



## The Newsletter of Monnett Experimental Aircraft, Inc.

September, October, 1981

Dear Friends,

Newsflash from Oshkosh - WE MADE IT!!! After burning the midnight oil, driving hundreds of miles back and forth, and thinking over and over we had to be crazy, Monnett Experimental is here and all settled in, and ready to serve you.

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New address and phone number:

Phone: 414/426-1212

Mailing Address: Monnett Experimental Aircraft  
P.O. Box 2984  
Oshkosh, WI 54903

Location of Offices: 895 W. 20th Avenue  
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Hours: 9 to 5 Monday thru Friday  
10 to 2 Saturday

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Please direct all correspondence to the P.O. Box Number as we will receive it much faster. Notice our new hours on Saturday. We are going to try these middle of the day hours to try to accommodate those of you who can fly-in on a Saturday. Come visit us and have breakfast or lunch at Michael's, the restaurant in the terminal.

The Grand Opening was a huge success! We had a great many people and each and everyone were very special to John and I. As we reflected Friday, Oct. 30, during the dedication ceremonies, it seems a very short ten years from the Sonerai I and our basement to this beautiful building and our fleet of aircraft.

The opening program featured some very special guests. Don Kutchera, the mayor of Oshkosh gave us a warm welcome. Both Tom and Paul Poberezny's remarks made the day extra special. Without him and the EAA, we wouldn't be here. John Baker, the President of AOPA, traveled in from Washington D.C. just to be with us and say a few words to our aviation comrades. We owe him a great deal of thanks for his time and support. To conclude the program, John (my John) dedicated our building and our efforts in the field of Sport Aviation to his dear friends whom he lost. The plaque reads:

*Dedicated October 30, 1981  
to the memory of  
their friendship and  
love of flight*

