

# ILLINOIS R&A NEWS

The Voice of 60,000 Members

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TWELVE PAGES

## Rayburn Scores Enemies Of REA; Willing To Fight

In one his rare appearance on the floor of the House of Representatives, Speaker Samuel Rayburn of Texas, hurled a direct challenge to the opponents of the REA program last month, leaving the Speaker's dias to speak in behalf of the appropriation measure which would provide \$250,000,000 to REA during the fiscal year of 1947.

Although the House acted favorably on the legislation without change just prior to Rayburn's scathing denunciation of the enemies of rural electrification through REA, Rayburn voiced his opinions on the proposed amendments which he said the private utility lobby has fostered to prevent REA loans from being used for generation and transmission facilities.

"This town, Washington, for the past six months has been seething with utility lobbyists," Rayburn declared. "If they are spoiling for another fight with me, as far as I am concerned, they can get it because I am just one man who is not afraid of them as I have already had my fight with them."

### REA Champion

The Speaker reminded his listeners that he had carried the rural electrification through the House in 1934 and that he has always been tremendously interested in it.

"I warn this House and everybody else who is interested in rural electrification against any kind of demonstration that may come from those against so-called public power," Rayburn continued. "I remember when the so-called Wheeler-Rayburn Holding Company Act was being considered by the House in 1935, that this town was seething with utility lobbyists saying that if the bill passed everybody in the United States who owned stock in a utility would be ruined."

"Today, every decent operating utility company in the United States is glad that the bill was passed; that they can own their own utilities, and that they will not be controlled by a holding company in New York City."

### Utility Opposition

Rayburn's speech was prompted by what he described as attempts of some southwestern utility executives

(Turn to Page Two)

## NRECA ALLOWS \$400 ON LITIGATION COSTS OF 'GENESEO CASE'

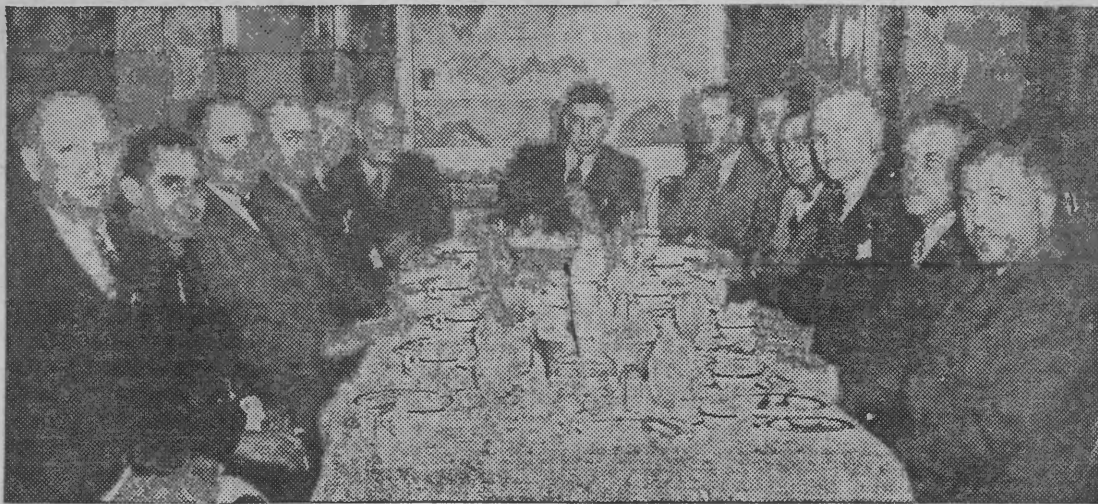
A decision to allow payment of \$400 toward the cost of litigation in the case of Farmers Mutual Electric cooperative, Geneseo, versus Northern Illinois Power company, was reached by the Executive Committee of NRECA when it assembled during the national convention in Buffalo last month. State Coordinator A. E. Becker reported at the meeting of the state-wide Association board in Springfield last month.

In allowing this sum, the National Association culminated a series of discussions concerning payment of litigation costs which started after former NRECA President E. J. Stoneman told delegates at the Illinois state-wide convention last August that the national organization would defray half of the expenses in the "Geneseo Case" because of its significance to all REA cooperatives throughout the country.

Northern Illinois Power company successfully sought an injunction re-

(Turn to Page Four)

## Plan GI Job Training Program For REA Co-ops



Interrupting their all-day session devoted to the GI job training program, members of the state-wide job training and safety committee lunched together at the Abraham Lincoln hotel, Springfield. Left to right: D. B. Bidle, instructor; E. L. Hayes, job training and safety instructor of Indiana, a guest; A. F. Lentz, (committee secretary), manager of Southeastern Electric co-op, Harrisburg; T. H. Hafer, manager, Corn Belt Electric co-op, Bloomington; Dean Searls, (committee chairman), manager, Adams Electric co-op, Camp Point; L. C. Marvel, manager, Western Illinois Electric co-op, Carthage; Lee Leonard, line foreman at Western; R. J. Gallagher, line foreman, Illini Electric co-op, Champaign; John S. Waggoner, manager, Coles-Moultrie Electric co-op, Mattoon; Jack Sesney, line foreman, Norris Electric co-op, Newton; Prof. B. W. Lehmann, head, Agricultural Engineering department, U. of Illinois; A. E. Becker, manager, Menard Electric cooperative, Petersburg; S. James Senes, assistant state supervisor, trade and industrial education division of the Illinois state board for vocational education.

## VETS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS ON REA CO-OP JOBS

Veterans employed by REA cooperatives in Illinois will soon be accorded the job-training benefits of the "GI Bill of Rights" through a program currently being formulated by the state-wide job training and safety committee in conjunction with the Veterans Administration and the Illinois state Board for Vocational Education.

Meeting in Springfield last month with S. James Senes, assistant state supervisor for trade and industrial education, the committee devoted its all-day session to discussion of the GI training program and completed the preliminary steps for putting it into operation in the REA co-ops in Illinois.

Under the job training provisions of the GI Bill, the Veterans Administration will pay veterans the differential between the apprentice wages of the employer and the full scale wage of the trained employee.

For example, an apprentice lineman on an REA cooperative would be paid an established wage according to a pre-determined scale. If eligible for benefits under the GI training program, a veteran would receive from the Federal Government an amount each month equal to the difference between his apprentice pay and the amount paid by the co-op to its linemen.

### Declining Scale

As the co-op increases the wages of its apprentice veterans, the Government's payment would decrease. When the ex-GI has attained the position of a full-fledged employee in his job classification, the co-op wages would automatically reach full scale and his benefits from the Government would cease altogether.

Women are eligible on an equal basis with men for the benefits of the GI job training program. A discharged veteran should first call on the Veteran's Officer in his own county where he will be given assistance, if needed, in completing Form No. 1950 which, when acted upon by the Veterans Administration, will obtain for him a certificate of eligibility showing the extent of the benefits due in accordance with his length of service in uniform.

Amended in January, the GI Bill no longer carries any age restrictions for veterans and makes all eligible for certain benefits. Disabled veterans, however, are classified differently

## DEADLINE DILEMMA

In announcing the change in publication dates for the ILLINOIS REA NEWS in the last issue, some confusion has arisen as to the deadlines for editorial and advertising copy. A number of inquiries have been received asking for the change in deadlines.

Except for this month, when the NEWS will go to press with its MAY issue on April 29, future deadlines will remain the same. All who wish to send items for publication should mail them as early as possible each month, but not later than the 15th if they are to be received in time for the current issue.

## WEC Representatives At Illinois Meeting

William V. Thomas, manager of Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, Norristown, Pa., WEC attorney, and Nelson W. Ross, advertising manager of the Publications Department, met with the state-wide Association board in Springfield, March 20, to discuss arrangements for continuing the publishing the Illinois REA News cooperatively with the Wisconsin state-wide publication.

A committee of the Illinois board attended the meeting of the Wisconsin state-wide board at Madison on March 27, to continue the discussions in connection with the joint publication of the two papers. Action has not yet been taken on the renewal of the contract for publication by WEC of the Illinois paper.

and should seek assistance through their Veteran's Officer under provisions of Public Law No. 16 which takes into consideration any handicaps they may have and which entitles them to other benefits from the Veterans Administration.

### Starting Dates

Benefits of the job training program for veterans in REA cooperative jobs will be made available after the details of the plan have been completed. An application for participation in the program was made December 19 and an effort will be made by Supervisor Senes to obtain benefits for veterans already on co-op jobs, made retroactive to the December date. If this is not possible, benefits for those already working will be started as soon

(Turn to Page Four)

## MANAGERS MOVE TO DEAL WITH LABOR PROBLEMS ON CO-OPS

With REA cooperatives on the threshold of the greatest period of expansion in their 11-year history, the problems of labor and manpower for construction were placed first on the list of matters brought up for discussion at the meeting of the state-wide manager's association in Springfield last month.

A committee was appointed to meet with D. A. Fleming, head of REA's labor relations division, to discuss the Illinois labor situation as it affects construction on cooperative projects. An effort will be made by the committee to reach a better understanding of labor's demands as they affect electric contractors and the co-ops themselves, where force account construction is contemplated.

Arrangements were made to meet with Mr. Fleming at the Abraham Lincoln hotel, Springfield. Named to the committee were: Herbert Downey, (chairman) manager of Tri-County Electric, Mt. Vernon; Stanley R. Farris, manager, Illinois Rural Electric, Winchester; T. M. Brady, manager, Eastern Illinois Electric, Paxton; V. C. Kallal, manager, Southeastern Illinois Electric, Greenville; and A. E. Becker, manager of Menard Electric, Petersburg, who will serve on the committee in his dual capacity as a manager and as state coordinator, representing the Association of Illinois Electric cooperatives.

### Optimistic Note

An optimistic note in the labor situation and in the problems created by the almost total absence of construction bids by electric contractors, was injected by the report that the rural electric contractors refused to continue with the National Electric Contractors Association in that organization's agitation for legislation to prevent REA from discriminating against contractors who are at the same time working for utilities.

The rural contractors have branched off, formed their own organization, refused to affiliate with the NECA, and passed unanimously a resolution favoring REA's contract policies. A committee of the Illinois manager's association went to Chicago at the time of the NECA convention to confer with representatives of the electric contractor's association.

After their scheduled discussions, the managers heard a talk by Norbert

## Congress Says No Discrimination In Letting Contracts

In approving the \$250,000,000 loan authorization for the Rural Electrification Administration, the House of Representatives stipulated that REA may not discriminate in the letting of construction contracts against contractors who happen simultaneously to be building lines for private power companies in the same area.

Approval of the \$250,000,000 loan authorization for REA makes certain that this sum will be made available for the agency in the fiscal year starting July 1. The Senate traditionally restores cuts if they are made by the House in public power appropriations.

The recently passed \$100,000,000 REA deficiency appropriation bill which the House sent to the Senate recently, was reported favorably out of a House-Senate conference committee after an agreement was reached on disputed items. The measure was returned to the House for further action.

The \$100,000,000 loan authorization in the bill for REA was not in dispute, but disagreement over other items had threatened to hold up the funds, designed to tide REA over until July 1, when the 1947 fiscal year starts.

These actions by the Congress assured that REA will have \$550,000,000 for loan authorizations during the fiscal years starting July 1, 1945, and ending June 30, 1947.

R. Malone, engineer for Copper Wire Engineering Association, Washington, D. C., on construction practices for overhead installation of bare copper and copperweld copper conductors. He discussed the technical phases of construction as it relates to stringing to final sag values and delineated the process for installing conductor for new lines. A round-table discussion followed in which Malone answered questions.

Attending the meeting were: Lane Walker, T. H. Hafer, A. F. Lentz, V. C. Kallal, L. C. Marvel, Ray Grigsby,

(Turn to Page Three)

## Your Cooperation Is Needed By The Illinois REA News

A great deal of thought, time, and effort, went into the preparation of the questionnaire which appeared on the two center pages of the February Illinois REA News.

Only a few minutes are required to fill out this questionnaire and mail it to the publication office at 122 South Sixth St., Petersburg.

Designed to obtain information which will be tremendously helpful in making improvements in the Illinois REA News as wartime restrictions are lifted, this questionnaire must be returned to be effective. Yet there has been a disappointing response. Many thousands more must come in if tabulations are to contain any real significance.

We believe that Illinois cooperative members are truly cooperative! Will you help us prove it by going back to the February issue, spending a few minutes filling out the questionnaire, and mailing it today? If you have mislaid your February copy, stop in at your co-op office and fill out one of the questionnaires available there.



# Editorial Page

## Illinois REA News

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

A. D. MUELLER, Editor

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## DON'T GRIPE — ELECT!

Members of REA cooperatives, being human like everybody else, have an inclination sometimes to criticize the management or the actions of their board of directors without doing anything about it besides making comments among themselves and their neighbors.

Yet there isn't anything a manager would rather have, from time to time, than constructive criticism of his methods for conducting the affairs of the cooperative. He is involved, in his daily work, with the details of an organization dedicated to providing uninterrupted service to the farmsteads connected to an electrical system often stretching out over several counties. It is almost impossible for him, therefore, to find time to make periodical tours of inquiry to ask members if they have any suggestions to offer on the management of their cooperative's affairs. Unless they are seeking a favor or in need of information, co-op members seldom call on the manager in his office.

Much the same situation exists in relation to the members of a cooperative's board of directors. These men are charged with the policy-making problems of the co-op rather than with its direct operation, (although some directors mistakenly attempt to interfere with the manager's authority as the executive head of the co-op) and it would be helpful to the directors if members would discuss with them, from time to time, matters of mutual concern in the conduct of the cooperative's business.

There are few organizations more democratic in nature than an REA cooperative. It is within the jurisdiction of the members at every turn, to make changes in the personnel of the board of directors, and through the Board, of the operating staff itself, including the manager, if the co-ops affairs are not run to suit the members—who are themselves the owners!

In the past several weeks we have had occasion to observe the workings of several Illinois cooperatives at their annual meetings—to observe at first hand, the democratic machinery of the membership taking a direct hand in the affairs of their cooperative.

It came as something of a

surprise to us, therefore, when we heard small groups of members, talking informally between sessions of the regular meeting, discussing this director or that one, and lamenting that there weren't more changes from year to year so that all sections of the distribution system could feel they had been properly represented on the administrative board of the co-op.

"The same board members just get re-elected year after year!" was one complaint we heard repeatedly.

Why, we were compelled to wonder, doesn't the membership elect new directors if there is reason to seek a change? Why should dissatisfaction take form in discussions off the floor of the annual meeting when the real purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the members to express themselves?

Reluctantly we were forced to the conclusion that those members who express dissatisfaction over the re-election of board members fall into the same classification as the citizen who constantly gripes about government administration but never votes at the general elections!

Yet cooperative affairs, where an alert and intelligent membership takes a hand in the business, are run smoothly and without friction, which proves that the system is right and that where dissatisfaction is rampant, the members are wrong.

At one of the annual meetings we attended, the president of the cooperative announced in advance of the meeting that he would not be a candidate for re-election as a member of the board which automatically meant he would not be eligible to re-election as president. This gentleman had served on the board of his cooperative from its earliest days, was one of the first to sign an application for service and his farm was one of the first connected to the newly energized lines. He had worked loyally and diligently in behalf of the cooperative and his services were greatly appreciated by the members themselves.

"It is a healthy thing for the officers and board members to change from time to time," this retiring president explained in answering the question why he chose to step out. "I have a great deal of work to do in my own business and feel that I should be unfair to the co-op if I attempted to continue in the presidency. Anyway, I think it is time somebody else took over—new blood on the Board is a good thing."

That attitude, we are convinced, exemplifies the finest kind of cooperative spirit, and surely other officers of cooperatives who have clung to their directorships year after year would do well to study this example and consider whether the interests of their own cooperatives might not be better served if they stepped aside to permit "new blood" to infuse the deliberations of the board of directors.

At another cooperative annual meeting recently, the slate of candidates selected by the nominating committee failed to

include a selection from one section of the co-op which had repeatedly requested the privilege of being represented on the board.

When the cut-and-dried election procedure started at the annual meeting, a spokesman for this neglected section arose and offered a nomination from the floor.

When the ballots were counted a new member of the board took his place with the others! He had been properly elected by those from his area who believed firmly in the democratic processes of an REA cooperative and who rallied to his support with sufficient votes to unseat a director who had served for nearly ten years.

In presenting their own man as a candidate, those who supported the nominee from the floor expressed appreciation for the excellent services rendered by the man displaced, making clear they had no dissatisfaction with his record as a director. They merely exercised their right to be represented on the governing board of their own organization!

This too, is a healthy example of democratic procedure in an REA cooperative. It could profitably be followed by other co-op members at their annual meetings. Certainly it is more effective than are small groups standing around muttering criticism but not offering a constructive program of their own!

REA cooperatives are democratic and the members should be willing to have the courage of their convictions in putting into office those they believe will best serve the interest of all. Otherwise they have forfeited their right to criticize.

