

THE ICF BUGLE

Volume 25, Number 1 February 1999

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes



Your Smile Will Stay With Us

By George Archibald, Director

Early morning on January 16, in the comfort of her lovely home on the farm where ICF had its birth in 1973, Claire Sauey peacefully passed away with her beloved husband Norman at her side. Without the generosity of the Saueys, ICF would likely never have been created. ICF joins Norman and his three surviving children, their spouses and three grandchildren in mourning this great loss. I am reminded that Claire's eldest granddaughter, Nikki Sauey, at 25 is the

...a beautiful lady with an enormous heart. She exuded grace and charm and she relished a good laugh.

same age as ICF. I like to imagine that Claire has joined her treasured son Ron, the co-founder of ICF who left us a decade ago.

The daughter of Italian immigrants in Chicago, Claire was one of 7 children. She and Norman married in 1941. They raised their four children in Baraboo where Norman is a successful businessman.

Claire was a small, beautiful lady with an enormous heart. She exuded grace and charm and she relished a

good laugh. She had a great appreciation for living things and for Ron's interest in nature. While Ron's brothers pursued sports and business, Claire and Norman allowed Ron to grow as a naturalist.

Just across the lawns from their home, ICF had its start in renovated horse stalls. Before moving to our new and permanent site in 1983, thousands of visitors descended on the Sauey farm to see the cranes. An old white farmhouse on their land provided free lodging for staff and volunteers. And at the beginning and end of each day, a loud chorus of trumpet-like crane calls filled the surrounding countryside with a strange symphony. Despite all the disruptions to their privacy, Claire and Norman were always patient and kind. All of us who admire cranes, and appreciate the work ICF has accomplished, share our sincere gratitude for everything Claire and Norman have done.

Our condolences and our love extend to Norman and his family. We at ICF feel the loss. In a very real way, ICF has lost its mother.

Without the kindness of Norman and Claire Sauey of Baraboo, Wisconsin, ICF would have only been a dream of their son, Ron, and his friend at Cornell University, George Archibald. Norman and Claire stand beside the Owen Gromme painting, "Salute to the Dawn," during the dedication of the Ron Sauey Memorial Library for Bird Conservation in 1991. The Sauey family built the library for ICF in memory of their beloved Ron. Norman and Claire loaned "Salute to the Dawn" at the time of the dedication to the delight of all visitors to our beautiful library. Photo by Steve Landfried.

Whoopers for Wisconsin

By Jim Harris,
Deputy Director

A Whooping Crane stands in the windowless stacks of ICF's library, a specimen mounted over 100 years ago by the physician-naturalist P.R. Hoy of Racine. Its feathers are dirty with dust and age, they no longer gleam. This crane and its fellows once inhabited prairie wetlands of Wisconsin and adjacent states. Whoopers migrated through Wisconsin and were also presumed to breed, although no definite nest records exist. No one knows precisely when the last white cranes flew our skies. The last specimen came from 1878, when someone shot a bird in Green County. I have often wondered if the hunter knew, in old age, what he had done, or regretted the wings forever lost.

Only extinction is forever. While the Whooping Cranes came about as close as possible to extinction, just 15 birds in the Texas flock were alive in the early 1940s, they did not die out. In the decades since, the species has experienced a remarkable comeback. This year, the wild flock migrating between the Northwest Territories of Canada and coastal Texas numbers 183 individuals. In addition, over 50 Whoopers now live in Florida as part of the effort to establish a second, non-migratory flock. And 100 birds live in captivity, at ICF and five other captive centers. The world total for Whoopers is now approaching 400.



ICF's Amoco Whooping Crane Exhibit offers a wetland home to two Whooping Cranes. Today, ICF is the only place where people can see Whoopers in Wisconsin, but plans are underway for the possible return of wild Whooping Cranes to the state. Photo by Lynn Stone.

