

# Indiana farmer is up in the air about Pioneer

BY SHEILA MILLER  
TIPTON, Ind. — Allen Baird is one farmer from Tipton, Indiana who is up in the air about Pioneer seed.

Baird, who farms about 3000 acres around and about Tipton, the Eastern Division headquarters for Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., is

the captain of an unusual "ship" that advertises the seed company he likes best. In May of 1979, Baird became the proud owner of a hot air balloon that sports Pioneer's logo.

Baird's wife, Rachel, explained this balloon, made in England, cost about as much as a brand new Cadillac. Most of them have a price tag between \$8000 and \$18,000, she said.

She told how Baird became interested in ballooning after he watched the balloon races at the Indiana State Fair. After that he was hooked, she said, and he was trained by a local ballonist on the intricacies of flying the bag of hot air.

Now, Baird flies the balloon and is sponsored by Pioneer. He is paid for his floating advertising as he drifts across acres and acres of Indiana corn fields.

For a 45 minute flight, about ten gallons of propane

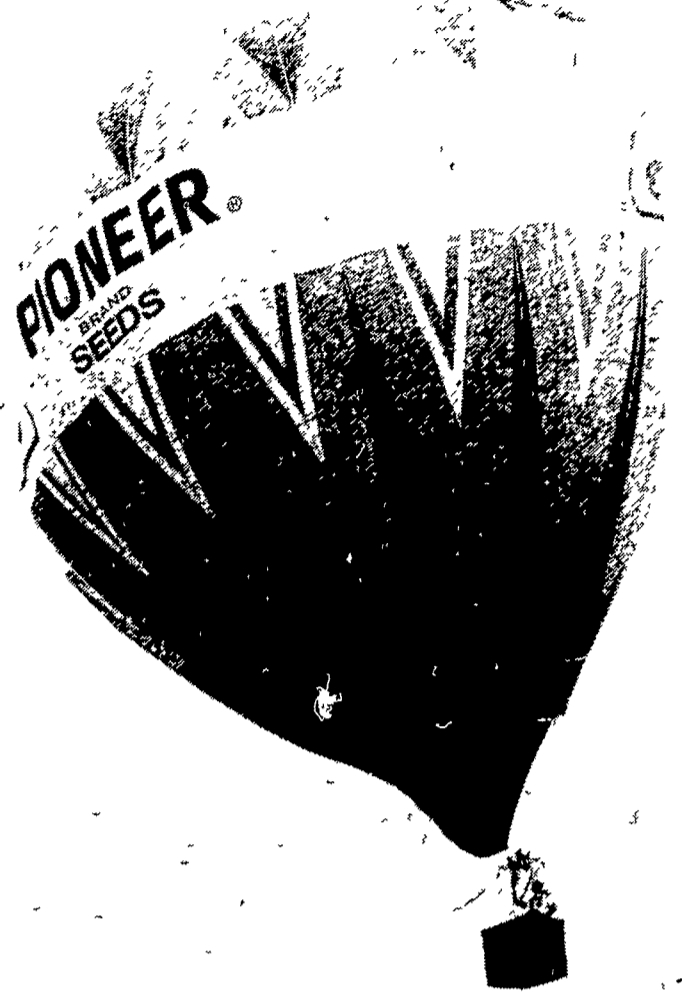
gas is needed to heat the air inside the balloon to around 212 degrees Farenheit, Rachel said. The gas costs somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1 a gallon.

Rachel, who is in charge of driving the chase car, remarked that Allen has already taken the balloon up over 10,000 feet in altitude. His longest flight, she said, was about 40 miles in one day.

"Sometimes, depending on the wind, you can only go a couple miles in a day," Rachel explained. "But there is no better way to see the corn than from the vantage point of the balloon's basket."

Her worst experience since Allen began ballooning was when she completely lost his balloon during a race, Rachel said.

"We have radio contact between the chase car and the balloon. And usually I can keep up with him as he

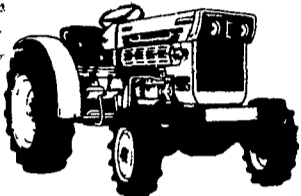


Allen Baird, an Indiana farmer, floats along with Pioneer seed.

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## Goose hunting applications due

MILLBACH — The Pennsylvania Game Commission reminds would-be waterfowl hunters on the controlled shooting sections of Pymatuning and Middle Creek to be sure their applications are postmarked no later than September 20.

Hunting for geese will start at the Pymatuning Waterfowl Area at 8 a.m. on

October 18. The last day for goose hunting this year at Pymatuning will be December 8.

Hunting for geese on the controlled section at the Middle Creek Wildlife Mangement Area will begin one half hour before sunrise on October 20. Goose hunting at Middle Creek will end on December 23.

goes cross country and I drive down the country roads.

"But that day I totally lost him. I looked up and down the roads for over an hour and finally had to call the telephone number for lost

balloons. That was embarrassing.

"Well, they finally found Allen and hours later we got to the party where we learned that Allen had won the race. I haven't lived that one down yet."



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