



THE ICF BUGLE

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INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

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Dr. Saab Meets Dr. Salim Ali

by Lisa Hartman
Aviculturist

To the newly hatched crane chick, one human face must be the same as another. But when Dr. Salim Ali came to visit and looked in at a three-day-old Siberian Crane chick you couldn't help but imagine a look of recognition passed between them.

Appropriately, we named the chick Dr. Saab, in honor of Dr. Salim Ali. The Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan, one of the last winter homes of the Siberian Cranes, might not exist today had it not been for Dr. Ali's efforts. And to the people of India, Salim Ali is Dr. Sa'ab, a name that means "the wise man," in recognition of his tremendous contributions to ornithology and wildlife conservation. Dr. Saab, the Siberian chick, will likewise make great contributions to the preservation of Siberian Cranes, through his (or her?) participation in captive propagation.

Dr. Saab is clearly the most important chick to hatch at ICF this year, even though three other Siberians hatched before him and another soon after. Dr. Saab is the first offspring of Vladimira and Bazov, two cranes that came to ICF as eggs from the eastern Siberian tundra in 1977 and 1978.

Other species of cranes raised in captivity have begun

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New Hatchery Goes to Work

by Jim Harris
Education Coordinator

ICF's new headquarters, the Norman and Claire Sauey Hatchery and Chick-Rearing Complex, was completed just in time this spring to herald another breeding season — the first at ICF's new site.

The brooder boxes in the Chick-Rearing Wing were filled immediately with the chicks from Australia, and within two weeks every pen available for chicks — the new facilities boast 25 separate pens, each with its own outdoor run — had been occupied. This season has kept the chick mamas busier than any previous year at ICF.

The Eastern Sarus and Brolga chicks were not the only ones that took well to their new home. The ICF administration and education staffs moved over from their cramped quarters in the two converted trailers by the visitor parking lot, and at last the aviculturists could rejoin their co-workers after a year's separation. They had been housed five miles away at the old site.

The Sauey Hatchery marks a turning point for ICF. In the early years, almost all of our limited resources went to the care of the cranes or else directly toward conservation and education projects. The staff did without. Yet adequate, comfortable working space and storage will allow the staff to be far more productive than before — essential for an organization that is here to stay. And the new headquarters gives us capabilities we have never had.

The Hatchery Complex is a large, multi-purpose structure. You'll be hearing about its key role for ICF projects in many future issues of the *Bugle*. But we have devoted most of this present issue to introducing our facilities — its many different faces appear in the accompanying articles.

As its name implies, the building is most importantly our center for crane raising. This year's chicks occupy quarters that are healthier, safer, and more easily maintained than at the old site. Incubation areas have their separate passageway with a locked entry to minimize chances for contamination.

For similar health reasons, the Chick-Rearing Wing is separated from the main structure by a roofed walkway that incidentally gives shade to visitors. One side of the Chick-Rearing Wing, including the brooder room with its large windows, borders the public area. The other side is screened from all human view. Even the windows off that side of the interior service corridor, allowing aviculturists to look into each pen, have one-way mirrors so that these chicks can be raised in isolation. In future years we will want to be raising wild chicks for release into the wild — cranes totally unaccustomed to people.

