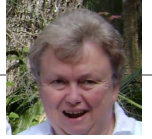




Illinois Flying Farmers



From the President's Desk... By: Karen Bradd

Dear Flying Farmers,

What an exciting and wonderful time! It is mid-March and we have balmy, tropical breezes with frisky birds chattering away at early morning. I hear farmers near St. Louis are starting to plant. It makes you wonder what is happening next. The farmers in this area are in a stew--when shall we start to plant, what will we plant, crop insurance will not cover anything planted before April 5, will the warmth and wind dry out our fields, etc. I think there are as many views as there are farmers.

Illinois-Indiana Convention

I am truly excited about our possibilities for the Illinois-Indiana Convention this fall. The following is all tentative only because the whole committee has not been able to get together and see the facilities and possible activities and speakers.

Where: Morton, IL (Morton is between Bloomington and Peoria, just off I-74) 309-263-5116

When: September 7-9

Place: Ashland House Conference Center (Best Western--newly redone--looks and smells great)

Rooms: \$79.99 plus tax

Suites: \$99.00 plus tax

All guest rooms are provided with refrigerator, wet bar, coffee maker, irons and ironing boards (made right there in Morton), and hair dryer. The motel has indoor pool, exercise room, and a **full hot breakfast buffet**.

Morton combines the grace and hometown charm of small town life with the amenities of the big city. We will be there the weekend before the Annual Pumpkin Festival which has huge crowds. We will be able to take a Nestles Field Tour and talk directly with the farm owner. Morton is home to Caterpillar Tractor Logistics, Nestles Libby's pumpkin canning plant, Parker fabrication and Morton Welding.

Restaurants abound in walking distance of the Conference Center. There is no restaurant open at lunch time within the Conference Center but we may not be at the hotel at that time.

Set your GPS for Morton in September!

In closing, enjoy the beautiful weather and stay out of the storms.

Karen Bradd

kbradd45@gmail.com

President:

Karen Bradd

Vice-President:

James Meyer

Sec/Treas:

Norman Clapper

Queen:

Dolores Green

Newsletter Editor:

Pat Clapper

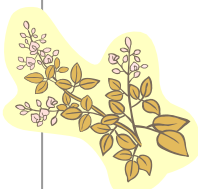
Woman of the

Year:

Dolores Green

Man of the Year:

Norman Clapper





Ramblings by Queen Dolores

By: Dolores Green

Greetings from Fort Myers Beach, Florida! We have had a most beautiful winter here in the land of sunshine. It has been warm to really warm and at the present time in the 80's. We plan to meet Don and Barbara Leis Friday in Punta Gorda for dinner and to catch up on the snow mobile tour out in Yellowstone. I'm sure they all will have some interesting stories to relate.

After returning from the workshop in Fort Lauderdale, Bob and I and some friends went on a cruise through the Panama Canal. If you have not seen this wonderful 8th marvel of the world, put it on your bucket list! It is almost beyond comprehension the engineering it took to plan and carry out this tremendous project. We went through the locks into Gatun Lake, turned around and came back through. We were fortunate to have aboard Dr. Thomas Ryan, lecturer and narrator to relate all points of interest while transiting the canal. The Canal connects the Atlantic to the Pacific, reducing the 12,000 mile sailing distance between New York and San Francisco by 7000 miles. The canal opened in 1914 fulfilling a dream of 400 years in the making. The 51 mile route cuts through sheer granite and dense jungle. It was amazing to see thousands of container boxes loaded on ships going through the canal. The Chinese are in the process of building a railroad in order to unload the containers and haul them by rail to the other end in order to negate the freight expenses. This is quite an enterprising project! When the United States was in control the shipping charges were \$1.00 a ton, now under Panamanian government it is \$4.00 a ton!!!! Our ship, the Island Princess, entered the locks in the darkness of early morning and exited in late afternoon, an all day adventure.

