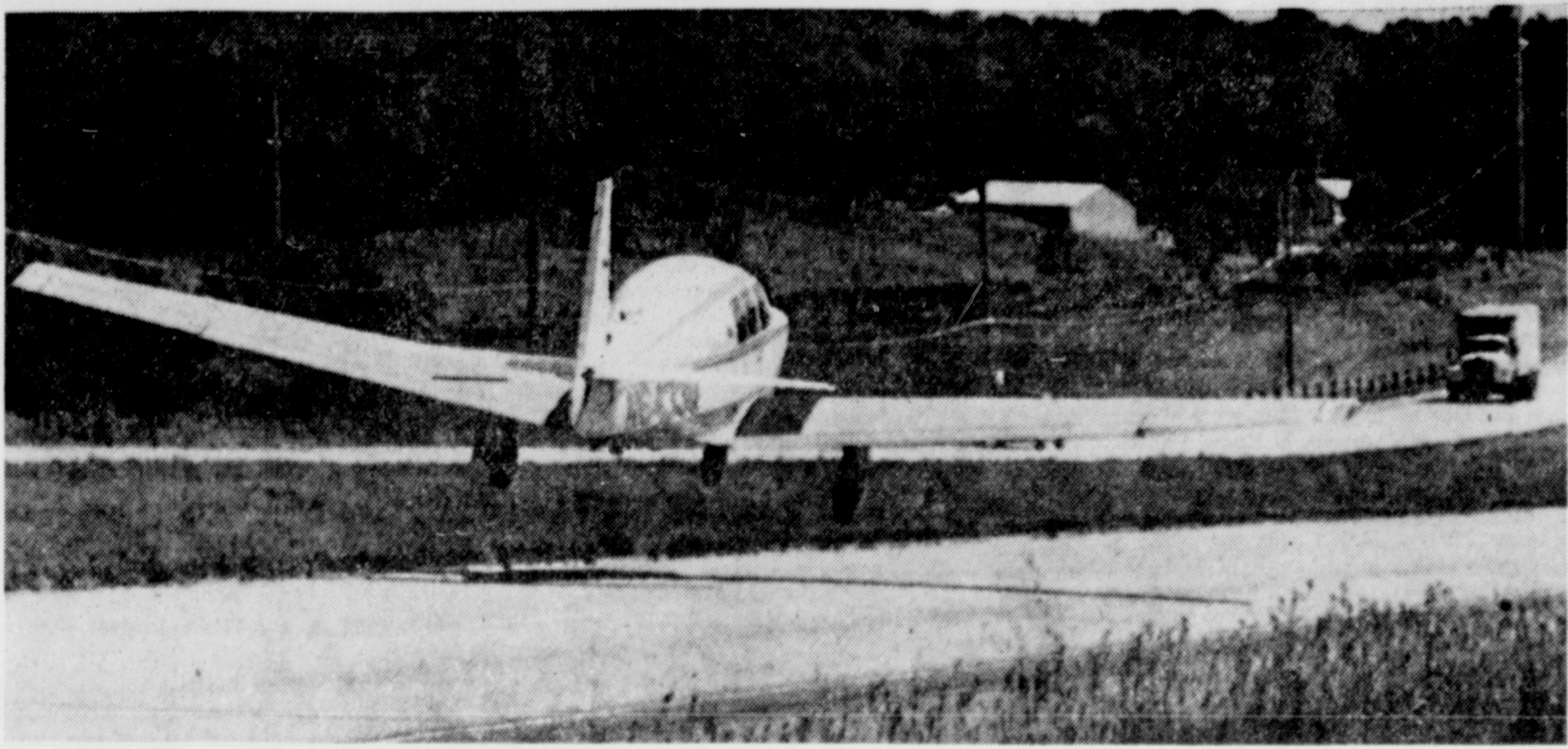


Going Home

An Iowa pilot took off for home from near Rochester, Minn., Monday by using U.S. 52 as a runway. Robert McIntosh, 50, Oelwein, made a safe forced landing on the highway just north of Rochester nearly two weeks ago after the tip of a propeller snapped off. He stayed in the area while a mechanic repaired the problem and a federal aviation administration official okayed the repair work. McIntosh resumed his interrupted journey from Minneapolis to Oelwein Monday afternoon after Olmsted county deputy sheriffs blocked a section of the highway so he could become airborne. McIntosh had pulled the plane into a field for the two weeks, and occasionally slept in it to guard against vandalism.



