

# ILLINOIS *REA* NEWS

The Voice of 50,000 Members

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TWELVE PAGES

## Annual Meetings To Promote Line Safety Planned

### PASS RESOLUTION AT ST. LOUIS SESSION; NEAL GIVES TALK

Safety conferences of foremen and linemen will be held annually in the future, probably at a convenient date in the fall of the year, according to action taken at a meeting of representatives of the two groups late last month in REA headquarters at St. Louis.

The foremen and linemen discussed all phases of safety work in connection with electrical equipment and construction, and approved a series of resolutions relative to their highly specialized work. Their recommendations will be presented to REA officials with the suggestion that favorable action be taken on them.

Among recommendations made were the following:

That two specifications be drawn up to cover installation of circuit breakers of different types.

That future REA cooperative projects be permitted to select transformers which are best suited to meet their own individual needs.

The group recommended that the REA Lineman publication be continued and not included as a special feature in the REA News magazine.

In stringing wire on a new extension from an energized line, it was recommended that the phase wire be grounded before pulling it up into place on the pole carrying energized conductors.

It was recommended that a line which has been idle for an extended period of time be patrolled before it is re-energized.

When tagging devices are used in tagging out de-energized line it was recommended that the devices be attached at the point of disconnection in such a position that the line can not be re-energized without first removing the tagging devices.

It was also recommended that when unloading a carload of poles that the load be bound at each end with not less than a three-eighth inch guy strand and that a winch line or other suitable safety line be placed around the poles and car in such a manner as to control the poles upon removal of the car stakes, bands and upon cutting the three-eighths inch guy strands.

The foremen and linemen suggested that the practice of installing cut-outs and lightning arresters on T brackets and cross arms be discontinued.

The group also passed a resolution extending their appreciation to the Illinois REA job training and safety committee for arranging the meeting.

T. H. Hafer, manager of Corn Belt Electric cooperative, at Bloomington was chairman of the resolutions committee.

William H. Neal, deputy administrator, addressed the group and expressed his concern for a continuation of an adequate safety program among REA cooperatives and asked that all possible caution be exercised by the men in order that accidents might be held to a minimum. The meeting was in charge of David Fleming, REA director of safety and labor relations.

During the meeting it was proposed that new linemen be given a week's training course under direction of a safety director, when such a man is selected to take charge of this phase of work in Illinois to succeed B. F. Snively who resigned some time ago to become manager of the Rural Electric Convenience cooperative at Diverson.

## WESTERN OFFICES MOVED; PROVIDES LARGER QUARTERS

Western Electric cooperative of Carthage has left its comparatively small quarters and has moved to a new location in the former post office building.

The new location provides the cooperative with room for storage of a large amount of line material and also gives the office staff additional space for work. The move is in line with plans for a post-war world, which will see REA projects undertaking considerable expansion to meet the needs of the nation's rural communities.

Les Marvel has made arrangements to use the front portion of the building and the spacious windows for displays of interest to the hundreds of members which the cooperative serves. The change from the old offices to the new location was completed November 1.

## Lineman Dies of Injuries; Struck Unloading Polls

Ronald Garee, 31, of Bloomington, lineman for Corn Belt Electric cooperative, died November 20 of injuries incurred while helping unload a car of power polls at a siding of the Illinois Central railroad in Bloomington.

Garee was struck in the head by one of the 700-pound power polls and incurred a basal skull fracture. Rushed to a hospital, he died at 12:30 in the afternoon.

The lineman was atop the carload of poles and had cut the binder strands when the polls started to roll from the car, snapping off six stakes. A coroner's jury investigating the case termed Garee's death "accidental."

Linemen said that Garee "rode" the polls part way to the ground before being struck in the back of the head by one of them. He had been employed by the cooperative for approximately two months recently, but had been a member of the line crew for two years on a previous occasion. Survivors include the widow and two children, Carol and Yvonne.

## SERVICE ON SEED SAMPLES SPEEDED UP AT LABORATORY

Farmers and seedsmen are now receiving same-day service on seed samples being submitted to the Illinois state seed laboratory.

Improved laboratory organization and management have speeded up sample handling to the tune of wartime needs. Facilities are available for handling a large November and December volume. All persons having on hand seed to be sold for sowing purposes next spring, should submit representative samples of re-cleaned seed now for analysis and germination test.

The minimum size of samples to be submitted is:

Seed the size of red clover, 2-oz. (½ tea cup).

Seed the size of Sudan grass, ½-lb.

Cereals, corn, soybeans, 1 lb.

No citizen is charged for the first five samples submitted, according to the provisions of the Illinois seed law.

Packages should be plainly addressed, with sender's name and post-office and mailed to the Illinois Seed Laboratory, 603 Armory Building, Springfield, Illinois.

## Steering Committee Is Approved To Guide Managerial Group Work

### Best Gift Santa Can Give Farmer



Thousands of farmers in Illinois and additional hundreds of thousands throughout the United States would appreciate getting the "Christmas gift" which C. B. Mayfield, above, is receiving from Santa Claus. The "gift" represents approval from REA of a U-1-c extension to be built by Menard Electric cooperative to the place occupied by Mr. Mayfield's farm employe, where the majority of the stock is located. The line extends 3,300 feet from the high line, and will permit Mr. Mayfield to install electric pumps for use in providing water for his stock.

Behind the whiskers and the rosy cheeks in the guise of Santa Claus is Fred Daar, electrical adviser of Menard Electric cooperative.

## Annual Meeting of National Co-op Is Set For Jan. 18-19 Organize State Group To Help On Wire Needs

The annual meeting of delegates to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association will be held on January 18 and 19, according to an announcement from Clyde T. Ellis, executive manager. Although the convention city has not been definitely selected it is probable that it will again be held in St. Louis, headquarters of the Rural Electrification Administration.

The announcement by Mr. Ellis carries an urgent invitation to all co-op managers, and as many directors as possible, to attend the meeting. Further details of the meeting are not available at press time for this publication.

## RABIES INCREASE SHOWS NEED FOR CONTROL PROGRAM

Although 94.3 per cent more cases of rabies have been diagnosed in Illinois to date this year than last, the disease can be controlled and exterminated if people will cooperate with health authorities, according to officials of the department.

It is important to remember that the disease occurs throughout the year and is not limited to "dog days." It is not limited to dogs, but may attack cattle, swine, horses and other livestock in which losses amounting to thousands of dollars are sustained each year. At least fifty-five human lives were needlessly sacrificed in Illinois during the past ten years because of "mad dog" bites.

All ownerless and stray dogs should be eliminated because they serve as a reservoir for the disease. Persons

Representative REA cooperative managers, selected from cooperatives affiliated with the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, have been named members of a copper allotment advisory committee to work with the Illinois war board to procure sufficient copper wire to meet the needs of farmstead wiring in the state.

At a meeting December 15 with Lee M. Gentry, chairman of the Illinois war board, and J. Francis Buck, committee members offered their services to the board in an advisory capacity, with the thought in mind that REA cooperatives were ready and willing to work with the board in any way desired to assist farmers in boosting food production through rural electrification.

REA managers in Illinois will meet with the county war boards in areas served by their respective cooperatives to assist them in determining the amount of copper wire needed for farmstead wiring. The situation in the state, however, is such that no extensive survey will be necessary at this time, war board leaders said.

Members of the committee include: T. H. Hafer, chairman; V. C. Kallal, A. C. Barnes, F. E. Fair, John Waggoner, Lester Boys and A. F. Lentz. A. E. Becker, coordinator of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, is ex-officio member of the committee.

SULLIVAN—In Moultrie county, a Lovington service club obtained and printed a list of men and boys available for part-time farm work.

One hundred pounds of waste paper will make 650 cartons for U. S. Army Field Ration "K".

## OPPOSE PASSAGE OF TAX BILL; SEEK SUPPORT FOR REA NEWS

Appointment of a steering committee to guide activities of managerial committees of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and to compile reports of the various groups for subsequent action and discussion by the state-wide board was authorized at a meeting of directors of the association December 14 in Springfield.

The board gave G. Wayne Welsh, president of the association, the power to select the members of the steering committee, which will consist of six or seven managers and directors. State-wide directors also delegated to the steering committee, full authority to rearrange present managerial committees and to select sub-committees to work within a smaller framework of managerial groups.

By unanimous action the board voted to send letters to Illinois senators asking that they vote against the tax bill, known as H. R. 3687, which has already been passed by the house. Included in the bill is this recommendation:

"Every organization, except as hereinafter provided, exempt from taxation under section 107, shall file an annual return, which shall contain or be verified by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury, stating specifically the items of gross income, receipts and disbursements, and such other information for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter as the commissioner, with the approval of the secretary, may by regulations prescribe, and shall keep such records, render under oath such statements, make such other returns, and comply with such rules and regulations as the commissioner, with the approval of the secretary, may from time to time prescribe."

(Then there are four sub-sections exempting religious, educational and charitable institutions.)

The immediate effect of the passage of the bill would be to require all rural electric cooperatives to file annually, intricate tax returns. Tax experts have said that this provision would operate as a considerable burden to the cooperatives, both in terms of expense and man-power, and without any benefit to the cooperatives or to the government.

Farm cooperatives, at present, are now exempt from the various income taxes by Section 101 (10) of the internal revenue code when 85 percent or more of their income is received from members. Rural electric cooperatives make no profit and should pay no income tax, REA leaders contend.

### Approve Questionnaire

Members of the board also approved sending a questionnaire to all cooperatives which are not subscribing to the Illinois REA News to get their reaction to the publication, to seek ways of increasing its circulation and to constructively criticize the publication with the view of making whatever improvements in it which may be thought necessary.

Resolutions passed by the managers of Illinois REA cooperatives at

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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Illinois REA News

Published Monthly for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives by Wisconsin Electric Cooperative of Madison, Wisconsin.

RUSSELL J. GINGLES, Editor

### REVIEW COMMITTEE

G. Wayne Welsh, Sciota, Illinois  
A. E. Becker, Petersburg Illinois  
Floyd I. Ruble, Elizabeth, Illinois

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Cause for hope and reasons for despair face the world on the eve of the new year. While the United States looks hopefully ahead to the ultimate collapse of Hitler's armies in 1944, she looks apprehensively toward the Pacific where the Japanese may force us into a prolonged and bitter struggle before final victory is achieved.

Knowing full well that the war can not end until Japan as well as Germany is defeated, it behooves all of us to prepare ourselves accordingly. There can be no slowing down on the food production front in which REA cooperative members are in the vanguard. Another season of hard work—plowing, sowing, feeding, milking, harvesting—lies just ahead of winter snows.

As farmers think of spring, they see themselves in perhaps more desperate circumstances regarding help than ever before. The armed services will call some young men from the farm and others will volunteer. Some farmers may feel that the struggle is not worthwhile and may want to sell out and move to town where life may seem less hectic than on their seasonal dawn to dusk round of chores.

But let us all remember, we who are struggling to feed large herds of stock, those of whose backs may ache after a long day in the fields and others who are milking bigger herds of cattle than ever before—we are still at home. We still can come in at night and relax for a time without the thought that a Jap bullet might disrupt our activities at any moment.

We will sleep in comfortable beds under clean sheets and we know we will rise again the following morning. These are fundamental facts which we have taken for granted. But they are not possible in the jungles of Pacific islands, nor in the mountains and bloody plains of Europe. There, the boys we are working desperately to feed, risk their lives every second of the day and night.

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, let us not think of our own burdens but give a little thought to the boys on the fighting fronts who would gladly give up the hardships they are enduring in exchange for the inconveniences we face and often gripe about.

Many REA cooperative members have sons in service and others may join the fighting ranks before many more months have passed. When you feel weary in the fields, go over to the parents of that fighting son or daughter and have a talk with them. Read

## Season's Greetings

by Mrs. Dean Searls



the letters they have received from Joe in Italy and Mary in England. They may work wonders in changing your outlook on the new year. All of us are pretty well-fed and clothed. Let us rejoice in our ability to keep our marines, soldiers and sailors in all the necessities of life which are in our power to give.

### Thought for the Day

First Sgt. Michael Davidson, a tough army top kick who has fought with both the British and the Americans and who now is in military service at the age of 66, brought home a thought to war profiteers which should have shaken them to the bottom of their last dollar when he read an editorial at the Armistice day observance in Petersburg, home of Menard Electric cooperative.

A re-print of the editorial, taken from the Louisville Courier-Journal, follows:

#### A Boy Died Last Night

A boy died last night. It doesn't make much difference now about his name. The important thing is that he died in poignant and awful loneliness, out somewhere on a waste of sand, out in a starless silence, ten thousand miles from home.

"Missing in Action," read an obscure line in this morning's communique. That was all. Now he lies there, crumpled beside the twisted wreckage of his plane, riding high in the sunlit heavens, the fine head and the shining face and the broad shoulders remain only in a picture that looks out upon a quiet living room on a shaded street an eternity away.

Last night, in those agonizing hours of unspeakable isolation, he went through a thousand deaths without the one thing that might have helped a little—the sound of a familiar voice, the pat of a friendly hand.

The pain was terrible enough. But there was that dreadful burden of thought in those endless last hours. Mom and pop. The flowers blooming again in the back yard. The

good old roadster in the driveway. That last sweetheart kiss at the station. Those dances last summer. That half finished letter in his blouse. All those plans for the future. Couldn't somebody find him, Please?

Too much for you. All this? But it really happened last night, just like that. If people could only understand it, if they could just grind deep into their thinking the stark, terrible reality of it, every petty, selfish interest would be swept away. They would sacrifice anything just to make worthy of that boy. They would rise up and demand that their government take anything, everything needed, take away every last penny of profit, render uncertain every common place comfort, and easy security just to avenge that boy.

