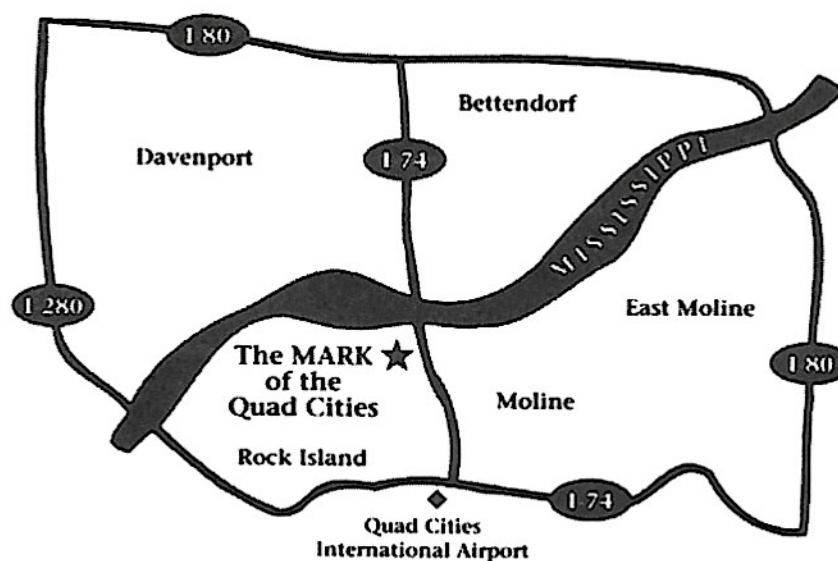
Join with other contractors and friends to have fun, enjoy the sights and scenery in the Quad Cities area. Visit the trade show to view the latest equipment, service and technologies for the contracting industry.

### THE MARK

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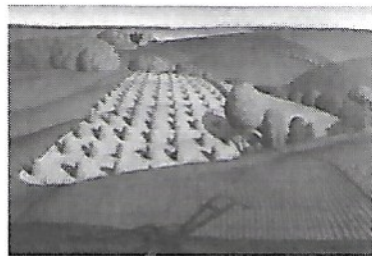
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# ALL ROADS LEAD TO MOLINE

## National ILICA Contractors Expo

### The Mark Conference Center, Moline, IL

#### July 17-20, 2002



### WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2002

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Registration

Radisson - Lobby

7:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting

Radisson - Mississippi Room

### THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2002

6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Pipe & Drape Set-up

The Mark - Arena

Exhibitor Set-up

The Mark - Arena

Exhibitor Break (Beverage & rolls)

The Mark - Arena

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

The Mark - Lobby

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Devotions

Radisson - Mississippi Room

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Opening Breakfast with Mayor Stan Leach

The Mark - Conference Room

9:00 a.m.

Associates Advisory Meeting

The Mark - Arena

9:30 a.m.

Committee Chair(s) Meeting

The Mark - Conference Rm. F

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Exhibitor Trade Show

The Mark - Arena

11:00 a.m. – Noon

Convention Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. A

Insurance Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. B

Water Table Management Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. C

Public Relations Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. D

By-Laws Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. E

Noon – 1:20 p.m.

Box Lunch – (Registered persons only)

The Mark - Arena

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. A

Policy Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. B

Awards Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. C

Devotions Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. D

Technology Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. E

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

On-Site Waste Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. A

Membership Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. B

Long Term Planning Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. C

Legislative Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. D

Safety Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. E

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Exhibitor Tear-down

The Mark - Arena

6:00 p.m.

Dinner Hosted by John Deere

John Deere Headquarters

(First 200 Registrations Only)

### FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2002

7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Registration

The Mark – Lobby

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

Devotions (family Values), Thomas Schroeder,

Exec. Director RICCA

Radisson - Mississippi Rm.

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast (attendees)

Radisson - Complimentary

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Exec. Dir. & St. Pres. Breakfast & Meeting

The Mark - Conference Rm. D

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Education Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. A

Budget Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. E

Past President's Committee

The Mark - Conference Rm. B

Seminars

Expo Itinerary continued from page 6

8:30 a.m.	"Sharpening Your Bidding Skills" Forrest Davis, - Forrest Davis Construction, Co., Manito, IL	The Mark - Conference Rm. A
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	"Optimizing Drainage Design for Water Quality Consideration: Dr. Richard Cooke, Assoc. Professor, Univ. of IL "Expand & Enhance Your Business with G.P.S.", Sid Seifken, Trimble/Spectra Precision, Dayton, OH	The Mark - Conference Rm. B The Mark - Conference Rm. C
10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Refreshment Break	The Mark - Lobby
10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	"Hitting the Road Securing Equipment for Transport" Louis McFarland McFarland & Sons, Circleville, OH "Drainage Installation Research with the Pull Behind Plow", Larry C. Brown Ohio State University	The Mark - Conference Rm. A The Mark - Conference Rm. B
11:30 a.m.	"Using Soils Surveys to Predict Site Characteristics & Increased Profitability", Todd Soukup, Applied Land Analysis, Inc.	The Mark - Conference Rm. C
11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Ladies – load bus – Dinner meeting & tours Ladies – Butterworth & Deere-Wiman House, tours & Botanical Center	Radisson Lobby
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch/speaker (World's Worst Farmer)	The Mark - Conf. Rms. D, E, F
1:00 p.m.	Men – load bus – J.D. Demonstration	Radisson Lobby
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	John Deere Coal Valley Demonstration Site	
4:00 p.m.	Ladies – bus back to Radisson	
4:30 p.m.	Men – bus back to Radisson	
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Reception	John Deere Commons

**SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2002**

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	Devotions	Radisson - Mississippi Rm.
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	The Mark Balcony
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Region 1 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. A
	Region 3 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. B
	Region 7 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. C
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Region 2 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. A
	Region 4 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. B
	Region 6 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. C
	Region 8 Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. D
12:00 noon	Lunch	The Mark
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	The Mark - Conference Rm. C, D
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Optional</b> River Boat Dinner Cruise	

**POSSIBLE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**

Niabi Zoo • Interactive Family Museum of Arts & Science  
Putnam Museum of History & Natural Science • IMAX Theatre  
Wacky Water Park & Michaels Sports World

**All registered attendees  
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**GOLF** – Call the Quad Cities Convention Bureau at 800-747-7800 for the names and location of golf courses.  
**RV PARKING** – Notification that RV parking available at the Mark. There are no hook-ups available.