Iowa Taxes Average \$2,384

NEW YORK (UPI) — Iowans pay an average of \$2,384 in state and local taxes each year, according to an article in the August edition of Money magazine.

The article said Iowa's figure is the fifth highest in the nation. Wisconsin residents pay highest average state and local taxes — \$3,219 — followed by Minnesota (\$2,894), New York (\$2,755) and Massachusetts (\$2,637).

Generally, people in the south pay the lowest taxes while residents in the Midwest and Northeast pay the highest. Louisiana had the lowest average — \$662.

Money cited two reasons for the wide variations — some states and localities are stingier with services than others and some place a heavier tax burden on businesses.

The standard used in figuring the average taxes was a family of four with a \$25,000 adjusted gross income and a \$45,000 house.

Clark Proposes Labor Department Manpower Unit

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Richard Clark (D-Iowa) Wednesday introduced legislation to re-establish a rural manpower service in the U.S. department of labor.

Clark's bill would require the department to maintain the service and strengthen its role in coordinating manpower training and employment programs for rural areas. The department is currently phasing out its existing rural manpower service, established in 1933.

Clark said re-establishing the service is necessary because "rural development is a serious national problem, and there is no other federal agency giving it the special attention it deserves."

The Iowa Democrat noted only 30 percent of the nation's population lives in rural areas, but half the nation's poor and more than 60 percent of the country's substandard housing are in rural areas.

EPA Approves Completed Project

WILLIAMSBURG — The environmental protection agency has approved the completed construction of a new sewage treatment facility here.

The new system will replace an old treatment plant which had been polluting a nearby creek.

The EPA has financed \$263,920 of the \$366,000 project.

The new treatment facilities include a lift station, force main, extended aeration plant, disinfection equipment and emergency detention lagoons.

Shive-Hattery and Associates, Iowa City, was the consulting engineering firm for the project and Wendler Engineering and Construction Co., Amana, was the contractor.

Students Honored

GREENCASTLE, Ind. — Jacqueline and Jeanette Cochran, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cochran of Mt. Vernon, have been named to the dean's list of DePauw university here for achieving at least a 3.5 grade point during the second semester.

\$100 Million May Be Needed For Rail Revamp: Krause

By Gordon Jackson

DES MOINES (UPI) — A sweeping proposal which could ultimately revamp railroad operations in the nation's farm belt cleared a first hurdle here Tuesday as a special committee of transportation, financial and public officials examined the embryonic idea.

The blue-ribbon committee of experts met for the first time to discuss the possibility of a state revenue bonding authority for railroad improvements. Rep. Robert Krause (D-Fenton), chairman of the house transportation committee, labeled the meeting a "brainstorming session" on the fledgling proposal.

The railroad proposal is modeled directly after the recently-created Iowa housing finance authority. That new state agency will have the power to issue up to \$100 million in bonds to provide matching funds for private or public housing projects, mainly for elderly and low-income Iowans.

Not Derailed

Krause, the chief designer of the railroad plan, said after the three-hour session, "At least the proposal didn't get derailed. It will be at least three weeks before we have another meeting and things should really begin to start rolling on it in September."

The Fenton Democrat said although no firm figures have been set, at least \$100 million probably would have to be raised under the railroad bonding program to thoroughly upgrade Iowa's deteriorating track network.