The Recovery Team proposes Wisconsin

This recovery could not have happened without the concerted efforts of both governments and people of the United States and Canada. Whooper conservation is guided by a Recovery Plan and by a Recovery Team that includes five specialists from each country. ICF Director George Archibald, although a Canadian, is a member of the USA portion of the team. The Recovery Plan has set the goal of establishing two breeding populations of at least 25 pairs each, in addition to the wild flock. While attempting to start one non-migratory flock with the Florida reintroduc-

tion, the Recovery Team has also been planning the creation of a migratory flock. As part of this effort, ICF sponsored a study of potential wintering sites. Consultant John Cannon headed this project, that narrowed the choice to two winter sites, one at Marsh Island in Louisiana and the other at Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on the Gulf Coast of Florida.

In August 1998, the Recovery Team met at Calgary. In deciding where to create a new flock, the Team wanted to keep all released birds far away from the migratory corridor of the existing wild flock. Contact between released birds and the wild birds posed the risk of transmitting disease or behavioral quirks that could affect survival of the wild flock. The Recovery Team therefore decided not to utilize the prairie wetlands of Canada or Marsh Island in Louisiana for the new migra-

tory flock. Instead, the team proposed Wisconsin as the breeding area for this flock, with Chassahowitzka NWR to serve as the wintering site. If the new flock were successfully established, birds might gradually spread north and west on both breeding and wintering grounds.

The Recovery Team outlined a process for evaluating the proposed range for the new flock. First, an assessment was needed to determine if suitable breeding habitat is available in Wisconsin. Second, approval must be secured from the states of Wisconsin and Florida, and all the other states in the proposed flyway of this flock. Third, the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway Councils must

approve the plan (the new flock would migrate in a diagonal path from one flyway to the other).

Thus no decision has yet been made for Wisconsin, but the breeding site assessment is now underway. ICF is administering the funding so John Cannon can conduct this assessment on behalf of the Recovery Team, working closely with personnel of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). Three areas were initially proposed to be assessed as the first release sites: 1) the complex of wetlands that includes Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and Sandhill, Wood County, and Meadow Valley State Wildlife Areas; 2) Horicon Marsh; and 3) Crex Meadows State Wildlife Area. Additional sites have since been proposed. The assessment will consider the extent of suitable nesting habitat for each area, availability of food, disease risks, water quality, potential conflicts with other land uses, and other public concerns. If the assessment looks favorable, detailed plans for implementation and funding will be developed.

Wisconsin is already experiencing the return of two other white birds long lost to the state. The Trumpeter Swan now breeds in Wisconsin, following a decade

of reintroduction effort by the DNR. And, all on their own, White Pelicans have spread from the west back into Wisconsin (they now nest in Green Bay, and summer along the Mississippi and at other scattered wetlands).

Whoopers, tallest and rarest of all, offer a remarkable opportunity for many people to know and care for this world-famous bird. ICF is committed to helping the Wisconsin DNR and USFWS in this effort, but many other partners are needed for all phases of this project. Once the release begins, volunteers may help rear or observe the chicks until they are ready to fly free. And our Crane Counters, and many, many other observers, will help track the spread of these birds. No doubt the cranes will wander from wherever we release them.

We can imagine no better gift to Wisconsin, than the return of its Whooping Cranes.

George Ranney, Sr., and Windway Foundation, Inc. are providing funding for the breeding site assessment study. The winter site evaluation was supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Phipps Florida Foundation, Mrs. Janice Price Sampson, Calgary Zoological Society, and Amoco Foundation.



On summer evenings from 1992-95, costumed staff led Whooping Crane chicks over the ICF prairie to feed in Gromme Marsh. These birds were carefully shielded from human contact, so that they could be released into wild marshes in Florida. Starting in 1996, ICF has reared its Whooper chicks in a large enclosure with flight netting and a small artificial pond. Similar techniques may soon help Whooping Cranes reinvade Wisconsin. Photo by Jim Harris.

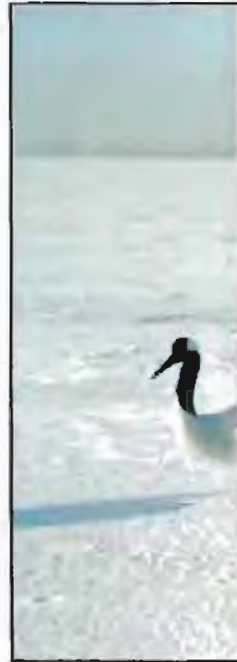
First flights of Whoopers in Wisconsin

In recent summers, Whooping Cranes have again flown Wisconsin skies. Few people have witnessed these flights. These special birds are the young Whoopers at ICF, carefully reared away from contact with people so that they remain suitably wild for release in Florida. ICF's Marianne Wellington and her assistants wear puppets and costumes, so that the cranes do not know people. From 1992-95, Marianne even took the chicks out onto ICF's prairie and wetlands to teach them flight and the proper foods.