We do not suggest for a moment that co-op members should work for a wholesale house-cleaning of their boards of directors at each annual meeting. It requires some little time for a board member to acquire the insight and knowledge of cooperative affairs which will make him of value to the organization. But where board members have served year after year without particular distinction, it behooves the members to replace them with new directors who will bring fresh viewpoints and enthusiasm to the difficult task of governing co-op affairs.

### CHEAP HIRED MAN

One kilowatt hour of electricity, with a man to guide its power, can milk 20 cows and churn 70 pounds of butter, according to figures of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The same amount of electricity can elevate 250 bushels of grain, hoist 3 tons of hay or saw one-half to one cord of wood.

### UNO Gives Co-ops Status

The General Assembly of the United Nations Organizations, at its final session in London, Feb. 14, confirmed the action of the Political and Security Committee recommending permanent consultative status for the International Cooperative Alliance in the Economic and Social Council. The International Cooperative Alliance is a world federation of cooperatives composed of the national cooperative organizations of 37 countries with a total membership of 85,000,000 families. It is the largest voluntary economic organization in the world and includes both rural and urban cooperatives throughout the world.

## GETS TOKEN OF APPRECIATION



Frank Kimber of Dongola, retiring president of Southern Illinois Electric cooperative, is shown holding the lifetime pen and pencil set inscribed with his name and "REA co-op" in gold letters, a farewell gift from the employees of the co-op office.

Kimber requested permission to retire from the board to devote his full time to other business but expressed sincere regret in being disassociated with the members of the co-op staff. He had served on the board since the cooperative was organized in 1938 and as president for the past three years. He was one of the first in Union county to sign an application

for service and solicited others in his area as members of the new co-op. Although retiring as president he will continue as a member of the co-op on his farm four miles west of Dongola.

Active in county-wide agricultural affairs, in addition to his service as president of the co-op, Kimber served since early in the war on the United States Department of Agriculture war board, a board which coordinated the various farm programs and cooperated with the selective service and ration boards in passing on deferments for farm occupations and on applications and certificates of necessity. He is also a member of the Union county ration board.

## RAYBURN SCORES—

(From Page One)

to defeat an appropriation through which the Southwestern Power Administration would obtain \$23,000,000 for the forthcoming fiscal year to be used for the initial construction of what will ultimately be a five-state transmission grid from a 770,000 kw. fuel-electric generating installation.

With Washington again "seething with utility lobbyists," according to the Speaker, he continued:

"They are now before a subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations where we have asked for a little appropriation to carry on the business of the Southwestern Power Administration. They are in there to kill it off. Oh, they are great friends of rural electrification now, but they fought it when the bill was under consideration! Why, I never know, because in 90 cases out of 100, there was no place on earth for the rural electrification set-ups to buy their power except from the power companies.

"I simply want to warn you who are in favor of the Rural Electrification program and the use of the power that is generated at these dams, that properly used and sold to rural electrification districts and public bodies, and amortized over the years to come, the expense of those dams will be paid," Rayburn asserted.

### Serious Opposition

In his position as Speaker of the House, Rayburn ordinarily exercises his prerogative of speaking from the Floor only when he feels the importance of the House deliberations war-

rants his intervention.

His discussion of the public power program indicated the seriousness with which its proponents regarding the concerted efforts of private utilities to block publicly owned generation, transmission and distribution of power.

His address to the House in defense of the rural electrification program through REA and other public power agencies culminated a series of rebuttals aimed at the utility spokesmen in both branches of the national legislature which have been made since the activities of the National Association of Electric Companies and other industry representatives before the House and Senate committees began in earnest some months ago.

## THIS 'n THAT ABOUT OTHER CO-OPS

The President of the Republic of Colombia, Alberto Lleryas Camargo, has issued a decree endorsing the Inter-American School of Cooperatives which is being set up to train cooperative leaders for the Latin American countries. Preliminary plans for the school call for ten persons to be sent from South America to the United States for a period of intensive study. The school will be under the joint direction of the University of Kansas City, the Consumer's Cooperative Association, and Rochdale Institute, national training school for consumer cooperation.



## Along the Line in ILLINOIS WITH DAVE MUELLER

One of the most heartwarming examples of the cooperative spirit we have heard lately happened up in Adams county near Mendon and it had nothing whatsoever to do with the distribution of electricity. Rather it was the more historical type of farmer-cooperation—the kind that once built log cabins and created brave settlements as America moved westward across the great plains.

It seems that William Rowbotham, who lives a mile south of Mendon, was hospitalized for nearly two months, suffering a complicated case of pneumonia, and while he was in the hospital, his precious corn crop remained in the fields threatened with complete loss because there was no help to be had to harvest it.

Then William was brought home on a recent Sunday and his friends were glad to see him again. Monday morning, bright and early, he saw the road to his place filled with teams and wagons and the voices of shouting men greeted him as these teams turned into his yard. But they did not stop this time nor did the men come into the house to chat with him. Instead, the wagons continued on into the corn fields, where 32 husky farmers turned in and gathered the crop, putting it all away in the cribs by mid-afternoon!

When the corn was all in, the men came in for hot doughnuts and coffee hurriedly prepared by William's wife and Mrs. Mable and Mrs. Ona Rowbotham. It was all like a big, impromptu picnic with the men laughing and having a good time and celebrating the harvest home.

"Everybody felt good and went home feeling fine, leaving William feeling the same," Walter Evans, a member of the group declared. He penned a little verse to express how the men felt about their afternoon's work:

"A favor is that kindly deed . . . Beyond a friendly smile . . . That comforts someone else on earth . . . And makes this life worthwhile . . . It may involve a fortune or . . . The fraction of a cent . . . Or just some little effort that . . . Is generously spent. We may be asked to do it or . . . The thought may be our own . . . In any case it is the way . . . Our charity is shown. It is a little sacrifice . . . That we are glad to make . . . To brighten up the sky a bit . . . For someone else's sake. And often we consider it . . . A privilege to extend . . . Because there is no greater deed . . . Than helping out a friend."

Those who took part in this neighborly act of kindness were: Charles Nutt, John Keppner, John Allen, George Daugherty, Arthur Schroeder, Marvin Price, Elmer Hilgenbrink, Loyd Stockhecke, Willis Wayatt, Elmer Cornwell, William Dickerman, William Austin, Alva Mixer, Ralph Reichert, John White, Louis Rice, Wilber Kerker, George Rowbotham, Albert Evans, Albert Rowbotham, Fred Shupe, Herman Dudley, Lawrence Smith, Harvey Evans, Elmer Evans, Harry Evans, Walter Evans, Russell Evans, James Evans, Robert Evans, Duke Price and Gerald Finley.

We never fail to enjoy seeing the guy we succeeded as the author of this monthly column in the Illinois REA News . . . one Russell Gingles whom many readers met personally when he performed his tricks of magic at annual meetings or visited their farms in his quest of news and feature articles.

So it was with a renewed sense of

pleasure that we found Russ at the fourth annual convention of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Buffalo early this month. He appeared wearing a snappy new suit and giving every indication of having turned into a smooth New Yorker in the several months since he last rolled around Illinois brushing elbows with our good farmer friends.

But Russ didn't fail, for a minute, to take advantage of the situation he found in Buffalo. Harvey Schermerhorn, editor of the Wisconsin REA News and this scribbler were busy with pencil and pad and camera, rushing here and there in a lather, trying to chronicle the important events of the convention while Russ moved around with quiet dignity as a casual observer and visitor.

"Alright you guys, get busy and get the news!" Russ admonished as

he sank into an easy chair and filled his pipe. "It does my heart good to see you busy boys working like mad while I look on!"



So we pointed the camera at him and snapped this shot to bring to his old friends. We want everybody to know that Russ Gingles is really just the same as when you knew him last and that the city really hasn't bothered him much at all.

"Fine thing! Fine thing!" Russ exclaimed, when the flash-bulb illuminated his camera-shy countenance just as he settled down comfortably for a smoke.

There is always a certain mortality rate in news pictures and so we cus-

tomarily take several from different angles to make sure we have a photographic record of new events when the finished product comes out of the dark room.

In selecting a picture of the distinguished REA guests who attended the breakfast given for them by the Illinois contingent, we found in each picture that all the guests were smiling contentedly, ample indication that the food was to their taste and that the discussion was interesting, and, at times, amusing.

Then we came across a picture showing our state coordinator, A. E. Becker, reading something from a paper.

Our memory fails us in trying to recall just what it was Mr. Becker disclosed to the group from his script, but we were forcibly struck with the appearance of REA Administrator Wickard (sitting next to state-wide board President Schweickhardt) who, as you can see, is almost scowling into the camera . . . or is he deep in thought?

Anyway, the breakfast was considered by everybody as a huge success and the Administrator and his staff were most generous in answering questions fired at them by managers and board members who sought helpful suggestions in carrying forward the operations of their respective co-

operatives in Illinois.

As a matter of fact, the Administrator took a lively part in the discussions and contributed some sprightly humor to the otherwise business-like session which followed the meal itself.

### MANAGERS MOVE TO—

(From Page One)

Dean Searls, S. R. Faris, Owen Chaney, A. C. Barnes, N. B. Elliot, Geo. Endicott, Raymond S. Holt, Joseph Heimann, Herbert Downey, L. C. Groat, B. F. Snively, and Fred E. Darr, representing A. E. Becker, who attended the board of directors meeting of the state-wide association held concurrently at the Abraham Lincoln hotel in Springfield.

### WEATHERPROOF

Neoprene is the name given to the synthetic rubber used for insulation of electric wire and cable that is exposed to the elements. It is impervious to heat, cold, water, oil and other deteriorating agents.

### RADIO HUSHER

An automobile radio loses volume when the car passes under the steel superstructure of a bridge because the steel acts as a shield, reducing the field strength of any station.

"If a line's worth building,  
it's worth building right!"



"Right" means a lot of things, when you're talking about a power line; sound engineering to assure maximum service with a minimum of maintenance—quality materials, with the same purpose—ample capacity for future growth of loads.

Lines built with Alcoa A.C.S.R. according to standards recommended by Alcoa are *right*. Well over a million miles of A.C.S.R. are in service today, proving this to be true.

If you're planning a new line or extensions to old, Alcoa engineers will be pleased to help you select the A.C.S.R. you need. Get in touch with the near-by Alcoa office, or write ALUMINUM COMPANY OF AMERICA, 18 Gulf Bldg., Pittsburgh 19, Pa.



**ALCOA A-C-S-R**  
ALUMINUM CABLE STEEL REINFORCED





## NEWS FROM Menard

Petersburg, Ill.

A. E. BECKER, Mgr.

### YOUR ANNUAL MEETING

Elsewhere in this issue of your Illinois REA News is a story on the Ninth Annual Meeting of your Cooperative. Be sure and read it.

#### 665 Attend

Members and friends began to arrive early; when the meeting was called to order at 1:00 p. m. by President Colby, Ella Louise Cutright and her three assistants had registered 665 persons. There were more than enough members present to make a quorum, in addition to several hundred proxies which had been mailed in.

#### Board of Directors Elected

A Nominating Committee was appointed at a regular meeting of your Board of Directors held January 10, 1946, for the purpose of nominating nine members to be elected at the Ninth Annual Meeting to be held February 23, 1946.

This committee on nominations met February 5th and nominated the following members for election:

Mike Basso, Homer T. Brown, Ben Cave, Henry B. Colby, E. Clyde Lewis, Wm. H. Montgomery, H. D. Shelhammer, C. Nelson Worner and Archie Zook.

These nine members were all ready serving as your Board of Directors.

At your Annual Meeting held February 23, 1946, these members being non-opposed and as no further nominations were made from the floor, they were re-elected by a unanimous vote. This vote also serves as an expression of confidence and appreciation by members for these nine directors who have served so faithfully to build a permanent organization to bring REA service to farmsteads in the eight counties served by your Cooperative.

#### Committee on Nominations

Members of this committee were: A. T. Ainsworth, Paschal Allen, Everett Burns, H. Corbin, Paul T. Lynn, Clyde R. Martin, Wm. C. Shaffer, Jr.

#### Speakers

E. C. Collier, REA Field Representative, extended greetings from Administrator Claude R. Wickard, Rural Electrification Administration, to members and visitors present.

Mr. Collier spoke of the continued growth and expansion of the Menard Electric Cooperative since it was first organized. During the past seven years, as Field Representative for the REA Administration in Illinois, he has been in position to observe the consistent gain in its membership, kilowatt usage and extensions to un-electrified farms. Mr. Collier spoke highly of the work of your manager and board-of-directors for their constructive program. He also complimented them for the fine development of a definite public relations program.

Ralph R. Parks, Agriculture Engineer, University of Illinois College of Engineering, discussed "Looking Ahead in Farm Modernization." He emphasized the intelligent use of electricity to receive maximum benefits in operating appliances and equipment. His observations while in the Pacific theatre of war of the little use made of electricity in rural areas indicated how fortunate farm people in our section are that do have it.

It was a pleasure to have Mr. Parks with us again this year. Ralph made his last appearance at our 1942 Annual Meeting prior to enlisting in the U. S. Army. He has but recently returned from overseas to resume his work with the U. of I. Extension Service.

#### Meet the Editor

A. D. (Dave) Mueller, Editor of your Illinois REA News was introduced by Mr. Becker. He spoke briefly on the opportunity Cooperative members have in placing vital information before their representatives

and senators in Congress on matters affecting legislation beneficial to the farmer and to the REA program. Mr. Mueller also stated that the Illinois REA News was sponsored by the Menard co-op during its early days and he paid tribute to the manager and board for the part they played in fostering the paper. The paper, he said, endeavored to keep the membership of the cooperatives informed on news of mutual interest, to furnish helpful material in the use of electricity on the farm, and to entertain. He said he welcomed suggestions from readers on what they would like to have in the paper and he told them that a questionnaire in the February issue would offer them an opportunity to furnish the editor with helpful information in a convenient form. He also reminded his listeners that they could earn \$1.00 by writing a letter that appears in print to the "Editor's Mailbox" and urged them to express their ideas in letters to the "mailbox."

#### New Members Present

There were a number of new members present for the first time. To them a most cordial welcome was extended by the older members, the board of directors and cooperative personnel.

Many new members in attendance who are looking forward to receiving cooperative service for their farmsteads just as soon as it can be extended to them. Assurances were given them that every effort is being made to connect them and that the manager and co-op is as anxious to serve them as they are to be served.

#### Entertainment

The Gorsek orchestra, Springfield, gave a short musical program prior to the "call to order" by the president. This trio of excellent musicians also played for the group singing and their music really clicked with their audience. The group singing was led by member Dillard Worner of Manito. Accompanied by the orchestra, his spirited leading was an inspiration and the Menard co-op members really turned out a fine job of community vocals.

#### Mental Wizard

Elzie R. Bown of Springfield, known as "The Memory Wizard" presented a fascinating demonstration of mental gymnastics. He repeated columns of figures in long lists which he memorized in a few seconds; he called the serial numbers on dollar bills after having them read to him once, then waiting awhile, and calling them back. He also named the day of the week of any year his audience called to him, and could tell which day people were married, or had children, etc. Bown was featured in Robert Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" show in New York City and in his column of the same name in syndicated newspapers.

#### Sound Movies

One hour and twenty minutes of sound movies shown between 11:00 a. m. and 12:30 p. m. by Fred Darr, aided early arrivals to pass away the time. Among the subjects shown were "The Bell Telephone Hour," "Farm Oddities," and "The Dawn of Better Living." The latter film was given a preview showing at our meeting. It is a Walt Disney film in technicolor and is a film which every one should see. The coloring is vivid and the picture projects future wiring and construction of post war homes. It is sponsored by Westinghouse.

#### Aid With Meeting

Albert L. Hinrichs, line foreman and members of the maintenance department secured and arranged the chairs. This group also assisted Harry Houseworth who served as head usher. There were ample seats for all and the boys are to be congratulated on the ease with which they took care of the large crowd.

#### Now For The Awards

Twenty-nine attendance awards, valued at \$225.00 were made available, by Cooperating dealers for members attending the Ninth Annual Meeting.

Awards, donors and recipients are

listed as follows:

Campbell's (Chick Raising) Machine, Illinois State Hatchery, Springfield—H. E. Nall, Mason City.

(Toastermaster) Automatic Toaster, Westinghouse Electric Supply, Peoria—F. Willouby, Sherman.

(Ironmaster) Automatic Electric Iron, U. S. Electric Co., Springfield—Orville Hamblin, Bath.

(Sampson) Automatic Electric Iron, Boeker's Motor Co., Petersburg—Gladys Lockwood, Topeka.

Two-lite Fluorescent light fixture, Boquett Electric Co., Petersburg—Don Waldron, Greenvew.

Two-lite Fluorescent light fixture, Koke Electric Co., Havana—Lawrence Cline, Athens.

Two-lite Fluorescent light fixture, Sears Roebuck Co., Springfield—O. C. Haggard, Athens.

One-lite Bathroom Fixture, Zempel Hardware Co., Havana—Russell Sisson, Kilbourne.