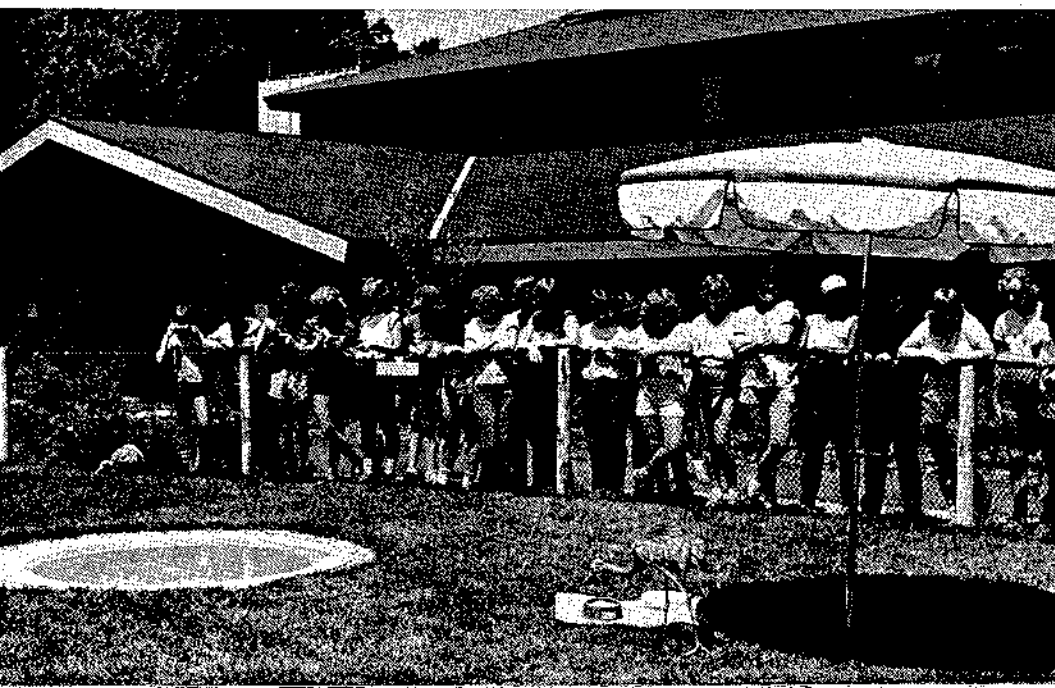
The Peters Research Laboratory on the ground floor of the main building will multiply our research capabilities. ICF has always been ideal for studying the cranes themselves, but most lab work necessary for such research has been performed elsewhere.

Down the hall from the main lab, the surgery room will allow aviculturists to care for the cranes under hygienic conditions with a full array of equipment. Even the carefully planned lighting can be a significant factor when operating on a crane.

Across from surgery, the darkroom will allow the education staff to develop film and make black and

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ICF For School Children

by Karen Sippy, Education Intern

First they bob their heads then they flap their wings. They are not cranes but children learning about cranes in anticipation of their visit to the International Crane Foundation. For school children, there is much more to an ICF visit than just seeing birds. These students' field trip is an integrated part of a science curriculum. And for young children, one of the best ways to learn about crane behavior is to act it out.

The education staff at ICF has been developing the school curriculum materials for the last two years with the help of grants from the Francis R. Dewing Foundation that supports innovative forms of childhood education. These new materials maximize active involvement of the children, and have allowed ICF greatly to expand its outreach into schools. This past spring, fifty school groups used the new curricula in conjunction with tours of ICF, a total of over 2,500 children.

When a teacher reserves a time for an ICF tour, we mail out one of four 25-page folders, each a curriculum geared to a particular age level. The curriculum consists of a variety of projects to be done before, during, and after the actual trip to ICF. After completing their preparatory activities, the young bird enthusiasts come to ICF more knowledgeable than many of our adult visitors. They are ready to get the most out of their time with the cranes.

Each of the four age levels has its own projects. Youngsters at Level I (kindergarten through third grade), for example, meet "Meg in the Egg" before their trip to Baraboo. She tells them in a coloring book what it is like to be a crane chick at ICF. Once they arrive, these children meet Meg's fellow chicks out playing with their human "chick mamas" in the exercise yard. They also see what these birds will look like as adult cranes at the Johnson Exhibit Pod, and finally they prowl the restored prairie.

In contrast to the typical tour atmosphere for adults, the three younger curriculum levels have the children answering the questions instead of asking them. The students are divided into small groups each led by a teacher or chaperone who carries a sheet of questions that make the children look closely at the cranes and think about them. How many toes do cranes have? Can they stand in trees? Is the red on their heads feathers or skin? Why do you think that red, bare patch is on the face?

The children do the most talking (and looking), and the teacher checks their answers with the sheets ICF has provided. The ICF tour guides move from group to group, adding extra news about the birds and fielding questions not covered on the sheets.

A special highlight of the Level II tour for grades 4-6 is a wetland tour narrated by Ichabod Crane. At each of six stops, Ichabod (a 75-year-old Sandhill Crane whose voice resounds from a portable tape recorder) tells the children about the wetlands and leads them in exercises.