*Vance Graeber  
1927 - 1981*

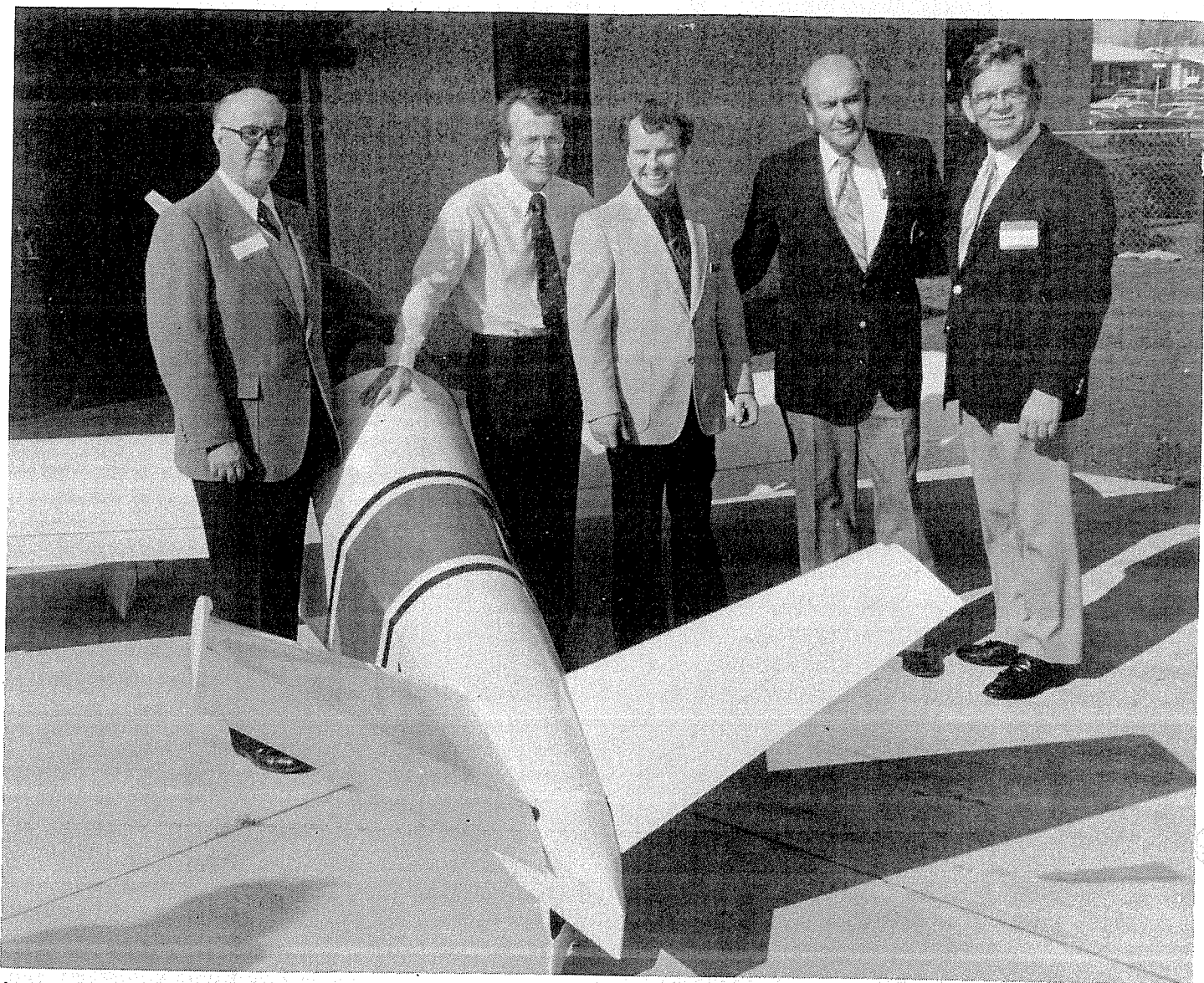
*Michael Core  
1942 - 1980*

We had a lunch for our guests and then just visited with old friends, family, and new friends of Oshkosh. Saturday our fly-in was unfortunately cancelled due to poor weather conditions. However, we had many many who drove a long way just to look around and visit over coffee. Thank you all very much for your support and for making the opening a success.

We have now completed our staff here at Oshkosh. Our new secretaries are Carol Wolff and Betty Eyers. Both are from Oshkosh and have been working with Emily since the end of September. They have been real troopers! They began work by painting up here before we moved, and began the first day in the office October 12 sitting on the cement floor with literally only a phone and a piece of paper. They are working very hard to "learn the ropes" so please bear with them when you call.

Our new General Manager is Don Hardy. Don is an old friend through E.A.A. He had been working in the area of drafting for us and drew all the Monerai Plans. He took this job, moved with us from Indiana, and is still trying to sell his home and get his family up here! Don is also "learning the ropes" and has very quickly filled Bill Schaben's shoes.

Our Shop Manager is Pat Mangan. Pat and his family live in Fond du Lac. He is building a Sonerai II which he had at the Fly-In. It's almost finished - a beautiful job too! Assisting Pat in shipping are Dale Schmidt, who is young and single and moved with us from Elgin, and Ken Appleby. Ken and his wife live in Oshkosh. Ken is a flight instructor and used to work for the EAA. Last but not least is Randy Novak whom I mentioned in the last newsletter. Randy is working with John in R & D, ( research and development). He is responsible for maintaining all of the aircraft and having them ready to fly during coffee break and lunch time!



It was a dedication day that will long be remembered by the Monnett Experimental Aircraft Corporation. Participating in the launch were Oshkosh Mayor, Don Kutchera (left); EAA Aviation Foundation President, Tom Poberezny; MEA President, John Monnett; EAA President, Paul Poberezny and AOPA President, John Baker.

That completes an excellent staff. They are all working very hard to get orders out and serve you. Now that all the moving, unpacking, and cleaning up are finished, we are shipping again. We just began again on Nov. 2 so your order will be coming soon if you have been waiting.

### Moni Progress

We are now taking Moni deposits!!! The kits are \$5,000.00 for the total package including the engine. Deposits are \$500.00. If we receive your deposit by January 1st, 1982, this will assure you of this price and reserve a kit production number. Delivery will be Spring of 1982 with balance due on delivery. There has been a tremendous amount of interest in Moni so if you want an early production number, ACT SOON!!