Table Lamp with shade, Wehner Brothers, Havana—Welby Pierce, Ashland.

Electric Poultry Water Warmer, Dour Implement Co., Virginia—George Bonnett, Petersburg.

Decorated Baking Dish, Layman's Hardware Co., Havana—Linn Birks, Niantic.

One-lite bathroom fixture, Thomson's Hardware Co., Petersburg—Louis Rahman, Tallula.

Infra-Ray-Red Lamp—The Gamble Store, Petersburg—Fred Hoesman, Chandlerville.

One Yard Light Complete, G. E. Supply Co., Springfield—Olin Kennedy, Forest City.

Trouble Light & Cord, Koester's Hardware Co., New Holland—Sam Brooks, Mason City.

Electric Heater with Fan, Savage Implement Co., Ashland—David Larson, Havana.

Electric (Broilmaster), Alkier's Appliances, Athens—C. B. Benscoter, Mason City.

Table Lamp with shade, Sears Roebuck & Co., Jacksonville—W. H. Montgomery, Petersburg.

Light Fixture for Bedroom—Menard Appliance Co., Petersburg—Harold Cochran, Alexander.

\$10.00 Credit coupon book, Montgomery Ward Co., Jacksonville—B. H. Cave, Easton.

G. E. Heating Pad, Frank Pease Hardware Co., Latham—Florabelle Schoon, Topeka.

(Telechron) Electric Alarm Clock, Graybar Electric Co., Peoria—Karl Kirby, Tallula.

(Cory) Coffee Brewer, Graybar Electric Co., Peoria—B. F. Bailey, Ashland.

5 qts. (Phillips) "66" Motor Oil, Stroh Oil Co., Oakford—Ambrose VanNattan, Greenvew.

5 qts. (Pen Royal) Motor Oil, Economy Auto Supply, Petersburg—Harry Tozer, Petersburg.

2½ lbs. (Cloverbloom) Cheese, Armour Creamery, Petersburg—Clarence Drake, Elkhart.

2½ lbs. (Cloverbloom) Cheese, Armour Creamery, Petersburg—Jesse Petefish, Alexander.

2½ lbs. (Cloverbloom) Cheese, Armour Creamery, Petersburg—Pluma Yocum, Riverson.

2½ lbs. (Cloverbloom) Cheese, Armour Creamery, Petersburg—Harry Thomson, Petersburg.

## VETS TO BE—

(From Page One)

as the program is put into operation.

An important point emphasized by Senes in outlining the GI training program to the state-wide committee was that veterans do not sacrifice their eligibility for benefits if they chose to change employment. If, after working on a co-op job they find they prefer another line of endeavor, they may go to another job and continue receiving government subsistence benefits of their new employer is operating under the same provision of the GI Bill.

Save burlap bags. Follow two rules: Use no hooks in handling bags, and open the bags by pulling the chain stitch—not by cutting.

## NEWS FROM Illinois Valley

Princeton, Ill.

JOHN H. WOLFE, Mgr.

### Project Statistics

Total Billed Members	2485
Revenue per Member	6.03
Average Consumption per Member	134
Number minimum bills	255
New Members Connected	36
Members disconnected	4
Total miles energized	1001

### NEW MEMBERS IN FEBRUARY

We extend a hearty welcome to the following new members connected during the month of February:

Chas. Myers, Jr., Dahinda; Robert Morgan, Victoria; George Benson, Victoria; Willard Smith, Dahinda; Charles Shallhorn, Zearing; R. D. Waggoner, Ottawa; J. H. Ransom, Princeton; Russell Lewis, Galva; Maurice Cofoid, Utica; V. E. Fox, Ottawa; Lester D. Johnson, LaSalle; Laurence Dale, Walnut; Carl Munson, Princeton; George Sauer, Princeton; Walter Smith, Princeton; W. B. McGinnis, Earlville; Henry Knepp, Walnut; John Buckley, Kewanee; Elmer Richter, Kewanee; Sigfred H. Isaacson, Woodhull; Virgil Reaber, Cambridge; W. W. Christini, Hennepin; Arthur Lund, Peru; Robert Simon, Princeton; Elwood Hessenberger, LaSalle; Kenneth Mulvaney, Sheridan.

### New Bookkeeper Assumes Position

We are happy to announce that our new bookkeeper, Richard A. Atkins, of Henry, Illinois, has assumed his position and is getting along very well. Dick was employed by our Board of Directors on February 12 and started his work the following day. We realize that the work has been entirely different and somewhat difficult to become acquainted with but we want to congratulate him on the progress which he has made and his fine spirit of cooperation he has shown. Dick is living for the present in Henry and expects to move to Princeton when possible.

### Congratulations!

We understand that congratulations are now in order for Mrs. Homer Morrison who celebrated her birthday February 15!

Also to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Doubler who are the parents of a fine baby boy born February 12.

Mrs. C. V. Hulteen, Buda, reports "Have just installed a new Bendix washer—and are we happy!"

### Regarding Trouble Calls!

It seems that many of you still do not have the correct numbers to call in case of outages or other trouble. You should have a card to hang on your phone that gives you that information. If you do not, please request it and we will be happy to mail you one. Those of you who do have cards, please check it to make sure that it is correct and that the numbers have not been changed since you received it. The correct numbers to call at this time are: Day phone—135, office at Princeton—Night phone—2926—John H. Wolfe residence or 288, —Milford Jontz residence or 2889—Floyd Christiansen residence. Arrangements are made so that there is someone to take your call at all times. When you call, you may call collect but if your call is refused you will know that we have received a report of the trouble. If you have something in the line of information that will help us locate the trouble, place the call collect and tell the operator you have outage information. We are always glad to accept your calls if know that we have already a report trouble. Please give your name, line and pole numbers and any other information you may have. Your cooperation in reporting outages promptly will be greatly appreciated.

### Cooperative Has REA Visitors

During the first few days of March, this Cooperative has had three REA representatives to visit the project. Those who have been here are Mr. George Dillon of the applications and loans division, Harry Clark of finance

division, and Mr. Reidelberger of applications and loans division.

### Member Comments

Mrs. Stanley Oberg sent in a letter with their moving notice and made the following comment: "We have enjoyed REA's current for nearly five years and have appreciated the service you have given us. It won't be many years until every farm is electrified, and that will mean a great deal of pleasure as well as many man-hours of labor saved for farmers."

When Malcolm Gustafson came in to the office on February 26th to pay his final bill, he stated that he is moving to the Spoon River Electric Cooperative area. He also stated that "If service there is half as good as it has been here, we'll be satisfied." In a letter informing us of their intention to move, Arnold Long said "So sorry we can't continue with your service, but we hope to in the near future."

Thanks, folks!

### Cooperative President Ill

We regret to announce that our president of the Board of Directors, Mr. L. F. Boyle, McNabb, Illinois, has been ill and confined to the Saint Margaret's Hospital in Spring Valley. We were informed by Mrs. Doyle that he has been making a good recovery and will be able to go home soon. It has been necessary for Mr. Boyle to miss two meetings of the Board of Directors and we sincerely hope that he will make a satisfactory recovery and be able to attend the next session.

### Outage—March 8

About the middle of afternoon on March 8, this Cooperative was the victim of a prolonged outage on its Mineral sub-station which serves some 1500 members on the W, P and X lines. The line belonging to the Illinois Power Company which feeds this sub-station was put out of service by the storm on that date. It was some 4½ or 5 hours before their line could be repaired and service restored to our sub-station. We experienced no trouble on our lines and are sorry that it was not in our power to do anything about this disturbance but we cannot deliver the power to you if we cannot get it from the supplier.

### Sympathy Extended

During the past few weeks, we have had reports of several deaths of members along our lines and wish to extend our sincere sympathy to the families of the following persons: John Goff, Claude Cochran, Pat Woods, Mrs. Verden Woods, and Mrs. Sarah R. Martin.

### Attend Convention

The convention of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association was held at the Statler Hotel in Buffalo, New York, on March 4, 5 and 6. Our manager and wife, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Wolfe, were privileged to attend this convention and have made favorable reports on the proceedings. The convention next year will be held in Spokane, Wash.

## NRECA ALLOWS—

(From Page One)

straining Farmers Mutual from building lines in the Annawan area after the co-op had secured clearance from the War Production Board. The power company then started building lines in the same area without WPB clearance.

Pending settlement of the case in the Henry county court, the co-op arranged an agreement with the power company for both to serve the farmers in the disputed territory with the express understanding that all lines would be acquired by one litigant or the other after the court rendered its decision.

The decision of the court was in favor of the co-op and by an agreement out of court, the division of the constructed lines was amicably settled. Payment of litigation costs were borne by the Association of Illinois Electric cooperatives but through a misunderstanding, the decision to allow the payment from the National Association was delayed until its Executive Committee met last month.



## NEWS FROM Adams

Camp Point, Ill.  
DEAN SEARLS, Supt.

### HONOR ROLL

The following are members of our Cooperative who have used more than 300 KWH during the past month:

Thomas D. Sorrell 1255, Edward Althoff 1241, Martin Sherrick 887, Robert E. Lawler, Jr. 845, Chester Miller 681, Herman Heitman, 645, Harry Sherrick 629, Mary Buhr 625, Louis Flesner 611, Earl Tenhouse 568, Emil Sherrick 557, S. R. Worman 555, M. Ray Ihrig 553, Royal W. Jackson 541, C. M. Ridings, 541, Philip D. Balzer 537, J. Roscoe Willard 527, Duncan Bros 525, Hubert Myers 525, Henry Ihrig 522, Anna B. Grubb 515, Willis Shriver 510, Victor Hapke 503, Walter Knorr 500, Zelma Waner 495, Earl Dralle 479, R. Wray McIntyre 479, J. O. McNeff 468, Roy Morton 465, Menhard Buss 453, I. W. Johnson 448, Arthur B. Walford 447, L. E. Pickinpaugh 443, William Eifert 440, Henry Cassens 437, Walter R. Thompson 435, Clyde Johnson 431, Albert A. Hillebrenner 430, Anna E. Aden 425, Tim H. Mast 421, Oscar Dedert 416, C. O. Thompson 412, John R. Roy 409, J. D. Blausner 405, Wm. D. Walkington 400, Tom Kirkpatrick 392, James H. Gunn 384, John Sargent 384, Ralph McCormick 374, Fred D. Keene 357, Henry H. Catron 354, Henry P. Aden 351, Wm. Harvey Bowen 343, Clyde Willard 340, Harry Dempsey 339, Ernest Peters 330, Thos. Bennett 320, C. W. Simon 318, Harm H. Aden 315, Theodore H. King 314, Ernest W. Flesner 312, Jacob Jacobsen 312, Elmer L. Paxton 310, Horace Blunt 300, Don Ewing 300, Alice B. Sterne 300, Glen Scharnhorst 300, Charles H. Teel 300, Ed Tenhouse 300.

### Commercial—400 KWH

Liberty High School 1416, Wheelhouse Coal Co. 804, H. P. Northern Tavern 769, Harry H. Hertzler 650, Town of Camden 609, Green Lantern Inn 584, James Easley 512, Clayton Waterworks 489, George Kestner Store 436, Ruth Miller 425.

### New Bookkeeper

We are happy to have with us Mr. Harvey L. Schmidt who began his duties as bookkeeper for the Co-op on February 25th. Mr. Schmidt recently received his discharge from the Army Air Forces where he held the rank of captain. During the greater part of his army service he was stationed at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas, where he held the position of Assistant Chief, Statistical Control Office, San Antonio Air Technical Service Command.

Mr. Schmidt is a graduate of the University of Illinois and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting. His home is Brighton, Illinois. At present he and his family are residing near Plainville with his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Larimore, members of this Cooperative. They expect to live in Camp Point in the near future. Mr. Schmidt succeeds Mr. P. R. White who is leaving our employ.

**Former Employee Returns To Co-op**  
Don Baker who was employed by this Cooperative before he entered the service in 1941 has returned to his job as a groundman with our line crew. Don saw much service overseas. He spent many months on New Caledonia and later served in the East Indies. Don says he is glad to be home—and we're glad to have you back, Don.

### ATTENTION!

The Cooperative office in Camp Point will close at noon on Saturday, beginning on April 6th.

Mr. John Sargent and Mr. Horner S. Myers, vice-president and secretary respectively, of the Co-op, attended the annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, held in Buffalo, New York, March 4th to 6th. The delegates report that the meeting was well-attended by representatives of 45 states, all with the common, objective of

keeping the REA alive and progressing.

Mr. Dean Searls, manager of the Co-op went to Springfield on Wednesday, March 13, to attend a meeting of the Illinois Safety and Job Training Committee, held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel. Mr. Searls is the chairman of the committee.

Mr. J. T. Early, field engineer for the Stanley Engineering Company of Muscatine, Iowa, arrived at our project on Monday, March 11, to begin the work of mapping the proposed lines for our "D" Section.

Mr. R. W. Reidelberger, field representative of the Applications and Loans Division of REA, called on us on March 7th.

Mr. A. B. O'Donnell, auditor for REA, came to our office on March 4th and for the past week has been engaged in auditing the books and records of the Co-op. He has been assisted in his work by his wife, Mrs. Theresa O'Donnell.

Mr. Alexander Puls, field engineer for the design and construction division of REA called at our office on February 14th, and again on March 14th when he was accompanied by Mr. Karl L. Backer, field engineer for the northern district of Illinois.

Mr. D. W. Bidle, safety instructor, called on us on March 7th and accompanied Mr. Searls on a trip to the new extension that is under construction near Mt. Sterling.

Mrs. Elezebeth Jahn, former billing clerk and cashier for this Co-op, returned to us on February 25th, 26th and 28th to assist with the extra work in connection with our annual meeting. We were glad to have you back, Beth!

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Johnson was the scene of a Cooperative party on Friday evening, March 1st. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were recently married, and the employees presented them with a gift. The evening was spent informally at cards and in pleasant conversation. At a late hour, refreshments of home-made ice cream, cookies, and coffee were served. Those who were present besides the hosts were: Mr. and Mrs. Dean Searls, Paul and Deanne; Mr. and Mrs. James Carpenter and Marjorie; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Beckman; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Dempsey; Mr. Roger Baker; Mr. Robert Wilson and Helen; and Mr. Fred Vollbracht.

The Cooperative wishes to take this opportunity to thank all those people who contributed to making our annual meeting a success. We wish to express our appreciation particularly to the ladies who brought pies and sandwiches for the lunch, and who helped with the serving. We think you did a fine job. Let us know if you enjoyed the annual meeting.

We have here at the office an 8-inch pie tin which was left at the Community Building the day of the annual meeting. It is not marked, but the owner may claim it by calling at the Cooperative office in Camp Point.

A safe kite flyer observes the following rules—

1. He never flies his kite near electric wires of any kind. Kites with metal parts are dangerous if they fall across electric wires.

2. He never uses wire or twine that has wire in it for a kite string. Wet string is dangerous because it conducts electricity.

3. He never runs across streets or highways while flying his kite.

4. He never climbs poles or trees to knock down kites caught there.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome the following members who were recently connected to our lines. The list is unusually long this month because there was no board meeting in February. Therefore there were more memberships than usual to be accepted at the March meeting of the Board of Directors.

W. E. and Vera Gaddis, Harvey E. and Pearl H. Beatty, W. Henry and Geneva M. Dean, William H. and Hildreth Orr, Carl H. and Edna L. Sargent, Emmett and Dorothy Lehne, Arthur and Emma F. Aden, John F. Fessler, J. E. and Katherine Richardson, Chester M. and Julia Root, Otis Tribbey, Russell and Frances Burn-

side, Luster and Marguerite Ackers, Ralph and Josephine Griesbaum, Anna Krupps, Carl R. and Mary A. Smith, Alvin Forsythe, Lawrence and Rosemary Smith, Roy D. and Mary E. Dorsey, Wm. and Winnie Gerdes, Elmer and Dorothy Sharrow, Arthur A. and Virginia L. Herren, Cecil and Mary Hale, Isabel and Herschel Reeves, Columbus and Nora Austin, May and R. H. Farlow, Edward and Judy McCall Niekamp, Jr., Donald and Agnes McGartland, Rev. and Grace Pope, John L. and Beth J. Hofmeister, M. M. and Wilma Anderson, Everett H. and Elsie M. Cady, Earl and Caroline Schenk, Wm. and Dolly Manyx, John B. and Alice R. Dean, Pokeberry School Dist. No. 72, Harold J. and Anna C. Wagner, Wilbur and Grace Stephenson, Everett C. and Elizabeth E. Smith, Robert and Doris Sapp, Frank and Clara Knuffman, H. G. and Emma A. Keppner, Fred and Irma Griffin, Henry and Freda Mae Friday, M. H. and Florine Flesner, Keith R. and Katherine Detrick, Ray V. and Eva Daniels, Bert and Nina Browning, Kenneth and Elva Ruth Van Blair, Russell and Marie Marshall, Gerald R. and Ethyl Mae Tenhouse, Russell A. and Elinor B. Miller, John A. and Lottie Sue Schone, P. T. and Grace Hignight, Guy and Ermond McConahay, Wm. and Marjorie McDowell, W. L. and Nettie Rigg, Aubra L. and Esther Vest, Mrs. Lenora L. Ritchey, Emmett E. Newingham, Grace and Allen Cline, Grant N. and Audrey B. Nolan, Ida Settles, Oltman and Ollie M. Eilers.