Middle school students with a Level III curriculum visit this same marsh and analyze whether it is a suitable habitat for cranes to live. They do this through a variety of activities including mapping the surrounding habitats, viewing soil samples, taking water measurements, and noting what predators and food could be in the area. In this way, the students look closely at the marsh and learn about the needs of cranes as well.

At the most advanced level, high school students are introduced to the cranes through a booklet "Field Guide to Crane Behavior" and a guided tour. We then assign two students to each pair of adult cranes for a brief behavior study. The students take notes on preening, dancing, calling, threats, and other activities on an observation form ICF supplies. At the end of their watch, the students give their views on the strength of the pair bond of their birds — a matter of vital concern for captive breeding.

At all age levels the students are introduced to the importance of saving cranes and wetlands. They also see an audio-visual program at the Cudahy Visitor Center about the history of ICF and its programs here and around the world. As the children leave ICF, they seem eager to talk about their experiences back home with family and friends. They have become educators as well as students, spreading concern and enthusiasm for the tall birds and their soggy homes.

We wish to thank once again the following major supporters of the Hatchery building: Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Donnelley, Mr. and Mrs. Reinhardt Jahn, the Charles A. Krause Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Balding, Jr., Mrs. Charles Pain, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ott, Mrs. Walter Ott, Mrs. Harry Steenbock, Kenneth and Mark Decker, L. A. W. Fund, Kopmeier Family Fund, Modine Manufacturing Co., Aid Association for Lutherans, the Stackner Family Foundation, Mrs. John Stedman, Walter Alexander Foundation, Inc., Leonard and Frances Shelton, Webcrafter-Frautschi Foundation, Inc., Catherine Cleary, and Mrs. Gerda Debelak.

Dr. Saab Meets Dr. Salim Ali

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breeding at 3 and 4 years of age but Vladimira and Bazov passed those birthdays by with no sign of reproductive activity. We began to wonder if something was amiss in their lives, even though they were exposed to the same conditions under which ICF's other Siberians Wolf, Tillman, and Hirakawa had been breeding for years. Every spring when Hirakawa began laying eggs, and Wolf and Tillman began producing semen we'd wait and wait for Vladimira and Bazov to do the same, but to no avail.

Finally this year, Vladimira and Bazov were ready. Dr. Saab's egg was a beautiful sight to our egg-hungry eyes when we found Vladimira standing protectively beside it, just after laying. Because Siberian crane chicks have not hatched successfully in our artificial incubators, we let our Sandhill Crane pairs incubate them. Dr. Saab's egg went into the nest of J.C. and Terry.

After ten days, we briefly "borrowed" the egg and candled it. We noticed blood vessels and an embryo, indicating that Dr. Saab was developing into a chick. Seventeen more days passed before we collected the egg again and took it for the first time to the hatchery.

ICF's expansion to the new site has included great advances in the avicultural program. Whereas at the old site our egg preparation area, incubators, and hatchers were all crowded into one basement area with a five-foot ceiling, the incubation area in the new hatchery is divided into three distinct regions.

Each egg is first brought into the prep room, where it is fumigated in a small incubator. After the twenty minutes fumigation period, the egg is "clean" and relatively bacteria-free. It is taken then into the incubator room where it is weighed, measured, labeled, and set in the incubator. A third room houses the hatcher, where eggs are placed to finish out the hatching process. Air flow between all these rooms is controlled to keep the air as clean as possible.

When we brought Dr. Saab's egg to the incubator room, he was kicking around inside the shell so much that we could watch the egg quivering where we set it on a table. I put the egg to my ear and listened. From the blunt end of the egg came very faint scratching sounds and small peeps.

We put the egg in the hatcher and checked on it every few hours, purring to the young bird inside. Answering peeps came from within the confines of the eggshell. After 36 hours of such conversation, Dr. Saab used his egg tooth to put a small, star-shaped hole in the shell. We could then glimpse his small beak opening and closing with the rhythms of respiration. This pipping process must have spent a lot of his strength for he rested quietly over the next 8 hours, peeping only when peeped to by his human caretakers.

