Inside this issue:

President 2
Pattern Chatter 3
Condolences 4
IA MO Convention 5
Devoted to Aviation 6-7
Convention Photos 8-9

HEARTLAND CONVENTION

2019

March 1-3
Iowa/Missouri Convention
Burlington, IA

March 8-10
KS Convention
Topeka, KS

Week of June 9th
Minnkota Convention
Alexandria, Minnesota

August 25-28
IFF Convention
Wichita, KS.
Hello from Colorado,

To everyone who joined us at our Heartland convention, thank you we enjoyed your company. Sorry to the ones who had to cancel at the last minute, the weather is not always very cooperative. We missed you and hope to see you soon.

We started with our tours on Friday, we all loaded up onto the party bus flashing lights and all, why you say because you are never to old to party! In reality we didn't want people to have to drive in Ft Collins traffic so we hired a bus for the group. So off we went to Walker Manufacturer and then on to New Belgium brewing. It was a very cold day and the bus worked out great for us. We steamed up the windows on our way home, but the only way to defrost them is to turn on the air conditioning, so we were content with foggy Windows. Our daughter Julie catered all our meals, and we started off with beef tenderloin, Brussel sprouts, scalloped corn and baked potato casserole. We were then entertained by our grandsons fiddle teacher, she put on quite a little show. We finished off with an ice cream social that Howard and I sponsored.

Saturday we opened with our business meeting and were welcomed by the Kersey town manager. As we have no one wanting to take office, it was decided that we would be joining Kansas for convention next year and we hold our own business meeting to retain our charter. I have made reservations to attend the Kansas convention in Topeka on March 8 - 10. I hope to see some of you there. In the afternoon our grandsons wife Shelby and a friend gave us a demonstration on how drones are being used in agriculture. Some of the members even flew the drone after the presentation. We then loaded up and drove to an alpaca farm. The wife processes Alpaca wool into yarn, blankets and scarfs for retail and also processes wool for others.

That evening we enjoyed our banquet. We were treated to chicken cordon bleu, carrots, green beans, baked potatoes with toppings. For dessert we had cheese cake and pound cake. As we had no new officers to install, Harry Bartell gave a nice little speech.

I wanted to mention that I just received the message this afternoon that Connie Schumacher passed away.

Until next time take care,

Virginia
Smile
February 8, 9, & 10 was the Heartland Flying Farmers and Ranchers convention time in Kersey, CO under the leadership of H.F.F. & R. President Virginia Buehler. President Virginia had arranged for a senior shuttle bus to transport the convention goers to the different tour locations.

First tour was to "Walker Mowers". A family company of designing engineers that manufactured a zero-turn riding lawn mowers, decks, add-ons and a number of tractors for the year round to cover any market surge in the respective season.

The Bolivarian Brewery was on the list of tours. A very interesting tour of Belgium Brewing in collaboration with Mexico City's Cerveceria Primus.

Then Saturday afternoon after the Drones seminar we loaded into cars and went to the "Fleece Factory of the Rockies", an artisan mill that specializes in processing fiber. Through approximately five women one can learn about fiber processing, fiber crafting, skirting development and take tours of the mill and barns as well as take classes in fiber dyeing, wet felting, rake loom knitting, rug hooking and weaving.

At the business meeting a discussion was held on joining Kansas at convention time with the residing chapter taking charge of the full convention.

Enough for now, it's press time, safe travels.

Chef Julie we heard the meals were excellent!

Gary and Karen Hoffman present the new Woman and Man of the year
Virginia and Howard Buehler
GET WELL SOON

Dear Flying Farmer friends,

Thank you for your cards of encourage. I am doing well now. We are in Florida but I flew back to Nebraska for my post operation surgery and have a good report.

Hope you are safe and cozy at home out of the ice and snow.

I want to share a couple items of interest to the FF. Dixie Sindt

Clyde and Joanne Mickelsen will be inducted into the aviation Hall of fame tonight. They did so much for the Nebraska Flying Farmers and Ranchers and helped with my Duchess Day and many fly ins at the Kearney Airport. Such dear people. (See page 6 for article.) Cards sent to:

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Mickelsen
11 Tabor Pl
Kearney NE 68847

Dixie also shared Ron Saylor's death which had already been posted last month.