The shipment of disconnect switches to be installed below the meter sockets on new wiring jobs has finally arrived. If you have asked for a meter socket and been told that it could not be issued until the service breaker switches arrived, you may now obtain your meter bases.

The installation of the disconnect switch is a new REA requirement which was explained to the wiremen at a meeting held in January. Since that time your Cooperative has been trying to secure a supply of these switches. They are to be purchased by the member, but the Cooperative is attempting to keep a supply on hand until such time as the local suppliers can obtain them.

### New Appliances

Osborne Boyd, electric iron.  
Kenneth Burrow, refrigerator.  
James R. Clark, oilburned in furnace.

Geo. R. Deweese, cream separator.  
Carl Dingson, home freezer.  
Sherman Drawwe, washer.  
R. L. Emmert, sweeper.  
F. H. Ewen, coffee maker.  
Don Ewing, hot water heater.  
Ed Futhy, 3-way floor lamp.  
Doyle O. Gillenwater, meat grinder.  
Elmer H. Grawe, clock.  
Luther Heubner, toaster.

Ed Hillberner, 7 pig brooders.  
Henry H. Hippen, refrigerators.  
Oren Irvin, cream separator, pump jack.

E. A. Kuntemier, room heater.  
Albert Longlet, refrigerator.  
John Longlett, hot water heater.  
Roger Loos,  $\frac{3}{4}$  h.p. motor.  
A. L. Loring, range.  
Chester Miller, stoker for furnace.  
Harlan L. Nelson, washer, water fountain.

Wm. Orr, sump pump.  
E. A. Robb, pump, poultry water heater.

Walter Schmidt, water fountain.

John Schoonover, range, pig brooder.  
Chas. Shrader, 3 h.p. motor.

Virgil Spillers, heating pad, iron, sweeper, room heater.

George H. Swaney, refrigerator.  
Lloyd Toland, radio.  
Carl Ufkes, heating pad.

Squire Warrington, automatic ES Squire Warrington, automatic washer.

John D. Young, heating pad.  
Mrs. Pauline Green, heating pad.

Louise Hoelscher, phonograph.  
Harry Hanke, milking machine.

J. T. Utter, mixer and 2 brooders.  
The following are some helpful notes received on meter cards the past month. Again, we urge you to use your meter cards to call our attention

to such matters. Also we'd like to hear just how you like your service!

I would like to call attention to the wires from the transformer to the house. They're within reach and are touching the telephone wires.—Joseph Klausner, Quincy, Ill.

We moved to Ursa Saturday, February 16. Kenneth Van Blair in place the same day.—Chris Baker, Ursa.

Have tree would like to have removed.—Osbourne Boyd, Rushville.

Reading 1700 when we came here. We moved to house vacated by Karl Greers, January 28. Change address to Ray, Ill.—Mrs. Lenora Ritchey.

Early Settler—one who pays his bill by the 15th of the month.

**Care For Your Electric Brooder**

Your electric brooder will help you to put electricity to a profitable use. A good quality electric brooder, properly operated, increases net income on the average farm. The electric brooder is a very important piece of poultry equipment and if the greatest benefits are to be derived from it, take care to see that it is in proper operating condition. Check all parts of the brooder for proper operation and run it for a day or two some time before you will need to use it. Any parts that are defective may be ordered now and replaced before the chicks arrive.

Be sure that the fan motor is clean, free, running, and properly lubricated. Check the thermostat points to see that they are not pitted or burned. If so, a fine stone or file may be used to put them in good condition again. See that the thermometer is not broken, and that the mercury column is not separated.

Consider the following facts about electric brooders:

1. Raise more and better chicks. Cold room brooding tends to eliminate barebacks. Potential egg production can be increased by keeping coccidiosis and other diseases in check.

2. Reduce labor and care. The thermostat controlled, automatic electric heat saves you time, work, and worry. No trips to the brooder house at night; no muss and inconvenience with heaters, fuel, and ashes.

3. Decrease fire hazard. No flame, coals or sparks to set your brooder house on fire. No danger of overheated stoves, or gas fumes from heaters.

4. Costs less to operate. The average use of  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  KWH per chick raised, costs considerably less than the usual cost of other fuels. When electricity is used, from \$3.00 to \$5.00 will ordinarily brood from 300 to 500 chicks to weaning age.

## NEWS FROM Wayne-White

Fairfield, Ill.

OWEN J. CHANEY, Mgr.

### Board of Trustees

President: J. Wess Barth, Cisne.  
Vice President: Harold Shepherd, Albion.

Treasurer: L. M. King, Mill Shoals.  
Secretary: Frank C. Gray, Sims.  
Evans Williams, McLeansboro.  
Irvin Yohe, Mt. Erie.  
G. O. Moreland, Norris City.  
George O. Deem, Geff.  
L. P. Dolan, McLeansboro.

### Manager

Mr. Owen J. Chaney, Rinard, Ill.  
In case of emergency call before 8:00 a. m. or after 5:00 p. m., call the following:

For Carmi, McLeansboro, Norris City and vicinity, call Chalon Carter, Phone No. 123, Norris City.

For all of Edwards County, all of Wayne County, Crossville, Calvin and Phillipstown, in White County, call Cloyd Musgrave 60M, Norman Davis 18F21 or Bill Fleming 11F23, all of Fairfield.

### First 20 Meter Read Cards To Come In

Mrs. Otie Keen, R. 1, Keenes; W. E. Courtright, Geff; W. A. Wilkins, Mills Shoals; Dale Ellis, R. 5, Fairfield; Albert Glover, R. 1, Albion; E. L. Judy, Cisne; John Orr, Mt. Erie; Mrs. Oliver Huff, Maunie; Harry S. Hanna, Epworth; Harry Clark, Thackeray; J. J. Moore, Dahlgren; Herschel Abbey, Enfield; W. E. Car-

son, McLeansboro, T. E. Helsley, Belle Prairie; Louis Bohleber, R. 2, Carmi; Herman Beasley, Bluford; Noval Talbert, Wayne City; J. E. Grey, Sims; Clair Marshall, R. 1, Noble; Silas Coates, Emma.

### Welcome New Members

Ivan C. Gill and Connie Gill, Albion; John and Dorothy Becker, Springerton; Ogie and Daisy Rutherford, Cisne; John S. and Margaret Simpson, Dahlgren; Burrell and Louise Thomas, Bluford; John and Lucille Ergington, Belle Prairie; C. E. and Lillie Beckel, Cisne; Barney and Edna White, Sims; J. H. Hayes and Dassie Hayes, McLeansboro; Victor D. and Irene Biby, Norris City; J. A. and Georgie Hampton, McLeansboro; Evan and Ruby Hampton, McLeansboro; Chandos A. Elliott, Carmi; W. E. and Esta Burch, Thackeray; Willis and Annie Jamerson, Springerton; Arch and Edna Harris, West Salem; Ezra B. and Velnora Womack, Sims; Tom and Lucille Omar, Clay City; George and Alma Kreher, McLeansboro; S. F. and Lydia B. Hodges, Fairfield; Ilene Smith, Wayne City; Chas. and Carah Smith, Norris City; Wm. H. and Ida B. Sehie, Floria; Luther and Lucile Smith, Rt. 2, Fairfield; G. W. and Esther Bluff, McLeansboro; A. J. and Ora H. Sharer, Springerton; Ernest Wood and Alta Wood, McLeansboro; John H. and Madeline Thomas, Clay City; Savannah Fitch, Mt. Erie; Willis and Lela Jo Meade, Rt. 2, Cisne; Walter E. Ledford, Thackeray; Carol M. and Kathleen E. Phillips, McLeansboro; Dalton and Margaret Musgrave, Fairfield; Carroll Reese and Nancy Jane Funkhouser, Carmi; Byford G. and Cleo B. Kennedy, Wayne City.

Many letters are received from our members each week on varied subjects. Some of them are pleasant and greatly appreciated—others are not so pleasant.

The following interesting letter was received from one of our members this month.

"This letter is to inform you that we have moved from Route 1, Box 35, Maunie, and to thank you for all your past services and kindness. Since we left February 9, the enclosed check will be our last one to you. With it we want to express our appreciation of the efficient way in which the REA service has been rendered. Your promptness in handling emergency calls has been especially appreciated. The REA has helped to make such out-of-the-way places as Route 1, Box 35, Maunie, much more livable. That's putting it blandly; but to name all of the things the REA has meant to our township would take page after page. The best of luck for your cooperative and all others like it." Signed—Mrs. Joseph C. Renshaw.

A card was received from M. Ralph White stating that the water has washed the dirt away from a pole just west of Enfield and south of Ed Stein's place and needs attention. Thank you Mr. White.

These two examples bring out the Cooperative spirit of a large percentage of our members.

We realize that most of the complaints that come in are justifiable and made in a cooperative spirit and we try to take care of them as quickly as possible.

A few of our consumers loose sight of the fact that this is a cooperative and that it is their cooperative. They assume the attitude that we are out to get everything we can by a hook or crook method. This attitude is wrong. We take this opportunity to again impress on you that the Board of Directors, the office force and the line crew are working for you to give you more and better service at the least possible cost.

Your Cooperative enjoyed a very successful month in February. Several records were broken. The revenue per mile was the highest it has ever been, the KWH consumption per member of 65 was the highest in our history. These facts bring out the point that we are more and more becoming aware of the fact that the use of electricity is an investment and not a luxury and that the benefits derived far exceed the cost.





# REA Women and The Home

Edited by Joan Cameron

## Pattern List

To be able to say, "I made it myself," gives you a double thrill when someone compliments you on your clever hat, bag, clothes, or furnishings. For free, simple-to-follow directions for the following items, write to Joan Cameron, Illinois REA News, Petersburg, Ill. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelop for every four patterns requested.

### Ideas For Fun

Children's Parties  
St. Patrick's Parties  
Ideas for Showers  
Home and Hostess Handies

### Sew It

Applique Quilt  
Trimming Tricks  
Romantic Notions for the Bride  
Hat Trims  
Velveteen Drindl, Heart Suspender  
Gifts You Can Make In Rayon  
Gay Pinafores and Aprons

Dressing Tables  
Feminine Bedroom Accessories  
Youthful Accessories

### Crochet It

Elegant Curtains  
Water-Lily Bedspread  
Dinner Cloth  
Wool Crocheted Bags  
Matching Cloche and Handbag  
Sailor and Bracelet Bag  
Baby's Softy Bib  
Child's Bib  
Beret and Shoulder Bag

### Knit It

Men's Quartet  
Tot's Sweater  
Sleeveless Slipons  
Companion Sweaters  
Baby's Shawl and Bunting  
Mittens, Scarf, and Bonnet  
Child's Coat Sweater

### Good Homemaking

Removing Spots and Stains  
Home Storage for Rayons  
Washing and Ironing Guide

### Crocheted Toys

Jack and Jill  
Lamb

## Switch Clickers

Clever Things To Do  
By REA Women

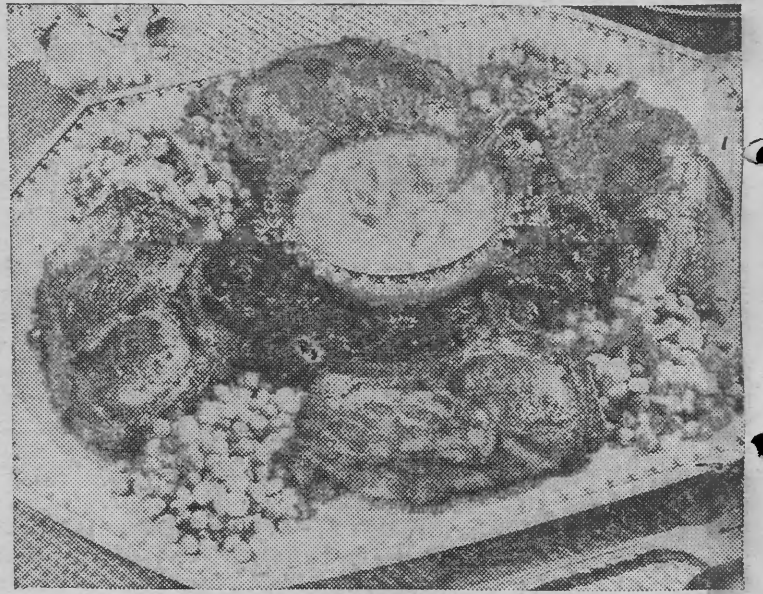
'Twill soon be time for spring house cleaning. I'm sure you have some special little time-saver or trick to make that dreaded job easier. Pass your suggestion on to other REA women by enclosing it with your pattern request or sending it to Joan Cameron, Illinois REA News, Petersburg, Ill., and we'll make next month's Switch Clickers a housecleaning column.

\* \* \*

### Wash Day Hint

Put soiled clothes through a warm rinse before putting them into the washer. It saves lots of dirt from getting into the wash suds especially from children's clothes and work clothes.—Martha Dobbs, Marine, Ill., Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## FRUIT STUFFED PORK CHOPS



Pork chops stuffed with an unusual apple, raisin, and onion dressing are a dinnertime taste treat. Arrange chops on a platter with mounds of vegetables. If you're an extra "pork n' apple" enthusiast, serve a small bowl of applesauce alongside the fruit stuffed chops.

Pork chops—yum, yum, with savory stuffing, pork chops buried in scalloped potatoes, pork chops braised to a moist, golden brown. How the family goes for them in a big way!

You'll note that we said braised, not fried, pork chops. A fried chop is a dried chop. Braising (slow cooking in a covered pan) brings out the best in pork chops, making them moist, tender, and rich in flavor, not dry and tough.

So that the finished chops will be an attractive, golden brown, give

them an initial browning on both sides before the long slow cooking begins. The chops may be floured before browning in a little hot lard. After browning the chops well on both sides, season with salt and pepper and cover with a tight fitting lid so that the steam created is held in to soften the connective tissue and make the meat tender.

Add a little water, milk, or tomato juice if you wish. For extra seasoning, add a small piece of bay leaf, some chopped onion, a few cloves, a sprinkle of garlic salt or a little chill powder.

### Fruit Stuffed Pork Chops

To make dressing for 6 thick pork chops, combine  $1\frac{3}{4}$  cups day old bread crumbs with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup minced onion,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup finely chopped tart apples,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chopped raisin,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt, a dash of pepper and sage, 1 teaspoon sugar, and 2 tablespoons melted butter. Stuff pockets in chops with dressing, fasten opening with toothpicks.

Flour chops, brown in hot lard, and season with salt and pepper. Add a few tablespoons of water, cover skillet, and cook at simmering temperature for 35 to 40 minutes or until tender. Or bake at 350° F. for 40 minutes. Remove toothpicks before serving.

## SUMMER FRUITS HIT THE SPOT IN WINTER

Frosted delicacies, such as red raspberries, strawberries, and summer peaches, from freezer and locker are popular on your winter menu. In order to bring to the table all the delightful characteristics of frozen fruits, the food should be used promptly after taken from frozen storage.

Frozen fruits need be thawed only enough to separate the pieces if the fruit is to be cooked. Even served raw, they are at their best when still just a little icy.