The Moni, ARV, has been featured in many newspapers and magazines. *Homebuilt Aircraft* has a cover photo and a nice article, December, 1981 issue. There will be more exciting articles to appear in December and January issues of several aviation magazines. Watch for them! Meanwhile,

we have a separate brochure on the Moni now with the complete list of kit materials, specifications, etc. If you need more information, just drop us a line or call. John has been flying the Moni a great deal and as he said during the Fly-In, "It is a delight!" The flight restrictions have been lifted. John is continuing more flight and structural tests as well as refining the cowl and exhaust system design, but there are very few changes to be made.

### Monerai News

Randy and John are working on the installation of the 107 in the Monerai. Although the move has slowed down their progress a bit, it is their top priority right now. The engine will be mounted on a pylon but will be mounted as a tractor installation. This will allow for a very slick turned exhaust system, electric start, and in flight mixture control. It will also reduce the hazard of bits going through the prop. We expect, based on Moni performance, a great increase in Monerai's performance. A small steerable tailwheel is

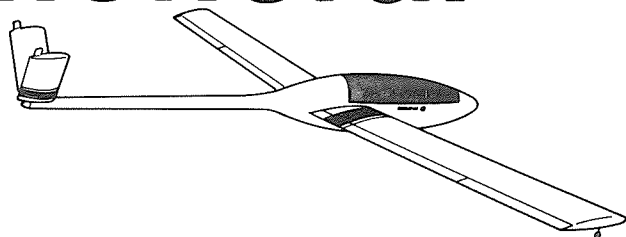
also being planned for Monerai to allow easier airport operations as with Moni.

There have been a good number of requests for extended wing tips for the Monerai. As soon as time permits we will be tooling up for them and make them available as a simple retro kit. See the pictures of Moni wing tips for a good idea of what they will look like.

Many of you have been inquiring about the difference and similarities between the Monerai and the Moni. Which should you choose to build? John does not consider the two in competition with each other. They are of two different philosophies. The Monerai is a top performing sailplane without the power pod. It makes a very respectable self-launching sailplane with the power pod installed. The Moni is intended as a sport aircraft with reasonably good motor glider performance. If you are trying to decide between the two, it depends on what you really want to do with the airplane. Are you mainly interested in soaring? Do you want a top performing sailplane? Or are you just wanting a sport aircraft with the option of doing a little soaring? Both are excellent airplanes, very affordable homebuilts, complete, easily assembled kits!!

John is off to Italy Thanksgiving Day for a series of technical and business meetings with KFM! He will spend several days at the factory with KFM personnel and Don Black the KFM representative in the U.S. They will discuss working towards optimization of all their products, further testing of the four cycle engines (104 now in Sonerai and Monex and 105), and production schedules for the 107.

# monerai



## First Flights

Jim Marcussen #31  
2557 San Carlos Ave.  
San Carlos, CA 94070

### First flight, September 13, 1981.

Jim writes:

"Well it's been a very long time coming, but finally #31 Monerai has flown. I took it on it's first flight Sept. 13. I can now attest that a person with "Zero" aircraft building experience can build a Monerai. The education it provided was reward enough. It flew very stable once up to speed but as you mentioned in the test flying section of the manual - the first couple of hundred feet can be very exciting. I'm looking forward to many hours of flying fun."

Sam Phillips #323  
8537 Lubao Ave.  
Canoga Park, CA 91306

### First flight, October 18, 1981

Kit was shipped April 2, 1981. 546 hours to build!! (Now that's what I call a diligent, determined workman - either that or Sam has a lot of friends!)