# Convention Registration

## The Mark Conference Center, Moline, IL

### July 17-20, 2002

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, St. & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone/Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

General Registration—Postmarked after June 15, 2002		Trade Show Package Only	
Discount Registration—Postmarked by June 15, 2002		<b>For those interested in only attending on July 18 or July 19 we are offering a reduced one-day registration of \$75 per adult and \$50 for child. This does not include the Thursday evening John Deere dinner or the Friday evening reception at the John Deere Commons.</b>	
Memb: Contractors, Associates, Gov't Employees, Consultants	\$125		\$150
Member Spouse:	\$110		\$135
Child 12 and under	\$ 75		\$ 90
Non-Member:	\$165		\$190

Print Names for Badges	Complete for Children	Total
	Child: age _____	
	Child: age _____	
	Child: age _____	
	Child: age _____	

Saturday July 20, 2002 * River Boat Dinner Cruise	# Attending _____ X \$ 33.45 Registration cut-off June 15, 2002	
<b>Total Convention &amp; Dinner Boat Fees</b>		

\* Dinner Boat Cruise includes—2 1/2 hr locking cruise on the Mississippi River, live entertainment, Prime Rib & Chicken buffet. Cash bar available

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Mail to: **Region IV Convention Fund**  
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**Registration Policy:** Only individuals registered & badged may attend convention events. The spouse/guest of a registered member need not register to share hotel accommodations, but must register to participate in a convention program or function. **No registration will be processed without payment.** A \$30 processing fee will be incurred on cancellations postmarked before June 15, 2002. Cancellations postmarked after June 15, 2002 will be subject to a 50% reduction in refund. All requests must be in writing. Meals will be on an "availability basis" for on-site registration.

## SENATE: HIGHER CAFE STANDARDS TO BE BASED ON REAL-WORLD FACTORS

Contrary to many recent reports, the U.S. Senate did not reject higher Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards when it took up the issue in March. In fact, the Senate directed the Department of Transportation to start a rulemaking proceeding to increase standards—but it also told DOT to use common sense and consider all relevant factors, including:

- technological feasibility
- the effect on the economy and U.S. employment
- the need to conserve energy and reduce dependence on foreign oil
- the effect of higher standards on safety
- the potential for advanced technology vehicles (such as hybrids and fuel cell vehicles)

Under the Senate proposal, the new standards for passenger cars and light trucks (pickups, minivans, vans, and SUVs) would be completed within two years. This provision, sponsored by Senators Levin (D-MI), Bond (R-MO) and others, is part of the overall Senate energy bill, which faces an uncertain future.


What the Senate did reject was an extreme proposal by Senators Kerry (D-MA) and Hollings (D-SC) to force CAFE standards up by 50% by 2013. Such a requirement would have dealt a major blow to highway safety. According

to NHTSA and the recent National Academy of Sciences report, current CAFE standards resulted in vehicle downsizing, causing approximately 2,000 additional fatalities each year. That, according to the National Safety Council, is "the equivalent of wiping out the hard-won recent gains of safety belt use, air bags, or drunk driving legislation." A new round of extreme increases would increase the death toll even higher.

After approving the Levin-Bond proposal, the Senate also adopted a measure sponsored by Senators Miller (D-GA) and Gramm (R-TX) to exempt pickup trucks from future CAFE increases. Recognizing that higher CAFE standards would mean smaller, lighter, less useful vehicles in the future, these Senators made an impassioned plea that full-size pickups are essential for millions of American farmers, ranchers, tradesmen, and others in earning a livelihood.

The Senate is still debating the overall energy bill at this writing, so it's unclear whether the CAFE law will be changed. If the Senate does pass an energy bill, a conference committee will be appointed to work out differences between the House and Senate bills. (The House passed a different CAFE provision last summer.)

In the meantime, current law requires new CAFE standards for light trucks, since the CAFE freeze was not extended last year. NHTSA must now resume setting those standards on an annual basis. The agency announced that it will not raise CAFE standards for MY 2004 due to timing constraints, but it has begun gathering data in preparation for setting standards for model years 2005-10.



**Happy 50th  
Anniversary to  
Elbert & Theresa  
McMullen**

Elbert and Theresa McMullen of 600 S. John St., Table Grove, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house hosted by their children April 21 at Table Grove American Legion. Elbert McMullen and Theresa Marie Hatton were married April 24, 1952, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Havana.

They have six children: Chris (and Dave) Wiseman of North Aurora, Marilyn (and Jim) Hyde of Hardin, Mont., Sandy (and Ray) Harrison of Troy, MO., Kevin McMullen of Galesburg, Barbara (and Stan) Adcock of Table Grove and Keith (and Myra) McMullen of O'Fallon.

They also have 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. One grandchild is deceased.

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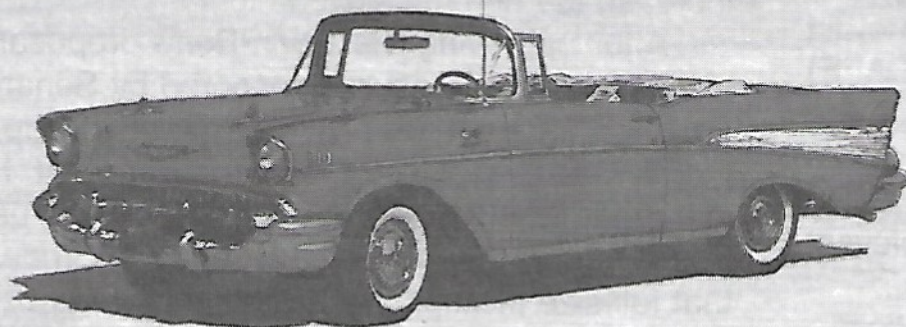
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## JUST DOING MY JOB!