General rules for thawing fruits, given by specialists of the Bureau of Home Nutrition and Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, are:

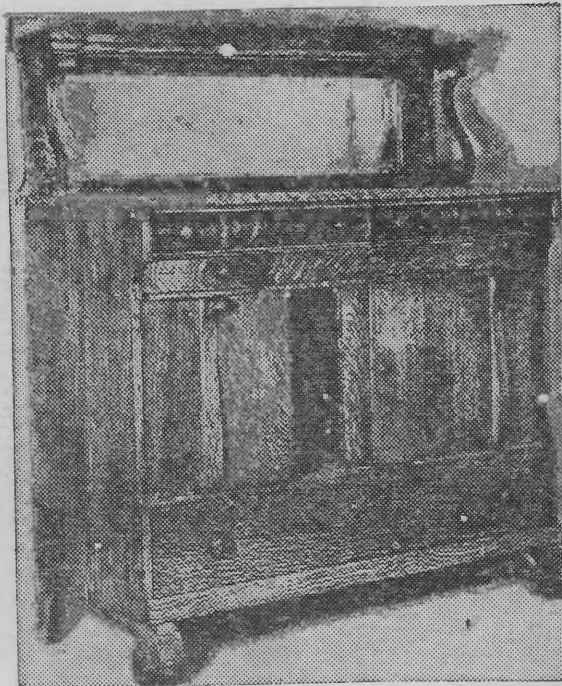
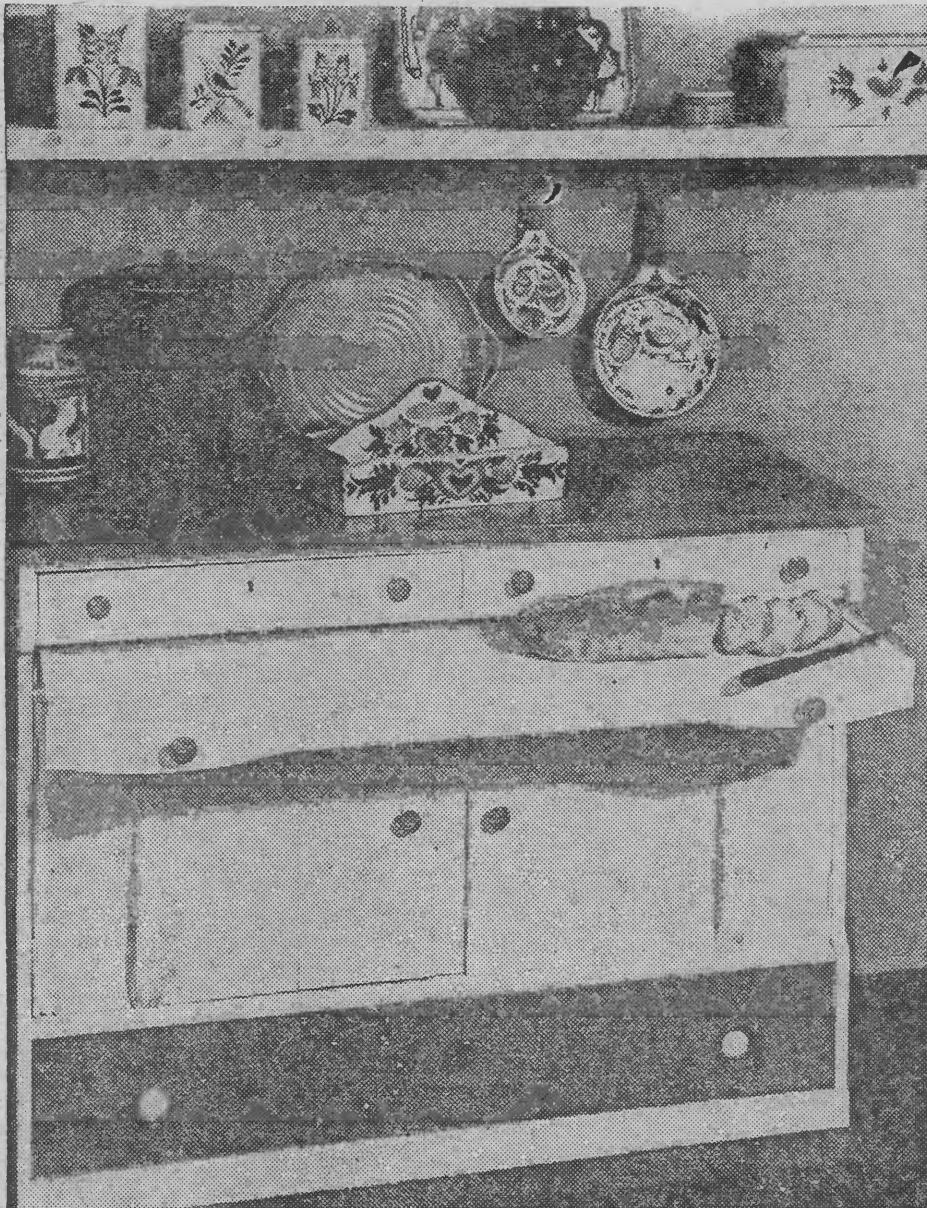
Thaw only as much fruit as you wish to use at one meal. If the whole package is not needed, break or cut it in two and return the frozen part to the freezer. Be sure to keep the unused portion wrapped and frozen.

While thawing, leave frozen fruit in the sealed container or, if the package is broken, protect the end from exposure to air. Oxygen tends to destroy fresh flavor.

On the refrigerator shelf, allow 6 to 8 hours for a 1-pound package to thaw. At room temperature, allow 2 to 3 hours. If packed in a leak-proof container, the fruit may be thawed in a half to 1 hour by placing the package in a dish under cool running water.

Once food has thawed, do not try to refreeze it. Refreezing not only decreases good flavor and food value, but offers chances for spoilage organisms to flourish.

# Make This . . . From This



The old oaken buffet above becomes the piece of useful kitchen equipment at the left, after removing the mirror, sawing off the feet, and painting.

Photos—courtesy E. I. DuPont.

If the old finish is in good condition, remove oil, wax, grease and furniture polish by wiping with a cloth saturated with turpentine. Immediately wipe with a clean cloth until surface is dry. Sand lightly with No. 2/0 or 3/0 sandpaper to dull the gloss and provide adhesion, then dust off before enameling.

### Harmony For You

Add color to your kitchen or pantry by painting the buffet two colors. The one pictured above is white with the top, knobs, and bottom drawer in gay contrasting Chinese red.

You may go one step further and make a shelf above the buffet if you do not already have one. On it you can place your sugar and spice containers so they will be handy for the baking you will mix on the working surface of the buffet. Decorate them with simple, colorful designs as Peter Hunt did when he designed this clever creation.

And there you have a brand new piece of furniture for your kitchen. This is the answer to your need for more cupboard and drawer space and the compliments you will get will more than reward you for your efforts spent in rejuvenating the old once-useless buffet.

## No Genius Required—Just a Few Tools, a Bit of Paint, and Presto!—You Have An Attractive and Useful Piece of Kitchen Furniture

How often have you cast disdainful glances at that old oaken buffet tucked away in a closet upstairs wishing it were gone, yet not having quite the heart to throw it away?

You can be thankful that you still have it. For you can transform it into one of the most useful and at-

tractive pieces of furniture in your kitchen at practically no expense and just a little time—and besides, you'll have loads of fun doing it.

### Here's How

So get it down and start working on it. First of all, remove the mirror and saw off the feet. Next give it a cheery paint job—that is, if the finish is suitable for painting. If it isn't, re-

move the old finish with a paint scraper, steel wool, sandpaper, or a commercial remover. Then sand the wood with No.  $\frac{1}{2}$  or No. 1/0 sandpaper and dust off. Apply one coat of undercoater, let dry overnight, then sand and dust carefully with a cloth dampened with turpentine. Apply one or two coats of enamel in the color desired.



## Dillon Scores REA Opposition At Co-op Meeting

Speaking to a packed house at the annual meeting of Egyptian Electric cooperative, Steelville, George Dillon, regional head of REA's applications and loans division, urged a continuous program of member-education as the surest means of successfully combatting propaganda designed to injure the cooperative rural electrification program.

"There are those who carefully plant the idea that the Federal Government is simply handing out large sums of money to certain farm groups to spend for electric power systems," Dillon told the Steelville co-op members assembled in the Webster theater. "Not long ago a farmer wrote to his congressman demanding that he be immediately furnished 'his share' of the millions of dollars he understood was being given to farmers for electric lights and power."

Such misunderstanding of the REA cooperative program is not accidental, Dillon emphasized. Misinformation to arouse the general public into antagonism toward the electric cooperatives has been a carefully planned program by those who oppose such farmer-owned organizations, he said, and the cooperatives must take steps to correct such mistaken ideas by informing their members of the facts and keeping them advised of the cooperative's affairs.

"If we are to believe the utility trust fighting the passage of the Poage Bill, which would provide over a half-billion dollars for REA cooperatives in the next three years, the job of the Rural Electrification Administration is almost done and another \$35,000,000 would wind up its affairs," Dillon declared. "Yet we in REA know, just as you in the cooperatives know, that REA needs another half-billion dollars, at least, if area coverage is to be realized, and all farmers desiring service hooked to a central station power line."

### Hard Fight Ahead

Dillon warned his listeners that the hardest fight in REA history still was ahead of the cooperatives and the agency because for the first time in several years the utility companies have banded together to oppose further cooperative expansion, particularly in generation and transmission facilities, but in distribution as well.

"Here in Illinois there is need for \$5 million right now according to the applications pending in the Washington offices of REA," Dillon explained. "More applications are being received every day and as more manpower and materials become available, the increase in applications for funds is expected to increase sharply. It will behoove every REA cooperative member in Illinois, as well as in the rest of the country, to write to the members of the Congress asking support for the Poage Bill and for all legislation favoring the expansion of the REA program."

Speaking to those waiting for service, Dillon asked that they be patient and remember that the old saying, "first come, first served" held true in expanding cooperative lines as well as in other places. In the early days of the program, he recalled, it was something of a problem to convince farmers to join a local co-op and to sign applications for electric service. Then the war years came along, curtailing materials and construction of lines, but the demand for service continued to grow until the co-op offices were flooded with demands for immediate service.

### Sees New Expansion

Now with the war over and the country involved in strikes and a period of reconversion making it necessary to be patient until the men are home again and back on their old jobs, it will be necessary for those farmers waiting for REA co-op service to be patient a little longer.

## Overflow Crowd at Egyptian Co-op Meeting



Part of the overflow crowd which attended the annual meeting of Egyptian Electric cooperative, is shown here in the Webster theater, Steelville. Seated in the front row, closest to the camera, left to right, Everett Brown, field engineer; Robert Reidelberg, field representative; and George Dillon, (with hand on chin), regional head of the Applications and Loans Division of REA. Joseph Heimann, manager of Clinton County Electric cooperative. Breeze, is at the extreme left in the second row.

Many farmers signed up with their local co-op before the war and have been waiting several years for their lines to be built, Dillon pointed out.

In planning new construction, the co-op signs up farmers, lays out the proposed line, prepares data on the number to be served, estimates the cost and gathers all other pertinent facts relating to the proposed construction, and this information is submitted with an application for funds to the Rural Electrification Administration. If approved by REA, the money is loaned to the co-op, but it must be used for the building of lines and for furnishing service to the farmsteads outlined in the data submitted to REA. It cannot be diverted to other channels or used for the building of any other lines, Dillon explained. Thus the co-op manager cannot put new members, recently signed by the co-op, ahead of those who have been waiting for a longer time, he said.

### President's Report

In his report to the members, Harry Sickmeyer, of Campbell Hill, president of the co-op, explained that during the early part of 1945 the Davenport Construction company built 124 miles of the "B" Section which had been started before the outbreak of the war, completing the construction in June. The balance of the section was staked, but efforts to secure a contractor to build it, Sickmeyer said, were unsuccessful, and in July officials of REA approved a plan for the co-op to finish the building of the "B" Section.

To date, Sickmeyer disclosed, the co-op has energized over 27 miles of line and another 30 miles is nearing completion. In addition to the new line, the co-op has constructed over 17 miles of line along existing lines. Altogether, the co-op energized 168 miles of line in 1945 to connect 497 new members.

Sickmeyer was elected to serve a three-year period as a director of the cooperative, as was R. V. Blacklock of Vergennes and Theodore Kueker of Campbell Hill. Two-year terms as directors will be served by Harry Doiron of Prairie du Rocher, Frank Easdale of Coulterville and George Pape of Jacob. One-year terms will be filled by John I. Pyatt of Pinckneyville, Jesse L. Klein of Carbondale and Edward Stellhorn of Red Bud.

These varying length terms for the directors resulted from a change in

## ELECTED FOR VARYING TERMS



Members of the board of directors of Egyptian Electric cooperative, Steelville, are, left to right, seated: George Pape of Jacob; John I. Pyatt, vice president, of Pinckneyville; Henry Sickmeyer of Campbell Hill; Theodore Kueker, secretary-treasurer, of Campbell Hill; Harry Doiron of Prairie duRocher. Standing, from the left: Frank Easdale of Coulterville; Jesse L. Klein of Carbondale; R. V. Blacklock, newly elected president, of Vergennes; Wilbert Ehlers, attorney, and Raymond S. Holt, manager, of Steelville. Under new provisions of by-laws, three members of the board will be elected for three-year terms in future elections. Three members of this board were elected for three-year terms, three for two-year terms, and three for one-year terms.

the by-laws submitted to the membership and favorably acted upon in the annual meeting last year. It will provide for the election of three new directors each year, in the future, rather than the election of an entire board at each annual meeting.

In the organizational meeting of the board, Blacklock was elected to succeed Sickmeyer as president; John I. Pyatt was re-elected vice president and Theodore Kueker re-elected secretary and treasurer.

### Manager's Report

After luncheon was served to the more than 600 in attendance at the meeting, the crowd reassembled for the afternoon session which was highlighted by the report of Manager Raymond S. Holt, who emphasized the construction problems faced by the cooperative.

Holt reminded the members that at the time it was decided the co-op would do its own construction, there was only a small crew and limited maintenance equipment on the job. Despite the shortage of manpower and all construction materials, as well as trucks, tools and other needed equipment for building lines, the co-op was able to secure adequate supplies and hire sufficient manpower to start the construction program, al-

though with great difficulty, Holt said.

Through the generosity of neighboring co-ops which lent materials, the co-op started building new lines. With inexperienced men comprising the majority of the new lines crews, work progressed slowly at first, but as the men gained experience, the tempo of their work picked up and the lines were built at commendable speed, the manager disclosed. In the meantime, enough material was located to keep ahead of their demands but the job has been "nip and tuck," he said.

For a year or more the cooperative encountered difficulty with the Illinois Power company in matters of territory preference, Holt advised, one of the principal reasons for slow progress in completing lines under construction and of the excessively high cost.

In December the co-op officials met with representatives of Illinois Power company and arrangements were made to eliminate the friction between the two, Holt disclosed, with the result that construction work has progressed more satisfactorily since the understanding was reached.

### Materials Still Short

Despite these gains, materials for

additional construction are increasingly difficult to obtain and Holt said he hoped, but could not be sure, there would be no slackening of the pace in putting up new lines. With all co-ops and private utilities seeking great quantities of material and the supply still limited it is almost impossible to predict the situation even thirty days ahead, Holt admitted.

New construction plans are going ahead, however, in anticipation of the time when the strikes are over and manpower in sufficient abundance to assure the completion of additional miles of line, the manager reported. In this connection, he said, the co-op prepared applications and data for a proposed "H" Section which were submitted to REA for approval. When approval is received, an effort will be made to have the construction done by a contractor and bids will be prepared for letting at the proper time. In addition to the "H" Section, two additional sections are being surveyed and data prepared for submitting applications to REA for still more construction, Holt disclosed.

Short-line extensions along present lines will bring service to another 315 members in 1946, and the new "H" Section, together with the other two sections anticipated, will even-

(Turn to Page Eleven)



# Electricity For Farm and Home

## Barn Cleaner Lessens Work



How the "answer to a farmer's prayer," the barn cleaner, works is explained by Prof. Floyd W. Duffee, of the agricultural engineering department at the University of Wisconsin. This model shows how manure is removed by means of a continuous chain and paddles, traveling around the gutter back of the cows. The elevating device shown at the right lifts the manure into the spreader all ready to be hauled into the field. Photo—courtesy The Capital Times, Madison.

Cleaning out the barn by pushing a button instead of a scoop shovel is going to be a lot quicker and easier for Wisconsin dairy farmers who are confronted daily with that unpleasant, strenuous task.

### How It Works

All the barn cleaners operate along practically the same lines. A continuous chain, with paddles every few feet, passes down both gutters, back of the cows and across the ends of the barn. Removable steel plates cover the sections of gutter which cross the central driveway of the barn.

A barn cleaner is claimed to clean 120 feet of gutter in about five minutes. By means of an elevating device, the manure is pushed out into the manure spreader, ready to be hauled into the fields. It is not necessary to drive through the barn every day with the spreader. Thus, where new barns are being built, a considerable saving can be made with an automatic barn cleaner by cutting the driveway down to a five-foot width.

As important as the saving in effort is the time saved. Professor Duffee estimates that a farmer with 20 cows would save an hour or more a day.

In addition to the time spent in loading the spreader, the farmer now has to clean up after the spreader, and if he is selling milk on some city markets, must sprinkle fresh lime on the driveway every day. Use of a cleaner would keep the driveway comparatively clean at all times.

### Cost and Operating Expense

What does an electric automatic barn cleaner cost? Because it is still more or less in the experimental stage, though good results have been proven, no definite price can be quoted. The cost depends on the type of equipment used and the size of the barn and may range from \$200 to \$1500. Professor S. A. Witzel, agricultural engineer at the University, roughly estimates the average cost of equipment as between \$10 and \$15 per cow.

The Rural Electrification News considers \$500 as the average cost of a manufactured cleaner—installed. It estimates that the total annual cost of use, including depreciation, repairs, and electric power, should not exceed \$100. Thus, by saving 200 hours of labor annually at 50 cents per hour, it will pay for itself.

### Cobs Versus Kilowatts

The farmer who wonders what he's going to do with the cobs left over from shelled corn, now that his coal and wood burning kitchen stove may soon give way to an electric range, might well consider conclusions reached by Paul Gerlaugh of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station.