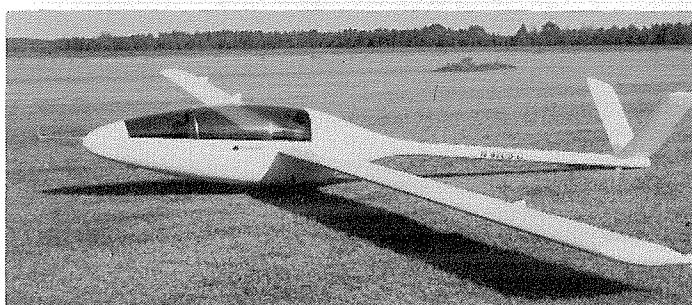
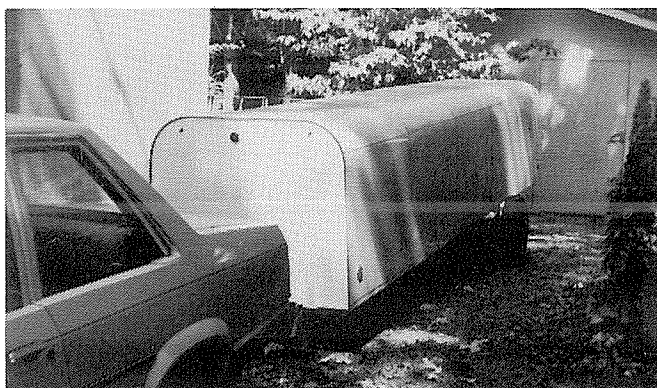
Harold Keener #215  
1427 Tyvola Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28210

Harold sends this info:

September 10, 1981 - 1st flight with engine

September 12, 1981 - 1st flight without engine

September 26, 1981 - 1st flight by me without engine



Bill Sullivan #164  
Ohio Valley Bank Bldg., Suite 300  
Henderson, KY 42420

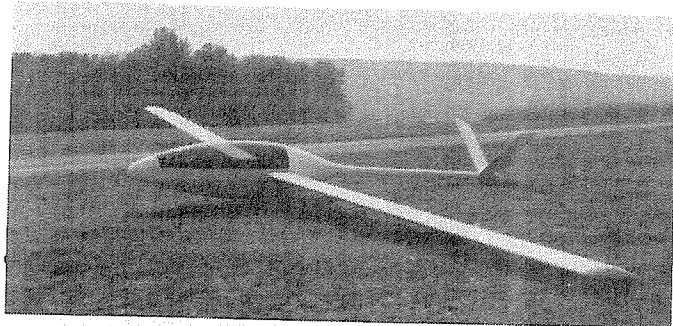
**N51WS breaks ground for the 1st flight August, 1981.** It has several flights to date - all with power.





Bruce Shannon #281  
1430 7th St.  
Bethlehem, PA 18017

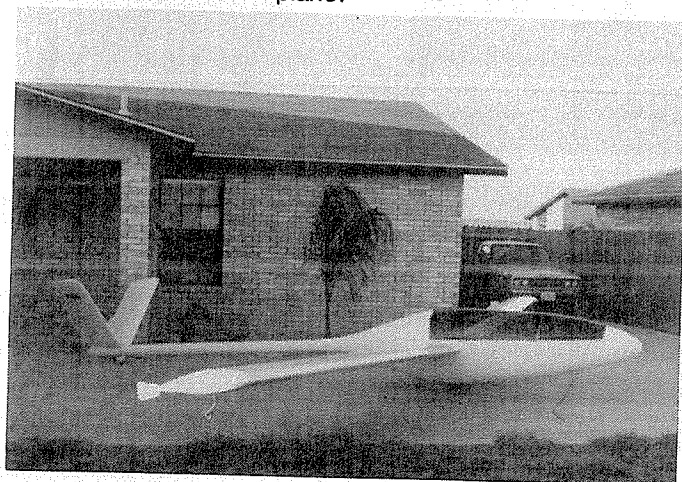
Bruce received his kit November 20, 1980. **First flight was March 31, 1981.** Wow!! Another "anxious to fly" builder! A little over four months building time! Bruce must have burned the midnight oil a few times!!



### News from Builders

Robert W. Thrasher #114  
203 Oklahoma  
Laredo, TX 78041

N16 RT Finished and ready to fly! But Bob lives 150 miles from the nearest tow plane!



Jose Leon #117  
5428 S. Linder  
Chicago, IL 60638

In a newsletter from Chapter 260, Chicago Heights, IL we learned that Jose won the homebuilt award for his aircraft at the Lansing Air Show. Congratulations, Jose.