The Port of Limon, Costa Rico was a different type tour. We were transported on a narrow gauge railroad into the interior through thousands of acres of bananas. The stalks of bananas are harvested by hand and as they ripen a blue sack is put over the stalk so the workers know they are ready to be cut and pulled out of the fields

by hand on an elevated cable. This is very hard manual labor. Each stalk produces a new shoot for the next seasons harvest and after 8 years dies and is replanted. This is an ongoing project with some fields just planted and some in production. I'm referring to thousands of acres of banana plants. I don't believe I'll ever complain about bananas being 59 cents in our local stores!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We are back in Indian Creek Resort enjoying the continuous parties, fish fries, dinners, square dancing, ball room dancing, tennis and cards.

We met a most interesting person through friends. Ron Woods came to Florida in 1976 and established a steel fabricating business. He showed us through his facility and his recent project to cut the steel for a new bumper car amusement park .The sheets of steel are all cut and rolled on the same radius and not totally rounded but curved for right and left turns. Have you ever done bumper -cars? Perhaps Bob and I will try them out as the amusement park is located in our immediate area!

Ron and his wife are both pilots and own 3 planes hangered at Page Field. We were fortunate to see all 3 of these. There was a Mooney, a twin Commache and a twin Beechcraft. Needless to say all of these were in pristine condition and they really held Bob's attention as they were polished and ready to go. Ron and his wife use all 3 planes in their business which should justify the \$400.00 a month hangar fee for each one of them. One meets interesting people every day!

It has been a great winter and soon we will return to Illinois the first part of April. Karen Bradd and committees have been working on some very interesting tours for the Illinois-Indiana Convention to be held in Morton, Illinois, September 7-9. Also keep in mind the Illinois Queen Dolores and President Karen's day May 26, Danville, Illinois.

Until we meet again.....
Illinois Queen
Dolores Green

IL APRIL FLY - IN

Saturday, April 28, 2012 11:30AM

LaTeaDa Tea Room

1100 South Madison Street

Clinton, Illinois 67127

We will order from a special menu that includes desert ----around \$15 per person----with a tour of the DeWitt County Historical Museum afterward for those who are interested.

Host: Zelda Lewis

“Taken from the internet”

Escape the everyday with an afternoon spent at the LaTeaDa Tea Room & Gift Shop. Experience a leisurely lunch in our Victorian Farmhouse nestled on 3 acres. Our lunch menu changes with the seasons and our deserts change daily. Choose from three iced teas and over 20 loose leaf hot teas daily.

To complete your afternoon be sure to browse our upstairs gift shop. The 5 rooms of our “unique boutique” feature jewelry and accessories, florals, gifts, books, home décor, stationary and one entire room dedicated to teas, teapots, teacups and related tea accoutrements.

Welcome to the C. H. Moore Homestead DeWitt County Museum

Visit us and discover a fully restored building and grounds that depict the elegant Victorian era.

Escape the pressure of the present and discover the way it used to be.

On the National Register of Historic places.

Discover the connection between C.H. Moore and Abe Lincoln

Illinois Flying Farmers Fly In
Queen Dolores also Women of Year
and President Karen's fly in.

May 26th 2012. 11:30 IL. Time

141 Thornhill Dr. 61832.

Bob Finley Residents, Under the tent, garden party.

Grilled Hamburgers, Brats, Hot dogs, Tea, Lemonade.

Custard cup ice cream and cookies.

Have the pleasure of sailing around on beautiful
Lake Vermilion.

You all Come!

Illinois Queen

Illinois Women of the Year

Illinois President



WISCONSIN FLYING FARMERS CONVENTION

SUNDAY APRIL 22 2012---TUESDAY APRIL 24 2012

WATERTOWN, WISCONSIN HALFWAY BETWEEN MADISON AND MILWAUKEE ON INTER-STATE 94 ---KRYV---HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS 101 AVIATION WAY TEL:920 262 1910--\$86.00 PER NIGHT/TAX & BREAKFAST—OUR BLOCK WILL BE HELD UNTILL MARCH 24 2012----PLEASE MAKE RESERVATION YOU CAN ALWAYS CANCEL—

SUNDAY NOON- RUTHS FAMOUS LUNCH IN THE MOTEL

2:30PM-VISIT & TOUR FAMOUS HOARDS MUSEUM & DAIRY SHRINE-IN FORT ATKINSON, WI.