Mr. Gerlaugh's experiments, in feeding steers show that corn cobs are worth 50 per cent of their weight in ground shelled corn. Steers fed corn and cob meal graded the same as those fed ground shelled corn. All rations were balanced with two pounds of soybean meal and four to five pounds of hay per steer per day.

On the basis of tests made by the station, a ton of corn and cob meal is just as good, Mr. Gerlaugh says, for fattening cattle as 1,800 pounds of ground shelled corn. All of which leads to the conclusion that "it may be more profitable to feed corn cobs to cattle than to burn them in the kitchen stove."—Reprint from Empire News Page.

### Electronic Hot Dog Machine

The electronically cooked hot dog is on the way. A robot will produce it, wrapped in a warm split roll, a few seconds after insertion of a coin.

### Radio Dinner Bell

A device tested in battle soon may invade the placid fields of rural America. It is a "handie-talkie" radio which officers used to communicate with headquarters a few miles back of the front lines. These midget sets, tuned to a personal wave length, may be used to call farm workers to meals in a way which might relegate the traditional dinner bell to the "way back when" era.

### RECONVERSION

Burned-out fluorescent light tubes can be converted into neat towel racks by installing them on brackets which will hold securely.

UNRRA is flying 400,000 hatching eggs to Czechoslovakia to help farmers there re-establish poultry production.

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

You can avoid cut fingers when trying to remove a broken light bulb by turning off the current and inserting a cork before unscrewing the bulb.

\* \* \*

One kilowatt-hour of electricity will pump 1,000 gallons of water from the average farm well. It will milk 30 cows, heat 5 gallons of water, grind 100 bushels of grain, run a tool grinder for 4 hours, shell 30 bushels of corn, cool 10 gallons of milk, or cut one ton of ensilage and elevate it into a 30-foot silo.

\* \* \*

A single fluorescent lamp requires 1,000 distinct manufacturing operations and is assembled from 36 separate parts.

\* \* \*

Street lighting in more than 90 per cent of American communities fails to meet minimum requirements for safety, lighting specialists report.

\* \* \*

Electric refrigeration, installed near front lines in such Pacific battle areas as Okinawa and Iwo Jima, provided units of whole blood which saved the lives of hundreds of seriously wounded men. The blood, shipped cold in heavily insulated containers, can be kept for 21 days under such modern refrigeration.

## Appliance Tips

These tips to appliance users are offered by "Co-op Electro News," monthly publication of the Pocahontas County Rural Electric Cooperative, Pocahontas, Iowa.

1. Oil motors regularly with a light-weight oil, used sparingly.
2. Wipe appliances clean after using, getting rid of dirt, dust and crumbs.
3. Tighten nuts, bolts and screws at first signs of looseness.
4. Don't tinker with appliances. Call in a qualified serviceman.
5. Never immerse appliances with heating elements in water.
6. Don't overheat or overload as this may cause a short circuit.
7. Treat appliances with care.
8. Care for appliance cords.

## NOW IS THE TIME TO FIX FARM MACHINERY

Right about now is the time of year that you should give your farm machinery the once-over so that it will be in ship-shape condition when the field work starts rolling. For you know, when the time comes you are anxious to get out on the land and get the work done, whether it be planting, cultivating, or harvesting and you know, too, that you will have no time to spare then to dilly-dally around getting the machinery in condition.

So if you take care of that little matter now, when you are not so rushed with work, you will be all set when the time comes to take any machine out of the shed and go right to work, without being interrupted with minor repairs and conditioning which take up valuable time.

### Prevent Mishaps

Accidents can happen while repairing machinery as well as in its operation. If you follow these safety precautions, offered by the Rural Electric Digest, however, you will find your farm machinery repair job easier and less dangerous.

1. Make certain that machinery is securely locked before removing parts.
2. When wheels or supporting members are removed, be sure to provide sufficient supports for holding the machine in place.
3. Select the proper tool for the job at hand—use a wrench that fits the nut. Hold the wrench so that the knuckles are protected in case the wrench slips.
4. Use a socket or box wrench wherever it is possible.
5. Keep the shop clean. Provide

oil and grease pans and "wipe up" immediately any oil and grease from the floor.

6. Place wrenches, chisels, hammers, and other tools so that they cannot fall on someone.

7. Be sure that electrical equipment is in proper working condition and that the bulb on the extension cord has a guard. Ground the electric drill.

8. Use non-inflammable fluids for cleaning whenever possible.

9. When replacing knives on a sickle bar, always place in the vise so that the points of the knife sections are turned down.

10. When lifting a heavy object, get close to the object, bend the knees, keep the back straight, and lift with the legs—not the back.

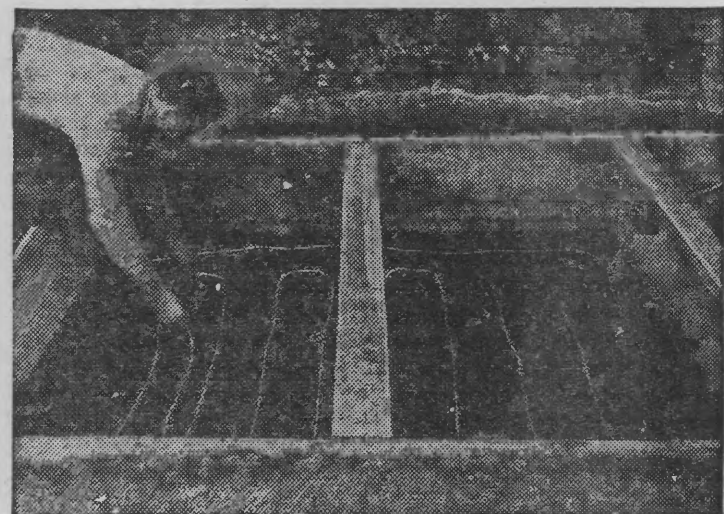
### Norway Co-ops Recovering

Cooperatives in Norway are hitting their stride after a period of very severe privation during the Nazi occupation. The Norwegian Cooperative League says that 112 new cooperatives with 10,800 members were admitted to the League during the past year. By December 31, 1945, there were a total of 832 cooperatives with 220,000 members representing nearly 30 per cent of the families in Norway.

### Labor Endorses Cooperatives

The Connecticut Federation of Labor, at its recent annual convention, endorsed the Consumer Cooperative Movement as "a democratic organization for furthering the consumer interests of AF of L workers in Connecticut" and "urged its affiliated trade union councils, central labor bodies and local unions to investigate the workings and possibilities of the various consumer cooperative stores and business enterprises throughout the state."

## Nature Is Given Help Starting Strong Plants in Farm Hotbeds



### By IRA MILLER

#### Farm Electrification Bureau

With a growing appreciation of the need for vitamin-rich vegetables in well-balanced diets, both at home and abroad, farmers have become increasingly interested in giving their garden tracts a productive boost by starting out with strong, vigorous plants.

In attempting to improve on manure hotbeds, which do not always produce high quality or uniform plants, experiments with different ways of creating heat were conducted several years ago using hot water, steam, hot air and electricity—with the last heat source proving most effective, economical and practical.

United States Department of Agriculture studies disclose that seeds germinate, plants grow and cuttings take root in from 20 to 30 per cent less time in electrically heated hotbeds than in those in which manure is the "heating" agent. Electrically generated heat is generally supplied by a special soil heating cable.

Soil heating cable should preferably be buried from 4 to 6 inches beneath the surface where it is permanently

out of the way, although it may be placed flush with the ground. Sixty feet of cable is regarded as adequate for a standard 6 x 6 foot bed, with strands spaced 7 inches apart and uniformly laid back and forth across the entire bed.

In northern states, a standard hotbed, with a thermostat, will use from 1/2 to 1 1/2 kilowatt hours of power per day for each 3 x 6 foot glass sash-covered enclosure, depending on the outside temperature, the protection given the bed and the temperature maintained in the bed. The use of a thermostat makes the operation of the bed automatic, saves power and assures constant temperature. Plants in electrically heated hotbeds should be watered frequently, with most users specifying 5 quarts per sash.

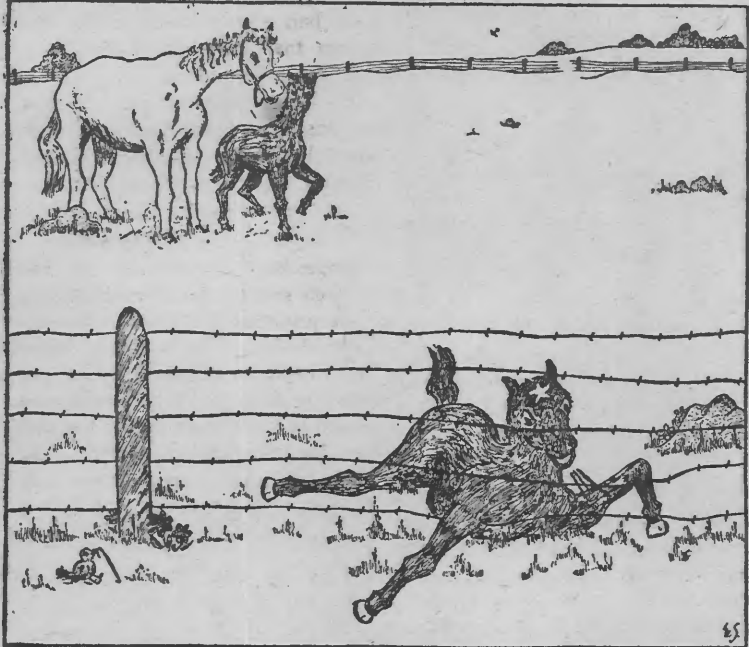
Electric hotbeds give the grower control of plant development by setting the thermostat for the desired temperature. Also such things as "damping off" are seldom experienced. In addition, electric hotbeds can be built at any time and are put into operation merely by closing the switch. Once installed, the beds are ready for use at any time over a period of several years.



# Junior News

## from REA farms

### Jerry Learns What Fences Are For After a Sad Experience in Jumping



Jerry tried to jump the fence but instead got his legs tangled in the wire and went sprawling on the ground.

By Joan Cameron

Terry and Jerry were twin colts. They had been born early in winter. It was too cold for little horses to go out in the fields, so they had been put in a stall in the barn and had been outside only a few times on nice winter days. And then they were allowed only in the barnyard.

"I wish we could go in the fields," moaned Terry one day. "I am so tired of this stall and this barn."

"So do I," agreed Jerry. "I'd like to race across the fields and jump the fences and chase the cows. Next time Farmer Miller lets us out in the barnyard, let's run away."

Just then Mrs. Horse, their mother, perked up her ears. She was eating hay in the opposite corner of the stall and hadn't been paying much attention to her babies. But she did overhear that last remark of Jerry's.

"What was that you said?" she asked, approaching the twins. "Where did you ever get such ideas? You must not jump over fences or chase the cows. Anyhow, the fences are too high to jump over. You'd better not try it."

"Oh, pooh!" retorted Jerry saucily. "I'll do just what I want to do."

At that remark Mrs. Horse gave Jerry a sharp nip in the back of his neck and walked away.

"Ouch!" whined Jerry. "That hurt."

"Maybe that'll teach you not to talk such nonsense," replied his mother.

The next day when Farmer Miller came to the stall to give them their oats he patted the twins on the forehead and said, "Well, ponies, I have a surprise for you today. I'm going to let you out in the field. It's spring now and the trees are budding and the grass is green."

Then he opened the door to the stall and Terry, Jerry and Mrs. Horse went out of the barn and into the field. It was a beautiful day. The sun was shining brightly, the birds were singing, flowers were peeping through the grass along the fences, and up in the sky droned an airplane. The twins were so happy to be out in such a grand world. They had never known the sun to be so warm before. As it beat down on their backs, it made their hair glisten and shine and they looked very pretty indeed.

Of the two Jerry was the better

looking. He was brown with a big white star in the middle of his forehead and all of his hoofs were white. Terry had a white marking on his forehead, too, but it was very irregular and didn't resemble anything. And his hoofs were all brown. But Terry was much better behaved than Jerry. He did not have such a bad temper and did not get into as much mischief as Jerry did.

So the two colts and their mother roamed the pasture. Mrs. Horse taught her children to eat grass. That was something new for them and they enjoyed it.

"Why are there fences around the field?" asked Terry. "Wouldn't it be fun if we could have the whole farm to ourselves?"

"Fences divide the farm into fields," explained Mrs. Horse. We have two fields for pasture and in the other fields Farmer Miller plants hay, corn, and oats. When the crops are ripe, he stores them in his barn so we can eat them in the winter time when snow covers the ground."

"Oh, pooh!" said Jerry. "Those fences aren't going to keep me out of the other fields. Just watch me leap that fence. Here I go."

"Jerry, come back," scolded Mrs. Horse, but Jerry was already running toward the fence.

Now Jerry did not know much about jumping fences and besides he was still quite a little horse. So he did not make a clean jump over the fence. He got his legs tangled in the wire and went sprawling on the ground, more surprised than hurt.

"Owwww, ooooh," he cried, "What hit me?"

Mrs. Horse helped him to his feet again and said, "Nothing hit you. That was an electric fence and it gave you a shock, that's all."

Jerry learned his lesson. You can bet he never tried to jump any more fences.

#### Record Sweet Corn Crop

Wisconsin's record crop of sweet corn for canning in 1945 was more than two and one-half times as large as the average output for the 10 years, 1934-43. Wisconsin's pack of sweet corn this year totaled 5,962,722 cases or 20 per cent of the nation's total pack of sweet corn for the 1945 season.

The average life of a household light bulb is 30 months.

### Pen Pals

#### Easter Greetings, Pen Pals!

Easter is about the time of year that you start counting the weeks of school left and plan for the many things you've been wanting to do all winter. But in the midst of all your activity, don't forget your Pen Pals. Drop a letter to Joan Cameron, Junior News, Illinois REA News, Petersburg, Ill.

#### Five Cats and a Dog

I am 11 years old and have blonde hair and blue eyes. I weigh 85 pounds. I am in the seventh grade. I go to a country school. My hobby is collecting movie star pictures. I have five cats and one dog. The cats' names are: Jo-Jo, Bog, Nicademus, Purity, and Rinso. The dog's name is Harry S. Truman. I would like boys and girls about my age to write to me. I will answer all letters.—Betty Weikle, R. R. 2, Maroa, Ill.

#### Majorie Likes To Dance

I am 16 years old. I have brown hair and brown eyes. I am 5 feet tall. My hobbies are dancing and movies. I love friends, so come on, Pen Pals, and write to me.—Majorie Mae Session, Chandlerville, Ill.

#### Shirley Reads REA News

I am 9 years old and have brown hair and dark brown eyes. I go to a country school. I am in the fourth grade. I have two sisters and two brothers. My hobby is reading the REA News. I would like boys and girls to write to me.—Shirley Mae Fulkerson, R. R. 1, Mill Shoals, Ill.

#### Has Won Riding Prizes

I am 16 years old. I have blond hair, blue eyes, and am 5 ft. 7 in. tall. I am a junior in Princeton Township High School. I drive my own car to school.

I help my dad on our 250 acre farm during the summer. I have two riding horses; they are both jumpers and I have won prizes with them. One of the horses can do many tricks.

I like all sports. Basketball and tennis are my favorites. I would like to hear from boys or girls over 16 years of age and who are interested in horses.—Jeanette Larson, R. R. 4, Princeton, Ill.

#### Doris Likes Western Songs

This is my first letter to the Junior News. I am 12 years old. I will be 13 on May 3. I am 5 ft., 4 in. tall and am in the seventh grade. I have brown eyes and dark brown curly hair. I have two sisters, 6 and 14, and a brother, 15. I live on a 160 acre farm.

My hobbies are reading, drawing and listening to Western songs on the radio. I would like boys as well as girls to write to me. I will answer all letters I receive.—Doris Weisinger, Fowler, Ill.

#### 4-H Agriculture Secretary

I am 15 years old, am 5 ft. 9½ in. tall. My birthday is April 1. I have blue eyes and brown hair. I am a sophomore in Easton High School. I like to go to school.

I help Dad on our 180 acre farm. I like sports most. I like to go to basketball games. I also like to dance and go to movies.

I joined the 4-H Club, both the clothing and agriculture projects. I am

a secretary of our agriculture 4-H group. I have four sisters, 4, 6, 8, and 13 but no brothers.

My hobbies are collecting movie star pictures and riding bicycles. I like to write letters. I would like to hear from boys as well as girls. So, come on, Pen Pals, write to—Doris Van Hoorn, R. R. 1, Havana, Ill.

#### Tommy Collects Stamps

I am 4 ft. 2 in. high and have blonde hair and blue eyes. My hobby is collecting stamps. I have a canary, a goldfish, a dog, and a rabbit. I have just moved to the country so we have no stock of any kind. But we are going to get some chickens and two baby pigs. This is my first letter to the Junior News. I will appreciate and answer any letters sent to me.—Tommy Ross, R. R. 2, Collinsville, Ill.