Twice, I too wore a costume and walked out with the Whooping Crane chicks. I will never forget those evenings. Marianne and I looked most strange in flowing white sheets, white sleeves, and a white puppet-glove with black moustache on one hand, to serve as a bird head. The cool air over the prairie excited the chicks. At first they followed us, thin legs striding through the grass, but soon they swept those black-tipped, wide wings to full length and took off in great, swift circles. I am sure my upturned head, behind its mask of white, looked most uncrane-like as I stood motionless, my eyes raised skywards. The wild, so rare cranes circled faster than my neck could turn. Yet despite all their freedom, they hastened back, wings beating, feathers rustling to drop so close beside me on the ground and rejoin the mother-father figure frozen with the moment.

One could hardly ask for more intimacy with a bird.

J. H.



Top Left: A pair of White-naped Cranes inhabit reed beds at Momoge, in Jilin Province of northeast China.

Top Right: Very cold Red-crowned Cranes walk over snow at Zhalong Nature Reserve, Heilongjiang Province, China. Staff at Zhalong allow these captive cranes to move freely into the wetlands, even in winter, but provide food, water and nightly shelter. The wild cranes all leave Zhalong during the cold season and travel to southern China.

Above: Black-crowned Cranes, formerly widespread through western Africa, often land in tops of trees.

Right: Black-necked Cranes fly over hillsides at Dashanbao in northeast Yunnan Province, China. Of all cranes, this species uniquely prefers high altitudes.

Photographs by S.T. Wu



S.T. WU

CRANE PHOTOGRAPHER

That's what it says on his card. The text clearly attests to his remarkable singularity of purpose, but comes nowhere near to telling the whole story. As a Shanghai newspaper photographer, and as a maker of films for Taiwanese industry, Wu Shao Tung spent his professional life in pursuit of the kind of documentary truth that is the meat and potatoes of nature photography. After he retired, he traveled around the Chinese countryside in search of something more: a subject to free his creativity, one that would be his vehicle for making Art. Those of us with a special love for cranes should be thankful that fortune took him to Zhalong. Happening upon the Red-crowned Cranes there, he found himself attracted to them as if by a "magnetic power." Shortly thereafter, time spent with the Black-necked Cranes at Caohai cemented his commitment to photographing cranes. He devoted the next five years to the making of the photographs and the accumulation of the tales that make up his remarkable book about the cranes of China. *A Collection of Cranes Photographed: 1991-1996.*

After the book's publication, Wu embarked upon his current project—adding photographs of the seven species of cranes not found in China to his portfolio, and assembling a second book—one that will include all of the world's crane species. It has been my privilege to assist him in his efforts to photograph Sandhill Cranes in both Nebraska and Wisconsin. Although he now appreciates help in getting heavy equipment to the blind, age has certainly not lessened the steely determination and incredible endurance he brings to the work at hand. The best of Wu's photographs go far beyond recording the facts in front of his camera. They are carefully composed works that capture the essence of both the cranes and their habitats. They are also, however, the product of a willingness to endure, for days on end, swarms of mosquitoes that would drive the weaker of will back indoors in minutes.

S.T. Wu's goal is the production of Art, but he has stated that he's aiming towards other goals, too. He hopes that his photographs will be a stimulus for the preservation of endangered species and the communities in which they live, and also that they will "inspire more people to join the team." There's no way he can miss.

By Jim Rogers, ICF member



Sandhill Cranes on the Platte. Photo by Mark Romesser.

Space Still Open!