He died last night, you see. There's no getting around that.

### Dear Santa

Many a farmer who has waited long and patiently for electricity would have given anything if he could have received this Christmas in his woolen sock a notice from an REA cooperative that his U-1-c extension had been approved. No better more appreciative gift could have arrived from old Saint Nick than word that electricity was about to come to all the farms of the nation on the first day of the new year.

Still that desire is not just a dream; it won't come this Christmas because a majority of the nation's electrical and construction supplies are needed elsewhere, where some unfinished business is being attended to, but there will come a day when the non-electrified farm will be the exception.

There is no need to heap on the farmer the unnecessary struggles and dangers which go with kerosene lanterns. He need not envy even so small an appliance as an electric razor in the home of his city acquaintance. His wife does not have to wish in vain for an electric refrigerator or a washing machine. These things are within the reach of all rural residences and they will come

in the post-war years when REA cooperative projects will expand throughout the length and breadth of this great land of ours. There is, to be sure, a great electrified day coming. Patience indeed will have its own reward as electricity brings the conveniences of the city to the farm, without the disadvantages which are part of crowded city living conditions.

### Our Job Too

The job of helping build an informed membership is also the main purpose behind the publication of your Illinois REA News. This monthly publication strives in every page to keep the REA movement alive in the minds of each member of every REA cooperative in the state.

Along with informative articles about electricity and general farm news notes, the Illinois REA News each month brings stories regarding the activities of cooperative members in all sections of the state. In this way it is promoting a stronger and more coordinated force to work for the good of rural electrification. In unity there is strength and your state-wide publication is ever tending in that direction. We shall need strength in the months and years which are ahead to keep the REA cooperative system running on its present efficient keel. We need a point around which all REA cooperative members may rally—this rallying point may well be the Illinois REA News.

### Timely Message

From James Backer, president of the Delaware Rural Electric Association of Greenwood, Md., comes a message which applies to cooperative members everywhere. That message, in part reads:

"Sometimes I wonder whether all of you realize fully that this electric cooperative is not just another power company operated to make profits for stockholders. Our cooperative is a non-profit enterprise, owned and controlled by its mem-

bers, by the people who use it, and it is operated only for their benefit.

"The board of directors serves only at the pleasure of the members and is responsible to them. And the directors and the management can do a better job if the members don't think of themselves as customers of a company, but as member-owners of our cooperative.

"You members are the cooperative. The more active interest you take in it, the better it will serve you. And that is its only purpose, to serve you as well and in as many ways as possible. Your board needs your suggestions and your help. If you do your part, we can do better the part you entrusted to us when you elected us as your directors.

"What is your part? And what is our part? To find out, dust off your copy of your REA cooperative by-laws. Read it, a few pages at a time. And as you read, take a little time to think about what you are reading. You'll find a lot of interesting information to talk over with your family or your cooperative neighbors. It will help you get better acquainted with your cooperative and understand the why and how of making it work.

"An informed membership is the best health insurance for our cooperative. This cooperative of ours is a big and important enterprise which you and I, all of us, want to keep in good health for our joint benefit. What helps our cooperative, helps us. And the Lord helps those who help each other. So let's help ourselves and each other by informing ourselves better about our cooperative."

### WATER-PROOFING IDEAS GIVEN TO PRESERVE SHOES

Shoes are precious these days, and should have the best of care. If you are likely to be out of doors a lot during the wet weather this fall and winter you may wish to waterproof your shoes. However, it is well to keep in mind that waterproofed shoes tend to cause the feet to perspire and swell when the weather is warm, so if your feet perspire freely, consider carefully before you treat your shoes.

Use Neat's foot oil, cod oil, tallow, wool grease, castor oil or a mixture of these. Since warm grease tends to penetrate the leather more readily, place the container in warm water a few minutes before you are ready to start the waterproofing job. Apply the warm grease on the leather with a cloth and rub it in thoroughly with the palm of your hand.

To waterproof the sole, place the shoe in a shallow pan containing enough grease to cover the sole and its place of attachment to the upper part of the shoe. If the shoes have rubber heels or heel caps be sure that they do not come in contact with the grease, as it will soften the rubber and cause it to deteriorate. Let the rubber heels extend over the edge of the pan when waterproofing the soles.

Shoes that have been treated with waterproofing oils except castor or greases will not take a good polish. It is particularly important to keep them carefully cleaned, even when appearance is not a factor, as grit and cinders working into the creases across the toe and vamp will cause the leather to crack and decrease the life of the shoe.

### Safety Slants

With snow and ice covering the roads in some section of Illinois it behooves all office personnel and linemen especially to drive more carefully than ever before.

A wrecked car may be easily fixed, but a broken arm or some other incapacitating injury to any member of your cooperative is another casualty on the food production front. Your cooperative can not afford to lose any of its employes for an instant.

Hundreds of farmers depend on you to bring them service every minute of the day and night. Chick brooders must be kept in operation, water pumps and milking machines must not slow down. So think before you pass that other car; drive slowly around curves and watch out so that you will not be the cause of a service breakdown by careless driving on icy, slippery roads.

#### Wet Clothing

Working in the snow results in clothing being wet and you linemen know what hazards this may cause you when you work around electricity. Be more cautious than ever now so you won't be sorry later. A minute of caution can save a life in damp, snowy weather.

#### Safety Needs

One very important part of the food-fights-for-freedom program is a well-planned school luncheon. It not only provides the right food for children to grow on and study on at the time they need it, but it serves as a standard for good meals. In addition it helps to keep food costs down for each family by using volunteer help whenever possible, by serving community-canned foods and by buying foods in quantity.

In planning to save food and to serve the right foods for strength and health, adequate precautions for the safety of both children and workers should not be neglected, says Miss Gladys J. Ward, home management specialist, University of Illinois College of Agriculture. Accidents are likely to happen if good housekeeping practices are not observed. Those in charge should check work habits regularly, see that equipment is in condition and surroundings orderly at all times.

Burns or scalds are no doubt the most frequent accidents to workers, and most of them can be avoided by taking proper precaution. Pans and kettles with loose handles or rounded or uneven bottoms should not be used for cooking because of the danger of spilling their contents and scalding someone. Make it a rule to turn handles of pans toward the back of the stove or table, for if the handle is left sticking out, the pan may be tipped over by someone brushing against it or may be reached by a child. This is a common home accident and is just as likely to happen in the hurry of serving a lunch at school, especially if space is limited.

Removing covers from containers of hot food becomes a hazard unless properly done. It is an accident that is easily prevented by training workers to lift the farther edge of the lid first to allow the steam to escape away from their face and hands. Always use pot-holders for handling hot equipment rather than the corner of the apron or a dish towel or cloth. They should be heavy enough to protect the hands—and yet not clumsy—and they should be kept dry.

Before removing a container of hot food from the stove, be sure there is a place sufficient in size to set it. Where work space is limited, someone may be scalded while attempting to have the space cleared hurriedly. Another safeguard is to make it a rule to turn off the flame of the gas stove before the utensil is removed. Otherwise the worker's sleeve or the potholder may catch fire and cause a serious burn before the fire can be extinguished.

Another sort of burn may come from using or leaving lye or sal soda (washing soda) about. In some states regulations forbid using these materials around a school lunch room.

## So Proudly We Hail - -

# Tribute Paid To Men In Service



Second Lt. Glen D. (Peck) Penrod

Peck was former stock clerk for the cooperative and, after entering flying school in Chicago on Jan. 1, 1942, was sent to Santa Ana for basic training. From there he was transferred to Fort Stockton, Tex., and later to Pecos, Tex. From Pecos, he was transferred to LaJunta, Colo., where he received his wings as pilot of a twin-engined bomber. He is now stationed at Peterson field, Colorado Springs, Colo.



Staff Sgt. Ralph W. Lingle

Ralph joined the signal corps of the army at Cairo, Ill., on Oct. 7, 1942, and after being stationed at Scott field, was sent to Camp Crowder. From Crowder, he was sent to Camp Ellis, near Macomb, and from there was transferred to Camp Monmouth, Sea Girt, N. J. At the present time he is located at Camp McCain, Miss.



Second Lt. Elmer W. (Bud) Koonce

Bud was the former bookkeeper for the cooperative and was inducted in the armed service immediately on Christmas, 1941. He was sent to Windsor, Canada, but was called back to the United States and sent to March field, Cal. Later he was transferred to the Santa Ana Army Base for flying cadet training and then was sent to Dos Palos, Cal., where he was graduated, receiving the rating of second lieutenant. He is now piloting a P-38 somewhere over there, location unknown.



Pfc. Harold (Jug) Hart

"Jug" was called into army service on Feb. 13, 1942 and, after being sent to Scott field, was transferred to Texas for his basic training. Shortly after completing his basic training he was sent to the Hawaiian islands, where he served as a member of the military police. He now is on Guadalcanal.



Staff Sgt. Leo Holcomb

Leo entered service on March 12, 1942, and was sent to Scott field and then to Fort Francis E. Warren, Cheyenne, Wyo. Later he was transferred to Camp Pine, N. Y., and from there was sent to Camp Kilmer, New Brunswick, N. J. From Camp Kilmer, Leo was sent to Atlanta, Ga., where he attended motor school. At present he is somewhere in North Africa.



Charles Thomas Reeves  
Petty Officer, 3rd Class

Tommy entered the United States navy on Nov. 5, 1942 as a petty officer, third class, and was sent to radio school at Great Lakes. From Great Lakes, he was sent to Corpus Christi, Tex., where he is now attending school.



Pvt. John J. Hartline

John was inducted into service in July, 1943 and was sent to Camp Grant. From there he was transferred to Biloxi, Miss., where he is now attending school for signal corps work.

Few REA cooperatives in the state can boast of having so many employes in the service as Southern Illinois Electric cooperative at Dongola. In recognition of their service men, the cooperative has a plaque on the office wall which reads:

"Proudly we pay tribute to the members of our organization who answered the call to the colors."

Unlike so many firms which have all but forgotten the boys who have left their jobs to fight America's battles, Southern Illinois Electric cooperative keeps alive the service records of their employes. No greater incentive is needed to urge farmers in the Dongola area to greater production to meet war needs than the thought that several of the men who helped them in their effort to get electricity on their farms are now fighting in the service of their country.

If you are allowed to use them, be sure workers know how to use them, and keep them in a safe place where children will not accidentally get hold of them.

### SUMMARY - FORECAST

BY H. M. CONWAY

With the hog price floor taking on more tangible aspects, the seasonal position of the hog market seems well discounted in current values. Packers are now assured tremendous margins on winter packing operations and on storage stocks. The "scarcity" of labor still gives packers full power to prevent price advances for some time. Pork points have not been reduced sufficiently to give any added competition in hog buying. Much depends on Lend-lease and military buying during the next 60 days. Black market operations may help some. As conditions are there is nothing to do but hold back hogs, putting the lightweights up to 200 lbs. or better and where corn is plentiful, hold regardless of weight. This will mean a price margin as well as profitable gains. This is a matter of needed pork production and the means of the greatest return to the

### Eddie In Army

Edgar Ohlau, another former employe who has answered the call to service is not in the above group of former employes but is one of the "group" just the same; even though we could not obtain a picture for this issue.

Eddie left for Fort Sheridan on December 14, for service with the U. S. Army. Eddie was employed by the contractor on the "B" section of our project and then worked with the cooperative on maintenance crew during a part of 1942 on member service extension. He was back with the contractor on the "B" completion this year. Eddie's wife, Edna, is your Co-op Bookkeeper and has been with the Co-op since October, 1941. Edna will now have to take time out to read her "soldier mail."

DE KALB—Five German prisoners spent a day turning hemp in De Kalb county fields.

producer. The packer is generally assisted in taking undue advantage of the situation. If price ceiling on live hogs mean anything, production has got to be materially cut.

CARROLLTON—Results of a recent survey of combines and corn pickers available for custom work make it possible to assist a large number of farmers in getting these machines for use on their land.

## AAA PRACTICES AND PAYMENT RATES IN COMING YEAR GIVEN

The 1944 AAA program provides payments for following many approved production-conservation practices. Other practices are essential for maximum production in 1944 and the continued welfare of agriculture for which no payments are made. Both lists follow:

AAA practices and payment rates for 1944:

1. Contouring intertilled crops—\$1.50 per acre.
2. Contour seeding small grain, sorghums, millet and soybeans—50c per acre.
3. Establishing contour strip cropping—\$2.50 per acre.
4. Maintaining contour strip cropping—\$1.00 per acre.
5. Field strip cropping to control wind erosion—75c per acre.
6. Constructing standard terraces—\$1.00 per 100 lin. ft.
7. Establishing sod waterway—75c per 1000 sq. ft.
8. Maintaining sod waterways—25c per 1,000 sq. ft.
9. Improvement of non-crop open pasture—\$4.00 per acre.
10. Mowing weeds on non-crop open pasture—50c per mowing per acre.
11. Dams for livestock water—15c per cu. yd. for 2,000 cu. yds. and 10c per cu. yd. for remainder.
12. Go-down crops in commercial orchards—\$1.50 per acre.
13. Plowing under certain legumes as green manure—\$1.50 per acre.
14. Harvesting hay seed (timothy and redtop not included)—\$3.50 per acre.
15. Weed control—Clean tillage—\$10.00 per acre. Chemical, 10c per lb.
16. Application of mulching materials—\$4.00 per ton.
17. Applying fertilizers: Superphosphate, \$5.25 per 100 lbs. of available P2 O5. Rock phosphate, 60c per 100 lbs.
18. Spreading limestone same rate as in 1943.