Dr. Saab then began to break away pieces of the egg-shell and three hours later he pushed himself out of the egg — wet and weary, yet with that vitality and vigor so characteristic of young Siberian Cranes. In no time at all he was fluffed out to his full 100 grams ready to greet Salim Ali and the rest of the world.

Less than a day later, we carried Dr. Saab into the new chick house. For now, Dr. Saab leads a leisurely life: sunny days at the poolside in the country club atmosphere of the chick corral, and warm well-fed nights in the close comfort of the brooder box. The peeps and shufflings of his neighbor chicks must provide some assurance that he is not the only crane growing up among people.

Dr. Saab's main concern involves chasing these other crane chicks when they are exercising in the corral. But this feisty behavior assures us that he is normal and healthy, and well on his way to making important contributions to crane conservation, much as his 87-year-old human namesake Salim Ali has been, and is still doing.

New Hatchery Goes to Work

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white prints, thus avoiding the delays of commercial processing. Timing can be critical if photographs are needed to accompany a news release or to facilitate the highest quality photographic record of crane events never to be repeated. We will also have more control over quality and selection of photographs for the *Bugle*.

A locked door separates these staff facilities from the Schroeder Exhibit Room located at the west end of the ground floor and accessible to the public by doors from the outside. One side of the room houses a videocassette player and a 45.7-inch screen. A ten-minute video "For the Love of Cranes" plays every 30 minutes during the day. Visitor reaction has been enthusiastic to this sensitive documentation of our captive breeding program. The video was produced and donated to ICF by Tom and Regina Shea and involved years of filming, particularly of our Red-crowned Cranes.

Visitors can watch a crane egg hatch on the video screen and then witness the actual hatching of chicken eggs at the other side of the exhibit room. We are very proud of the appearance and informational content of our series of exhibits explaining the breeding of cranes. Dave Onsrud, a free lance consultant from Madison, Wisconsin, donated his time in developing the designs for these exhibits.

The room has something for everyone. Children cluster near the baby chicks or manipulate the crane puppet to feed "Zeke," a ceramic crane chick inhabiting our isolation-rearing booth. The more scientifically inclined study the stages of egg formation or push buttons to light up an embryo's development within an egg. The opposite wall portrays the art of artificial insemination.

The Hatchery exterior makes another contribution to the visitor program. It is a highly attractive part of ICF's new setting, an expression of our belief that the practical needs underlying human activities can enhance rather than destroy the natural environment.

Accordingly, landscaping has been an important part of our project — practical, cost efficient, and beautiful. We are grateful for the donation of patio blocks for chick viewing areas by Bend Industries of West Bend, Wisconsin, of concrete for the Chick Exercise Yard by Redi-Crete of Menominee Falls, Wisconsin, of park benches and trash barrels by Wausau Tile of Wausau, Wisconsin, and of a clothesline for the aviculturists by Qualine Fence of Waunakee, Wisconsin. McKay Nursery of Waterloo, Wisconsin provided rose bushes while other shrubs came from David Kupitzke of Little Valley Farm in Richland Center, Wisconsin. As the native plantings about the Hatchery mature, we look forward to seeing the changes brought by the seasons.

Dedication of the facilities came on a day full of the promises of spring. The 18th of May found the tree leaves half opened and the woodland flowers damp with mist and drizzle. Our ceremony was simple. We planted a sapling ironwood in the half-enclosed space between the main Hatchery building and the Chick-Rearing Wing. We chose ironwood because it is a small native tree with a spreading canopy and a finely textured trunk. The tree is a memorial to Howard Ahrensmeyer, a long and close friend to ICF. His last name means ironsmith in German.

The dedication was a chance to thank some of the people who have helped with the Hatchery project and to show them the results of their support. Many board members and their spouses attended. We were also pleased to have present major supporters of the Hatchery project: Mr. Edward C. Young and Mr. and Mrs. John P. Botsch of the R.D. and Linda Peters Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Wolf representing the Peters family, Miss Hope Anderson of the Walter Schroeder Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. David L. Brooker of the Aid Association for Lutherans, Mr. Willis Sullivan of the Charles A. Krause Foundation, and Mr. Frank Alfano of Oscar Mayer & Company. Norman and Claire Sauey were our special guests. Their generosity provided ICF a home for the past 11 years. It seemed fitting to name our new home in their honor.