Platte River Field Trip 1999

The thousands of cranes that gather along the Platte River each spring are calling for you to join them. On the weekdays of March 23-26, and on the weekend of March 26-28, 1999, two groups of ICF members, limited to the first dozen applicants, will witness these majestic birds with experienced guide and ICF member, Jim Rogers. The three-night weekday trip will cost \$375 per person (add \$75 for single

occupancy), and the two-night weekend trip will cost \$310 per person (add \$50 for single occupancy). Fees cover lodging in Kearney, Nebraska, full breakfasts, blind space, extensive orientation materials, and a tax-deductible contribution to ICF. Transportation, lunches and dinners are not included. For details contact Kate at ICF (608) 356-9462 ext. 147. Or to reserve your place, send a \$75 non-refundable deposit check Attn. Kate payable to the International Crane Foundation.

CLICK AND CONNECT

Check out our website:

www.baraboo.com/bus/icf/whowhat.htm

The internet is a great resource for seeing what new programs ICF has to offer. For example, click on "UW-ICF Seminars".

The ICF Bugle is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation (ICF).

Editor: Kate Fitzwilliams

Memberships are vital to ICF. Please join or give a membership to a friend at the following annual rates:

Student or	Family	\$35
Senior Citizen .. \$20	Associate	\$100
Individual	Sponsor	\$500
Foreign	Patron	\$1,000

ICF's Bird-a-thon: Get Involved!

Last year's Bird-a-thon raised over \$25,000 for the Ron Sauvey Conservation Fund and for ICF operations here in Baraboo. Since 1989, the Bird-a-thon has raised over \$181,000!

Please help the cranes by joining in the 1999 Bird-a-thon. In March, ICF will mail you information about ICF's Eleventh Annual Bird-a-thon and how you can help.

ICF WISH LIST:

Want to help?
Call Deputy Director
Peter Murray at
608-356-9462 ext. 153.

- Baby changing stations
- Van with low mileage
- Fuel efficient car
- Dishwasher

Contributions

October 1-December 31, 1998

GRANTS & AWARDS:

Walter Alexander Foundation, Inc.;
Amoco Foundation, Inc.;
The Bradley Fund for the Environment;
Joseph & Karen Branch;
Michael Bress;
Robert Brunder;
Thekla P. Brundler Charitable Trust;
The Buchanan Family Foundation;
Clairon Metals Corp.;
Commonwealth Zoological Corporation;
Patrick & Anna M. Cudahy Fund;
John & Judy Day;
Arthur J. Donald Family Foundation, Inc.;
The Donnelly Foundation - Ann & Elliott Donnelly Family Fund;
Sam Evans;
Albert J. and Flora H. Ellinger Foundation, Inc.;
Donald F. Groschel;
Haffner Foundation;
The Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation;
Tom Hoffmann; Hulcor, Inc.;
Hurd Foundation;
Charles Jahn; Kikkoman Foods Foundation, Inc.;
Knox Family Foundation;
Arthur C. Kootz Foundation;
Krause Family Foundation, Inc.;
George Kress Foundation;
Pierre Manigault;
Marshall & Ilsley Foundation, Inc.;
Chauncey & Marion D. McCormick Family Foundation;
Emily McKay;
Milwaukee Foundation, Lois & Donald Cottrell B Fund;
Frederick Ott; Park Pardisio;
Dennis J. Prager;
George Ranney, Sr.;
Rayne Family Fund - The Racine Community Foundation;
Jen Skafir; Split Rail Foundation, Inc.;
Arthur W. Strelow Charitable Trust;
Strong Capital Management, Inc.;
Sullivan & Cromwell;
Robert & Beth Taylor Fund;
Vilter Foundation, Inc.;
The Andree Wagner Peace Trust;
Wisconsin River Power Company;
Ginny Wolfe;
En Seng Yang.

PATRONS:

Anonymous;
George & Kyoko Archibald;
Sally Clayton-Jones;
Catherine B. Cleary;
Harriett Crosby;
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick H. Dohmen;
Strachan Donnalley, Ph.D.;
Mrs. James Getz;
Charles & Lynne F. Gibbons;
Jeffrey & Barbara Grumbeck;
Reinhardt H. Jahn;
Steve & Suzie Johnson;
Josephine Kixmiller;
Joan David Kurdziel;
Dan W. Lufkin;
Margaret Brandt & Bert Lyons;
Helen Mackensen;
Pierre Manigault;
Vicky Krause Mayer;
Lynn Parker;
John & Nancy O'Donnell;
Eleanor Green Piel;
George Ranney, Sr.;
Robert N. Rasmus;
John & Ruth James Reeves;
Margaret Seeger;
Owen Slauson;
Mowry Smith III;
Andrew W. Stark;
Mrs. John Siedman;
Joanna Sturm;
Eleanor Sullivan;
Keith & Catherine R. White.