4:30 SUPPER AT CAPN'S STEAKHOUSE—SUPPER ON YOUR OWN

7 PM PROGRAM AT THE HOLIDAY INN

MONDAY APRIL 23 BREAKFAST IN THE MOTEL

9.30 AM TOUR OCTAGON HOUSE AND FIRST KINDERGARTEN IN THE USA.

11:30 AM TOUR BERRES BROTHERS COFFEE ROASTERS/ A BESTRO TYPE LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30PM TOUR OF FISHER-BARTON -WORLD LEADER IN LAWNMOWER BLADES.

5PM BANQUET IN PERKINS RESTRURANT BANQUET ROOM

7PM BUSINESS MEETING IN THE HOLIDAY INN/ DOOR PRIZES & ICE CREAM

TUESDAY APRIL 24 BREAKFAST IN THE MOTEL

9AM PRAYER SERVICE

10AM TOUR HOME BUILDERS SHOP & WISCONSIN AVIATION CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

12 NOON CONVENTION CLOSSES

REGISTRATION IS \$65.00 per person a call to confirm

your attendance would be

appreciated—PHIL PETERSON 608 -8353768

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US.



A Uniquely Hoosier Day

IFF WOMAN OF THE YEAR FLY-IN

YOU ARE INVITED TO

CELEBRATE WITH JOYCE RUST

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2012

1:00 PM EDT

CARRY-IN LUNCHEON AT

RUSTS HANGER AT THEIR FARM



7817 E. COUNTY LINE ROAD

BOURBON, INDIANA

FLY TO: RUSTS LANDING (II95)

ALTERNATE: NAPPANEE (C03)

FOR LANDING INFO CALL 574.646.3705

LAND AT YOUR OWN RISK

ENTERTAINMENT BY

MARY ANN HUNSBERGER-

A HOOSIER STORYTELLER

**BRING TABLE SERVICE AND A DISH TO
SHARE.**

Calendar

April 28, 2012	<p>LaTeaDa Tea Room 11:30 Clinton, IL Contact person Zelda Lewis</p>
May 26, 2012	<p>Illinois Queen, Women of the Year, President's Day</p>
June 22-24, 2012	<p>Minnkota Convention Coachman Inn 701-797-2181 by May 20, 2012</p>
June 22-24, 2012	<p>Michigan/Ohio Convention Carlton Lodge Adrian, MI</p>
July 17-21, 2012	<p>International Flying Farmer Convention Contact: Paula Kramer</p>
August 10 -12, 2012	<p>Region 3 Tour Holiday Inn Express 419-238-2600 by May 1, 2012 Van Wert, OH</p>

Ohio Chapter: Services for John Lane were on April 15, 2012.

Ohio Chapter: Services for John Leis were held on March 30, 2012.

Kansas Chapter: David Smitherman has rapidly growing pancreatic cancer.

Heartland Chapter: Curtis Phillips has been moved to Room 22 in Memorial Health Care System Extended Care, 300 N. Columbia, Seward, NE 68434.



And it snowed, AGAIN!

By Pat Clapper

On March 6, 2012 Norman and I left for Dyersville, IA for the Iowa/Missouri Convention. I thought to myself what a nice day and a pretty drive, thinking back to past years that we had traveled in snow or a snow storm going and/or returning from this convention.

Many of the group arrived that evening as the tours were to start at 9 the next morning. We enjoyed a delicious meal and visiting during the evening.

The first part of the tour was the All American Home Tour, where we saw the construction and finished product of house building. Part of the group toured the ready-made houses while the rest were inside the building watching the construction of the houses. It started snowing, just nice and gentle as we walked from house to house. The flakes were small: not even big enough to catch on your tongue. As the morning progressed, the snow kept falling.

Our next stop was the Basilica of St. Francis Xavier. I had no idea the history of how a building became a Basilica. The tour guide was very knowledgeable and provided lots of information. The gift store opened just for us and I added a cookbook to my collection – not that I cook very much anymore, but it is nice to have cookbooks – just in case.