Ray Honey #276  
551 Drummond Drive  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Ray recently sent us this in flight photo of his ship. He wrote a very nice letter to *Soaring Magazine*, November, 1981 issue, about his Monerai. Thanks, Ray. I think you are in love!!



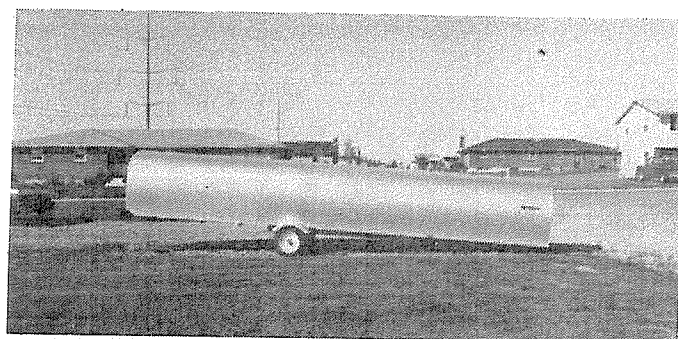
### For Sale

Mrs. Richard Gozzo #121  
3 Robert Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Due to the death of her husband, Mrs. Gozzo wishes to sell Monerai Kit #121. It is partially completed. Contact Mrs. Gozzo for details.

Bruce Shannon #281  
1430 7th St.  
Bethlehem, PA 18017  
215/691-3769

"I'm interested in building trailers, like the one in the picture, for those who are tired of building and would like to purchase a finished trailer at a modest price. For more info call or write."

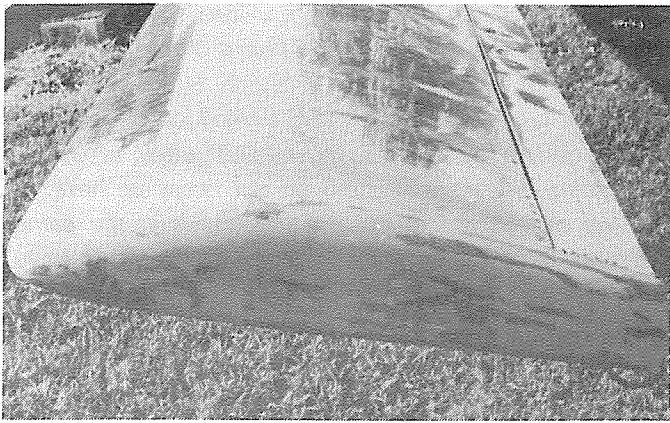


### Builders Tips

Bud Amy #196  
4612 Summit  
Wichita Falls, TX 76310

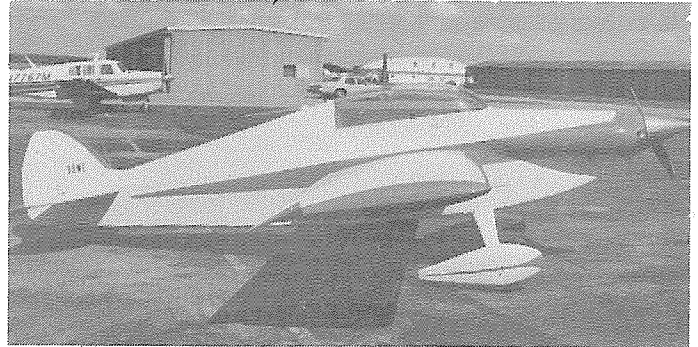
Bud sends us this tip:

"These are the pictures of the wing tips I put on #196. They are built up of poly urethane foam sheets I bought from a florist shop and glued together with "Mountain in a Minuet" two part foam I bought from a model train shop. I attached a plate to the spar extension and welded the 1/2" moly tube from the rear of the spar to the plate. On the end of the 1/2" moly is a 1/4 rod skid. I then started building up the layers of foam from the last rib and sanded it down to shape. I layed on two layers of fiberglass and resin bought from a boat dealer. The whole project took less than two days to complete for both wings."