SPONSORS:

Anonymous;
Elsa & William Boyce;
Henry T. Chandler;
Fred & Beth Cripe;
Mary Ann Damm;
Ray Greshaber;
Harry & Marion Hill;
Warren & Barry King;
Arthur & Susan Lloyd;
Lloyd Maasch;
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Major;
Virginia Murray;
Tom & Josy Neuman;
Constance Otis;
Ellen & Robert Rausech;
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Ritchie;
Len & Carlene Taylor;
Mr. & Mrs. W.D. VanDyke.

NEW ASSOCIATES:

Mary Altschaeff;
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Beal;
Kay E. Cullen; Karen Holley;
Susan & Charles Kernats;
Allred Kulinski;
Jun W. Lee; P. Richey;
Harold & Phyllis Schrage;
Kay & Sherrn Stevens;
Tom & Nancy Small;
Joel Thibaut;
Barbara & Ted Wiley.



Lufthansa
ICF's Official Airline

Discovering Crane Attitude

By Jeff Gerencser, Aviculturist

"Scientific Discovery" was last summer's theme for ICF's second Crane Ambassador Camp. The program allowed inner city Chicago kids to spend a week here involved in first-time activities like listening to song birds and insects, camping and canoeing, learning about captive animal care, and measuring biodiversity at area wetlands.

I prepared a study demonstrating the steps we take in recording behavioral data. We wanted the kids to learn how to associate animal behavior with states of mind and to show them that anyone can study behavior. After hearing these kids' stories about life in inner city Chicago, I realized that they already had real-life experience reading behavior as a matter of survival.

The campers divided into three research teams, each one monitoring a different species: Red-crowned, Sandhill, and Eurasian Cranes. I prefaced the study with definitions of the terms "hypothesis" and "bias" and stated that we needed their help in testing whether or not cranes exhibit increasingly dramatic behavioral displays in relation to increasing disturbance. Admittedly, this was pretty dry stuff for a group of kids beginning to fade after lunch. They were roused only slightly more by the data sheets showing various crane behaviors. Enthusiasm really picked up as I personally performed the crane behaviors the researchers were soon to see.

We stationed each group in front of a different crane pen. During the first five-minute observation period the birds showed normal afternoon routines consisting of *loafing*, *foraging*, and *preening*. The campers recorded the birds' relative inactivity and tried to stay awake.

Then, the second period began, only this time I walked slowly past each of the three pens. Being an aviculturist, it's my job to tread into the cranes' pens. My job here at ICF ensures that the cranes pretty much want to attack me or run from me. They'll even pick me out of a crowd and respond angrily. Since I was only walking by slowly and minding my own business, they mostly just stood in alert posture. Some began slowly moving toward the front of the pen while exhibiting occasional



Aviculturist Jeff Gerencser, prepares the Chicago Crane Ambassadors for their upcoming study on crane behavior. Becky's Picnic Shelter, ICF's newest structure, provides an ideal setting for our outdoor education programs. Photo by Jill Jordahl.

low-intensity threats like the threat walk or guard call. The researchers quickly caught onto this subtle yet clear behavioral transformation and began scribbling hurriedly on their data sheets. It was fun watching them coalesce into efficient teams. I could sense their growing excitement as the cranes got down to the business of protecting their territories.