A guy stopped at a local gas station and, after filling his tank, he paid the bill and bought a soft drink. He stood by his car to drink his cola and watched a couple of men along the roadside. One man would dig a hole. While one was digging a new hole, the other was 25-feet behind filling in the hole. The men worked right past the guy with the soft drink and went on down the road.

"I can't stand this," said the man tossing the can into a trash container and heading down the road toward the men. "Hold it", he said to the men. "Can you tell me what's going on here with this digging and refilling?"

"Well, we work for the government and we're just doing our job," one of the men said.

"But one of you is digging a hole and the other fills it up. You're not accomplishing anything. Aren't you wasting taxpayers' money?"

"You don't understand, mister," one of the men said, leaning on his shovel and wiping his brow. "Normally, there's three of us: Me, Elmer and Leroy. I dig the hole, Elmer sticks the tree in the ground and Leroy puts the dirt back. Now, just because Elmer's sick, that don't mean that Leroy and me can't work."

**Taken from the Florida LICA Newsletter**



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## PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME GROWTH ABOVE U.S. RATE

Per Capita personal income in Illinois grew by 2.8 percent last year according to data released by the U.S. Department of Commerce. This was slightly above the 2.7 percent national average for 2001. Illinois also moved up to the ninth position among the states with per capita personal income of \$32,755. This amount is 8.2 percent above the U.S. average of \$30,271. For the state, growth occurred in seven of the 10 major industries. The leaders were: Mining, Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, and Services. Declines occurred in: Durable Goods Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, and Farming.

The March spike in the state's unemployment level, coupled with declines in private sector payroll jobs, suggest that Illinois' economy, like the nation's, has not shaken off the effects of the recession yet, according to the Illinois Department of Employment Security. It noted that Manufacturing jobs were down 38,600 since last March. Declines were also reported in Services, with a decrease of 27,900; Transportation-Communications-Public Utilities, which shed 11,000 positions; and in Wholesale Trade, which dropped 10,900 jobs since a year ago.

Prices Illinois farmers received from the products they sold rose 3.4 percent last year, according to preliminary data

from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Gains were recorded in crops, along with livestock and products sales, which were valued at \$5.5 billion and \$1.7 billion respectively. Illinois' \$7.2 billion total remained eighth largest for cash receipts from farm marketings during 2001.

The University of Illinois Flash Economic Index registered 95 during April, down from its 96.3 level in March. According to U of I economists, the reading indicates a contraction of the state economy.

*IL Economic Bulletin  
Vol 14, No. 9, May 2002*

## Here's What Mom Taught Me

**LOGIC** – "Because I said so, that's why!"

**RELIGION** – "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

**STAMINA** – "You'll sit there 'til you eat every last pea."

**WEATHER** – "It looks like a tornado came through this room."

**FORESIGHT** – "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."

**CONTORTIONISM** – "Just look at the dirt on the back of your neck!"

**PHYSICS** – "If I yelled because I saw a meteor coming toward you, would you listen then?"

## JULIE

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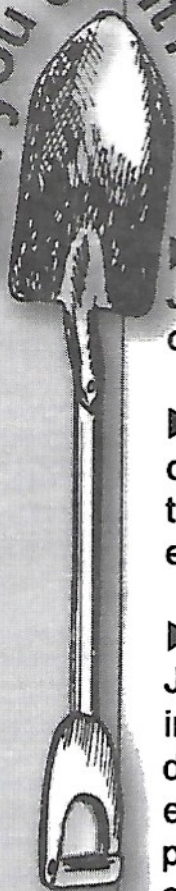
▶ Excavators are reminded to call JULIE two working days in advance of their excavation project.

▶ 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](http://www.julie1call.com).

**1-800-892-0123**

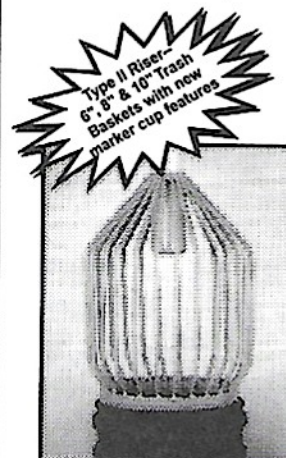
Can you dig it?



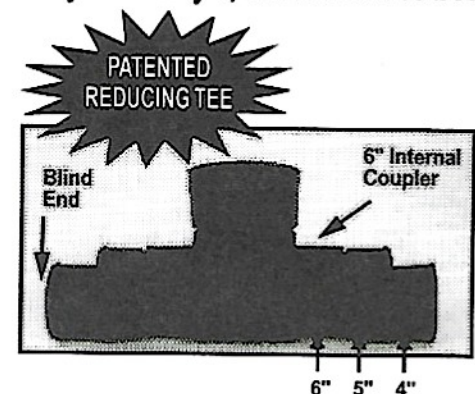
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# FARM BILL 2002

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) represents the single most significant commitment of resources toward conservation on private lands in the Nation's history. The legislation responds to a broad range of emerging natural resource challenges faced by farmers and ranchers, including soil erosion, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and farmland protection. Private landowners will benefit from a portfolio of voluntary assistance, including cost-share, land rental, incentive payments, and technical assistance. The 2002 Farm Bill places a strong emphasis on the conservation of working lands, ensuring that land remain both healthy and productive.

The conservation provisions build upon past conservation gains and respond to the call of farmers and ranchers across the country for additional cost-share resources. The 2002 Farm Bill also ensures greater access to the programs by making more farmers and ranchers eligible for participation.