As the group left there, I wanted to go back to the motel for a minute. This

separated us from the group. However, we knew where we were going next because we had seen the New Melleray Abby just off of the road that we traveled to get to Dyersville. There were several trees in the area and I kept thinking how pretty the snow was. We were the first vehicle to arrive. The snow had now reached a point of having to be removed from the parking places.

They were not expecting our group at the Abby so we did a self-guided tour. From there, it was on to Trappist Casket facility and then back to the motel for the evening's activities.

After the business meeting on Saturday, the group toured the Farm Tek – Greenhouse and the National Farm Toy Museum followed by some shopping and the evening's banquet and coronation of Rhonda Bohr and installation of the returning officers.

Sunday morning found us attending the church service and saying our goodbyes. Another GREAT convention came to an end. By this time, most of the snow had melted and our journey home was very uneventful.



New Melleray Abbey

Ten Feet Tall and Bulletproof

By Meyer the Flyer

It isn't often that we get to feel that we are ten feet tall. Add bulletproof to that, and you've had a great day. It happened to me on the Saturday after Workshop in Ft. Lauderdale. It started a couple months earlier as I was surfing the internet on airplane sites. I came across Challenge-air website. They organize days to give rides to handicapped kids. I was excited when I found out that their next fly-day was at FXE, Ft. Lauderdale Executive airport, just 8 miles from Pompano Beach Airport, where the IFF was to be based for workshop. Sorry, AirTran, I'm flying myself this trip.

I've flown a few cross-country flights in the past half century. I don't remember any with such favorable weather as on the 16 days to FL and back for workshop. We flew 7 of the 16 days in mostly CUVU conditions (Ceiling Unlimited & Visibility Unrestricted). We even had good tailwinds both heading south and again coming home. This is indeed rare for long distance flying in January.

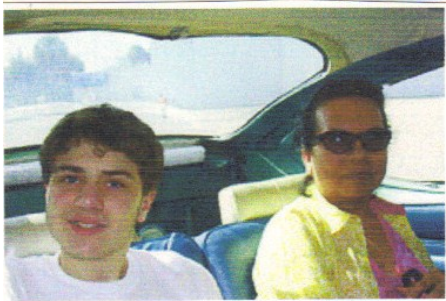
Back to the topic; flying kids. I departed PMP for the 8 mile hop to FXE at 7:45. Only 4 planes were there when I arrived. With 93 kids signed up and only one child plus two family members per flight, this could end up being a long and eventually tiring day. At our briefing we found out that a very detailed flight plan had been worked out with the tower personnel and help from the CAP (civil air patrol). Safety was of prime importance. Runway 13 was dedicated for just our flights. We were given special flight call signs with the prefix "kids"; so, I was "kids 714".

The plan was for us to allow them to manipulate the controls under our supervision and at our discretion. That kept a few flights from getting to be too routine. One boy delighted in pulling back suddenly on the controls. I didn't figure out whether he just liked the feel of a quick thrust upward or whether he just like to hear his mom squeal from the back seat. I liked both. Another was a very hesitant to even touch the controls in spite of all of the urging from his parent in the back. As moderator, I had to suppress the back seat driver. Eventually, with a bit of reassurance from his front seat mentor he followed along with me at the controls. It was worth a big simile. Another older boy had been flying before and seemed like he planned to fly the whole mission. I about used up my day's quota of "not yet's" and "later's" by the time we cleared the control zone.

Disembarking was the greatest! The photographer had his camera in the door as soon as I opened it. Family, friends, and assistants were all over and all getting in the pictures and cheering. Then as they walked the red carpet back to the hangar where there was more cheering, clapping, music, and balloons flying. Ten feet tall? Maybe twelve! Bulletproof? Nothing could shoot me down on this special day.

Fourteen pilots participated. I finished my last mission with kid # 115 at 4:30. No, I wasn't the least bit tired. There wasn't a cloud in the sky; but, there was one under my feet, and a song in my heart.





Ten Feet Tall and Bulletproof