Other enthusiastic backers of the plan included Sen. William Gluba (D-Davenport) and Richard Barr, special counsel for the Iowa Railroad Assn. Rep. Richard Drake (R-Muscatine) also said he felt such a program may be needed to transport grain and other commodities from rail-poor areas such as northwest and parts of north central Iowa.

New Agency

Under the innovative rail proposal, a new state agency would be created and empowered to issue revenue bonds for railroad track improvements. The bonds would be retired, Krause said, with funds from the railroads and shippers along the lines.

Therefore, he emphasized, the program would not cost Iowa taxpayers a dime in state general funds. The end result would be a more efficient railroad system to transport Iowa's bountiful grain harvests, Krause said.

However, several members of the committee expressed concern that Iowa cannot "go it alone" on such a major program and that it would have to be coordinated with other states in the farm belt. In addition to state officials, the ad hoc committee included representatives of the railroads, major bonding agencies and shippers.

Backing Needed

Rep. Gregory Cusack (D-Davenport) said he wasn't trying to "throw cold water" on the proposal, but said financial backing from the federal government and a regionalized approach to improve rail systems are needed to make the plan work.

"Without the regional concept and federal government backup, I don't think it would work," Cusack said.

Carleton D. Beh, Jr., head of the largest bonding firm in Iowa, added, "Perhaps you have to go from Minnesota to the Gulf (of Mexico) to make this thing viable. Perhaps we should try it in Iowa and then try to sell it downstream."

The committee appointed Drake to write to transportation officials in surrounding states to "test the water" for interest in the Iowa proposal. The Iowa energy policy coun-

cil and the proper legislative committees also will be consulted, Krause said.

Expressed Fear

Victor Preisser, director of the new Iowa department of transportation, expressed fear that already financially troubled railroads may not be able to pay off the bonds and the state — and therefore the taxpayers — would have to pick up the costly bill.

"We are assuming railroads would be able to repay the bonds," Preisser said. "If that's the case, why are the rails in the financial trouble they are now?"

However, Krause said it must be assumed the energy efficient railroads — regardless of how they are financed — are always going to be needed in agricultural Iowa. He said it would be financially safe to start a "bonding base" to upgrade at least the essential railroad lines in Iowa.

The five major railroads serving Iowa already are participating in a year-old track subsidy program operated by the EPC.

However, Krause noted the EPC has been allocated only \$3 million annually to operate that program, which he said "just isn't enough." He also noted there are more than \$50 million in applications for track repairs now pending before the EPC.

Corps Accused of Withholding Details

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (UPI) — A conservation group charged Wednesday the U. S. army corps of engineers is covering up the extent of its navigation project on the upper Mississippi river so it can get congressional approval for the plan.

The corps' St. Louis office has said it intends to build a new dam for an existing nine-foot navigation channel at lock and dam 26 on the Mississippi at Alton.

But John Marlin, executive director of the Coalition on American Rivers, said there is evidence the project is just the first step in the corps' plans to increase the channel depth on the upper Mississippi from nine to 12 feet.

The idea of a 12-foot deep channel has drawn opposition from conservation groups, railroads and some midwestern states.

Railroads say the increased depth, coupled with a planned increase in length of the barge, would cut a barge operator's costs because he could move through the locks faster and carry bigger loads.

Railroads and barges compete for freight traffic and railroads say increasing the channel depth at public cost is subsidizing the barge industry.

Conservation groups say a 12-foot channel, besides costing taxpayers a lot, would cause further biological decay in the river and will lead to increased dredging, erosion and pollution. They also say it will "ultimately turn the river into a superhighway for barges."

Marlin sent newsrooms copies of private corps statements issued during the last several years which outline plans for a 12-foot channel. The corps now says all such plans have been abandoned, but opponents of the project don't believe that.

The coalition issued its statement in response to an environmental impact statement the corps issued last week outlining what it believes would be the effect of its Alton project. Groups opposed to the plan are currently studying the seven-volume statement.

Question 2 In Death of Housewife

DES MOINES (UPI) — Two unidentified men were being questioned by Des Moines police about the murder of a 17-year-old housewife, whose bullet-riddled body was found in her southside home Tuesday afternoon by her husband.