The first three practices will be unlimited so a farmer will get all he earns. The other fifteen will be applied against his farm allowance which will represent the crop acreage times 50 cents plus the usual allowance for commercial orchards and non-crop open pasture.

#### Recommended Practices Not Included in AAA Payments

1. Spreading barnyard manure.
2. Needed servicing of open ditch and tile drainage.
3. Leaving residues such as soybean straw on land.
4. Plowing under cornstalks effectively.
5. Seeding of legumes.

## REA EXTENSIONS ALLOWED HOMES UNDER NEW PLAN

Electrical extensions may now be constructed to private dwellings which are not more than 450 feet, approximately, from existing power lines, following an amendment to order U-1-c by the war production board's office of war utilities.

Before the amendment became effective, extensions could be built to private dwellings only in certain specified areas.

The order also provides that certificates of eligibility for electrical extensions must now be secured from the county agricultural conservation committee instead of from the U. S. D. A. war board.

Another recent amendment to order U-1-c allowed extensions to be built to schools, churches and hospitals, Mr. Ruble said.

Goats have been added to the animal unit schedule, which is used in ascertaining the eligibility of farmers for electrical extensions. Six milk goats, thirty goats other than milk goats or 160 kids per year each comprise one unit.

# REA Women and The Home



## Sugar and Spice .... and Everything Nice

*That's what cookies are made out of*

By Ethel Morrison Marsden

It's Christmas again—closets and bureau drawers bulge with mysterious packages of all sorts and sizes and shapes. Delicious and tantalizing odors are wafted throughout the house from the kitchen where Mother reigns in all her glory. Fun beckons on every hand.

Of course the house is a bedlam—the last glittering ball remains to be hung on the tinsel trimmed tree, late gifts must still be wrapped and delivered, even the plum pudding still has to be made! But no matter how hurried and harried we are, we love every moment of the Christmas glamour, its gay frivolities, and the parties galore.

The thought of parties naturally brings to mind food—special, tempting, colorful foods to serve at holiday meals that will, of course, be seasoned with laughter and well spiced with surprise. Half the thrill of Christmas is in the pre-holiday preparations—mixing cakes that are crammed with fruit and nuts—baking an endless variety of cookies to be frosted and trimmed—making delicious holiday foods characteristic to the country from which our forebearers came—such as Scandinavian breads and cookies, French pastries, Scotch short bread, or English plum puddings—foods all concocted to reflect the joyous holiday spirit.

I wonder if you ever stopped to realize that if all the ingredients that go into Christmas cookies were put into a kaleidoscope, they would make as beautiful an array of designs as any of the tiny pieces of colored glass that fill the end of that magic tube—citron and gumdrops, nuts, dates and maraschino cherries, coconut, chocolate chips and colored sugars—all these are in the design for Christmas. Besides their bright colors, their flavor is rich and their texture tender and crunchy, too.

Cookie dough ranges for very soft doughs that may be dropped from a spoon on to a making sheet to very stiff doughs that must be rolled out and shaped with a cutter. But regardless of whether stiff or soft, cookie dough is always easier to handle if it is allowed to stand for from ten minutes to half an hour in a cold place before it is rolled or shaped. This prevents the dough from being sticky, even though it is still soft enough to be workable.

Soft doughs are sometimes rolled out and shaped with a cutter, a knife or pastry wheel just as one cuts stiff dough. Soft doughs are more difficult to work with in this way, than the stiff doughs, naturally. Sometimes the latter are made into small balls, and flattened by pressing with hand or rolling pin. Use as little flour as possible in rolling always. Dip the knife, cookie cutter or wheel in flour, and cut the shapes as close together as possible. It's a smart idea to save the cut-off edges and work up together into one last sheet of cookies. In this way, they will be of the same consistency, having been rolled out the same number of times and have had approximately the same amount of flour worked into them.

### TOASTAROONS

6 cups corn flakes  
1 can (14 or 15 ounces) sweetened condensed milk  
Combine corn flakes and condensed milk, mixing lightly. Drop from tea-

### A Plate of Holiday Cheer



spoon on greased baking sheet; flatten slightly, shaping edges with spoon. Bake in slow oven (325 degrees F.) 12 to 15 minutes, or until done. Remove from baking sheet immediately using knife or spatula. To keep cookies from sticking, hold pan over very low flame for a few seconds. Makes about 40 cookies.

**Spicy Toastaroons.** Use above recipe, mixing 1 teaspoon cinnamon or nutmeg with corn flakes before adding condensed milk.

**Fruited Toastaroons.** Use above recipe, decreasing corn flakes to 5 cups. Mix  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup finely cut dates, dried prunes or apricots, or seedless raisins with corn flakes before adding condensed milk.

### KRINGLE (12 to 15)

$\frac{3}{4}$  cake compressed yeast  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup lukewarm water  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon sugar  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup scalded milk  
1 teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar  
About  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cups sifted flour  
1 egg, well beaten  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup melted shortening  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon powdered cardamom  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup seedless raisins (or omit)  
1 beaten egg yolk  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk

Dissolve yeast in lukewarm water, add the  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon sugar, stir and let stand to soften. Pour the scalded milk into mixing bowl, add the salt and the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar, and let cool. When milk is lukewarm add the softened yeast and 2 cups of the sifted flour. Beat until smooth. Add the beaten egg, the melted (not hot) shortening and the cardamom. Blend well, then stir in enough more of the flour to make a dough soft enough to be handled. Knead until smooth. Place dough in greased bowl, cover and let rise in warm place until doubled in bulk. Punch dough down and add the raisins, if desired, dusted lightly with flour. Let rise again until doubled. Turn onto floured board and divide into 12 to 15 even portions. Roll each piece of dough into a long strand,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter. Shape into-pretzel form, bow-knots, rosettes, twists, etc. Place, some distance apart, on greased baking sheet. Let rise until light (about 1 hour). Brush tops with beaten egg

yolk, mixed with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk. Bake about 20 minutes in a moderately hot oven (375 degrees F.). If desired, brush again with egg and milk when taken from the oven.

### HONEY GINGERNUTS

1 cup strained honey  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup melted shortening  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 egg  
1 tablespoon ginger  
1 cup chopped nuts  
Flour

Mix honey, sugar, melted shortening and beaten egg. Add chopped nuts, then baking powder, and ginger sifted with one cup of flour. Add more flour to make a batter of right consistency to drop from a spoon on to a greased pan. Bake in a moderate oven.

### NUT COOKIES

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup shortening  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1 cup flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon milk  
1 cup chopped nuts  
1 teaspoon vanilla or almond

Cream shortening and sugar, add eggs well beaten. Sift dry ingredients together and add alternately with milk. Stir in nuts and flavoring and mix well. Drop from teaspoon on a greased baking sheet and place a nut on top of each. Bake in a moderate oven.

### HERMITS

2 cups sifted cake flour  
2 teaspoons double-acting baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 teaspoon mace  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup granulated sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar, firmly packed  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter or other shortening  
2 eggs, well beaten  
1 cup raisins  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup broken nut meats

Sift flour once, measure, add baking powder, salt, spices, and granulated sugar, and sift together three times. Mix brown sugar and milk.

cream shortening; add sifted dry ingredients, brown sugar mixture, and eggs and stir until all flour is dampened; then beat vigorously 1 minute. Add raisins and nuts and mix well. Drop from teaspoon on greased baking sheet and bake in moderate oven (350 degrees F.) 15 minutes, or until done. Makes about 4 dozen Hermits.

Note: To keep Hermits moist, store where there is circulation of air; not in air-tight container.

### RAISIN BRAN GINGER SNAPS

1 cup sifted flour  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon soda  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
1 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons ginger  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup molasses  
6 tablespoons butter or other shortening  
2 cups raisin bran

Sift flour once, measure, add soda, salt, and ginger, and sift again. Combine molasses and shortening; bring slowly to a boil and boil gently 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Cool to lukewarm. Add raisin bran and mix well. Add flour mixtures, mixing thoroughly. Chill until firm enough to roll. Roll  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch thick on lightly floured board. Cut with floured  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch cutter. Bake on greased baking sheet in moderate oven (350 degrees F.) 10 minutes. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

### SEMI-SWEET CHOCOLATE NUT DROPS

3 egg whites  
1 cup granulated or powdered sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup saltines, finely crunched  
Flour  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup chopped nut meats  
1 package semi-sweet chocolate, melted  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon vanilla

Beat egg whites until stiff enough to hold up in peaks, but not dry. Add sugar gradually and continue beating until mixture is very stiff. Fold in saltines and nuts; then add chocolate and vanilla. Drop from teaspoon on lightly greased baking sheet and bake in moderate oven (375 degrees F.) 10 to 12 minutes. Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

### CRUNCHIES

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup dark corn syrup  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup evaporated milk  
2 tablespoons sugar  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon cinnamon  
3 cups corn flakes

Combine syrup and milk. Add sugar and cinnamon. Add to corn flakes, mixing lightly but thoroughly. Drop from teaspoon on greased bak-

ing sheet 2 inches apart. Flatten with back of spoon on thin lacy discs. Bake in slow oven (325 degrees F.) 15 minutes. To keep cookies from sticking, hold pan over flame for few seconds while removing from pan. Makes 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen cookies.

**Peanut Butter Crunches.** Omit cinnamon in above recipe; mix 2 tablespoons peanut butter with syrup and milk mixture.

### HONEY CHOCOLATE CHIP SQUARES

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup sifted flour  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon soda  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup honey  
1 egg, well beaten  
1 tablespoon melted butter or other shortening  
1 package semi-sweet chocolate chips  
 $\frac{2}{3}$  cup chopped walnut meats.  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift flour once, measure, add soda and salt, and sift again. Add honey gradually to egg, beating thoroughly. Add butter, chocolate chips, nuts, and vanilla, mixing thoroughly. Then add flour and mix well. Turn mixture into 8x8x2-inch pan which has been greased, lined with waxed paper, and again greased. Bake in slow oven (325 degrees F.) 35 minutes, or until done. Cut in squares, remove from pan, and cool on cake rack. Makes 20 squares.

### THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR

By Winifred Stich

The shepherds were watching their flocks by night

When over their heads appeared a bright light.

They followed the star far into the morn.

It led them to where our Savior was born.

No room in the inn for the mother to lay,

So the little Lord's crib was a manger of hay.

Tho' humbly born He was destined a King.

A pillar of strength in Him we will cling.

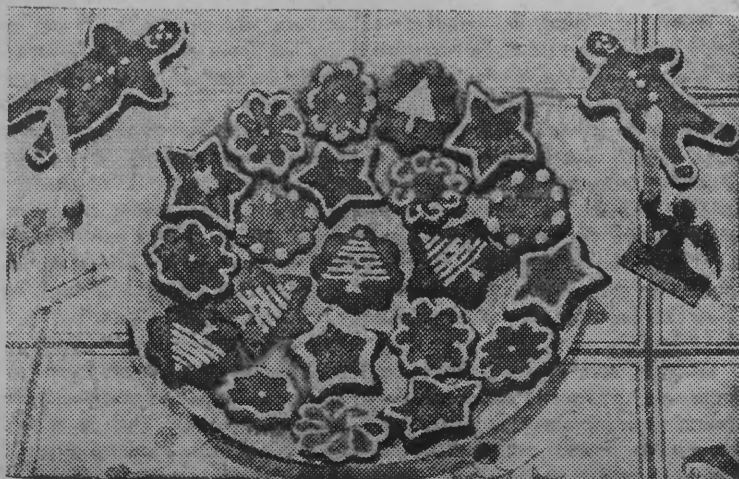
He was born to redeem and cleanse us from sin.

He watches His flock and will bring the lost in.

He has gone to prepare us a home on high

When all will be judged in the sweet by and by.

### For Children and Grown-ups, Too



## REA Power Is Valuable Ally For Farm Work

### MORE ELECTRICAL HELP PROMISED TO BOOST FOOD PRODUCTION

With electricity as a valuable ally, C. B. Mayfield of Sherman has done more than his share toward reaching his food for freedom goals—and, with additional electrical facilities approved, indications are that production may be still further increased on the Mayfield farm next year.

With 640 acres of his 1000-acre farm classed as crop land, Mr. Mayfield this year put 500 acres in corn and 140 in soybeans. The land will be more equally divided among the two crops next year, with corn getting the preference, he says.

Mr. Mayfield specializes in pure-bred and grade Herefords, feeding out his home-raised cattle. In addition to cattle, he also raises from 400 to 600 head of hogs and from 100 to 125 Suffolk sheep. A believer in modern stock breeding methods, Mr. Mayfield crosses his Hampshire sows with Poland Chinas or Durocs to get a heavier, healthier, sturdier and more profitable strain.

A member of the Menard Electric cooperative, this Sherman farmer uses his electricity in several different ways and enjoys it principally for lights, for heating water, to operate several pumps and for heater elements in pig farrowing houses. This year he had fifteen farrowing houses, and plans to install approximately 20 pig brooders next year.

#### Uses Flood Lamps

He uses flood lights over his sheep lot and finds that it saves many young lambs at lambing time, when it is necessary for the farmer to be up at night and to have sufficient light to see clearly.

With so many farmers trying to cut corners to save on time and manpower, Mr. Mayfield this year devised a buck rake and attached it to the rear of his truck. With this device, Mr. Mayfield, with the assistance of his son and one employe, brought hay to the barn at the rate of 1000 pounds every fifteen minutes, despite the fact that the distance covered from the field to the barn at times was as much as a mile. In using the buck rake, the hay was first raked in wind-rows, and the truck was then backed down into the field for loading operations.

