

Reflections on receiving electricity

As Eastern Illini celebrates 75 years of providing east central Illinois with electricity, we take a look back with a first-hand account.



Rosann Thilmony Boman was born in 1932 in Loda, Illinois. Sadly, she passed away in 2005. Here is her story, in her own words:

I was born on a farm in Loda and lived there until I was six years old. My father, Frank, farmed 320 acres in the area. He farmed with horses, raised cattle, hogs, chickens, and workhorses. He had a stallion horse used for breeding purposes that he hauled from farm to farm.

I remember when electricity first came to rural Loda. I think it was in 1946. I was 14 years old, a freshman in high school. What a thrill it was to flip a switch and a light would come on!

Before electricity, we used kerosene lamps for lights. Each day they had to be filled with kerosene and the chimneys had to be cleaned for that night's use. So many wonderful useful things

followed such as an electric stove - we no longer had to fire-up the cook stove in the summer time to cook a meal. The new refrigerator kept foods cold and the ice...we no longer had an ice box and we didn't need to buy 50 pound blocks of ice.

Gerald and I were married in 1953 and soon after we were married he brought home a television - something I had not seen. They hadn't been out around here very long. My father and mother even came in to watch it a few times and my dad thought it was so wonderful he went and bought one for him and mom.

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Think of all the things in your home or workplace that are run by electricity! Another thing was an electric motor on the well so we did not have to depend on the wind to blow to make the windmill run. And even better, we didn't have to pump water by hand!



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