## Agriculture Management Assistance (AMA)

- Provides additional funding for AMA, in addition to funds provided through the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000

## Conservation of Private Grazing Land (CPGL)

- Provides policy for technical assistance relating to conservation on private grazing lands, and mandates establishment of a separate funding line-item for this purpose

## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Reauthorizes the program through 2007
- Raises authorization for enrollment to an overall acreage cap of 39.2 million acres
- Expands the Farmable Wetland Pilot Program to become available Nationwide with an aggregate acreage cap of 1 million acres
- Allows landowners to continue with existing ground cover where practicable and consistent with wildlife reserve benefits of CRP
- Provides for managed haying (including for biomass) and grazing

## Conservation Provisions Overview

### Conservation Security Program (CSP)

- Establishes CSP for fiscal years 2003 through 2007 to reward stewardship and provide an incentive for addressing additional resource concerns on agricultural working lands

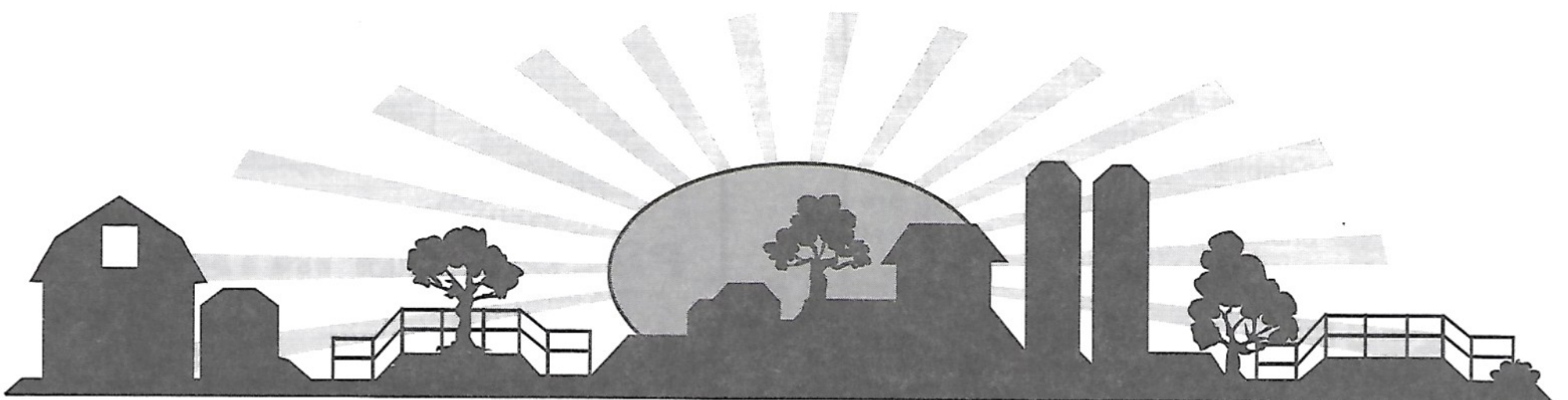
### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Reauthorizes the program through 2007 with greater funding resources
- Eliminates geographic priority areas
- Allows for expenditure of funds in the first year of the contract
- Eliminates the cap on large confined livestock operations
- Provides an overall payment limitation of \$450,000 per producer, regardless of the number of farms or contracts, over the authorized life of the 2002 Farm Bill
- Specifies contract length, from a minimum of one year beyond completion of the project to a maximum of 10 years
- Prohibits the process of bidding-down (competitive cost share reduction among program applicants)
- Allows up to 90 percent cost-share for beginning or limited resource farmers and ranchers
- Allows the Secretary of Agriculture to use a portion of EQIP funds in each of fiscal years 2003 through 2006 for innovation grants
- Provides an additional \$50 million in EQIP funding to assist producers in the Klamath Basin

### Farmland Protection Program (FPP)

- Reauthorizes the program through 2007 with greater funding resources
- Removes the existing acreage limitation, expands the definition of eligible land, and makes agricultural land that contains historic or archaeological resources eligible for enrollment
- Includes nonprofit organizations as eligible entities for program participation
- Allows the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants (through an authorization of appropriations) for use in carrying out farm viability programs

*Farm Bill 2002... (con't to page 13)*



**Farm Bill 2002...** (con't from page 12)**Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)**

- Authorizes enrollment of up to 2 million acres of restored, improved, or natural grassland, rangeland, and pastureland, including prairie

**Grassroots Sourcewater Protection**

- Authorizes an annual appropriation for fiscal years 2002 to 2006 to use technical capabilities of each state rural water association that operates a well-head or groundwater protection program

**Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control**

- Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Great Lakes Commission and in cooperation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Army, to carry out a program in the Great Lakes basin for soil erosion and sediment control

**Ground and Surface Water Conservation**

- Provides a special initiative through EQIP for ground and surface water conservation
- Institutes cost-share payments, incentive payments, and loans to producers to carry out eligible water conservation activities, including irrigation improvements, conversion to less water intensive crops, and dryland farming

**Partnerships and Cooperation**

- Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements to enhance technical and financial assistance provided to owners, operators, and producers to address natural resource issues related to agricultural production

**Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D)**

- Provides permanent reauthorization of the program and makes technical and conforming changes to the program

**Small Watershed Rehabilitation**

- Provides mandatory spending from the Commodity Credit Corporation in addition to existing authorization of appropriations

**Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)**

- Reauthorizes the program through 2007
- Increases the overall program acreage cap to 2,275,000 acres
- Caps annual acreage enrollment at 250,000 acres

**Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**

- Provides for up to 15 percent of annual WHIP funds for increased cost-share payments to producers to protect and restore essential plant and animal habitat using agreements with a duration of at least 15 years

**For More Information**

If you need more information about the Conservation Provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill, please contact your local USDA Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, or your local conservation district. Information also is available at the Illinois NRCS website: [www.il.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov) or national NRCS webpage [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farbill/2002/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farbill/2002/)


**AT&T WARNS OF "809" PHONE CALL FRAUD**

Never respond to an e-mail, telephone, or computer message asking you to return a call to a telephone number with the 809 area code.