CONDOLENCES

Connie Lee Schumacher, Hemingford, NE died on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. She was born November 25, 1937 to Percy A. Dyer and Rena F. (Dawson) Dyer in rural Box Butte County. She attended rural country schools and graduated from Hemingford High School in 1954.

On August 26, 1956 she married Keith Schumacher in Hemingford and they farmed together south of Hemingford.

She was a member of the Hemingford United Methodist Church where she was active in the UMW group. One of her favorite activities was being chairperson for the queens luncheon for the county fair. She enjoyed sewing clothes for herself and her family. She and Keith were very active in the Nebraska Flying Farmers and Ranchers organization. She served as chapter Queen as well as the newsletter editor. They traveled with the group for many years along with hosting several fly-ins and state conventions.

Connie is survived by her husband Keith, son, Martin (Tricia) Schumacher and daughter, Linda (Steve) Petersen, both of rural Hemingford, her grandchildren, Justin Schumacher of Chad, Africa, Jeff (Natasha) Schumacher of rural Hemingford, Joelle (Sean) Wacker of Shelby, NE, and Jaimee (Titus) Cline of Frederick, MD and her great-grandchildren, Brenna, Raegan, and Wyatt Schumacher, Rachel, Jacob, Elliot, and Theodore Wacker, and Adele and Elva Cline. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Keith.

Memorial services will be held on Monday, February 25 at 10:30 AM at Hemingford United Methodist Church. Pastor Esther Achi will officiate. Interment will be held at a later date. A luncheon will be held at the Westside Events Center at Alliance following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to the Hemingford United Methodist Church elevator fund.

Leland Krueger, Alena, SD, 1923—2019, was born on December 11, 1923 and passed away on Thursday, January 17, 2019.

Leland was a resident of Alpena, South Dakota at the time of passing.

Cards can be sent to Darlene Higgins
PO Box 515 Wessington Springs, South Dakota.

Darlene was Leland's constant companion and took care of him in her home since the diagnosis of cancer.
COME JOIN US FOR FUN-TOURS-FELLOWSHIP

Lots to See and Hear
Friday March 1st and Saturday March 2nd

Burlington, Iowa

Backhoe Capital of the World
Case IH/CNH Industrial - Big River Resources
Winegard Antennas - Des Moines Co. Recycler’s
Countess Bed & Breakfast – Heritage Preservation
Speakers: Storyteller Sam, Mississippi Lock and Dam and Heritage Preservation.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION
 Comfort Suites, 1780 Stonegate Center Drive, Burlington, IA 52601
 319-753-1300 by February 18th.
  Rooms $109 plus tax.

If you are flying and need a ride or have any questions contact Larry Jennings at 319-759-2555 or Dale Bohrer at 319-721-5925

SEE YOU THERE  -  Iowa – Missouri Chapter
CLYDE AND JOAN MICKelsen will be inducted into the Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame on Thursday. Owners of Air Midway for 23 years, they were instrumental in the growth of the University to Nebraska at Kearney Aviation Program and taught many students to fly.

Mickelsen even greeted President Bill Clinton when he flew into Kearney in December 2000. “That was awesome,” Mickelsen said. “I didn’t agree with his politics, but I shook his hand. I don’t think I’ll ever get over the feeling that overcame me then. He was the most powerful man in the world.”

Mickelsen also met U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, Jesse Jackson, California Gov. Jerry Brown, actress Suzanne Somers, singer Charley Pride, CBS newswoman Diane Sawyer, the Beach Boys and exercise guru Richard Simmons. “He was crazy, but he was very nice,” Mickelsen chuckled.

“It wasn’t work,” Mickelsen said, “It was fun, even when I had to get up in the middle of the night. Medical people would land and call and say, ‘We need some fuel,’ so I’d get up and go out. It didn’t bother me.”

Joan knew nothing about aviation until she met Clyde, but she learned quickly and was an invaluable business partner. She worked all day as a nurse, then went home, changed clothes and head-
ed out to the airport to do bookkeeping for Air Mid-
way. “She is my rock,” Mickelsen said.