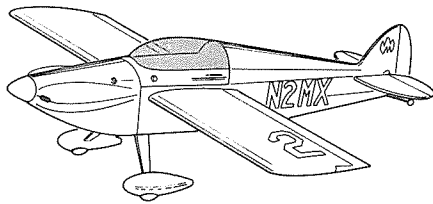


Lyle Ogden #168 II  
2897 Iowa  
Topeka, KS

N99WE (After Painting)



# sonerai



## First Flights

Joe Sikora #269 IIL  
E. North Ave.  
Antigo, WI 54409

### First flight, August 16, 1981

Joe said, "It would fly right after the Fly-In", and it did!

## News from Builders

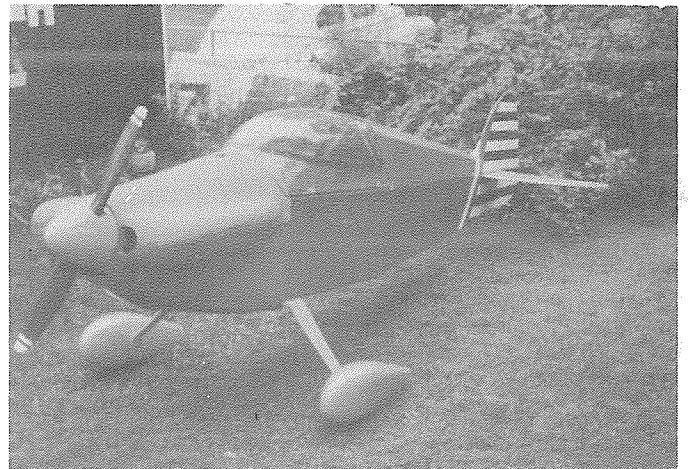
Lyle Roberts #764 IIL  
1226 Berlin  
Waupaca, WI 54981

Photo of Lyle's progress.



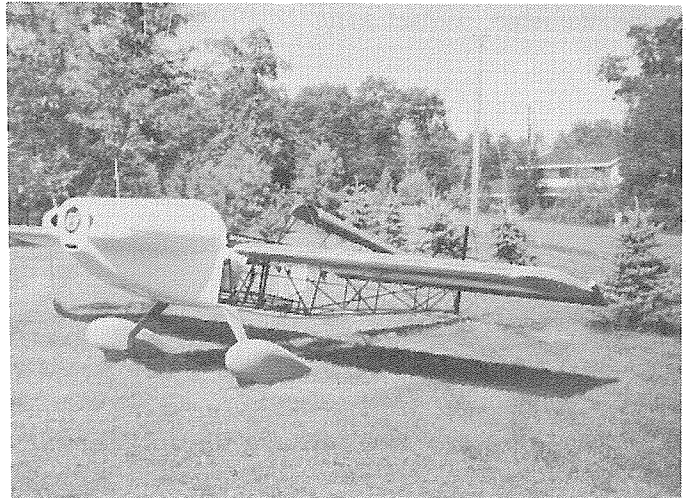
Wm. Ziegler #433 II  
P.O. Box 56  
Waterford, NY 12188

Pretty racy even without wings! (Paint job is blue, red and white stripes, bright yellow spinner and gear. Neat!)



Bruce Thompson #788 II  
16410 Olivine St. N.W.  
Anoka, MN 55303

Photo of Bruce's progress



## For Sale

Harry Hermann II  
37247 51 St. E.  
Palmdale, CA 93550  
805/947-0550  
(No collect calls please)

Sonerai II landing gear, not drilled, new. \$140.00.

Ned Wood #714 II  
Rt. 2 Box 267  
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965  
608/254-7112

New 1700 cc VW Engine. Monnett Conversion. Three hours on.

Pat Mangan #219 II  
Rt. 1 Box 160  
Lomira, WI 53048  
414/426-1212 days  
414/269-4853 evenings

1700 cc Super Vee by Monnett. New \$1600.00. Warnke  
Gound Adjustable Prop, new \$200.00.