According to AT&T, Verizon, and the National Fraud Information Center, criminals use scare tactics or prize announcements to get people to call an 809 number. The 809 area code is in the Bahamas. It is not covered by U.S. regulations that require you to be notified of charges and rates involved when you call a "pay per call" number.

If you dial such a number the charges can run into hundreds of dollars. Sometimes unwitting callers hear a long recorded message that costs them more the longer they listen.

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## NEW NRCS CHIEF ANNOUNCED

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has named Bruce I. Knight as chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Knight will oversee the 11,000-person agency with a budget of \$1.1 billion.

"Bruce Knight brings to USDA a great deal of knowledge and first-hand experience in conservation and agriculture policy from having served as a congressional staff member, a public policy leader for a national trade association and a working farmer and rancher," said Veneman. "I know that he will use that knowledge and experience in administering important conservation programs for USDA."

Knight currently serves as vice president, public policy, for the National Corn Growers Association's (NCGA) Washington, D.C., office. NCGA is a producer-directed trade association representing U.S. corn growers. Knight previously served on the staff of Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, Kan., focusing on development of the conservation title of the 1996 Farm Bill. He also worked for the National Association of Wheat Growers and as a legislative assistant to Rep. Fred Grandy, Iowa, and Sen. James Abdnor, S.D.

A native of Gann Valley, S.D., Knight has been a farmer and rancher since 1976 for a 1,500-acre diversified grain and cattle operation using no-till and rest rotation grazing systems.

Knight succeeds Pearlle S. Reed, who has served as NRCS chief since March 1, 1998. Knight will officially join USDA on May 6.

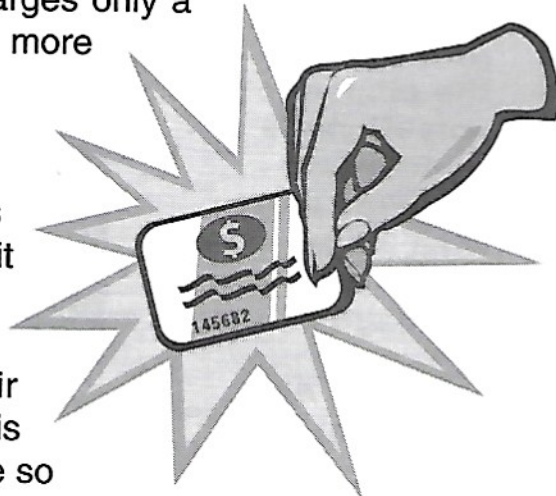
## ALL ABOUT DEBIT CARDS

### PROS:

Using a debit card is safer than carrying cash and handier than writing checks. Fees are comparable to using a bank Automated Teller Machine (ATM) card. If you make many purchases, you can get a card from an issuer that charges only a flat annual fee—rarely more than \$24.

### CONS:

Many merchants do not yet accept debit cards. Some charge a fee for doing so but since they get their money instantly, this is an extraordinary charge so be sure to ask about it before using your card. If you already have a bank ATM card that works like a debit card in local stores, you won't need a Visa or Mastercard debit card unless you travel.



## YOU KNOW YOU GO TO A REDNECK CHURCH IF . . .

...the finance committee refuses to provide funds for the purchase of a chandelier because none of the members know how to play one.

...opening day of deer season is recognized as an official church holy day.

...in a congregation of 500 members, there are only 7 last names in the church directory.

...there's a special fund raiser for a new church septic tank.

...when the pastor says, "I'd like to ask Bubba to help take up the offering," 5 guys and 2 women stand up.

...the choir is known as the "OK Chorale".

...high notes on the organ set the dogs on the floor to howling.

...the collection plates are really hub caps from a '56 Chevy.

...the baptismal font is a #2 galvanized washtub.

...people think "rapture" is what you get when you lift something too heavy.

...the choir robes were donated by (and embroidered with the logo from) Billy Bob's Barbecue.

...people ask, when they learn that Jesus fed the 5000, whether the two fish were bass or catfish, and what bait was used to catch 'em.

...finding and returning lost sheep isn't just a parable.



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## EMPLOYMENT IN STATE TOPS 6 MILLION

The number of people employed in Illinois topped 6 million for the first time since July 2001, according to data provided by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). It reported that there was a monthly increase of 17,200 jobs which raised the total number of workers to 6,014,200 in February. The IDES also related that the number of unemployed workers decreased for the second straight month, down 7,500 to 367,200. It noted,

**...there was a monthly increase of 17,200 jobs which raised the total number of workers...**

however, that employer payrolls remain down as businesses wait to gauge the strength of the economy.

Illinois' diverse Services sector continues to hold the top spot with 1,859,500 employees among the state's workforce classifications. Services encompasses a wide range of job titles ranging from entry-level to doctors. Last year was the first time in over a decade that Services' employment level declined by 5,100. Wholesale and Retail Trade with 1,355,200 workers also experienced a slight decrease by 7,900, due mainly to a softness in the Wholesale sector. Manufacturing, with 907,800 jobs, posted the largest drop of 37,900 positions. Some decreases were offset by gains in several other categories. Employment in Illinois declined by 40,300 during 2001.

The Mortgage Bankers Association of America reported that the percent of past due conventional loans in Illinois was slightly below the U.S. average during the 2001 fourth quarter. Its data indicated that 3.14 percent of in-state borrowers were delinquent compared to 3.23 percent nationally. Conversely, totals for all loans were reversed, with Illinois mortgagees' 5.17 percent past due to 5.05 percent for the U.S.

The University of Illinois Flash Economic Index was 96.3 in March from 97 in February. According to U of I economists, the reading indicates that the state is undergoing a slower recovery than the nation.