No charges had been filed as of early Wednesday in connection with the slaying of Geraldine Jean Kean whose nude body was found face down on a waterbed in the bedroom of the couple's southside frame home.

Assistant Police Chief Thomas Teale, Jr., said no murder weapon had been found nor had any motive been established.

Dr. R. C. Wooters, Polk county medical examiner, said she had been shot a number of times in the face, back and side. He said some of the shots may have come from an extremely close range. Wooters said she had died a "few hours" before her husband Michael, 21, found her about 2:40 p.m. Tuesday when he returned home from work.

Wooters was awaiting laboratory reports from an autopsy made Tuesday night before determining if the woman had been sexually assaulted.

Authorities said there were no marks on the body other than the gunshot wounds and there were no apparent signs of a struggle. The house had not been ransacked nor anything taken, police said.

The Keans had been married about eight months and Mrs. Kean was a Lincoln high school student. She was the daughter of Nadine Wilson and the late Don J. Wilson, a West Des Moines attorney killed in March, 1973, in a West Des Moines auto accident.

No Millage Issue

GARNAVILLO — The Garnavillo school board has voted not to place a 2.5 mill levy on the September school ballot. The board decided it does not wish to raise taxes at this time.

Malpractice an Issue At Okobojo Session

By Val Corley

OKOBOJO (AP) — State legislators from 12 Midwestern states will attempt to find a common solution to the medical malpractice problem in a four-day meeting starting Sunday at Okobojo.

"For one thing we want to check and see if there are some games being played by the insurance industry," said Sen. Lowell Jenkins (D-Montrose), chairman of the subcommittee working on medical malpractice.

That group will spend much of its time at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments comparing notes on malpractice hearings and actions by the various states.

"At a malpractice conference in Chicago, we stumbled on something that seemed peculiar," Jenkins said. "We found that some insurance companies are pulling out of the malpractice business in say Iowa, South Dakota and Missouri and are suddenly writing it heavily in other states."

Indiana Company

"One company that kind of saved the state of Iowa by increasing the amount of malpractice insurance it is writing here has stopped writing medical malpractice insurance in Indiana — and it's an Indiana-based company," he continued.

Doctors in many states are finding it difficult to renew or expand the malpractice insurance and those who are successful are finding the costs spiraling.

"Initially we hope to get a handle on what is and what is not happening," Jenkins said. "The major question is why they are writing in one state and not another."

The subcommittee has been coordinating results of malpractice insurance hearings and meetings in the 12 states through the organization's Chicago office.

Other Meetings

In the subcommittee meeting Sunday, Jenkins said the group would attempt to co-

ordinate further and decide how to handle the situation. He said other meetings are expected to work on the problem during the four-day meeting.

"We're trying to coordinate each state's efforts so we don't each hold hearings and have people come in and we have to take what they say as gospel. We will have some check to see if in fact it is gospel."

"So far, the only thing we can put our finger on is we seem to be getting different songs, or at least different words to the same tune, from the companies," Jenkins said.

He said the subcommittee hopes the states can work together as a region to work out solutions, including possible model legislation that would be adopted by all 12 states.

In addition to Iowa, the states participating are Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio.

Easter Seal Grants To Eastern Iowans

DES MOINES — Gail Diane Graff, Toledo, a summer counselor at Camp Sunnyside here and Wartburg college student, has been named to receive the Iowa Easter Seal society's \$500 E. L. Peterson Memorial scholarship for the coming year. Miss Graff will apply the grant to her graduate work in physical therapy at the University of Iowa.

Another Eastern Iowa student receiving an Easter Seal scholarship is Mark Joseph Besch, Coralville, a graduate student in physical therapy at the U. of I.

Named Chairman

CENTER POINT — Mrs. Richard Buttschi, of Center Point, has been named local chairman of the 1975 breath of life campaign of the Iowa chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis foundation.

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