During the third and last period, I increased the audacity of my antics by talking loudly and wildly moving back and forth in front of the birds. I taunted the cranes by touching their fences or walking into empty adjacent pens. The researchers' eyes opened wide with stares of disbelief, partly due to the quantum leap in threat behaviors and partly by my bold tactics. My behavior induced a series of booming *unison calls*, *crouch and stomp threats*, *ruffle-bow threats* and *growls*, *preen* and *dropped-wing threats*, *mock charges*, and in the Red-crowned Cranes, *arch threats*. The researchers, dazzled by all the new postures and calls, couldn't decide whether to write or just stare in awe at the larger-than-life presence of cranes strutting their stuff. If I saw a particular threat go unnoticed I would say excitedly, "Oooh, what's that?" This query sent them frantically to the behavior sheet searching for the right terminology. "It's a crouch threat!" one replied confidently as she checked off yet another behavior. Part of the fun here was that I couldn't communicate directly with the students per our dis-

cussion on "bias." This limit made my researchers work extra hard to define just what it was that they were observing. As I passed the pens this last time, I could sense their satisfaction by the smiles on their faces. By now they well understood how cranes communicate when they need to. The kids eagerly anticipated each beautiful new show of force by the majestic cranes.

We wrapped up the study by sharing our experiences. We discussed which species did what threats and how many times each one was displayed. This talk led to species-specific differences and threat preferences. We covered threat intensity in relation to my increasing intrusion around the cranes' territories-my original hypothesis. We also talked about the value of interpreting behavior in our own lives, from the joy of watching the family cat to getting out of a sticky situation on the playground back home.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this activity came on the last day of camp when I saw some of the boys in the group wrestling in the grass. One of them, then another, and yet another began to integrate into their horseplay various crane behaviors they had witnessed in our study! Their actions demonstrated, better than words, their new connection to cranes and crane behavior.

ICF's Crane Ambassador Camp has been generously sponsored by the Gaylor and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.



Blanche Evans, dedicated ICF volunteer for over 10 years, leads a tour group up to the Amoco Whooping Crane Exhibit. Blanche knows every story there is about ICF and its cranes. Volunteers like her inspire our staff to be the best we can. Photo by Gordon Dietzman.

teered their time to help ICF gather data about the population of Sandhills in Wisconsin and neighboring states.

ICF staff provides in-depth training and orientation for all volunteers through a series of initial training sessions, as well as continuing education opportunities. A training manual and mentoring program are provided to all volunteers. Through the training program, all of our volunteers become "crane experts" and enjoy the satisfaction of a priceless contribution and service to the ICF mission, as well as to the schools, community representatives, and visitors from all over the world who participate in our on-site programming.

If you would like to become involved with ICF's exciting volunteer program or know someone who would, please contact me by phone- (608) 356-9462 extension 152, or by email at ed.icf@baraboo.com.

Members who live or work near Madison, WI can talk about volunteer opportunities with ICF staff at the Madison locations of PetsMart on Saturday, February 13 from 10 am to 4 p.m. and Wild Birds Unlimited and Saturday, March 6 from 10 am to 4 p.m.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you, our members, and working together to achieve peace for cranes all over the world... starting in our own back yard.

Set aside Saturdays, March 20, March 27, and April 10 from 9 am to 1 pm: Please attend all three of these Volunteer Information and Training Sessions: Meet in the Ron Sauey Memorial Library: Great Food Provided!

Saturday, May 8
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Join us at ICF for our first
CRANE FESTIVAL
*In celebration of spring
and International
Migratory Bird Day.*

Volunteer Opportunities at ICF

By Korie Harder, Education Program Coordinator

Did you know that you (yes, YOU!) can be involved in ICF's renowned on-site education programs as a volunteer? Each year, volunteers and staff share the ICF adventure with over 32,000 school children and adults through public and private tours of our Baraboo facilities. The operation and success of our conservation education programs is highly dependent on our devoted volunteers.

Broaden your partnership with us by becoming involved in the many volunteer opportunities within our 1999 season. Volunteer tour guides share the story of the cranes with our visitors by giving tours and assisting with special events, while chick parents help support ICF's captive breeding program by tending to the chicks and speaking with the public. Our Field Ecology Department also needs behind-the-scenes help with prairie restoration and other fieldwork. Participation in the Annual Midwest Sandhill Crane Count on April 24, 1999, is another way to become more active at ICF. In 1998, over 3,000 people volun

Printed on
Recycled Paper



International Crane Foundation

E11376 Shady Lane Rd. (608) 356-9462
P.O. Box 447 Fax: 356-9465
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913-0447 cranes@baraboo.com
Homepage: www.baraboo.com/bus/icf/whowhat.htm

Address Service Requested

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 724
Melbourne, FL