## FED'S WARN ON "TRUCKING TERRORISTS"

Federal regulators are proposing new requirements for transporters of hazardous materials. The action is response to terrorist acts and the subsequent evaluation of the hazmat transportation process.

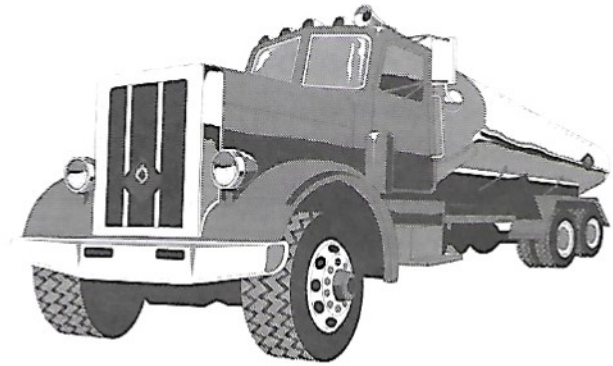
The USDOT proposal includes increased recordkeeping in regards to vehicle registration, more detailed shipping papers to include specific information

about the shipper and consignor/consignee, requirement for security plans and requiring more employee training

There continues to be a clear and present danger that terrorists continue to have the ability to illegally acquire CDL's and that government does not do a thorough background check, according to a report issued by the USDOT. And the report said, "Existing federal standards and state controls are not sufficient to defend against the alarming threat" posed by individuals who seek to fraudulently obtain CDL's.

The USDOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has visited more than 38,000 trucking companies, driving schools and truck rental firms to identify drivers from countries that support terrorist activities and to conduct background checks.

Meanwhile, USDOT is expected to issue additional new regulations that will call for background checks of drivers before a state can issue or renew a CDL with a HAZMAT endorsement. It's also expected that states such as Illinois will tighten their licensing requirements to include limiting those driver service facilities that will be able to process and issue CDL's.



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## AGRI-EXPO FOR THE 2002 ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

Agri-Expo – a place for family entertainment and educational programs on today's agriculture! Make your plans now to be part of this exciting area of the Illinois



State Fair. There will be demonstrations throughout by equipment and implement dealers; fresh Illinois grown corn-on-the-cob, fresh apple cider; touch and feel and pony rides for the kids; "Illinois Products" food sampling; Illinois wine

tasting; Watershed Park where you can take part in a scavenger hunt, an interactive computer, learn how streams and rivers change and visit the Soil Adventure Mobile; a showcase of Antique Tractors; "Strongest Man of the Glen" which is a test of strength based on the traditional Scottish heavy events; visit the U of I tent and have some free Illini-orange ice cream; learn more about Ethanol/biofuels; and then sit, relax and enjoy a variety of entertainment at our stage. Illinois LICA will have a booth in the Illinois Department of Agriculture tent.

### You Don't Buy Membership in an Association



You don't buy a newspaper, you buy news.

You don't buy life insurance, you buy security.

You don't buy glasses, you buy vision.

You don't buy awnings, you buy shade.

You don't buy membership in an association, you buy cooperation of people in the profession with whom you can join hands to do the things you cannot do alone.

## ICC REMINDS ILLINOIS BUSINESS OWNERS TO KNOW THEIR ELECTRIC SERVICE CHOICE OPTIONS

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is reminding Illinois business owners, who have all been eligible for electric service choice since December 2000, to get informed and know their options. The agency is continuing its statewide **Plug in Illinois** education campaign and advancing the effort to reach residential consumers, who become eligible for choice in May.

"As residential choice nears, the Illinois Commerce Commission encourages consumers to learn about electric service restructuring and be prepared to exercise future options. The market is opening to competition in May for residential customers of Illinois investor-owned utilities. This allows consumers to shop for an electric supplier just as they shop for other services for their homes. The ICC is also reminding business customers to use our information as a guide to making choices with confidence," said ICC Chairman Richard Mathias.

The ICC is offering consumer information on its **Plug in Illinois** Web site, <[www.icc.state.il.us/pluginillinois](http://www.icc.state.il.us/pluginillinois)>, including a checklist for choosing a supplier, a section listing suppliers as they become certified, and answers to frequently asked questions. Call toll-free, 1-877-758-4464, for the ICC's free residential and business consumer education brochures. (TDD users may call the Illinois Relay Center at 800-526-0844.)



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## GABBING WITH THE GALS...



There is so much news in the news nowadays that it is difficult to pick a topic. Some of their topics are so controversial that you couldn't make any progress if you tried. Ye writer believes that some newspeople make things controversial just for the harangue of it. All you have to do is read the letters to editors in any paper to get a view of what people are thinking; sometimes you wonder if they are really thinking because their views are so bizarre. Perhaps that is labeling them unfairly, but it gets the point across. Well, the government and religion are two topics it is easy to get bizarre about. Youngsters across the nation are excited about being out of school for the summer; they are swimming, riding bikes, and young drivers are trying to see how much speed the new one will do. We are all sad when accidents happen, especially in a rural area where many people do not slow down for country intersections. It must really be difficult to get your foot on the brake pedal. We hope there aren't too many of those type of drivers. Evidently someone neglected to tell the driver he had wheels, not wings.

Mechanic to car owner: "Let me put it this way - if your car were a horse, it would have to be shot." Around our area there are some very fast teenage drivers. There is a sign that says "Watch out for schoolchildren—especially those who are driving." Guess we all had a session of driving too fast and no excuses either. Even though there were not nearly so many cars on the road that is no excuse.

The rain this season has been very spotty. A deluge here, a shower there. No rhyme or reason either. Some farmers got their crop out very early and had to replant some; some waited until it was almost too late but made it under the wire. Someone explained to me several years ago that you can't judge the whole crop by one area, because where it is bad in some areas there are still plenty that will do okay; it all evens out somehow. Farming is a chance occupation/business. You plants your crops and you takes your chances. And you have to depend on Mother Nature to be fair. Quite a life.

