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- Farmland rest area ( I-74 )
- Funks Grove rest area ( I-55 )
- Illini Prairie rest area ( I-57 )
- Salt Kettle rest area ( I-74 )

All photographs and articles by  
Stephanie unless otherwise noted.



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## Driving Zero Fatalities to a Reality

At the Illinois Department of Transportation, safety is our number one priority and we stand committed to reducing the number of fatalities to zero on Illinois roadways.

Please help us by driving defensively, buckling up, putting down your cell phone, slowing down in work zones, wearing the proper gear while motorcycling, and designating a sober

driver if you have been drinking. Driving Zero Fatalities to a Reality is our message. Every life counts. With your help, we will ensure we are doing everything we can to save lives.

2014 Illinois Roadway Fatalities to Date

**645**

## Lost & Found

Any lost and found items you may find should be brought to the attention of your supervisor immediately. Items should be sealed in an envelope. On the outside of the envelope, write a brief description of what is inside, when and where the item was found, the date, who found it and any other important information. Once the information is complete the envelope should be placed in the lost and found bin in the office to be picked up by Lee or Stephanie.

## Illini Prairie and Salt Kettle Construction



Work at the Illini Prairie and Salt Kettle rest areas is beginning to wrap up and the rest areas may be open to the public as early as mid-October. The contractors have completed construction on the sink walls, installed the new sink units and automatic faucets (see photo) installed the new partition walls and automatic door openers for the bathroom doors. Work is still being completed on the new urinal walls and urinal installations.

The Workshops have refinished the floors under the vending machines in the vending areas and will strip, seal and wax the remainder of the floors once the construction project is complete.

The Landscape crew has been working on tree trimming, removal and stump removal, planting new trees and shrubs and seeding and lawn restoration around the rest areas while they have been closed.

## We Honored

PATRIOT DAY AND NATIONAL  
DAY OF SERVICE  
AND REMEMBRANCE

Sunrise to Sunset on  
Thursday, September 11, 2014

## What Is This?

(continued from p. 3)

This photo is a close-up shot of the new stainless steel partitions that have been installed at Illini Prairie and Salt Kettle. The new walls are textured, called "leather" rather than the standard brushed, flat stainless.

# RAZR D5

D5 REST AREA ZONE REPORT • IDOT DISTRICT 5

October 2014 • Volume 1, Issue 10

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## Salt Kettle Rest Area Pioneer Cemetery

A few years ago the Vermilion County Museum Society contacted the Department and wanted to do a project at the Salt Kettle rest area to provide access to a pioneer cemetery located far back in the woods behind the rest area. Several agencies, groups and volunteers worked together to get the trail established and the cemetery was dedicated last fall with a ceremony at the rest area.

The trail to the cemetery is approximately a quarter mile long and begins near the south end of the car parking lot at the rest area. Wood chips used to build the trail and to keep the trail established come primarily from ash trees that have been removed from our rest areas and right-of-ways as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

The following is a brief history of the cemetery, and why it is a significant part of Vermilion County and United States history. This article was submitted to the RAZR by the Vermilion County Museum Society.

## Pioneer Cemetery

This pristine family burial plot is representative of numerous tiny cemeteries that were created as the nation's frontier expanded west. The cemetery was renovated and a woodland trail established to it by the Vermilion County Museum Society under the auspices of the Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

The Pioneer Cemetery was established on land owned by Edward M. Wilson, and he was interred there on September 4, 1840. The cemetery is also known as Searl Cemetery, named for a subsequent land owner. On Wilson's grave stone it was recorded he came to America from Ireland in 1802, fought in the Battle of North Point in the War of 1812, and came west in 1832. The Battle



continued on p.3



## BEES (Part 2) Solitary or Social?

One of the ways bees are categorized is whether they are a "solitary" or "social" species. Most bees (more than 90%) in North America lead solitary rather than social lives. That means each female builds and provides food for her own nest without any help. Social bees on the other hand live in colonies where many bees live together and share the work load of building and providing for the nest. Usually only one bee is the egg-laying queen. Honey bees are usually the first social bees people think of. Bumble bees and Sweat bees are also social.