The extension most recently approved for Mr. Mayfield comes under the U-1-c classification and will give Menard Electric cooperative authority to build an electric line from the present REA high line, 3300 feet to the place now occupied by a farm employe. It will provide service for an electric pump which, in turn, will pump water for stock, most of which is kept in that area on the farm.

In addition to operating a farm, Mr. Mayfield is also the Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement company dealer in his area and has a small warehouse in Sherman. Like other farmers, Mr. Mayfield is looking forward to acquiring other electrical devices to aid him in farming. His principal desire at present is for a motor large enough to enable him to elevate his corn.

#### WESTERN GASOLINE AIDS ATTACK

Gasoline drawn largely from west coast and Rocky Mountain areas is powering land, sea, and air attacks on Bougainville and bombings of Rabaul, according to OWI on the basis of Army and Navy statements. Gasoline also is saving our wounded men by enabling them to be flown in transport planes to hospitals far behind the lines.

#### CAN HOLD SHOES 30 DAYS

Without ration payment dealers may not hold shoes bought on a will-call or lay-away plan, or by special order, longer than 30 days after they become available for delivery, OPA has announced.

## Where True Christmas Spirit Prevails



## Family on Farmers' Mutual Line Receives Award for Production

### Help Orphaned Children Build New Life as Tragedy Strikes

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ropp—Carl and Dorothy to their neighbors and fellow members of the Farmers' Mutual Electric cooperative of Geneseo—didn't ask for recognition; just tried to do their best on their large farm to see that the crops were planted and harvested on time; to bring up their children to be good Americans and to be of service to their community.

Recognition, however, was forced upon them and, regardless of their hesitation toward publicity, the Ropp family began to appear first in the headlines of newspapers and then in national farm magazines. The spotlight began to be focused on this hard-working family when tragedy struck the neighborhood in February, 1941 and left the six Taets children at the mercy of a rather hard old world. The Ropps, being neighbors, came to the aid of the orphaned children and Mr. Ropp was named their legal guardian. That was nearly three years ago; today, Mr. and Mrs. Ropp are in the headlines again—this time as winners of the Skelly award for achieving outstanding production of food products.

#### "Do Unto Others"

The future looked dreary indeed to the six Taets children on the bleak, sad day back in 1941 when their father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Camiel Taets, were killed in an automobile accident. As they gathered in the living room of their big, farm home 1½ miles distant from the Ropp farmstead and wondered what they were going to do, they had nothing to look forward to but a small estate and large debts.

After the first shock of tragedy had been somewhat absorbed, the kids, as Mr. Ropp calls them, decided that they wanted to stay on their farm—even without their parents, the farm was still home to them. But just "wanting to stay on the farm" didn't solve the various financial problems which the orphaned boys and girls faced. And this is where Carl and Dorothy Ropp entered the picture. Carl agreed to act as legal guardian and adviser to the children and Mrs. Ropp enlarged her own family circle to assume the care of six more children. It was a big job, but the experiment is working out better than anyone thought it could.

Farm duties were divided among the Taets children, who ranged at that time between 6 and 19 years

old. Leonard, Dale and Don took over the livestock and field work, with Don also being named bookkeeper of the family. Rita was placed in charge of kitchen duties, and, with the assistance of Alice and Elmer, also handled the garden work and care of the chickens.

The agent for the owner of the farm was persuaded to allow the Taets children to see what they could do with the place. Lime and phosphate was applied to the land; Mr. Ropp loaned the children machinery and taught them to repair their equipment. Work supervised included 260 acres of corn, 33 of wheat and 110 of oats.

Stock was added to the farm until the Taets now have 18 milk cows, 33 shorthorn feeders, 20 brood sows, 8 sheep, 400 chickens, 30 ducks and 171 pigs. So successful has been the economic side of the Taets' family life that the children now have approximately \$14,000 in the bank, most of which is in war bonds.

#### Family Life

Realizing that the orphaned boys and girls needed something besides work to hold them together, the Ropps looked around for a hobby to fill in the spare time of their charges—something which the entire family could enjoy. They found the answer in music, and now the family orchestra is in considerable demand at numerous community programs.

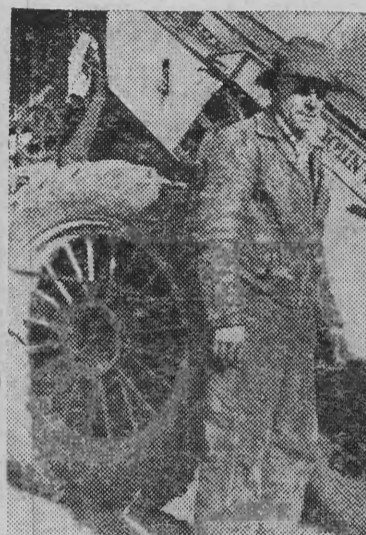
Mrs. Ropp, an accomplished reader and musician, taught the orphaned children, as well as her own, the rudiments of music and also encouraged them to take lessons on various instruments. Results were gratifying and now even the hired man, Leslie Kincaid, joins in the orchestra, playing a baritone horn.

The instruments cost a total of \$1200, but they are worth it, the Ropps say; the Taets' family has been kept together and all of them, with the exception of Rita, who resides with the Ropps, live on the home farm.

#### Personal Accomplishments

As far as Mr. Ropp is concerned, he farms 740 acres and owns 560. This year he raised 270 acres of corn, 30 of wheat, 36 of oats and 169 of soybeans. His stock includes 20 milk cows, 78 head of feeder cattle, 15 brood sows, 60 feeder hogs, 20 sheep and 500 chickens.

In addition, he owns a complete line of power equipment, which he uses on neighboring farms for picking corn, filling silos and chopping hay. He shells and hauls to market an average of 500,000 bushels of corn an-



Mrs. Ropp and her family orchestra are shown above in the top picture as they assembled in the farm home for one of their frequent rehearsals. From left to right, they are, Alice Taets, Dale Taets, Don Taets, Martin Ropp, Elmer Taets, Mrs. Ropp, Frances Ropp, Rita Taets (standing), Leonard Taets and Lantz Ropp.

In the lower picture, Mr. Ropp takes a moment off from a busy day to have his photograph taken in front of one of the corn pickers which he has just put back in order for a heavy afternoon's work in the fields.

nually. Mr. Ropp also operates two large threshing outfits and has an electric welding machine.

There are eleven electric motors on the farm which operate, among other things, a valve grinder, bench drill, lathe and electric pump. Without electricity, he says, his production could not have attained its present level and he would be seriously hampered in making repairs.

Mr. Ropp works with the experimental department of Deere & Co. in trying out various types of equipment, particularly in the corn shelling line. He is a firm believer in the conservation of equipment and has managed to keep his trucks in operation, despite the fact that they have all been in operation more than 100,000 miles. He has one truck which has traveled 191,000 miles.

Along with their regular farm activities and promotion of the family musical organization, Mr. and Mrs. Ropp still find time to crowd in a host of community activities. Mrs. Ropp teaches a Sunday school class, is clerk of the rural school board, member of the high school board, a USO volunteer worker, registered Red Cross worker, president of the community club and a 4-H club leader, while Mr. Ropp is a trustee for the school district and is interested in the drainage control commission. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Ropp helped

## Southern Co-op To Hold Annual Meeting Feb. 10

The regular Annual Meeting of the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will be held on February 10, 1944. The Board of Directors, at the regular meeting on December 13, made the final plans for this year's annual meeting. The entire business program will be held in the morning. The meeting will start promptly at 9:30 A. M. The afternoon session will be devoted to a quiz contest on your project, for which energy account credits will be issued both to parties submitting the 20 best questions on matters of interest to REA members on your co-op, and to the ones answering them. The names will be drawn from the attendance records for ones to answer the questions and the credit will vary on these questions. There will be a "jack-pot" of credits lost by not answering correctly and this will be a very worthwhile question. The following prizes will be awarded:

#### Prizes

1st prize — credit of \$36.00 or \$18.00 (year's minimum).

2nd prize — credit of \$18.00 or \$9.00 (six month's minimum).

3rd prize — credit of \$9.00 or \$4.50 (three month's minimum).

Then there will be three extra prizes of the choice of fluorescent bed lights or kitchen adapter units.

The usual entrance prize for the first 100 members will be a 100 watt lamp.

A free box lunch will be served at noon. It will be absolutely necessary that each member return the card which will be sent out later on the number that will be present. These cards will be mailed out early in January, so be sure and fill yours out and return it so we can get ration points for the lunch.

Also send in your questions for the quiz contest. It is your meeting, so send in the questions which you wish most to have answered.

Arrangements are being made to obtain a short film on care and use of electrical appliances. This is one of the best meetings ever planned by your co-op; let's really make it so, by making plans to attend and share in the prizes offered; entrance, attendance and quiz questions. Plans are being made to have the Editor of your Illinois REA News present for talking pictures and a short talk on his view of REA. Let's show the rest of the state what we think of REA and your co-op in Southern Illinois.

Look for the January issue as it will carry the final details and program of the annual meeting.

in improving the Kempsterville school Mrs. Ropp drawing plans for the building, which has an enrollment of twenty-two students and includes eight grades. Neighbors helped haul materials for the structure, which is one of the most outstanding rural school buildings in the area.

With electricity on the farm, the Ropps have not neglected their own home, which is completely electrified and contains a stoker, hot and cold running water and all the other modern conveniences which REA power can bring to a farmstead.

Despite their good deeds, however the Ropps were not spared from the ravages of a high wind of tornado velocity which leveled all of their buildings with the exception of the farm home last June. The roof of the barn was blown hundreds of feet away and equipment was overturned and broken. Out of the wreckage, however, the family is rebuilding the damaged structures and even adding a new cattle shed and work shop. Faith in themselves and their work have done much to enable this remarkable farm family to do the impossible for the war effort and their community.

## Crow's Hybrid Plant Is Served by REA; Is Largest of Kind in World

Completion last summer of two shelled corn drying units, each requiring a 75 horsepower motor, and construction of other additions makes Crow's hybrid seed corn plant near Milford the largest of its kind in the world.

Chief market for seed corn sold by the company, which is served by Eastern Illinois Power cooperative at Paxton, is centered in Illinois, Indiana and Iowa. Among types sold are commercial single cross and white hybrid seed corn, two items not generally found at other seed plants.

The practical side of the seed corn business is typified by A. F. Crow, who has farmed for many years near Milford, while the scientific side of the company is handled by Dr. W. J. Mumm, who was a hybrid corn specialist in the agronomy department of the University of Illinois for twelve years. Mr. Crow is in charge of producing the seed and Dr. Mumm is in charge of plant breeding.

Crow's Hybrid Corn company is the product of ingenuity and its growth has been so rapid that Mr. Crow hasn't yet had time to remove from the home farm an old barn around which much of his early farming activities were centered.

The huge, modern plant was prepared on a practical basis, with Mr. Crow and Dr. Mumm working out the construction details and even assisting with a part of the carpentry work which went into the various buildings.

Beginning with a small output in 1935, the business expanded so fast that power soon became an acute problem. Early in 1939, however, this worry was solved when electric power was offered the plant by the Eastern Illinois Electric cooperative, of which Mr. Crow was a former director.

Now electricity drives the motors on the graders, shellers and conveyors; it runs the stokers on the furnaces and furnishes the water supply; it provides light for all the buildings, operates the moisture tester and furnishes heat necessary for operation of the seed germinator.

Electrical power has made possible the steady growth of this industry, even though its plant is located out in the country. Among other things, the plant contributes to the general prosperity of the area by furnishing employment to local men and women at a time when normal farm work is slack.

Hot air furnaces which provide heat for the dryers are operated with stokers. Automatic controls connected to the stokers shut off the fuel when the air temperature gets to approximately 110 degrees. The shelled corn driers hold 4000 bushels at each filling and can be emptied in about six hours. The ear corn drier holds 17,600 bushels and is used to dry seed to about 19 percent moisture, when it is shelled and the drying completed in the shelled corn driers. If the seed is dry enough to shell as it comes from the field, it is shelled immediately after ear sorting and does not go to the ear corn drying bins.

In addition to the driers, a 112x48 foot addition had been completed on the warehouses. A large pit has been built at the ear corn dump to hold a truck load of ear corn at a time. This improvement speeded up the handling of corn during the drying season.

Crow's hybrids are made from their own foundation seed, which is certified by the Illinois Crop Improvement association. The business is not so large but that Mr. Crow and Dr. Mumm can still supervise all of the essential work; still, it is large enough so that every operation is properly done.

Each year the firm hand-plants test fields throughout the trade territory to check the value of new hybrids in different localities. Last year there were 500 entries in such test fields. Of this number, 375 were yellow and 125 were white hybrids.

All equipment used in the big plant is electrically operated and scores of individuals make up the staff of employees. One unusual feature is the department where undesirable kernels are picked out by suction tubes. The seed is graded by modern machinery

for thickness, width and length; run over a gravity separator to take out lightweight kernels; conveyed through the sorting room on a moving belt where experienced operators remove broken and other undesirable kernels.

Just before being bagged, the seed is treated with a disinfecting dust to further insure a good standard.

### A. F. CROW "Practical"



### DR. W. J. MUMM "Scientific"



## PLACE FATHERS IN 3-C IF EMPLOYED ON ILLINOIS FARM

Pre-Pearl Harbor fathers with agricultural experience or background, but not now employed in agricultural work, may be classified III-C if they begin farm work before their induction notice is mailed to them.