The election race is on and the candidates have left the starting gate. So from now until November we are going to hear a lot of messages on television and read a lot of them on posters, signs, news articles. Since my (little) mind is already made up, the messages will be ignored. We hear more and more about prayer anymore, especially since 9/11. What is encouraging is that young people are getting the message and praying together. Habits are good when they include prayer. Maybe all the leaders of the world's countries should get together and just pray instead of negotiating this or that which is usually not accepted fully by any leader. It is said that reputation is made in a moment but character is built in a lifetime.

It is too bad that so few are going for teaching for their profession. We are already in a dilemma for teachers and hopefully more will decide to teach before the situation gets worse. No, it may not pay as much as private business but there are more to rewards than money. Many experienced teachers will tell you how rewarding it is to see their students do well. We had what I thought was an unusual situation here in our town at high school graduation. We had two valedictorians who were male and the salutatorian was also male. For years the girls have dominated these positions and now the boys are fighting back. That's great, too; it should be some of each. Do you wonder if the contests such as "Scholastic Bowl" makes any difference? We should support these contests just as much as we do all the sporting events. It is good for the students to pit their wits against students from other schools - more of a challenge than the same old, same old. A college education never hurt anybody who was willing to learn after they got it.

In Las Vegas, a 77-year old woman was attacked by killer bees. Paramedics had to use a fire hose to get the bees off of her and a crowbar to get her arm off the slot machine. This was from Bill Maher and even though pure nonsense it does represent how addictive gambling can become. Perhaps this gal is lucky - the easy money has not appealed to me and am not encouraged by any activity that can become addictive. People who play bingo every night of the week continue to amaze me - they will tell you how much they won but not how much it cost them to win; and bingo is not inexpensive. Guess my enjoyments are buried in tradition and so many traditions have been broken in the past twenty years that it takes away from enjoyment by people like me. Take bingo - no cards anymore; you get a sheet of paper as long as your arm and use your dauber. Foey - that's not bingo, it's a paper party. There are some who are in agreement with me in regards to the singing of the national anthem. It was meant to be sung seriously and according to the original music - not prolonged screams at the end of a word as most singing is now. The good thing about it is the radio or TV can be muted when that comes on. (Get off the soap box, kid - okay, okay!)

Looking forward to seeing all of our friends at the picnic in Mattoon. Hope Mr. Rain doesn't spoil it. It is fun to visit with everyone and get caught up on families, etc., and eating a meal you don't have to prepare is easy to take also. We are all very polite when we see each other again - we don't comment on how much older we look, yet we also do not fib and say you don't look a day older. Of course, we all are looking older, but that just goes with the territory. When I think of my father and how he suffered every day with asthma and yet still had a full head of hair on his head and it was only salt and pepper, not all grey, it makes us wonder what we, as inheritors, will look like. Sometimes worry and frustrations will make one look older before physical problems do. They tell me that worry is unnecessary - most often we worry about things that will never happen. But to a worry-wart that doesn't get through.

The word for this issue is "intersection". We meet many intersections in living our lives, and have to decide which

*Gabbing With The Gals... (con't to page 19)*

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- Only approved containers and portable tanks shall be used for storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids.
- No more than 60 gallons of flammable or combustible liquids shall be stored in any one storage cabinet. No more than three storage cabinets may be located in a single storage area.
- Inside storage rooms for flammable and combustible liquids shall be of fire resistive construction, have self closing fire doors at all openings, 4 inch sills or depressed floors, a ventilation system that provides at least six air changes within the room per hour, and electrical wiring and equipment approved for Class I, Division 1 locations.

- Storage in containers outside buildings shall not exceed 1,100 gallons in any one pile or area. The storage shall be graded to divert possible spills away from building or other exposures, or shall be surrounded by a curb or dike. Storage areas shall be located at least 20 feet from any building and shall be free from weeds, debris and other combustible materials not necessary to the storage
- **No Smoking** signs shall be posted in service and refueling areas.
- Drums containing Class I flammable liquids shall be grounded and bonded before and during dispensing into containers.
- All flammable and combustible liquid wastes shall be kept in fire-resistant, covered containers.
- Appropriate fire extinguishers shall be mounted within 50 feet of outside areas containing flammable liquids and within 10 feet of any inside storage area for such materials.
- Listed Safety containers shall be used for the dispensing of flammable or combustible liquids.
- All spills of flammable or combustible liquids shall be cleaned up promptly.
- All flammable or combustible liquid storage tanks shall be adequately vented to prevent the development of excessive vacuum or pressure as a result of filling, emptying or atmosphere temperature changes.
- All flammable or combustible liquid storage tanks shall be equipped with emergency venting that will relieve excessive internal pressure caused by fire exposure.
- Flammable liquids shall be stored separately from other chemicals, especially reactives such as oxidizers.

All containers containing a flammable or combustible liquid shall be labeled correctly and clearly.

## FARM BILL PASSES

The Farm Bill has now passed (see page 12) and it has far-reaching implications for LICA contractors. This is the first time that we have had a significant amount of money provided for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). **EQIP is funded for Fiscal Year 2002 at \$400 million, 2003 - \$700 million, 2004 - \$ billion, 2005 and 2006 - \$1.2 billion and 2007 - \$1.3 billion.** These are the funds used to put permanent conservation practices on the land. Of equal significance is the fact that these funds are available without having to be subjected to the appropriation process, which is the usual way funds are provided for approved programs. LICA resolutions sent to the Congress surely played a part bringing this about.

Another factor is that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) does not have enough trained personnel to do the job required by this bill. And there is no way that they can hire and train enough additional people to do the job. This means that others with the necessary expertise will be called upon to provide the needed assistance. LICA contractors are in a unique position to take advantage of this situation. We have the people already involved in putting conservation on the land and many are already trained in design, layout and checkout of conservation practices.