Back to the "solitary" bees which make up the majority. These bees usually live for about a year, although we humans only see the active adult stage, which lasts about 3-6 weeks. These insects spend their early months hidden in a nest, growing through the egg, larval, and pupal stages. Female solitary bees have amazing engineering skills, and go to extraordinary lengths to build secure

nests. They can use abandoned beetle burrows or other tunnels in dead or dying standing trees. Or they may chew out a nest within the soft central pith of stems and twigs. But most will nest in the ground, digging tunnels in bare or almost bare, well-drained soil. Inside these complex, branching tunnels she will build "brood cells", where her eggs will grow. But before egg laying, she lines the brood cells with waxy secretions, pieces of leaf or petal, mud, or chewed up wood to protect the egg/baby bee and its food supply from drying out, excess moisture, fungi, and disease. Then she mixes together nectar and pollen to form a loaf of "bee bread" in each and every cell. Now she is ready to lay her eggs, one per cell, on top of the bee bread food. And finally, she will seal off each of the cells in the nest, close off the nest entrance and leave. Her work is done.

A female solitary bee may lay up to 20 - 30 eggs in her life. Each egg



looks like a tiny white sausage. As she lays each egg, she controls

whether it will hatch into another female or a male. She can do this because after mating she stores sperm in a special sac, releasing it only when needed during egg laying: female eggs are fertilized, male eggs are not.

Solitary bees may have a year or more between generations. They can also remain dormant for months during winter, periods of drought, or other unfavorable conditions.

*More about BEES in the next RAZR. Bee there! Thanks for reading - Lee*

## Who's Ready For Snow?

Our guess is no one that has ever had to scoop it, plow it or work out in it in any way! Even if we would be happy to see no snow this winter we all know it will be here before we know it. Supervisors, now is a good time to make arrangements to have your equipment serviced, checked for proper operation and safety and have the equipment brought to the rest areas. Check your supplies of deicer, spreaders, snow shovels and any other items used for snow removal.

Now is also a good time to cover snow removal practices with all employees and make sure you have adequate back-up help available in the

event of a large or extended snow. Employees should make sure they have winter uniform shirts for inside work and safety vests large enough to fit over winter coats anytime they are working outside.

Last year we had problems at all of our rest areas getting snow and ice



removed from the curb areas in a timely manner. Remember when someone gets out of a car they will want to take the most direct route to the sidewalk. If snow and ice are piled up all along the curb it isn't safe for them to try to step or climb over it. When clearing the sidewalks snow and ice should also be removed from the curb gutter area to provide for safe access by the public and to promote drainage once melting begins. If you are unsure what we mean by the "curb gutter" area or have any questions regarding snow removal please check with your supervisor or with Lee or Stephanie.

## Pioneer Cemetery (continued from p. 1)

of North Point was part of the greater Battle of Baltimore where Francis Scott Key wrote the words to what became the national anthem. It was the information on Wilson's deteriorated stone that sparked the restoration of the cemetery, and research of his life.

When Wilson came to Vermilion County he began purchasing land from the federal government. In the 1830s, he and his four young sons, James, Joseph, John, and William, built a homestead on land not a great distance from where he was laid to rest. Wilson eventually accumulated more than a thousand acres of land, including the area where the Salt Kettle Rest Area is located. He paid \$1.25 an acre for the government land. In 1835, Wilson married Caroline Searl; he was fifty years old and she was twenty-four.

When Wilson died in 1840, he left a sizeable estate. Enoch Kingsbury, a pioneer Presbyterian minister from Danville, was appointed guardian of his five minor children. Wilson's son John was deceased, and his namesake son Edward, born to him and Caroline, would die before the estate was closed. Edward's grave marker



is one of the stones still visible in the Pioneer Cemetery. James, Joseph, William, and Caroline, named for her mother, shared the inheritance. Reverend Kingsbury kept excellent records of his expenditures and receipts while guardian.

In May 1851, Abraham Lincoln and John H. Murphy, representing the Wilson heirs, brought suit against Kingsbury and others who had signed his guardianship bond. It was argued he had mishandled assets of the estate. The heirs were attempting to gain the \$12,000 bond Kingsbury and others had guaranteed. Lincoln

and Murphy lost the case.

In October 1851, Lincoln and Murphy filed a second lawsuit against Kingsbury on behalf of James Wilson, Joseph Wilson, and James Parmer, conservator of William Wilson, disputing Kingsbury's handling of the guardianship. This lawsuit was not settled until May of 1854, when the court ordered Kingsbury to pay Lincoln's clients Joseph Wilson and William Wilson the amount of \$116.82. James Wilson's claim was dismissed and he was ordered to pay half of the costs of the lengthy court battle. Reverend Kingsbury was to pay the other half.

Wilson exemplifies the hardy pioneers who came to the infant state of Illinois and began the process of making the wild prairie bloom with cultivated crops. His life of accomplishment, and dedication to country, should serve as an inspiration to all who come to visit his final resting place.

*Information contributed by the Archives Department of the Danville Public Library, Illiana Genealogical Society and the National Archives.*



**What Is This?**  
*(see answer p. 4)*