#### Ruth Has Twin Sister

This is my first letter to the Junior News. I enjoy reading the news very much. I have blonde hair, blue eyes, and am 12 years old. My birthday is November 10. I am in the seventh grade. I also have a twin sister, whose name is Sylvia. My daddy is the manager of Breese REA Co-op in Breese.

Please write to me, Pen Pals. I like to receive and write letters.—Ruth Heimann, R. R. 1, Albers, Ill.

#### Earlean Collects Paper Dolls

I am 11 years old and have brown hair and blue eyes. I go to a country school with 8 pupils. I am 5 ft. tall and am in the sixth grade. My hobbies are collecting paper dolls and riding my horse.—Earlean Haverken, R.R. 2, Ellery, Ill.

#### Reads Every Junior News

Every time our REA comes, I read the Junior News. I am 12 years old but will be 13 in April. I am about 4 ft. 8 in. tall. I have several hobbies and enjoy every one. I will answer all letters I receive and want all Pen Pals to write to me. I always enjoy writing to new friends. Elmae Rogers, R. 1, Greenview, Ill.

#### Fill Linda's Mail Box

I am 8 years old. I have brown eyes and hair. I am in the fourth grade. I go to a country school. I weigh 80 pounds. I am 4 ft. 5½ in. tall. My hobbies are reading and drawing. This is my first letter to the Junior News. Please write, Pen Pals. I will answer all letters.—Linda Lou Hayes, R. 1, Thompsonville, Ill., c/o Jack Hayes.

#### Monaley Has Many Pets

I am 12 years old, 5 ft. 2 in. tall, and a brunette. I live on an 80 acre farm. I have three brothers and one sister. My hobby is collecting paper dolls.

Our pets are two bird dogs, one rat terrier, a pair of white rabbits, a pair of Bantams, and seven ducks. We ride our bicycles two miles to school each day. I am in the eighth grade.—Monaley Wiseman, R. 2, Metropolis, Ill.

#### Edna Has Pet Rabbit

I am 11 years old, 5 ft. tall, and have auburn hair and blue eyes. I have a dog and a cat and a pet rabbit. I am in the sixth grade. So Pen Pals, please write.—Edna Mae Garrison, Wayne City, Ill., c/o Morion Frazier.

#### Barbara Wants Pen Pals

I am 15 years old. I have dark brown hair and brown eyes. I go to Aviston Community High School. My hobbies are collecting movie star pictures and answering Pen Pal letters. My birthday is Feb. 2. So all Pen Pals, write to me. I will answer all letters.—Barbara Heimann, R. R. 1, Trenton, Ill.

#### SAFER HIGHWAYS

Research has disclosed that adequate modern street lighting reduces night traffic accidents 65 per cent and cuts fatalities to one-third of normal or below.

### NEWS FROM Clinton County

Breese, Ill.  
JOSEPH HEIMANN, Supt.

#### HONOR ROLL

Commercial

Herman Graham 4208, J. J. Lynn 3157, Gulf Refining Company 2825, Nick Babare 1844.

#### Non-Farm

E. W. Striebing 1033, Rev. Elmer Holtgrave 378.

#### Farm

Clarence Dickhout 1522, Ed Merrill 1188, Louis Heimann 1110, Joseph Heimann 907, Harvey Klingelhoefer 900, Vincent P. Schaefer 885, Ben Toeben 600, Fred Thoms 628, Paul J. Huels 609, Arthur O. Riess 565, Lester Stevens 525, Alphonse Henrichs 518, Fred J. Hempen 510, Albert Leicht 505, Vincent Albers 505, Harvey Harpstrite 503, Clara Hermeling 502, Frank Hanseman 476, Alvis B. Loepker 455, Ed Carson 434, Adam Nettles 428, Bernard J. Gebke 425, Chas. Boeker, Jr., 413, William Varel 409, Charles R. Good 407, Joseph Rattermann 402, William Murphy 401, Ben Rensing 397, Al Donnewald 396, John Kalmer 391, Millard Felton 385, Carrie Felton 383, Alphonse Olliges 380, Edward Hugo 378, Wm. Ranz, Jr. 378, Melvin Henss 371, Gerhard Schumacher 367, Henry Bergmann 366, Joseph Meyer 360, Myrtle Dierkes, 344, Adam Kohrs 342, Mont Criley 339, Oliver Schroeder 338, John Gebke 337, Fred Freund 333, Robert Von Alst 330, Ben M. Meyer 327, Elmer Haake 326, Herman Dierkes 322, Anthony Rakers, 321, Alphonse Varel 320, Gustav Michel 320, Theodore Zurliene 319, Frank Meyer 319, Mennard Etter 316, Fred Hester 315, Clarence Zimmerman 311, Wm. Usselmann 310, Cyril Huelsmann 308, Martin Holtgrave 308, Edmund Riess 305, Herman Wiedle 301, Robert Bales 300, Henry Nies 300, H. B. Bergmann 300.

Operating Statistics—February, 1946  
Miles Energized .....516.59  
Revenue per mile .....13.34  
Members Connected .....1333  
Density per Mile .....2.58  
Ave. Bill .....5.20  
Ave. KWH Used .....118

Jeannette Hofsommer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Hofsommer, was given the second award in the regional solo and ensemble contest held in Highland at the Community school.

Vincent Albers, president of your cooperative, and Joseph H. Heimann, manager, attended the annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association at Buffalo, N. Y. on March 4th, 5th and 6th. The meeting was well attended by delegates from every state in the Union. Full details of this meeting are printed in this issue.

#### REA Arrivals

Baby boy—Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kohrmann, Bartleso, March 1.

Baby boy—Mr. and Mrs. George Brandmeyer, New Baden.

#### Wedding Bells—REA Homes

Miss Loretta Miesner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hy. F. Miesner of Carlsyle, and Alvin Bolk were united in marriage February 14 at the St. Louis Cathedral. Congratulations and best wishes!

Miss Clara Voss and Ben Rakers were united in marriage in the St. Francis church, Aviston, on February 26. Congratulations

#### New Appliance

Joe Schulte, brooder.  
Gerhard Holtgrave, brooder.  
Theresa Zurliene, brooder.  
Frank Grawe, brooder.  
Henry Fuehne, Jr., brooder.  
Henry Grapperhaus, brooder.  
Ben Spihlman, Jr., brooder.  
Theo Kruep, brooder.  
Anthony Huels, stove and milking machine.  
Ben Spihlmann, milker.  
Wm. Thoele, milker.  
August Jansen, milker.  
Theresa Zurliene, milker.  
Wm. Hermeling, milker.  
Ben Deerkake, milker.  
Gus Rattermann, brooder.  
Theodore Zurliene, cooler.



## NEWS FROM Southern Illinois

Dongola, Ill.  
GEORGE ENDICOTT,  
Mgr.

### National RECA Meeting

Tom Eddleman, one of our newly elected directors, and George Endicott, manager of the Cooperative, attended the national convention of NRECA held at Buffalo the week of March 4. The general trend of the entire meeting was that the fight for the continuance of REA is just beginning to open up in an all-out effort on the part has been launched by the utilities to cripple your REA program in every and any way possible. The suggestion made by the leaders of the REA program, was to keep our congressmen informed of your wishes. It may seem that they do not want these wishes of the people back home, but after all, it has been through you and the others, that these congressmen have been kept informed about our program. It is entirely dependent upon your letting the congressmen know that the program may continue, to better rural living in the United States. The utilities are using every means from bribery to threats to secure their point, that is, the abandonment and curtailment of the REA program. Remember it is up to you to do your part.

### C Section

It is of interest to you individuals on the C section, that the primary details and the clearing up so that work can be started just as quickly as the usual procedure has been cleared for the allotment on our C section. Your manager has contacted the engineer and he has been working to clear up some of the points that normally delay the starting of the construction work. Material is ordered and is on hand for this section of line and with any kind of contractor help, we will be able to complete this section in normal time.

### D Section

The office has completed all details for the engineer to draw up the D section, to be divided into D1 and D2, each comprising 250 miles each. The sign-up for these indicates 500 miles of section, but upon advice from REA, and the engineer, it has been recommended that this be cut into two sections. The engineer is now making and preparing the new system maps and making the system study for the information needed on the D and future sections. This will be a great help and will eliminate some of the unnecessary work that has been required in the past in getting a section ready for pre-allotment. We continue to request you members to encourage your neighbors to sign up so the line can be constructed to them as soon as material and manpower is available.

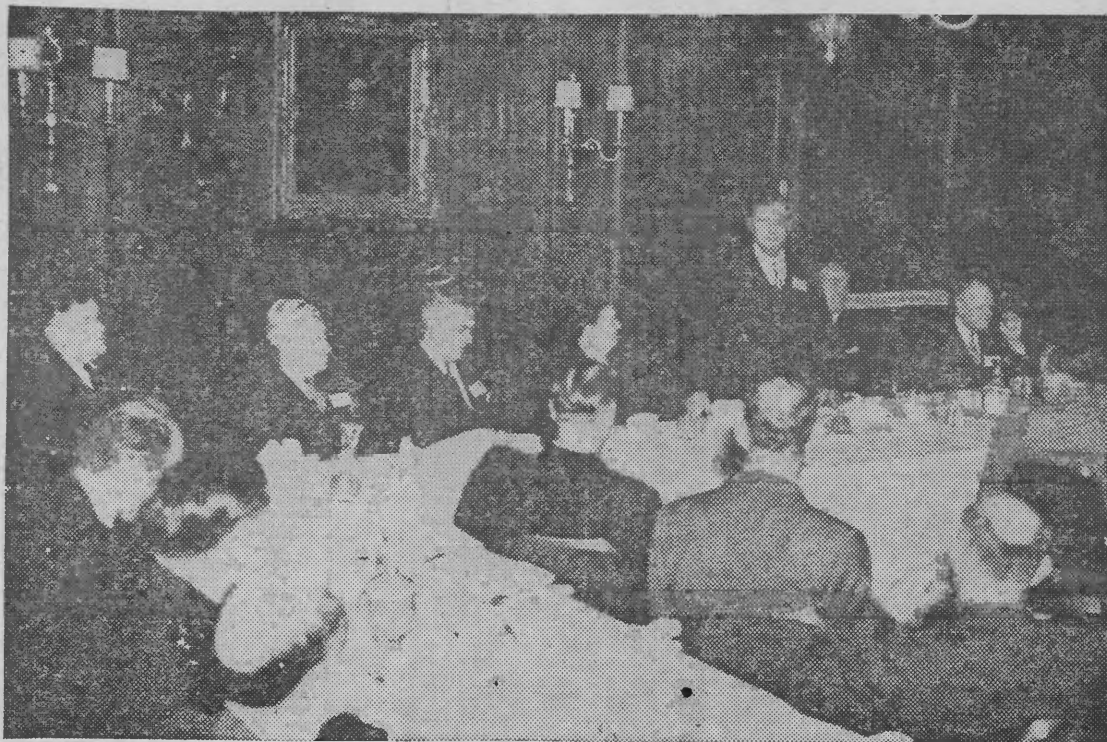
### B Section

We realize that there are many surprised and joyful homes on our Project from the fact that we are cleaning up the whole incomplete B section of line. Just this last month there were 58 new connections made to the line, most of them being along this uncompleted line. The steel strike at the present time has slowed up this work, as we have not been able to get delivery of transformers per our completion schedule. However, we hope to get these in soon, and by May 1, hope to have completed this section of line.

### Resale

We have received shipment of  $\frac{3}{8}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch surplus electric drills. We still have a supply of 1 inch rope and have a shipment of  $\frac{4}{5}$  inch rope due in at any time. We still have a limited number of 11 foot steel and wood top work benches available. These are really a bargain and would be very useful in any work shop. We are expecting in a shipment of the 8 inch electric saws. As a means of giving more adequate fire protection around the farm, we have several of the gallon carbon-tetra chloride fire extinguishers. These are new units and are shipped direct from the manu-

## BREAKFAST IN BUFFALO WITH REA OFFICIALS



At a breakfast in Hotel Statler, Buffalo, for REA Administrator Wickard and top officials of his staff, Robert Schweickhardt, president of the Illinois state-wide board is shown presiding during an informal discussion of cooperative problems. From the left: Deputy Administrator William Neal; Frank R. Dawes, chief of cooperative operations; A. E. Becker, Illinois state coordinator; Mrs. Schweickhardt; President Schweickhardt; Administrator Wickard; and John K. O'Shaughnessy, chief of the design and construction division. Seated out of range of the camera next to Mr. Neal was Arthur Gerth, chief of the application and loans division of REA.

### Illinois Delegation Host To Wickard And His Staff

One of the unscheduled highlights of the NRECA convention at Buffalo for members of the Illinois delegation was a breakfast at which REA Administrator Wickard and four of the top officials on his staff discussed informally the problems of operation and policy with the Illinois cooperative leaders.

Arranged by A. E. Becker, state coordinator, with the able assistance of his electrification adviser, Fred E. Darr, the idea for the breakfast was conceived Sunday afternoon, the invitations went out Monday, and Tuesday morning over 50 persons, including the wives of some delegates,

sat down to breakfast with their distinguished guests in a private dining room off the mezzanine floor in the Hotel Statler.

At the conclusion of the meal itself, Robert Schweickhardt, president of the state-wide board, called the group to attention and opened the round-table discussion by presenting some of the problems which currently are facing most cooperative officials and managers.

For the next hour and a half questions were fired at the REA officials at the head table, each of whom appeared to enjoy being "put on the spot" and responded with alacrity to the opportunity to give all the information possible to the Illinois representatives.

In addition to the Administrator,

those at the breakfast from REA were Deputy Administrator William Neal, Arthur Gerth, chief of the applications and loans division; Frank R. Dawes, chief of the cooperative operations division; and John K. O'Shaughnessy, chief of the design and construction division.

In lamenting the shortage of stenographic help in the Washington offices of REA since the agency moved back from St. Louis, Wickard provided a hearty laugh for the group when he said it had been recommended to him, when a stenographer was absent because she couldn't find anybody to stay with her baby, that he dispatch a field engineer to attend to the child so that the important letters of the staff could be turned out without lengthy delay.

## Jeeps For GI's Farms Are Available; Getting One Is Another Sad Story

Any former GI can get a jeep—that piece of army automotive equipment he found so helpful in service and which has been heralded as the all-purpose farm unit of the future—but actually obtaining one is about as difficult for the discharged veteran as it used to be for him to get an extended furlough.

Here's the sad story: There are a reported 10,000 jeeps available, but the veteran must prove that the vehicle is "essential" for his trade or business, that he isn't buying it for pleasure to drive to and from work or for any other general purpose.

That's only half his trouble, for if he does qualify he'll have to go to either the East or West Coast to get the jeep, and there he'll find it without batteries and probably with bad tires, according to H. P. Materne, district manager of the Smaller War Plants Corporation in St. Louis.

The price of the jeep is \$782, also a bit of a surprise to the prospective purchaser, which, with the long trip to get it, makes the little car something of an expensive item.

The difficulty in obtaining one of these army "kiddie kars" is disheartening to the thousands of veterans who have sought them, Materne said. "Many of them have come into our office here in St. Louis and practically expected to drive away in one," he related.

But it's not quite so easy. Materne's office merely receives the applications, determines their priority and forwards the applications to Washington.

Washington allocates the available

not just, please indicate this on the sheet, and give your reason for this indication.

jeeps by states and the actual sales are made through the consumers' division of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. B. Glenn Guldge is the local manager for RFC in St. Louis.

### MORE WORKERS WANT FARM JOBS THAN ARE AVAILABLE FOR THEM

Thousands who want farm employment either as owner-operators or as tenants during the next five years, will be unable to get it, in spite of the fact that Illinois farmers contemplate greater capital investments during that period than in any previous five-year period, it was disclosed by a recent survey conducted by the University of Illinois in 29 representative Illinois counties.

Approximately 22,300 young persons and veterans will want farm work during the next five years, whereas about 19,000 openings will occur in the counties studied.

A large percentage of those who will be seeking farm work want to own or operate a farm rather than to do hired work and this situation may furnish one explanation for the seemingly contradictory labor shortage. Only about 6700 operator replacements in the 29 counties surveyed are expected during the coming five years.

No valid reason, therefore, exists for encouraging a back-to-the-farm movement. Of those who are expected to want farm work, many will have to seek related work in farm service or even accept non-agricultural work altogether.

## REA ANNOUNCES NO MORE NEGOTIATIONS ON CONTRACT BIDS

One of the problems which has faced REA cooperatives during the past year—lack of bids for construction by acceptable contractors—was caused by the inclination on the part of the cooperatives to open negotiations with the low bidder in an effort to obtain a still more favorable price. In many instances, the low bidder was induced to accept the contract at a figure below that entered on his bid and this practice has met with serious objection on the part of the contractor's organizations and has been a principal bone for contention.

In an effort to clarify the situation for Illinois cooperatives, a committee of managers comprising Stanley Faris of Rural Illinois Electric cooperative, Winchester, Dean Searls of Adams Electric cooperative, Camp Point, and A. E. Becker of Menard Electric cooperative, Petersburg, met with representatives of the Illinois division of the National Electrical Contractor's Association, in Chicago. Although there were no definite decisions reached, the committee reported optimistically on their conversations with the contractor's representatives.