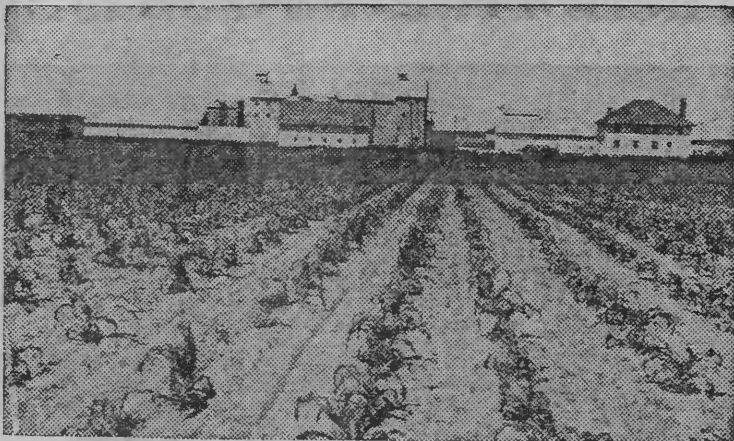
State selective service headquarters recently made a recommendation that local draft boards permit men with agricultural backgrounds to move to agricultural employment with a sufficient number of war units and defer them because of this type of work.

"This new memorandum will help ease the farm labor situation because many fathers with agricultural experience will prefer making their contribution to the nation's war effort by producing food, instead of serving in the armed forces."

"In order to meet the increased goals for 1944, more farm labor has to be made available. If our armies are to advance on the fighting fronts, they must receive continuous supplies from the farm front."

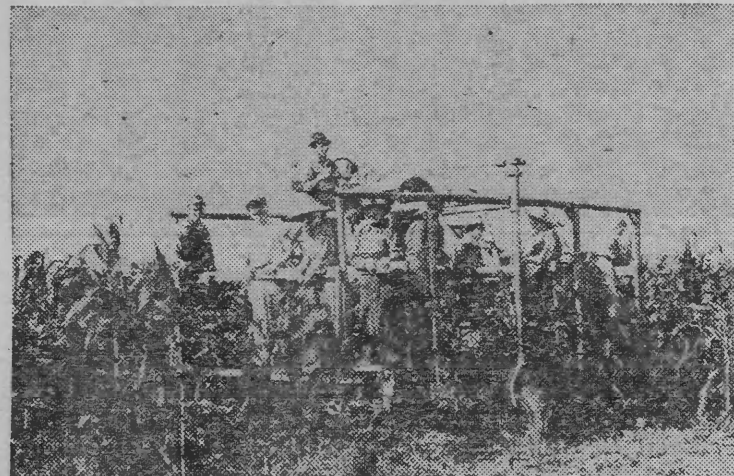
Pre-Pearl Harbor fathers now in nonessential industry should contact county farm advisers for information about farmers seeking married farm workers.

## "HOME FARM" OF CROW'S HYBRIDS



This scene taken at the "home farm" of Crow's Hybrid Seed Corn company shows a view of the huge plant and office building in the background, while a large field of hybrid corn appears well on its way in the foreground. The plant is now the largest in the world and its electrical equipment is served by Eastern Illinois Electric cooperative at Paxton.

## MACHINE SPEEDS DETASSELING WORK



Shown above is a view of one of the many machines used for detasseling operations by Crow's Hybrid Corn company. While one man drives the machine from a seat high above the corn, workers on running boards on each side are transported down the rows detasseling as they go. The device saves many hours of precious time and is much easier on the workers.

## With "Jacks" Wild, Farmer and REA Man Pose for Quick Picture



Looking forward to the time when he will become a member of Adams Electric cooperative, L. I. McFarland proudly exhibits one of the Jacks which he raises as a hobby on his large farm, located northeast of Golden. Marion Young, fieldman for Adams cooperative, stands a little warily far from the "business end" of the Jack, watching out of the corner of his eye to be ready to dodge at the first sign of a hoof raised in his direction.

Mr. McFarland has been raising Belgian draft horses since he started farming many years ago, but he started his hobby of raising Jacks only three years ago, when he bought his present 8-year-old herd Jack.

A shock to most people who think mules are generally black or gray is the sight of several sorrel mules frisking about in Mr. McFarland's pasture. A talk with this busy farmer will bring to light the fact that the offspring from his herd Jack brought the second highest price at the big mule sale this year at Louis county, Mo.

Most of the mules raised in the middle west are sold in Missouri and Tennessee, Mr. McFarland says.

Stakes for power poles have been placed on the McFarland farmstead and work of stringing wire under the U-1-c extension program is expected to get underway shortly. Electricity

will be a great relief, Mr. McFarland says, and he expects that power will enable him to boost production on his farm and take much of the drudgery out of farm chores before dawn and after dark when lanterns now are used.

## FUEL OIL COUPON BUYS 10 GALLONS DURING PERIOD 2

According to a recent Washington bulletin householders' fuel oil rations for period 2 will remain at the current value of ten gallons, Price Administrator Chester Bowles announced.

Period 2 began November 30 in thirty-three states (this includes Illinois) and extends to February 8.

Period 3 coupons became valid November 30 and have a 10-gallon value. This period extends to March 14, 1943.

Period 1 coupons will remain valid until January 4. This overlap of periods was established to facilitate deliveries.

### Tire Inspection Reminder

"A" gas bookholders must have tires inspected each 6 months; "B" gas bookholders each 4 months; and "C" gas bookholders each 3 months.

All new tires are considered as Grade 1 tires. Under the new regulation recapped tires and used tires only are considered as Grade 3 tires.

## ELECTRIC FIRM LINEMAN HURT IN AUTO CRASH

John Hutton of Harrisburg, lineman for the A. & A. Electric company of Chicago, is reported recovering satisfactorily in a Savannah hospital from injuries incurred last month in an automobile accident while enroute to work a U-1-c extension for Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Inc., of Elizabeth.

The automobile in which Hutton was riding was driven by Myron Boldt of Elizabeth, also, an A. & A. employe. Others in the automobile were Charles Ashcraft of Champaign, A. & A. lineman, and Charles Youtzy, Jo-Carroll cooperative lineman. Only Hutton was injured in the accident which resulted when Boldt's car collided with a truck, which, state police said, turned sharply into a farmer's driveway as Boldt's car was attempting to pass.

For Boldt, the accident was almost the final straw in a series of misfortunes. A few days before the automobile crash, he had fallen from a power pole. A day or two later, his house caught fire and shortly after the blaze, his draft board ordered him to report for his army examination.

## COOPERATIVE ADDS WIRING STOCK TO HELP OUT MEMBERS

Coles-Moultrie Electric cooperative at Mattoon is filling a wartime essential need for farmers by stocking material needed for completion of wiring jobs from service entrances to barns, chicken houses and other out-buildings.

No longer do farmers in the area have to shop around from one wire material dealer to another to get the necessary switches, wire and other fixtures desired, for a stock room in the cooperative office has been well supplied with all essentials.

Insulators, nuts, bolts and a special-type nail are among the items carried. When a farmer receives approval from the war production board for wire for his barn or chicken house, he brings his application to the cooperative office and loads up with the required materials. As long as copper wire is available, members of the cooperative can have it, John Waggoner, manager says.

Along with their applications, farmers also receive much-needed instructions on wiring and some helpful suggestions from Mr. Waggoner, who has done much of his own construction work on his own farm.

The program of serving farmers with wiring material was started when it became apparent that hardware dealers and electrical shops in the area were unable to supply the equipment needed or were too busy to take on work in the country in addition to the business they had in their respective cities. To get the job done, therefore, it became necessary for the cooperative to assist its members in completing their food-for-freedom project themselves or in providing materials for neighbors who are proficient in that type of electrical installation work.

KANKAKEE—In Kankakee county, eight married couples and 13 single farm hands are needed. Demands for farm workers are increasing rapidly.

MOUNDS—A Pulaski-Alexander county farmer, James McBride, of Miller City, reports that school students picked over 2,000 bushels of green beans which would otherwise have gone to waste. "This reflects the thinking of our growers."

DANVILLE—Favorable weather has relieved the pressure for seasonal and steady hired labor in Vermillion county.

## New Slaughter House Will Get Co-op Service

### CAMP POINT AREA AIDS IN EXPANSION MOVE; LOCKER PLANNED

Located on a 4-acre tract of land on Highway 102, four miles south of Golden, the Golden Locker cooperative this month, with the assistance of power provided through facilities of Adams electric cooperative, erected and put in operation a modern slaughter house.

The plant will serve the cold storage locker at Golden and will also provide meat for another locker plant to be constructed in the near future at Camp Point, home of Adams Electric cooperative.

Built of tile blocks and equipped with all modern appliances necessary for slaughtering activities, the new building will prove a great boon to farmers in the area. The building is 20 x 22 feet and is hooked up to a 3KV transformer located on a pole just eighty-seven feet away. The transformer also serves a farm across the road.

Constructed in record time by D. C. Naught, Golden contractor who once operated a butcher shop of his own, the slaughter house contains all possible modern facilities. Cattle sheds are to be built later on ground adjacent to the slaughter house.

The building and the proposed locker plant at Camp Point were made possible through cooperation of Camp Point business men and many members on the Adams Electric cooperative line who will benefit from the expanded facilities. Plans call for processing all food for the two lockers in Golden and then transporting a portion of it to the Camp Point locker for farmers in that area.

## MENARD

(From Page Five)

The boy was knocked down and stunned. Fortunately, he was not killed, which could easily have happened if the ground had been wet or conditions different than they were. Another boy going to his aid also received a severe shock.

This letter is a direct request and warning that all flag poles at schools served by the Menard Electric Cooperative must be relocated so that in the event of the pole breaking off it will fall clear of our line. It will also prevent the chains attached coming in contact with the hot lines in event of them being thrown against or into the wires. Every School Board should take WARNING, from this near fatal accident and take immediate steps to change the location of the School Flag Pole if it is within falling distance of the power line and to replace the chain used to raise and lower the flag with rope.

If your Cooperative can be of any assistance in aiding you to determine if this condition does exist at your School, we shall be pleased to have the maintenance man serving that area contact you or some member of your Board and determine how best to remedy it.

We trust your school board will accept this warning and act upon it before an accident does happen which could have been prevented. It might even be your son or daughter to whom this fatal accident could happen.

The writer will appreciate hearing from you if this situation applies to your school and what steps you are taking to remedy it.

Thanking you for your cooperation in eliminating this hazard, I remain,

Very truly yours,

A. E. Becker, Manager.

### SAFETY THOUGHT FOR MONTH

LOOSE WIRES HANGING FROM OR NEAR OUR HIGH LINES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS. EVERY PRE-

## NEW SLAUGHTER HOUSE BEING BUILT



Shown above is the new slaughter house which is being constructed by the Golden, Ill., Locker cooperative on Route 102, about four miles southeast of Golden, and, going over his chart to see what equipment the linemen will need to complete an extension to bring electricity to the building, is Marion Young.

Mr. Young is the fieldman for Adams Electric cooperative at Camp Point, which will serve the slaughter house with power. He has been an employe of the cooperative since it was first organized, becoming interested in rural electrification when his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Young, who reside northwest of Rushville, first thought of REA service for their farm. The Adams cooperative fieldman combines a knowledge of the farm with an understanding of right-of-way, construction and electrical needs to make his position a vital one in the area served by the project.

## REA MAN TALKS TO TEACHERS ON ELECTRIC NEEDS

Daniel W. Teare, head of the rural electrification unit of REA, spoke and gave a demonstration on the practicability of construction and use of home-made electrical equipment for farm use at a meeting December 6 in offices of Menard Electric cooperative in Petersburg.

The meeting was attended by a number of high school vocational agricultural teachers in central Illinois and members of the Menard cooperative's board of directors. A. E. Becker, manager of the cooperative, stated that the purpose of the session was to discuss the possibilities of furthering the building of home-made electrical equipment for use on farms now served by the cooperative and other utilities, and to enlist the cooperation of vocational teachers in including a course of this nature in their farm shop programs.

### New Source Needed

In discussing home-made equipment, Mr. Teare told the group that, "owing to the curtailment and scarcity of certain types of electrically operated farm equipment, it is essential that a new source of supply be developed."



DANIEL W. TEARE

One or more pieces of this electrical equipment must be in possession of the applicant or obtainable

CAUTION IS TAKEN TO REMOVE OR REPAIR DAMAGED LINES OR FOLLOW THROUGH AND INVESTIGATE ANY SUCH CONDITIONS REPORTED.

Please report to this office any condition which appears dangerous by phone in an emergency, by letter if you believe a condition exists that should be investigated.

when application is made for rural electric service during existing wartime emergencies before war boards will certify farms for U-1-c extensions, it was said.

"The building of home-made equipment to meet this requirement presents an opportunity for every vocational agricultural instructor to contribute to the program advocated by the United States department of agriculture in producing needed equipment to produce more food for military and civilian use," Mr. Teare said.

The REA leader discussed the construction of various home-made equipment and reviewed the practicability of motorizing hand-power equipment. Mr. Teare also gave a practical demonstration of the use of a hot lunch heater, recently constructed by him.

The Menard Electric cooperative for several years has cooperated with M. J. Worthington, vocation agriculture instructor at Petersburg high school, in making home-made electrical equipment. Users of this equipment, it was said, have found it satisfactory and comparable in operating cost with similar commercial equipment.

### Brooder Efficiency

Henry B. Colby, president of the Menard Electric cooperative and operator of a grain and stock farm north of Pleasant Plains, related the following information at the meeting relative to the efficiency of electric pig brooders.