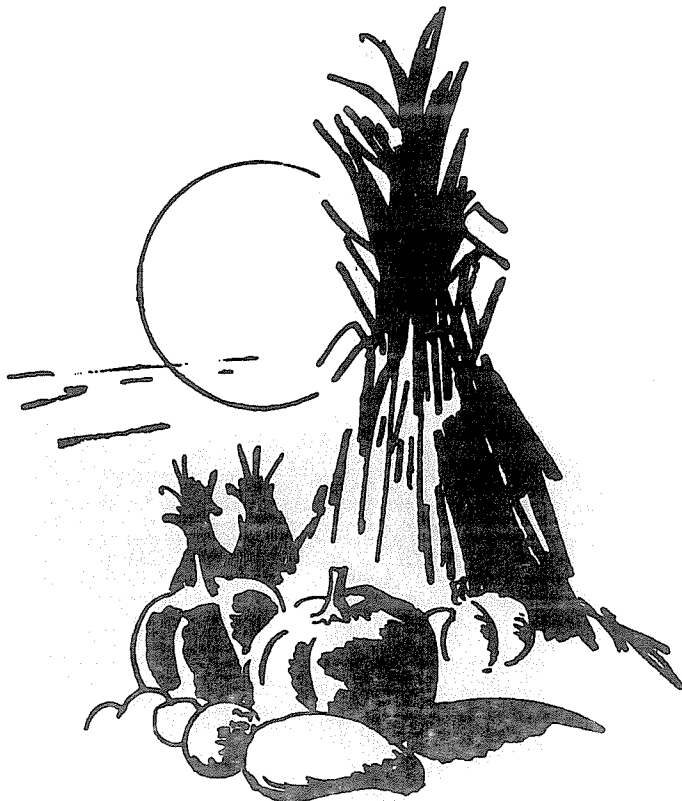
Dave & Judy Thompson #232 I  
Clennco Printing  
502 New Jersey Road  
Brown Mills, NJ 08015  
609/893-9319

Need a Christmas gift for a pilot friend? Judy Thompson has a leather business and makes leather belts with airplanes, clouds, etc., any color, any airplane. John has had his for about eight years and he's still wearing it. If you're interested, contact Judy.

This concludes our first issue of Monink from Oshkosh. (There is one problem we have up here. We have always called the E.A.A. Fly-In simply Oshkosh. Now we have to break that habit and call it "THE Fly-In" or something!) Besides getting the business moved and getting settled in the building, we have also moved our family up here. In fact, we moved the office and the house in the same weekend. I'm not moving again until I can afford to have movers come in and do it!! We bought a home on a very wooded lot out in Algoma Township about 2 miles west of Hwy. 41 (behind the blue water tower). The children and I are slowly adjusting to leaving our friends and old neighborhood and living out of the city a ways. But everyone here is very friendly and has given us a warm welcome. Even the animals are friendly. As if we didn't have enough to worry about, we had a racoon in our house the first week! The kids have their rooms in the basement level and were not real thrilled with the idea of a coon roaming through in the middle of the night. So Daddy came to the rescue and shot it early one morning with his trusty gun he hadn't fired in 15 years! Our Hero!!

On that note -- so long for now,

*Betty Monnett*



40W895 Burlington Rd.  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
November 3, 1981

Dear John and Betty,

It's been a great privilege and honor working for and representing M.E.A. You'll never know how difficult last weekend was for us. Very mixed emotions -happy for M.E.A. and very, very sad walking out the door Saturday to go home.

As we told you last weekend, if there's anything you need or we can do, please call us. We love you both very much and we consider you two of our most special and dearest friends.

We would like very much for you to publish the enclosed letter in the next edition of the Monink Newsletter.

Love,

*Bill & Em*

Dear John, Betty, Monerai, Sonerai, Moni Builders, and the Staff of M.E.A.,

It was a most difficult decision for us personally to make - not to move with M.E.A. to Oshkosh.

**To you, John and Betty,** your company is very special. We firmly believe there aren't many around that can boast of the sincerity, honesty and integrity M.E.A. represents. We wish you nothing but continued success.