In those states where NRCS has not provided the necessary training LICA must request and take the training as soon as possible to be able to assist NRCS to get the conservation on the ground. Rest assured that if LICA does not move ahead in this effort the money will be shifted to areas where contractors are trained and ready to do the job, or others will step up and LICA contractors will lose the opportunity.

So, move now to get the training, if you need it. Get refresher training if you have already had it. Also request from NRCS any other information or training that you need for this effort. If they don't respond immediately, keep after them until they do. We don't have definitive information on whether or how, contractors will be paid for this work, but if we wait, we may miss a golden opportunity. Strike while the iron is hot!

**Wayne Maresch**  
*Executive Director*



## Please Be Seated!



**Meaningful membership requires the genuine interest and regular active participation in the Association's functions. Serving on the Board or a Committee is an ennobling experience that enables an individual to obtain a perspective of the governing of the Association.**

**If you care about yourself and your business, you cannot afford to miss any of these most informative sessions. At these meetings, you will have the opportunity to contribute your knowledge and ideas for the benefit of others, and you will in turn receive the benefit of the years of experience of others and their proven methods of success.**

**Be Active  
In Your  
Association!**

### ***Gabbing With The Gals...*** (con't from page 17)

way to go. Remembering that we are always teaching by example, it is important to choose the correct direction to go. Also, learn to stop, look, and listen, before someone else decides which way you want to go.

A very happy summer is wished to all, good gardens, good flowers, good crops, good swimming, good camping, and all that there stuff. See you next time.

..... Rambling Rose

# 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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## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE POOR

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people can be. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

"Oh Yeah" said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four.

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our

garden and they have a creek that has no end.

We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night.

Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

With this the boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks dad for showing me how poor we are."

Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. What is one person's worthless object is another person's prize possession. It is all based on one's perspective.

*Indiana LICA (June Newsletter)*

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## New Law Takes Effect In July

After three years of negotiations, new amendatory language to the Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act goes into effect on July 1, 2002.

"All excavators and facility owners and operators are encouraged to review the full text of the legislation on JULIE's Web site prior to the effective date," Mark Frost said. "Everyone should be aware of the significant changes in the law, including language establishing reasonable business practices, the ICC penalty process and the definitions of important terms such as 'emergency locate request,' 'approximate location,' and 'tolerance zone.'"

Over the past year, JULIE has been coordinating a proactive outreach program to inform and educate its members, contractors and excavators about several changes in the legislation that are designed to promote an easier, safer digging environment in the state of Illinois. The amendatory language will also create a true on-call process by daily penalizing all non-participating underground facility operators who do not join JULIE by January 1, 2003.

## On-Line With JULIE

JULIE now has an easy to remember Web site address – either:

[www.julie1call.com](http://www.julie1call.com) or  
[www.julieonecall.com](http://www.julieonecall.com)

Many new benefits include:

- Full text of new legislation
- JULIE policies
- ICC enforcement process link
- Utility company contacts
- Member service vendors
- Upcoming events
- Frequently asked questions
- Free safety materials
- JULIE staff directory

For the latest information, bookmark and visit our site on a regular basis.

## JULIE Policy Resolution #02-01

Relating to excavator identification on utility locate requests, states the following: Utility locate requests, including those from homeowners, will only be accepted from the excavator or a personal representative/employee of the company engaging in the excavation activity.

## Calls Not Accepted After June 30<sup>th</sup>

Locate requests on behalf of an excavator/company will not be accepted by call center operators after June 30, 2002. In addition to calling JULIE's toll-free telephone number, 800/892-0123, excavators have the option of also using Web Remote Ticket Entry or the Fax-a-Locate Program.

## RECYCLING – IT'S GOOD FOR ILLINOIS' ECONOMY

Few people would argue the fact that recycling is good for the environment. But a recent study, commissioned by the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs Bureau of Energy and Recycling, also shows that recycling is good for the Illinois economy; in fact, recycling is a \$12.2 billion industry in Illinois!

According to the study, conducted by R. W. Beck, Inc. as part of a nationwide study to measure the economic impacts of recycling, Illinois is home to more than 2,400 recycling and reuse establishments, contributing \$269 million annually in state and local tax revenues. Approximately 1.9 percent of the Illinois gross state product is attributable to the recycling and reuse industry. Furthermore, the Illinois recycling industry employs more than 56,000 workers.

"The recycling industry is a diverse combination of long-established recycling businesses, such as paper and steel making, coupled with innovative new enterprises such as manufacturing recycled rubber products from scrap tires and recycling consumer electronic," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "The future of recycling depends on consumers purchasing recycled products, the development of new technologies, and the commitment by manufacturers to use recycled commodities as feedstock."

McDonough noted that DCCA administers a number of

programs targeted at strengthening the Illinois recycling industry. Funded through a state fund established under the Solid Waste Management Act that was adopted in 1986, the programs have helped DCCA award more than \$77 million to encourage the industry's growth in Illinois.

*Illinois Department of  
Commerce & Community Affairs  
May 2002*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.
- Never test the depth of the water with both feet.
- A closed mouth gathers no foot.
- There are 2 theories to arguing with, women- neither works.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is to simply serve as a warning to others.
- If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.

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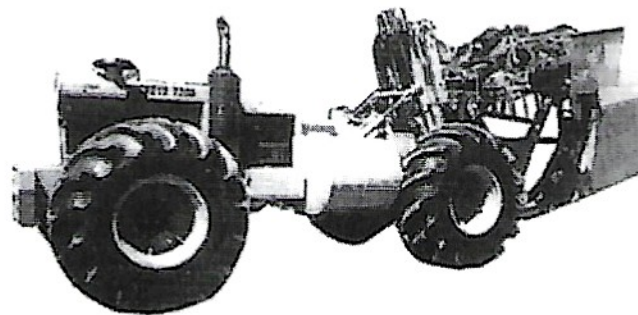
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