Mr. Colby has been raising hogs for several years in 1940 from 255 spring pigs farrowed in thirty-seven litters 187 were saved and marketed. This was an average of 75 per cent or 5. plus per litter. In 1941 from 228 spring pigs farrowed in thirty-one litters, 193 were saved and produced for market. This was an average of 84 per cent or 6.2 pigs per litter. Farrowing was accomplished without the aid of electric pig brooders and Mr. Colby indicated considerable time and labor was spent in saving as many pigs as he did during the cold weather prevalent when the pigs were farrowed. It was in February 1942 that Mr. Colby first put his home made electric pig brooders into use. From 352 pigs farrowed during that period 327 were saved and marketed, even though weather conditions were severe at farrowing time. This is an average of 92 per cent or 7.6 pigs per litter. In February 1943 from 12 litters producing 122 pigs, 114 were raised and marketed making a total of 93.4 per cent saved or an average of 9.3 porkers per litter.

Mr. Colby is 100 per cent sold on the results obtained in using home made electric pig brooders. He indicates they are easy to build, provide heat at the time they are needed and the additional pigs saved at the time of farrowing compensates many

times over for the time and cost of building.

Similar results were experienced by the Hurie brothers (A. E., Earle and Frank) of Tallula. A news article and photographs of the installation on the Hurie farm will be published in the January issue of the Illinois REA News.

## SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE BEGINS INVESTIGATION OF REA IN WASHINGTON

Investigation of REA, originally scheduled for last September, is now being held by a subcommittee of the Committee on Agriculture in Washington. A resolution calling for the investigation was introduced in the Senate last mid-July by Senator Henrik Shipstead of Minnesota. Although the Senate did not pass the resolution it did refer it to the subcommittee, which decided to carry out the investigation.

Among the first to testify before the subcommittee was John Carson, a director of the Cooperative League of the United States. Carson referred to the much publicized "memorandum" that was recently revealed

by John A. Becker, a former coordinator of REA in Wisconsin, as the basis for his testimony. The Becker memorandum charges that Robert B. Craig, former deputy administrator of REA, and Max M. Drefkoff, his assistant, attempted to gain control of REA through a national organization to be supported through the sale of electrical appliances to REA members, and annual dues. In control of such an organization Craig would be in a position to control 4,000,000 REA votes in the nation, and through the influence of these votes he could dictate elections throughout the nation, according to the Carson testimony.

Although Carson stated that the present national organization of REA cooperatives was along the same lines as the nation wide organization proposed by Craig, there was nothing in his testimony to indicate that the NRECA was under the control of any individual or group, other than the member cooperatives themselves.

Now that brooms and whisks are getting scarce, scald them in hot soap-suds, then dry well before using. They'll last longer.

## Bidding Turns To Drawing at Sale



Farm auctions have a slightly different ring these days—especially when it comes to tractors, corn pickers and other equipment on which the government has placed strict ceiling prices.

When it comes to these vital farm machines, scenes such as those above become lottery rings, with farmers, who want to purchase the rationed equipment, drawing numbers from the auctioneer's hat or, perhaps, an empty cigar box to see which one will be privileged to pay the ceiling price for the equipment up for sale.

There is no familiar chant of "going, going gone" when this precious equipment goes on the block—just a drawing to enliven the proceedings. At the Joseph Douval sale, near Hudson in the area served by Corn Belt Electric cooperative at Macomb, about ten farmers drew for the privilege of buying a tractor, while more than fifteen sought to buy the corn picker. Bidding was forgotten as the ceiling price on each machine was reached on the first call.

Although the temperature was near the zero mark, Harvey Miller, the auctioneer and, incidentally, a Corn Belt cooperative member, kept the bidding going at a fast pace on stock and equipment. A large number of farmers, many of them on REA lines, attended the sale.



## His Lucky Day

### THE WINNER

Cecil Thomas, who resides a mile west and a mile north of Hudson, may well believe that December 13 was his lucky day. For it was on that day that the above picture was taken, showing him in front of the 2-row John Deere corn picker which he bought at the Joseph Douval sale.

He, along with more than fifteen other farmers, bid on the machine, with the price soon "hitting the ceiling." And, like others, he drew for the privilege of buying the picker—but, unlike the others, he won. Mr. Thomas didn't, however, take the machine home that cold day, preferring to wait until the weather moderates before moving the picker to his home place.

**Adams**

Camp Point, Illinois

**ANNUAL MEETING**

AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HELD ON FRIDAY, NOV. 12, THE INITIAL PLANS FOR THE 1944 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD PROBABLY THE LATTER PART OF FEBRUARY WERE LAID. NO DETAILED PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE BUT COMMITTEES WERE APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT ROY SHARROW TO BEGIN ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS EVENT. ALTHOUGH NOTHING DEFINITE CAN BE GIVEN YOU AT THE PRESENT TIME, DETAILS WILL BE FURNISHED YOU AS SOON AS THEY ARE COMPLETED.

**REPORT OUTAGES IMMEDIATELY**

Who will be the first to report that outage? Delay in reporting an outage may mean you will be without electricity for several hours longer than is necessary. Remember that when you leave it to your neighbor to report an outage, he may be doing the same thing, and your Cooperative will not be advised for several hours.

Such was the case when an outage occurred on Friday, December 10, due to the heavy snowfall which blanketed the countryside. According to those first reporting the trouble, service had been interrupted since 10 a. m., and the cooperative was not notified until after our line crew's working hours. Thus, to renew the continuity of service, much expense to the Co-op was incurred. Had the outage been reported at once, it could have been taken care of within a very short time since our workmen were in that vicinity earlier in the day. Not only the overtime

and mileage costs to the co-op as well as the gas and tire shortages which certainly must be considered now, but think of the great inconvenience to those members "getting along" without electricity merely because of their not acting promptly!

If you telephone the Cooperative office to report an outage and your call is refused, don't get the idea your cooperation is not appreciated. That means that we already know about the outage and have started out to correct it. Your management would like to thank each of you who calls. However, the cost would be prohibitive. Consequently, we can only accept and pay the charges on the first call reporting an outage. Be first, and your call will always be accepted. Call later, and though we may not accept the call, you will go down in our books as a REAL COOPERATOR.

**PLEASE PAY YOUR BILL ON TIME**

You know what would happen if you did not receive your egg and cream money regularly. But did you ever stop to think that the money you pay for electric service is just as important to your cooperative as your milk check is to you.

When you pay your electric bill on time, you do your share to insure that your cooperative will be able to pay its power bill and meet its current operating expenses each month, and to discount bills. This in turn makes certain that you have the best possible service at lowest cost, to help you with your wartime food production job.

**GET YOUR CHICK BROODER NOW**

A local manufacturer of commercial electric chick brooders has advised us that the supply of chick brooders will be greater this year than it has for

the last two years and he is hoping that there will be a sufficient supply to meet the local needs. The manufacture of brooders is at its peak right now and I urge everyone to secure their brooder without delay. Why continue to brood chicks by old-fashioned methods when you can secure an electric brooder which will do the job safely and with a minimum of attention? An electric brooder can prevent waste of scarce feeds by insuring against chick losses resulting from brooder fires.

**ATTENDS MEETING**

The fall meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers was held on December 6-8 at the La Salle Hotel, Chicago. Superintendent Dean Searls who is a member of the Society was in attendance the last two days, going especially for the scheduled rural electric programs.

The rural electrification meetings held in conjunction with the general program brought into light postwar electrification, taking care of the electric equipment now on hand, the 1944 outlook in regard to the distribution of farm electric equipment, farm wiring problems, report on the results of the home dehydrator, as well as other challenging discussion meetings of interest to enthusiasts in this field.

On November 29 and 30, Superintendent Searls and Line Foreman Carpenter attended the annual Line Foremen's and Superintendent's Conference held at REA headquarters at St. Louis.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss operating and safety problems with superintendents and foremen from other projects in Illinois and work with REA towards the improvement of working conditions and line building materials. A similar conference was held last year and many improvements in line operation and in maintenance procedures resulted from this meeting.

A group of linemen are not hesitant in condemning materials or procedures which, experience has shown them, do not work towards the betterment of rural electrification. They are likewise enthusiastic for any equipment or operation procedures which improve service and decrease accidents.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Since the first member of the project was connected under U-1-c Order last spring, approximately ninety-five additional "REA enthused" farmers have undertaken the necessary steps to obtain service, submitting almost every imaginable WPB form, none the less wholly aware of their fortunate standing and thankful for one of the greatest improvements to rural America that their Co-op can render.

Since the August issue of Illinois REA News, the following new members who qualified under the above order, have been given service:

Verner Agard, S. E. Ambrosius, C. A. Bastert, Frank Bastert, Wm. Bastert, Hubert Bell, A. D. Bellomy, T. O. Bellomy, Lyle Briggs, W. G. Brown, B. J. Bruns, Oltman Busboom, Frank Davidson, Virgil Dietrich, Fred Ellerbrock, Henry Ellerbrock, James Evans, Clarence Grafton, Alton Grove, Harold Harris.

L. S. Harrison, J. H. Heitman, Jr., Cecil Inman, Lena Janssen, Floyd Koontz, Clarence Kuhlman, Fred Luckel, A. J. McDonald, Harold Mealiff, Lawrence Mealiff, Gaylord Melvin, James Miller, Russell Miller, Hazel Morton, Glenn Muegge, Albert Nicloy, Russell Poling, Alvin Post, Glenn Rebman, Carl Rigor.

L. L. Rigor, Wayne Sapp, Ralph Schmidt, Carl Ufkes, J. T. Utter, Ernest Vogler, R. H. Wills, Wallis Wyatt.

Those new members whose service was already available are:

Harry Cassidy, Walter Covert, Ray Falkrod, Glen Franklin, Jesse Hamilton, Keith Hughes, Chester Jenkins, Ben H. Jibben, Hubert Myers, C. E. Sharrow, Argel Sparrow.

**One Man Owes His Life To The Other; Safety Medal Tells Story**



**DEATH IS CHEATED**

Two men, one of whom probably owes his life to the other, are shown above in front of the office of Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Inc., at Elizabeth, a few days prior to the cooperative's annual meeting when memories of a near tragedy, involving the two linemen were momentarily revived during a safety medal presentation ceremony.

The accident occurred early last July when Ray Hutchinson inadvertently touched a live fuse as he climbed a pole to re-fuse the cutout. Knocked from the pole by the heavy electric shock, he struck a barbed wire fence with his head in his downward plunge and landed unconscious on the ground. Prompt action by Charles Youtzy in using the Schaefer prone pressure method of resuscitation to revive Mr. Hutchinson earned for "Chuck" the coveted president's medal of the National Safety Council. Mr. Youtzy is on the right in the above picture.

The award is tangible evidence that training in safety is one of the cardinal rules for linemen and is proof

**PRESIDENT'S MEDAL**



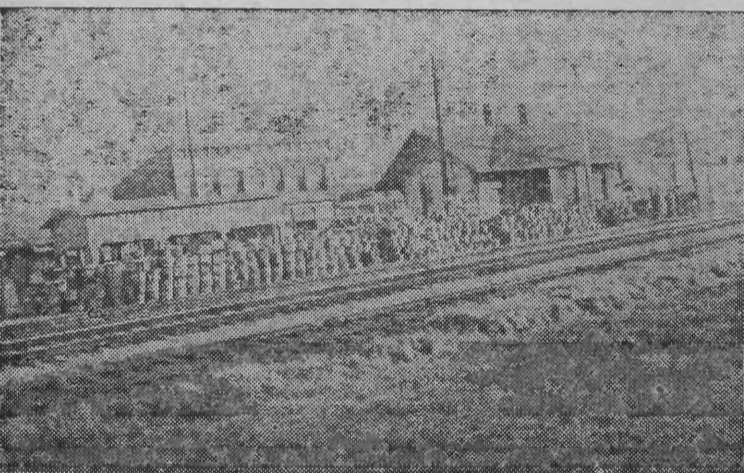
Awarded Charles Youtzy

of what quick and certain action can do to save lives.

The medal, along with a certificate, were presented to Mr. Youtzy at the cooperative's annual meeting in Savanna by Floyd I. Ruble, manager of the project.

Mr. Hutchinson was confined to a hospital for several weeks after the accident but now has practically recovered from his injuries.

**HUGE SPINACH SHIPMENT IS JUST ANOTHER DAY IN LIFE AT DONGOLA**



**POPEYE'S PARADISE**

If spinach were the national dish, Dongola, home of Southern Illinois Electric cooperative, would undoubtedly be the capital of a green vegetable democracy.

Evidence that the farmers in that area know how to grow spinach and, what's more important, know what to do with it after it has been grown, cut, washed and crated is shown in the above picture taken at Dongola's Illinois Central railroad station where 2,117 bushels of spinach await shipment to the Chicago market.

In addition to the huge shipment shown above, approximately 1,200 more bushels went out of Dongola that same day on the Osman Truck line. During the month of November, 533 rail shipments of spinach, totaling 12,825 bushels, moved out of Dongola, according to H. L. Dye, station agent.

This huge quantity of the stuff which Popeye, cartoon character likes in any way, shape or form, is all the more remarkable when it is learned that most of the spinach in the Dongola area is grown on small acreages, the maximum of which is probably two acres. These comparatively small plots are exclusive of the forty to fifty area sectors where spinach was

planted to replace flood crops this year.

It is estimated by George Endicott, manager of Southern Illinois Electric cooperative, who also raises his share of spinach, that approximately 20,000 bushels of spinach are grown in the Dongola area during a normal year.