**To the New Staff of M.E.A.:** We wish you luck and success with M.E.A. You are representing a very unique company - represent it well. Remember always M.E.A. is the greatest and so are the builders.

**To the Builders of M.E.A. Aircraft:** We'll miss you all very much. We have made so many new friends. You made our jobs the most interesting and challenging we've ever had. We hope we served you well.

We do ask you, the builder, to be patient with the new staff representing M.E.A. Their knowledge will grow as ours did.

We would like to thank all the builders for the phone calls and notes of concern for our future. Also, (we won't mention names, you know who you are) thanks for the beautiful Monnett Green roses, the solid milk chocolate airplanes, the mint julips (sent by mail-intact) and last but not least, a whole coconut - sent right off the tree as is by air mail from Hawaii.

Each and every one of you builders are very dear and special to us. We're looking forward to the convention in 1982 to renew acquaintances. In the meantime, drop us a line when you have a moment and if you're in the Chicago - Elgin area, we'd love to see you.

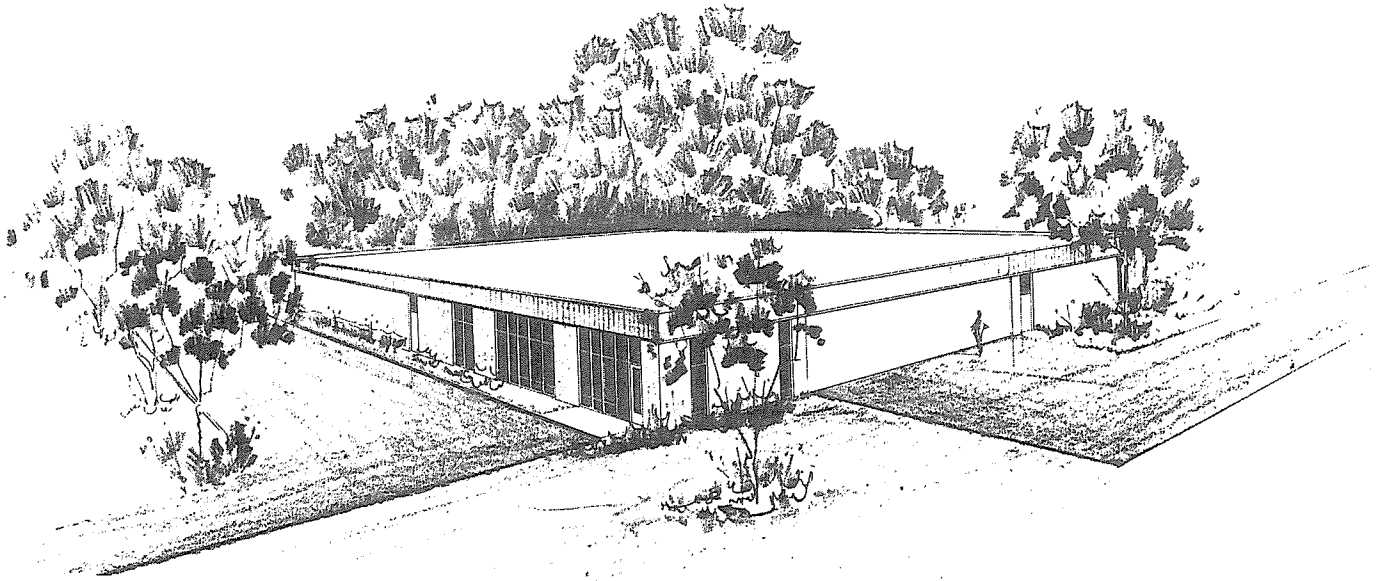
Our address is:

40W895 Burlington Rd.  
St. Charles, IL 60174

Now get moving so we can see more projects at Oshkosh '82.

God Bless each and everyone of you - we love you.

*Bill & Em Schalen*



53126  
 Frederick J. Kelly  
 1428 SIX MILE RD  
 FRANKSVILLE, WI  
 ex 9/87

955 grace street  
 elgin, illinois 60120

Monnett Experimental Aircraft, Inc.