Spotlight: The WCC's

It was mid April at ICF. The Sauey Hatchery Complex seemed surrounded by a giant sandbox devoid of topsoil and vegetation. Elsewhere brush piles from last year's cuttings lined the hillsides and plant litter choked the young prairies — all waiting to be burned. No trails were ready for the school groups about to arrive. Few signs were up to tell visitors how to get to ICF, where to park when they arrived, and what they could see.

But by Memorial Day, the ICF site was transformed. Chicks played on fresh sod and waded in concrete pools. Flowers bloomed on the newly burned prairies and five acres of prairie seeds were germinating. Signs stood everywhere. ICF's site was ready for the thousands of summer visitors. What made the difference were eight special young men and women from the Baraboo area — the WCC's.

The Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC), a state-funded program, is designed to provide work experiences in conservation for young adults, much like the Civilian Conservation Corps that helped the unemployed in the Great Depression years. "We give the youngsters a chance for 'hands on' experience — hands on a shovel, hands on a hammer — and we give them a chance to learn something about the environment along the way," says Bill Brakken, executive director for the WCC program.

ICF's WCC crew is being shared by three other Wisconsin conservation organizations — The Nature Conservancy, Upham Woods 4-H Camp, and the Sauk County Natural Beauty Council. Although there are over 50 WCC crews in the state, ours is the only crew sponsored by private, non-profit organizations.

Crew member Cindy Brimmer believes that with four organizations involved, the job is "much less boring or tedious — there is always something new and exciting around the corner." The crew like what they are learning. Says Mike Robertson, "I've done a few things I have never done before — like controlled burning — it should come in handy because I'm thinking about a forestry job when I get out."

It all adds up to a mutually satisfying relationship between sponsors like ICF, the state of Wisconsin, and the young adults working on the crew. "We're finally doing the restoration projects that have been set back for years because of a lack of manpower. Once done we will never have to do them again," says Konrad Liegel, ICF's site manager and also the administrator for the WCC project.

The crew is now working for The Nature Conservancy in the Baraboo Hills. But they will be back at ICF this fall. We can hardly wait for their return.



Mrs. Lucille Ahrensmeyer plants the ironwood sapling at the Hatchery dedication.



Unison call of the Siberians. Vladimira has laid her first egg, fertilized by Bazov.

A Letter from Russia

Note: This letter to George Archibald from Dr. Vladimir Flint, Russia's leading ornithologist, arrived shortly before Dr. Saab hatched. It was Dr. Flint who took Vladimira and Bazov as eggs from nests in Yakutia. We named Vladimira after Vladimir Flint, calling her Vladimir until we discovered she was a female. Some still call her Vladimir. Dr. Flint also reports on happenings at the Oka Reserve, where ICF helped the Russians establish their own crane breeding center.

USSR Academy of Sciences
NATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

June 7, 1984
Moscow

Dear George:

I was very glad to get the news that Vladimira has laid her first egg. With all my heart I congratulate both all my friends at the Foundation, and you personally. This is a very significant event. In the first place, it's a new step in "Operation Sterkh," an important new phase. In the second, we now know that female Siberian Cranes are sexually mature at the age of 7 — this is news. In the third place, we can be reassured that we are indeed proceeding as we should. I had been worrying that somewhere we were doing something wrong, in the way we raised or kept the birds; I felt that they should have begun breeding long ago. I thought that maybe their diet was not right, or there was some other factor that hadn't occurred to us. Now I can set aside all these doubts. And it means that at Oka we can just relax and be patient for a couple more years.

... There's good news from Oka: we've hatched three Hoodeds! Also, the Red-crowns have laid eggs, but I don't know whether they're fertile. The male is already 3, so maybe we're in luck.

... My best regards to Ron! I thought of both of you during the recent celebrations of my 60th birthday, when all sorts of friends came 'round but you were conspicuously absent!

Yours ever,

Vladoka

Hatchery Hosts Foreign Visitors

The Hatchery Complex supports not only ICF's domestic programs but also our work abroad. From these facilities we will plan and coordinate the travels of our staff about the world and also the shipping of cranes to other captive breeding centers and eventually to the wild. But equally important are the visits of foreign scientists and educators to Baraboo.