Farms in this section average only forty-two acres, but the land is kept in almost constant use. Two crops of spinach—early and late—are harvested in the area, but numerous other vegetables keep farmers going from morning until night during the growing season. Three truck loads of fresh vegetables leave Dongola every day during the shipping season, which extends from Easter to Thanksgiving. After Thanksgiving, farmers are busy shipping sweet potatoes, spinach and turnips.

Dongola is one of the greatest truck farming centers in the middle west and is thoroughly sold on REA service as a means of assisting in the food production program. Without electricity, farmers say they would be at a loss to perform the usual early morning and late evening chores, which must be done along with their busy truck farming activities.

**NOVEMBER FINANCE REPORT**

Total billing	\$6,353.93
Average bill	\$4.28
Average KWH Used	.67
Total KWH Sold	99,428
Total members billed	1,485

**Odds and Ends**

When Elizabeth Jahn returned several days ago from her vacation spent near St. Charles, Ill., the office force, left behind, fully expected to see her wearing a new head gear made up principally of pheasant feathers. These ornaments were to act as a sure proof that their billing clerk got what she went after (the complete bird). No luck on her part, she says! However, the proof of the pudding IS in the eating, so why worry about the feathers 'ebeth.

As to how Fieldman "Brigham" Young devoted his several days' vacation recently is a question as... he no say; we no hear. He tried to inform us that he actually WAS an overworked man while he was harvesting the Young corn crop, although his "lily-white" hands did not verify his wasted boastfulness.

**WE WONDER WHY . . .**

Leora comes to work with car lights on and car covered with frost? Leora says "car was in garage all night."

**WE WONDER . . .**

How the frost got on the car in the garage or did she just get home in time to come to work and forgot to turn her car lights off.

**TOWN AND FARM IN WARTIME**

**RATION REMINDER**

Gasoline—In 17 east coast states A-8 coupons are good through February 8. In states outside the east coast area A-9 coupons are good through January 21.

Fuel Oil—Period 1 coupons are good through January 3. Period 2 coupons became good November 30.

Sugar—Stamp No. 29 in book four is good for 5 pounds through January 15, 1944.

Shoes—Stamp No. 18 in book one, good for 1 pair. Stamp No. 1 on the "Airplane" sheet in book three, good for 1 pair.

**CIVILIANS TO GET CANNED FOODS**

Increased supplies of canned pineapple, canned grapefruit juice, asparagus, corn, pumpkin, spinach, tomatoes, beans, and figs will reach retail markets within a few weeks, the War Food Administration said recently. They are supplies owned and held by canners, but set aside for Government purchase, which have been released to civilians.

**SUSPEND SLAUGHTER QUOTAS**

To facilitate marketing and slaughter of record numbers of livestock produced by U. S. farmers, slaughter quotas (for civilian consumption) until further notice have been suspended by the War Food Administration.



# News from Member Co-ops.

## Southern Illinois

Dongola, Ill.

### Brooders

During last brooder season your cooperative assisted its members and non-members in obtaining ready-made brooders and the electric units for home-made brooders. The cooperative sold over 100 of these units. There is a carry over of these units and a few complete brooders are available at the office. A new type unit is also being stocked which makes use of a fan to circulate the heated air. There were several members who replaced coal or kerosene heated brooders with electric units and this type fan unit will be ideal for this purpose.

Besides the cost being lower, one has to also consider the liveability of brooded chicks. Any burner type brooder uses up oxygen which is in the air. This is not the case with an electrically heated brooder. For this reason, stronger chicks are produced and when taken out of the brooder and placed into other quarters the change is not too severe and the chickens are not subject to this change of air condition which is present with coal or kerosene heated brooders.

Besides this air condition, one has absolute control of temperature which is not always possible with coal or kerosene heated brooders. It is also much cleaner and enjoyable from the labor standpoint.

Provided enough interest is shown by requests the office will make an effort to work with high schools in the area to build these home-made brooders in their manual training classes, the member paying only for the material going into the brooder. It seems evident that there will not be many ready made brooders available this year. The cooperative has attempted to get a supply for this year, but cannot be given any guaranteed delivery. With this thought in mind, it is to the interest of each member who is going to do his part in increased poultry production to complete plans to get his brooder ready for the coming season.

For those who have electric brooders, the brooder should be thoroughly dusted, scrubbed, or disinfected and checked to see that it is in first-class operating condition. Be sure and check the thermostat for operation, as this is the heart of any brooder, and especially so on the electrically heated unit.

### Wiring Material

Your cooperative has been able to continue to obtain wiring material for Farmstead wiring purposes. This means that for an increasing production or release of labor you are eligible to obtain wiring material for this purpose. H. E. Nash and Malby Eddleman are assisting the cooperating in doing their part in getting these Farmstead buildings wired at the very lowest cost and with the least amount of critical material. Mr. Roy N. Baggott, our electrification adviser is devoting all his time in coordinating the work of Mr. Nash, Mr. Eddleman, the county war board chairman, new prospective members and energized members who qualify for farmstead wiring material.

The necessary steps for obtaining this wire has been explained in detail in past issues of your REA News and there are the revisions from time to time as these revisions are deemed necessary. It must be understood that this Farmstead Wiring is available for food production or labor release and to this there has been no release for strictly household wiring. Your cooperative, office, your local AAA chairman, Mr. Nash, Mr. Eddleman or Mr. Roy Baggott can give you detailed information on this Farmstead wiring program. It is best to get your requests in as quickly as possible as there is a certain amount of office work connected to the final

release and then too, the wiremen are trying to work by areas and conserve their transportation facilities just as much as possible. This is a service for your use—use it but do not abuse it.

### Wanted Equipment

There have been several requests for equipment from members to your office. It is the duty of the cooperative personnel to help in every way possible to assist the members in obtaining this equipment, but due to the present war conditions some of these requests can not be filled. But wherever and whenever a request is received, every effort is made to locate such equipment, and by the action taken by your Board of Directors, it will be possible to make this equipment available to you members as it is made available to the general public. Just recently your manager completed details to obtain a supply of fractional horse-power electric motors. These motors are new and will be available shortly to those who have their order in the office for same.

Of course, these motors will be released only to farmers as this is the release under which the manufacturer obtained material for this production. Along with these motors assurance was received that a limited number of deep-well water systems and shallow-well systems would likewise be available. Efforts are being made to secure electrically operated pump jacks for installation on the old type pumps where it is not feasible to install a complete water system. Electric milk coolers, both of 2 and 4 can size, are assured your cooperative for release to insure properly refrigerated dairy products which are urgently needed at this time.

With all of this equipment it will be first come—first served. Get your order into the office and details along with price will be sent to those requesting the various pieces of equipment. Provided enough requests are received to take up all the available supply, efforts will be made to get additional supplies. This is a service which is being made available to you as members, and in this way assure you members the very lowest cost on reliable merchandise. This is your cooperative, so let the office know your desires in equipment wanted and the office and your Board will make every effort to locate this equipment if it is available.

### Outage Notices

**WE JUST RECEIVED WORD ON AN OUTAGE ON A LOWER ALEXANDER COUNTY LINE WHICH OCCURRED SATURDAY MORNING. A CALL WAS MADE, BUT THE INDIVIDUAL ONLY ASKED FOR THE REA OFFICE AN DID NOT STATE THAT IT WAS AN OUTAGE CALL. ON TUESDAY THIS INDIVIDUAL CAME INTO THE OFFICE AND TOLD US HE WAS OUT OF LIGHTS. THIS IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL, BUT IF YOU MEMBERS WILL REPORT YOUR OUTAGES AS SUCH AND TELL THE OPERATOR HERE AT DONGOLA IT IS AN OUTAGE CALL, SHE WILL DELIVER YOUR OUTAGE REPORT.**

### Feed Mills

Through the effort of your cooperative office a limited number of electrically operated hammer mills have been obtained which are available by you members through your County War Board. To obtain these mills the farmer needs a release from the county war board, which is easily obtained if the individual is eligible to obtain such a mill. Some of these mills will be equipped with used motors, as your manager has been able to secure a few used motors, as new motors now require a separate priority and then delivery is very slow on new 5 horse power mills. Your cooperative has been able to get promises of delivery on the small

one-horse hammer mill. These smaller mills are ideal for the individual who is handling or is equipped to handle all shelled grain. Attachments are ordinarily available for ear corn crushing, but due to war conditions these are not now available.

The Cooperative has just completed the installation of a 10 horse power electric hatchet hammer mill at J. G. Sielbeck's grist mill at Boaz near Karnak, Illinois. Mr. Sielbeck's large gasoline engine broke down and the cooperative gave him temporary service with a 5 horse power electric mill until such time as a larger motor and mill could be obtained which could be operated with the electric motor. It should be understood that most electrically operated hammer mills must be designed for operation by electricity for most successful operation. For this reason, Mr. Sielbeck has a new type mill. On the 5 horse power mill which was temporarily installed Mr. Sielbeck stated that for about a month's operation his electric energy cost was about 2½¢ per hundred pounds of ground product. This may seem rather high but most of the energy was out of the first two brackets, that is the .098¢ and 5¢ group, and this accounts for the rather high cost. But even considering this energy cost, Mr. Sielbeck stated it's advantages well over-weighed the cost—a better product was obtained and a much more easily operated set-up was possible. Mr. Sielbeck plans on producing corn meal with his new mill as he previously operated a regular meal burr mill and the trouble was too much to make it profitable for him to produce meal in competition with the regular suppliers, but upon testing the new mill, Mr. Sielbeck finds that he can produce a whole kernel meal of a much higher food value and can do it at a cost which will be profitable to him and still give a better product by being possible to get a meal from the whole grain retaining the greater amount of protein which is ordinarily "bolted" out of commercial corn meal.

Mr. William Planert of Unity operated his mill for this purpose and also to produce whole wheat flour, which has all the food value in the whole grain.

### Money Saving Uses of Electric Equipment

An interesting point brought out in talking to Mr. Sielbeck was in the value he placed on his water system which is in his home. Some time ago, Mr. Sielbeck had the misfortune to have his house catch on fire, and he stated that had it not been for his electric water system that the house would have undoubtedly burned, but by having water available under pressure, the house was saved and very little damage was done. Needless to say, Mr. Sielbeck values his water system very highly and so does every other member fortunate enough to have one. It is not too soon to start planning your water system—let's make it possible to have "running-water" in every farm home. This is one of the nicer things that will be possible with your electric servant, start plans now. Complete the installation just as quickly as material is available, let your Cooperative help.

### Telephones

Due to the type of telephone service which is generally available to all farms of the Southern six counties of Illinois, the area generally served by your Cooperative, a survey was made last year by Mr. Baggott, your Cooperative Electrification Advisor, and the results were for the Board to take steps to make plans to put the telephone service on the same level as electric service which previous to REA was not generally available at a cost which could be warranted. With this thought your Board has requested REA to consider this project for an experimental installation of

a type of telephone comparable to the REA electric service. With new developments which are and have been made in this line of work, it can be assured that with just a little experimental work a very satisfactory telephone service can be made available. From the information received on this survey of energized members, enough data was obtained to make this request of REA. It is true that there may be "bugs" in this rural type telephone, but your Board feels that this will be one way in which our members can help other farmers in working out a satisfactory telephone service which in many areas is not now available.

There are not many details which are available on this newer development but you members can rest assured that every effort to assist you in getting satisfactory telephone service as has been partially accomplished with electric service in the area covered by your project.

### Prospects

The board of directors realize that it may be just a little "out of line" on its "post-war" plans, but even with the balance of the "B" section uncompleted and a "C" section in REA for 3 years that some plans should be made toward future plans on line extensions or area development. The office has been working on the county maps in an attempt to work out some plan whereby service can be given on an area basis rather than line basis as has been the practice in the past. Our major "backbone" system has been established in the "A" and "B" sections energized; let's now think about serving everybody in the area as we build the line. By including these signed lines on "B" and "C" we have an ideal set up to complete the electrification of the project in the quickest time possible.

With your present energized members help we can complete the job as set up in the REA Act of 1936. You not only will help your neighbors but also your self by making our cooperative "pay out" sooner and you in turn get the benefit of much cheaper electricity. There is a minimum size at which a cooperative can efficiently operate and after this point has been reached there is an increased opportunity to increase the "pay out" status and consequently make electricity available for many jobs which are not now possible due to the cost of electricity. Your project is ideally situated for this area development due to most feeder lines being constructed and also there is a density enough to make long range program of area development possible.

Information obtained from the Cop's un electrified Farm Survey shows that there will be required over 2,000 miles of line to completely serve the un electrified areas. With this mileage there will still be a potential member density of better than four and one half to the mile. On your original lines there was about two to the mile when energized and at the present time just a little over 4 years from original energization the density is now about three and two tenths to the mile, or over 600 members or users have been added to the line. It is not even hoped for that everybody will take service when the line is built by their place but that by the potential density being such as ours that those individuals who are now ready will be sufficient to warrant the construction and the others will come on to the line to help shorten the time for "pay out" of the cooperative.

It is your energized members duty to keep the "fire" burning so that our post-war plans can be carried out to make cheap electricity available to each home on our Project.

One hundred pounds of waste paper will make 115 boxes each containing ten 20mm. shells.

## McDonough Power Macomb, Illinois

Most of the farmers in this section of Illinois have their 1943 corn crop in the bins and seem to be fairly well satisfied. However, most of our members claim the crop is a little short of last year and quite a number of them in the extreme north section lost from 10 percent to all of their crop by hail last summer.