A lifelong calling

Born and raised on a farm half a mile from the Kearney airport, Mickelsen was bitten by the aviation bug by the time he was 4 years old. “God instilled this into me when I was born.,” he said.

He saw World War II planes fly over. He remembers the grand opening of the original Kearney Municipal Airport. During World War II, he watched B-17s and other military aircraft fly their traffic patterns overhead.

After graduating from Kearney High School in 1956, he left college after a single semester and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He became an aircraft dispatcher at Bryan Air Force Base in Texas. “One of my buddies took me up in a J-3 Cub for the first time, and I thought, ‘I have to do this.’ I talked to a flight instructor a day or two afterward,” he said. HE bought his first plane, a Stinson aircraft, while still a student pilot and kept flying when he was transferred to Laredo (Texas) Air Force Base.

After four years in the Air Force, he received an honorable discharge, returned to Kearney and began working for Buffalo Air Service. Whatever needed doing, he did it. He flew. He helped with business operations. He commuted to Lincoln to work on advanced ratings and became a flight instructor. He helped with airport business operations and taught students to fly.

He also served as a certified weather observer. “My eyes were always going to the air to watch airplanes. I’d watch the weather as I watched the planes go over. I did hourly observation for a network for other pilots,” he said.

Creating Air Midway

In 1985, when Andy Nienaber was ready to retire from Andy’s air Service, he sold the business to the Mickelsens. At the same time, the couple bought Midway Aviation from Elton Weston and merged the two companies to form Air Midway. “The first time a jet came in, Joan and I stood hand-in-hand in the hangar watching it come in. I said, ‘We got it. This is ours now,’” Mickelsen said.

They began a 20-year informal agreement to provide aircraft and flight instructors to train students in the UNK Aviation Program, which greatly expanded the college program. “I let younger people teach because when we bought the business, I decided to run the business rather than do the flying,” he said. “You soon found out whether kids really wanted to learn to fly. Some came and were curious, but others were serious.” Many of those students went on to become pilots for major airlines.

The couple also hired UNK students for both full-time and part-time jobs. “We both enjoyed people, especially the young people,” Joan said. “I wanted to help them get on their feet. I talked to them, chewed them out if they needed it, prayed for them every day. I developed a bond with them.” Added her husband, “She served as their second mother.”

Stellar role models.

One of the couple’s legacies is the growth of the UNK Aviation Program. Because UNK had limited funds, the Mickelsens offered to split some costs with the university. That created one of the first private/public partnerships at UNK. Today, Gibbs leads that program.

“It’s not what Clyde and Joan did, but how they did it,” Gibbs said. “They were in business to rent planes, but it went beyond a business relationship. They made us all part of the airport family. If a student ran out of money for lessons, they’d let him finish the program and trusted that he would repay them. We were a family. They were good role models for young people on how to treat people, how to treat customers. They were role models for what it meant to be a good person.”

Married for nearly 44 years, the couple retired in 2008. “Along with Joan, I have another partner: Jesus Christ,” Mickelsen said.

The couple openly and reverently give Him the credit for their achievements in aviation and beyond.

“We couldn’t have done it without Him. It was a dream, and we did it,” Mickelsen said.

Reprinted with permission from the Kearney Hub and Mary Jane Skala. Photo was furnished by Clyde and Joan which was courtesy of Nebraska Aviation Council.

Editors note: I have fond memories of our many fly-ins at Air Midway and the generosity of Clyde and Joan letting us use their facilities which were always spotless.
IFF Vice President Harry Bartel

Karen and Gary Hoffman award presented by Phyllis and Darrell Lemons for traveling the farthest to convention

THE DRONE
Flying the Drone

Yes that is IFF Secretary Treasurer Diana Billheimer.

Pictures Courtesy Of Cathy Scherler

Installation of President Virginia and Treasurer Dwayne.
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Margaret S Bunger
2133 37 RD
Upland NE 68981-5108

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NOTICE
WE ARE ON THE IFF WEBSITE
http://www.internationalflyingfarmers.org/

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IFF MISSION STATEMENT
IFF provides a personalized, unique and economical opportunity to experience agriculture and aviation in Canada and the United States in a family environment.

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER 20TH OF THE MONTH