ICF's headquarters facilities and programs have been designed as a model to encourage similar projects in many of the countries where cranes live. By observing our experiences, successes, and problems here, visitors will have a headstart on establishing their own centers. The needs of cranes and wetlands can best be served by the full-time resources and energies of staffs working within their respective cultures. They in turn reach the people living near the endangered cranes.

In late June we hosted Dr. Salim Ali, Mr. J.C. Daniel, and Mrs. Diltavaz Variava of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). Their itinerary included four stops: New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Baraboo.

For 101 years BNHS, and for most of that time Salim Ali, have been at the heart of efforts to protect India's extraordinary wildlife, including one of the smallest flocks of wild cranes (the Siberians at Bharatpur) and probably the largest (a million Demoiselles at Gujarat). The Indians wanted to examine our breeding and education facilities. Their country plans to begin rearing captive cranes this year, and the BNHS has acquired land near Bombay that they will develop as an education center.

Two film crews, one from Australia and the other from France, also have recently come to Baraboo. Both visits have been over a year in the planning. The Australian effort represents a major film titled "Messengers of the Gods" and is produced for the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. It examines cranes in human culture throughout the world and should be completed in May 1985. The French are preparing a program devoted to the ICF story for the series "Animaux du Monde" that appears on French Public Television.

In mid July, two scientists arrived from the Royal Forestry Department of Thailand. Ms. Bubphar Amget and Ms. Siriporn Thongaree will stay three weeks to study our breeding facilities and the care of the adult cranes, especially the Eastern Sarus. In future years, they will have a key role in efforts to reintroduce the Eastern Sarus to their country.

George Archibald, Dr. Saab, and Salim Ali.

The Bottom Line

by Bob Hallam
Development Coordinator

Who would think of starting a \$400,000 building project with only \$4,000 budgeted for the interior furnishings? Basically, that is how the construction of the Sauvey Hatchery and Chick-Rearing Complex began when ICF broke ground in July of 1983. The Executive Committee decided that it was more important to begin construction because of favorable interest rates and a competitive market in the construction industry than to worry about cosmetic furnishings for the interior of the building.

As the Hatchery construction progressed, so did funding for the various interior projects. In November of 1983, ICF received a grant of \$20,000 from the Walter Schroeder Foundation of Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the video equipment and educational exhibits in the Hatchery.

Then in December, Mr. Anthony C. Piano, President of Indecon Industries of Menominee Falls, Wisconsin donated \$4,500 worth of handsome office dividers for the staff offices on the second floor of the hatchery. Veterinarian Marge Losch of Baraboo, Wisconsin provided an x-ray machine and surgery equipment.

In early March, Oscar Mayer & Company of Madison, Wisconsin donated old office equipment for temporary

use for the staff at ICF. Oscar Mayer & Company is currently remodeling their offices and, in September, will send ICF office furniture of exceptional quality that will completely furnish the library, conference room, and staff offices.

The last project needing funding was the cabinetry and basic lab equipment for the downstairs laboratory, surgery room, and darkroom. In late March, ICF received a check for \$21,300, covering all these items, from the R. D. and Linda Peters Foundation of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We have dedicated the laboratory complex as the Peters Research Laboratory, in the Peters' honor.

In addition to the above interior improvements, the cost for the construction of the Hatchery building itself will come to about \$425,000. ICF has raised approximately \$180,000 toward this total. The goal of the Executive Committee was a mortgage of \$250,000 and we are all extremely pleased that the project came in on target. We're grateful to Jim Kuehn and Mary Wickhem for their sound financial guidance during the construction project. We also wish to thank Konrad Liegel, ICF's Site Manager, and Kendon Construction for cost saving ideas that allowed the project to come in as projected.

The mortgage for the Hatchery Complex will increase our long term obligations by almost \$50,000 per year over the next 20 years. Your support as members is more important to us than ever. But by the end of this summer, ICF will have modern offices and "state of the art" facilities for crane research. As this issue of the *Bugle* attests, ICF has made a giant step forward.



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