It may be fitting to publish the names of several of our members who have the flu. However the number seems so great at this time that we will just mention the fact that a number of them are ill. We hope they will all be well soon.

Our member, Frank Hennenfent of Ellison Twp., went to Kansas City last week to purchase cattle.

Bert Schouler of the same township after spending several days in the hospital at Iowa City, is back on his farm and improving quite rapidly.

Harold Cotton and family have moved from the Gayman farm in Greenbush Twp. to their farm, recently purchased, near Cameron in Warren County.

The Roseville Community High School football team closed the season by remaining undefeated.

Mr. Stinemates of Tompkins Twp. went to Chicago last week with a shipment of cattle.

Pfc. Boyce Clore came home last week to spend 10 days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Clore. He is taking a mechanical course and is being transferred from Sheppard Field, Texas, to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mr. Paul Johnson of Tompkins Twp. has been quite ill at the Monmouth Hospital for several weeks. Mrs. Johnson is kept quite busy visiting him and informs us that Mr. Johnson is not improving very fast.

Kenton Lofftus and Harlan Monroe of Point Pleasant Twp made a trip to Gorin, Missouri, last week to purchase cattle.

Mrs. A. H. Hinners is convalescing from a major operation at her home northeast of Roseville. She returned home the last of the week from Beardstown hospital.

A/C Ross Young left last week for Carlsbad, New Mexico, where he is being sent from Las Vegas, Nevada. He has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Young near Roseville. He is a bombardier in the U. S. Air Forces and received his wings a few days ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Young have another son in the service, Allen Eugene. He is in the Navy and is a first class fireman on one of our big ships.

George Livermore of Point Pleasant Township returned last week from Austin, Texas, where he visited his son, Lloyd, who is a staff sergeant in the Air Corps. Lloyd is a mechanic and has just been transferred to Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

## Jo-Carroll

Elizabeth, Ill.

Everett R. Read was reelected president of your cooperative at the recent annual meeting held in Savanna. Mr. Read, who also is a member of the board of the Illinois Association of Electric cooperatives, has been a leader in rural electrification since the project was first proposed in Jo Daviess and Carroll counties.

Other officers and directors of your cooperative were also reelected as follows: E. L. Dauphin, Savanna, vice president; Morris Birkbeck, Galena, treasurer, and Berniece Moore, Hanover, secretary; Harry Stranger, Hanover; Chester Alexander and Henry Geldmacher, both of Chadwick; Henry G. Dittmar, Elizabeth. (Turn to Page Twelve)

**JO-CARROLL—**

(From Page Eleven)

beth, and Frank Bonjour, Apple River, directors.

Joseph H. McCombs, operations engineer of REA, who left a sick bed to address the meeting, reviewed the accomplishments of REA cooperatives during the past years and said that future expansion plans calling for the expenditure of millions of dollars are being proposed to bring electricity to hundreds of thousands of farm homes in the nation.

He said that one of the new developments is a method whereby REA cooperative members will be able to use power lines for telephone service. There also, he said, is a battery-driven tractor on the way in the post-war era. The batteries, Mr. McCombs explained, would be re-charged at night through generators powered by electricity from rural electrification lines.

**Reports Given**

Reports given by officers and Manager Floyd I. Ruble indicated that your cooperative is in a sound financial condition and that it faces a bright future in the years ahead.

A gist of the information presented follows:

A total of fifty-five new members have been added to the cooperative since the last annual meeting. Of this number, thirty-nine were added through the U-1-c extension program.

There are, it was said, 100 more farmsteads which are eligible for electricity under the U-1-c plan and they now are in various phases of construction. In addition, seventy more applications for electricity are on file in the cooperative's office.

More than fifty miles of territory in Jo Daviess and Carroll counties have been surveyed during this year's U-1-c construction work. It was reported that the average electric bill for members of the organization totaled \$5.39 and that kilowatt hour consumption averaged 94.8 per month, representing an increase in electric consumption of more than 10 per cent this year over last.

Although consumption was increased 10 percent, the cost of electricity gained less than 6 percent, indicating that members were using the electricity energy for power, making "it pay its way."

**Is Sound Financially**

The cooperative is in sound financial condition, according to statements made by Mr. Birkbeck. He said that a total of \$335,000 of the \$459,000 loan for construction of the project's lines had been spent and that \$124,000 in federal funds still remains available for further expansion as opportunities present themselves.

The cooperative has already paid more than \$17,000 in interest on its government obligations in the last two years. This amount is over and above all operating expenses, it was said.

Mr. Read presided at the session and also gave his annual report. The address of welcome opening the meeting was delivered by O. J. Thomas, vice chairman of the Savanna Chamber of Commerce.

Entertainment included musical selections by Glen Law's orchestra and the presentation of prizes donated principally by Savanna merchants.

**Corn Belt**

Bloomington, Illinois

Members of the employes of your cooperative at their December meeting voted to include in the minutes the following tribute to the late Donald Garee written by Pvt. Don Allen, former cooperative lineman who now is stationed at Camp Crowder, Mo.:

"At present writing I am at a loss for words to express my feelings for the cooperative and its employes. The loss you have just suffered was one rarely gained at any cost.

"Garee was one of the first employes of the cooperative and had proven himself a good worker and

faithful to his employer. His returning to the cooperative after a short absence brought out his love for something he helped to create. He was one who often would recall the early days and progress of the cooperative with the greatest of pleasure. He was outspoken and everyone knew that he would rather talk to a man's face than to his back. No finer thing can be said of any man.

"We have all lost a good friend and fellow employe."

**Does Electricity Save**

A survey completed by your cooperative shows that an average of eighteen hours per week are saved through the use of electrical appliances on the farm.

Topping the list of those who saved the most hours of labor with electric power was George Oehler of Stanford, who estimated that electricity saved him 120 hours per week. Mr. Oehler has a washer, pump, feed grinder and cooler on his farm and hopes to add more appliances next year "if he can get them."

Others who saved considerable hours of labor included H. A. Smith of Cooksville, who said he saved thirty or more hours per week; Mrs. Jennie Nelson of El Paso, who estimates that electricity helps her save 10 hours of labor each week, and Frank W. Weiting of Rural Route 2, Bloomington, who said he saved from twenty-one to twenty-five hours of labor per week with electricity.

Mr. Smith uses electricity extensively for pumping water for live-stock. He has a flock of 400 sheep on his farm in addition to a number of hogs and cows. Mr. Weiting has a water pump, lights in the barn along with several other appliances.

Mrs. Nelson enjoys electricity because, she writes:

"It makes it possible to work later in the field at night and enables farmers to increase hog and chick production. We now can work as long as we need to in the field and still have sufficient light to see to do the farm chores.

"Electricity also saves in the home and speeds up the work in the house so that we can have more time for the chickens and gardens. I also think that many fires are prevented on the farm by electricity, which eliminates the necessity of using a lantern close to gasoline at night."

**Undergoes Operation**

Miss Beulah Miller, secretary to Manager T. H. Hafer, was missing from her desk in your cooperative office on December 13—and for a good reason. She was taken to the hospital Sunday night and Monday morning at 11:30 had her appendix removed. Miss Miller worked as usual in the office on Saturday. Her condition is reported to be satisfactory and she is expected to return to her desk in the very near future.

**Appreciates Service**

Mr. and Mrs. Gaffron enclosed this note with their electric bill:

"This is just a note to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Also to thank you for another year of fine service.

"P. S. We are having fries from the chickens I started the first of October. They are fine and have grown unusually well. Thanks again to electric energy."

**INCREASE COAL PRICES**

Anthracite coal ceiling prices have been raised by OPA an average of 62 cents a net ton at the mine. Increases range from 35 to 70 cents a ton, depending on the size of the coal. One June 1, 1944, the new ceilings at the mine will be reduced by an average of 28 cents a ton, leaving net increases of about 34 cents a ton. The exact amount of these increases can be passed on to the consumer. Purpose of the approximately six months of higher ceilings is to compensate mine owners for the retroactive feature of recent wage increases.

Paper is used in the production of many weapons of war: bomb bands, wing tips, parachute flares, fuse tank linings, practice bombs, airplane signals and shell containers.

**Homeward Bound Following Church**

Church services over, these farm families pause on the steps of their electrically-serviced building to talk over community activities before heading home for their Sunday noon meals. Old Bedford Christian church has been on the McDonough Power cooperative line for about five years.

**Leaders of Old Bedford Church**

Leaders of Old Bedford Christian church are shown above with their pastor, Rev. F. H. Willey, center. From left to right, the men are, Vernon Stout Jr., superintendent; Rev. Willey, and A. B. Lober, assistant superintendent and church historian.

**Congregation Organized in 1850; Historical Review Given**

It doesn't matter to members of the congregation of Old Bedford Christian church whether the day is bright or dull, for they know that services will continue as usual in a cheery, well-lighted auditorium—for their house of worship—one of the most modern in McDonough county—is served by the McDonough Power cooperative, with offices in nearby McComb.

The church building was wired for electricity about five years ago after having used uncertain generating plants and kerosene lamps for some time. The history of the congregation dates back to 1850 when the church was organized and services were held in school buildings and on creek banks.

Plans for construction of the first church began soon after the congregation was organized and the original brick structure was completed in 1852. Located not far from the present building, the first church was situated partly in McDonough county and partly in Henderson county. Marriage ceremonies for residents of Henderson county were performed on the north side of the church, while couples from McDonough county were married on the south side of the church.

The rural church is the largest served by McDonough Power cooperative, its membership now totaling 170. There are seventy enrolled in the Sunday school. Serving an area within a radius of seven miles it is in the center of a square bounded by Stronghurst, Rairton, La Harpe and Blandinsville. The present building was completed in 1922.

**Early Settlers**

Residents of the community came

from various sections of the United States and many descendants of the first settlers still reside in the neighborhood, among them being the descendants of John Kern who came to the community from Loganport, Ind., as the first designated elder-pastor.

The community has an enviable service record, fourteen young men from the area being in military service. Not a man who has been eligible for military service has dodged his duty.

The church is located on a 5-acre wooded tract of ground. Across one corner of the church property ran an old wagon trail which was used by the Springfield-Burlington stage coach line.

Rev. F. H. Willey has been pastor of the church since October, 1931 and his parsonage, like the church building, is also served by the REA line. In addition to his duties as pastor, Rev. Willey also teaches at District 1 school house, also served by McDonough Power cooperative. With twenty-three students to look after and his ministerial activities to discharge, he is one of the busiest rural pastors in the state. Rev. Willey's son, Charles, was ordained in Old Bedford church and is now preaching at Washington, Ill. Like his father, Charles is also a very active young man, for he is a junior in Eureka college and also teaches religious education in Washington school in addition to serving the Washington church.

The area is an exceptionally prosperous one, records showing that farmers in the community this year harvested bumper crops for the seventh consecutive season. Of this year's crops, 95 percent have been harvested. The Old Bedford trails were used in the gold rush days of 1849,

but not a man from the community joined the trek of the old forty-niners in going west—a tribute, A. B. Lober, assistant superintendent of the church, says, to the hold which the area has on its residents.

Keeping as modern as the electrical power they use, members of the congregation this fall completely re-decorated their church, installing materials on walls and ceilings which combine the advantages of being sound proof, having acoustical value and insulation properties.

**Farmers Mutual**

Geneseo, Ill.

Dear Members:

The Rural Electrification Administration, Board of Directors, Manager and personnel of your Cooperative are extending to you members their most hearty and cordial seasonal greetings.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you members for the splendid manner in which you are taking care of your obligations to your cooperative. Such attentive cooperation on your part accounts for the recognition and splendid assistance that your cooperative is receiving from the Rural Electrification Administration.

We were saddened recently when we learned that our good friend, Mr. Ralph Johnson, had a very unfortunate mishap. We especially wish to extend to Ralph and his family our sincere sympathy. We hope that in the years ahead they will be blessed by good luck that will have a tendency to overcome their sad experience.

We wish to extend to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wilson and family, who have recently sold their farm and are moving to California, our appreciation for their patronage. The manager of your cooperative especially wishes to thank Mr. Wilson for his cooperation in assisting the cooperative in the wiring up of a number of farmsteads this season. We hope that the Wilson family will enjoy their new home and may they have many pleasant years ahead.

The Board of Directors, Manager, personnel and their families thank Director and Mrs. Will Meier for the pleasant time enjoyed by all at the annual oyster supper held at their home on December 10th.

**Comments From Your Board of Directors and Manager**

We believe most of you are anxious to know just how your cooperative is being operated. The best way for you to find out is for you to come to the annual meeting which will be held Thursday, January 27, 1944, at 1:30 P. M., Geneseo City Building. We would like to urge all of you to be there. Many of you can give us constructive suggestions, and we can also get better acquainted. If in your opinion the quality of service you are receiving is not entirely satisfactory, if the Manager and personnel of your cooperative have not shown you proper respect and consideration in your cooperative dealings, at the annual meeting is the proper place to tell us about it. You can show your appreciation for what the Rural Electrification Administration and your Board of Directors are doing in your behalf by setting aside Thursday afternoon, January 27, to attend the annual meeting.

**Proxies! Proxies! Proxies!**

If it is not going to be possible for you to attend the annual meeting, please do not fail to return your proxy. The by-laws of the cooperative require that a certain percentage of the total membership be represented at the annual meeting either in person or by proxy. If we should fail to have a large attendance in person because of rationing or other difficulties and did not have a large representation by proxy, the meeting would not be legal and the business of the meeting could not be conducted. It would, therefore, be necessary that another meeting be held at a later date. Be present if possible! If not, please send in your proxy!