In its official publication, the REA News, the Rural Electrification Administration this month announced its policy in regard to bids offered by contractors and declared that there will be no more negotiations with the low bidders. The REA announcement said:

Construction of lines must go forward—but only at prices rural families can afford and which make REA loans possible.

As one method of implementing a great postwar rural electrification program, a new procedure for the awarding of borrowers' construction contracts was recently defined by REA. Under this new procedure, construction contracts will be awarded to the lowest bidder. (Turn to Page Twelve)

YOU'LL BE PROUD



THE RECORD  
TOMAH  
CHICKS WILL SET  
FOR YOU . . .

You can have a flock of chickens on your farm that will equal the record of our breeding flocks. Remember you can build a laying and paying flock only with chicks bred to produce.

STOP IN SOON AT OUR HATCHERY—OR SEND POSTCARD FOR PRICES AND DETAILS



Leghorn Cockerels,  
\$2.50 per 100

TOMAH HATCHERY  
BOX 89

TOMAH, WISCONSIN



## NEWS FROM M.J.M. Co-op

Carlinville, Ill.

A. C. BARNES, Mgr.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Pete Vallerius, Mt. Olive; Glenn Brooks, Medora; Claude Maguire, Jerseyville; Henry Huber, Hillsboro; Lawrence Osburn, Walshville; Ray Baker, Chesterfield; Edward Schon, Bunker Hill; Clarence Haun, Fieldon; Elmer Wells, Godfrey; Harry Lichtenhaler, Mt. Olive; Chas. R. Farmer, Hillsboro; Bert Prichard, Carlinville; Earl Atteberry, Jerseyville; Special Products Co., Grafton; Elsworth Landers, Bunker Hill; Orville Cameron, Shipman; Harry Miller, Shipman; John W. Jarman, Walshville; Victor Flitz, Litchfield; Fred Klekamp, Litchfield; Robert DeSilva, Carlinville; Hubert Crouch, Greenfield; Gerald W. Dillard, Chesterfield; A. L. Herrick, Carlinville; Clarence Nixon, Chesterfield; C. C. Hunter, Jerseyville; Harry Von Behren, Carlinville; Robert Byrne, Carlinville.

### January Operating Statistics

Number of Miles Energized	695
Members Billed	1871
Revenue per Mile	\$15.23
Density per Mile	2.61
KWH Sold	231,060
Average Farm Bill	\$5.85
Average Residential Bill	\$3.41
Average Commercial Bill	\$5.94
Average KWH Consumption	
Farm	130
Residential	51
Minimum Bills	352

### Member News Items

"We wish to thank the M.J.M. for the service we have received from this Cooperative Inc. and are very happy to recommend it to the new owner."—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rudolph, Staunton, Ill.

"We will start our electric chick brooder February 21st."—Ernest L. Ferenbach, Jerseyville, Ill.

Harold L. Herschelman, Carlinville, has purchased a new electric stove.

"For the past three weeks we have been enjoying a new Conde milking machine. Like it fine." E. H. Wolf, Staunton, Ill.

"We are starting our electric brooder March 11th, 1946."—Charles D. Van Bebber, Palmyra, Ill.

A daughter, Paula Beth, was born February 23 to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Burris. They have one daughter Bea.

Mr. and Mrs. William Rouhselange, prominent East Fork township farm residents, who have lived five miles east of Hillsboro on the Bost Hill road all of their married life, quietly celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary February 27th. Mr. and Mrs. Rouhselange have two daughters, Mrs. Edward Dietl of near Butler and Mrs. Vincent Huber of Hillsboro and one grandson, Edward Dietl, Jr.

Mrs. Essie Paden of Hillsboro, a rural teacher for a number of years has been appointed assistant county superintendent of schools by Superintendent O. R. Nettleship and she has started her new work. Mrs. Paden resigned as teacher of Mt. Gilead school, west of Hillsboro to accept the appointment.

The family of Columbus E. Carriker, of Witt, gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. O. Carriker in Witt last week and celebrated his 97th birthday anniversary. He is the "grand old man" of the Witt community. Mr. Carriker still enjoys going out to help with the chores on his farm, which is operated by his son, Harry, and his two daughters the Misses Ethel and Ina Carriker. Mr. Carriker has captured the Old Settlers' prize at Hillsboro several times as the oldest man registered.

The following are among sales made by members of this Cooperative at the National Stock Yards, St. Louis Producers:

Seven heaves scaling 988 pounds obtained \$15 per 100 pounds, for Roy Loucks of Hillsboro.

Out of Witt came 8 steers, averaging 1085 pounds, that turned at \$15.50 per 100 pounds for Wittman brothers.

Kenneth B. Edwards, a resident of

Hillsboro, scored \$14.80 per 100 pounds on 20 porkers, average 250 pounds.

### Returns On Membership Survey

Your Cooperative appreciates the prompt response to our survey regarding present and future appliances. These cards help substantiate our contention that the consumption of electric energy by the members of this Cooperative will be remarkably higher than was considered possible a few years ago.

We have chosen five brackets for the farm service membership. The first bracket includes the minimum users. The next bracket applies to an average consumption of about \$5.10. This type of range includes the average household appliances including refrigerator and poultry lighting but without the range. The third bracket covers an average consumption of 330 KWH per month. These members pay about \$10.00 for that amount of service. The two highest brackets are reserved for the members who use about 330 KWH per month. We have divided these into two groups. One group includes those who use enough service to pay a monthly bill of \$12.50. The other pay \$15.00 or over.

A typical rate chart was prepared by your Cooperative illustrating the average sequence of appliance buying. This enabled us to assume the above brackets before the survey cards were mailed out. For example, we calculated that lights, iron, radio, washing machine and water system would consume the minimum of 44 KWH per month. This consumption together with poultry lighting and refrigerator use determines the \$5.00 bracket.

It seems quite a jump to go from a five dollar per month bracket to the next one which includes those whose average bill is \$10.00. However, according to our chart, and some study of average bills, showed us that from the \$5.00 bracket the majority of appliance applications are for production; and therefore, necessitate a substantial increase in power consumption. This group contains a majority of the average dairy farms.

From the \$10.00 per month group we next assumed two classifications of members who use an average of about \$12.50 worth of service per month and those whose monthly bill runs \$15.00 and over.

As the survey cards were received they were studied individually and put into a pile representing one of the five classes. From day to day each class has grown and by its size, we get some indication of the percentage of members in each bracket.

This work has been very interesting to us and will become important data in the design of your ultimate system. When we have completed the work the members will be informed through the medium of this column.

## NEWS FROM Corn Belt

Bloomington, Ill.

T. H. HAFER, Supt.

### 500 ATTEND CO-OP ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of your co-op this year was the largest attended of any of the eight held. Five hundred people came to the Lutheran school in Bloomington and most were there on time. The program as outlined in the last REA News was carried out and proved to be very successful.

Prof. Ralph Parks called attention to many things to keep in mind in planning farm buildings and wiring improvements in the future.

Reports showed the co-op in good financial condition and progress being made toward getting electric service to every farm in our territory.

Any member desiring a copy of the report may have one by calling at the office or requesting on a postal card.

Many prizes were given away to members in each district of the co-op territory including motor table equip-

ped with motor, ice cream freezer, and grinder, electric iron, mixer, coffee 60 ball pein hammers, which were fee makers, broil masters, etc. A box shipped from surplus war property by mistake, were distributed also.

### Questions Answered

Each member at the annual meeting had an opportunity to write down a question on a card and hand it in. These questions were answered orally at the meeting as far as time would permit. They will all be answered in this column this month or next month. The following are part of the questions:

Q. How can we keep the juice from going out on the line when we have electric brooder in use?

A. The electric lines are very seldom turned off for more than 15 minutes or half an hour without previously notifying the members. If your line is off any longer than this you should at once check your own fuses and check with your neighbors to find out whether the whole line is off or if it is just your own place. Then someone in the neighborhood should call your service man at once and tell him all you know about the trouble. A list of whom to call has been printed on the back of your meter card for several months so you should have one of these cards for reference.

Members can help also by notifying the co-op of any dangerous conditions along the line which are noticed. If the current should go off when your chicks are young, a jug or two of hot water under the brooder will keep the chicks happy and healthy until the current comes back. The electric brooder hover is insulated and therefore will not be hard to keep warm.

Q. Does the individual consumer pay the cost of the breaker installed below the meter?

A. At the annual meeting we explained the recommendation that a circuit breaker be installed under the meter. This circuit breaker would serve as a disconnect switch for all the wiring on the farmstead from the meter on, and would also serve as protection to the transformer in case of a short-circuit on the farmstead wiring. By having this breaker installed if a members wiring is short-circuited the bad circuit can be disconnected and the member can turn the current back on instead of having to wait for a lineman to re-fuse the transformer.

The co-op has no plan at present

### RATES AND RULES

Almost everyone wants to buy something or has an article to sell or trade. This classified service will afford a convenient and satisfying method of bringing buyers and sellers together.

Your advertisement will appear in the Illinois REA News as well as in the Wisconsin paper, thus reaching 78,000 farms and rural homes.

If you want to take advantage of this opportunity, to have your ad in the April issue, send it to us by April 5. Following is our rate schedule:

One Time ..... 10c per word  
Two to Six Times 8c per word

Advertisers wanting to place ads in an individual state REA News may deduct 25% from above rates.

Minimum charge is for 10 words per insertion. Cash or money order must accompany your advertisement.

Count name and address as part of the ad. A town or state of more than one word is charged as one word. Count each initial or whole number as one word. Count "FOB," "COD," "R 2," and "ROP" each as one word. Count "U. S." as two words. Count hyphenated words as separate words. Blind addresses count four words.

Include 25c fee for remailing letters addressed to a box number.

for installing these breakers on all premises, therefore, the member may install them at his own option and expense. The co-op recommends that a breaker approved by the REA should be installed. These should be available on the market within a month or two. It is expected that these breakers will cost \$7 or \$8 plus a small installation charge. Your electrician will soon be able to install them.

Q. Is the rate cheaper when an electric range is used?

A. The same rate schedule is used for an electric range as is used by any other member. This rate schedule is so arranged that when more electricity is used, as would be used by a range, the rate per kilowatt hour is automatically cheaper. This rate is printed on the reverse side of each bill.

Q. Is every member entitled to a transformer or must we share same with another member?

A. There is usually no advantage for having a separate transformer for each farm. In towns and cities often a dozen or two dozen, or even more houses are all served from one transformer. The important thing is that the transformer and the wire be of the proper size for the load to be used.

Where one member has a very undesirable load such as large motors or a welder, it may be necessary to either increase the size of the transformer or to install a separate transformer. This is one reason why the use of large welders is prohibited on REA lines. The extra cost to the co-op of installing a larger transformer will not be reimbursed by the current used by the welder.

Each problem of this kind will have to be worked out individually and a member who feels that they do not have good enough service should send word to the office and request that their service be checked.

Q. What voltage is on the main line?

A. The co-op main line carries a voltage of 7200 to ground on a single phase. The transformer serving the member steps this voltage down to 115 and 230 volts. The extremely high voltage on the line makes it very dangerous for anyone not properly familiar with it, or properly equipped, to attempt to make any repairs. Therefore, no member or person other than a regular lineman should ever

able if our lines are overloaded?

Q. Will ample power be available touch directly or indirectly a main line wire.

A. Our lines are nowhere near fully loaded yet. Our substation transformers are pretty well loaded but they will carry a good deal of overload and are in no danger of being short of capacity for some time. New substation transformers have been ordered and we expect to have them installed well in advance of any time when the load becomes too heavy. Members need have no fear of being short of electric power on REA lines.

## DILLION SCORES—


(From Page Seven)

tually connect 750 to 1000 members to the co-ops lines, Holt predicted. If favorable conditions prevail, the co-op hopes to attain the goal of 750 to 1000 new connections in 1946, he said.

Due to overload on the Bremen substation the voltage on the lines had been unsatisfactory, Holt said, but this condition has been corrected by the erection and energizing of a new substation north of Carbondale. Members on the south end of the system should, he surmised, enjoy improved service. Plans are in the formative stage for increasing the capacity of the Bremen substation during the year or to build another substation at the north end of the system, Holt revealed. He predicted that with improving conditions in the way of materials and equipment, the co-op will have its greatest year of expansion in 1946.

Special entertainment for the annual meeting was provided by a quartet from the Steelville Rotary Club which sang several "barber shop harmony" numbers. Patty Joyce Holt, daughter of the manager played a piano solo, and Miss LaDonna Harrell, a senior at Southern Illinois Normal University, Carbondale, played selections on an accordion and accompanied herself in vocal solos.

**BUILD YOUR OWN . . .**  
**30 Gal. Electric Hot Water**  
**Heater for \$27.80**  
For Complete Plans Send \$1.00 to  
**H. E. OAKES**  
LUCK, WISCONSIN



The REA Classified

# Rural Market

The Place to Buy or Trade or Sell

## MACHINERY

### MACHINERY

Headquarters for the following items: Manure loaders, hydraulic and mechanical for all tractors \$175 to \$250. Also hydraulic pumps. Seaman Tillers latest in farming cuts operating cost in half. Heavy duty rubber tired trailers 6 ply tires low as \$165. Flare beds, wide type beds. Field cultivators in sizes 8 to 15 ft. Phosphate spreaders latest out. Post hole diggers, gas engines. 2 wheel trailers. Folding eveners for all size Harrows. New Civilian Jeeps excellent for all farm use. Buck rakes for all tractors. 4 section Harrows. Immediate delivery anywhere. MARTIN IMPLEMENT CO., ROANOKE, ILL.

## WANTED

WANTED TO BUY . . . two bushels of northern grown Alfalfa seed. Must be free from noxious weeds. May be slightly mixed with red clover, alsike or timothy seed. Please state price. W. J. Kust, R. 2, Pound, Wisconsin.

### WANTED

WANTED: Tractor plow. Three bottom, 16 inch. New or used. Telephone Montfort 4R26 or address Vernon Holzer, Fennimore, Wisconsin, RFD 2.

We buy live snapping turtles, salamanders, newts, cats and pigeons. LEMBERGER'S, 1436 S. Park Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

## EMPLOYMENT

### OPPORTUNITY

Exclusive Illinois Franchises available home soft water rental service for city or farm. Patented domestic softeners. Assures you continuous monthly income. We assist in establishing business. We have line American March water systems, also water softeners for sales profit during growth period of rental softener business. You need car plus \$1500 plus mechanical ability. Written applications only. Ronningen Engineering Sales, Evanston, Illinois.

Want a good summer-time job? We need women 17 years or older to work at one of Wisconsin's finest summer resorts. Kitchen helpers, dining room girls, house cleaners, cooks. Hard work and long hours but excellent pay plus room and board. Experience not necessary. Write and tell us about yourself. Jobs open from May 15 to October 15. Act now, don't miss this opportunity. Teal Lake, Box 111, Hayward, Wisconsin.

## FOR SALE

### NEW AND USED TRACTOR PARTS

Write for big, free 1946 catalogue; tremendous savings. Satisfaction guaranteed. CENTRAL TRACTOR WRECKING CO., Des Moines 3, Iowa.

WISCONSIN FARMS: Buy sell or trade. Some for rent. Quick service. Lawrence Murphy, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.



## NEWS FROM McDonough Power

Macomb, Ill.  
RAY GRIGSBY, Supt.

In view of the fact that our column failed to reach the printer in time for publication in the February issue, we are submitting the January and February operating reports.

### OPERATING REPORT FOR JANUARY

Total Number Billed .....1931  
Total Billing .....\$10,851.56  
Average Bill .....\$5.62  
Average KW Per Member .....116  
Income Per Mile .....\$15.43

### FEBRUARY

Total Number Billed .....1961  
Total Billing .....\$10,171.29  
Average Bill .....\$5.18  
Average KW Per Member .....100  
Income Per Mile .....\$14.29

We are now about to give our members a little further light on our coming expansion program. As we had explained in some of the previous issues, the bids had all been rejected on our D-1 Section, and the Cooperative has now received permission from the Design and Construction Division in Washington to construct this section by force account, so with the cooperation of the people who have been so anxiously awaiting the service, we believe that it will be possible to still construct that section during 1946, provided the strikes are now pretty well settled and people have gone back to work. Of course, the service will not come to people as rapidly as most of them would like, but owing to circumstances beyond anyone's control, we will simply have to do the best we can as far as the available materials are concerned. As a rule, most of the applicants are very considerate and understand the situation that is causing the delay, and with very few exceptions are good cooperators. We know you will assist in every way that you can in helping out with the construction program.

Now we feel the same old gripe coming on that we have had in this column in the past, but it has reached the point where we believe it is going to be necessary to do more than gripe, for our meter reading cards have not been reaching the office the last two or three months on time so maybe a little reminder in the form of a penalty might help people to remember the date and the small favor asked of them to read their meter and send in the cards. And it does seem such a small task to read the meter on the first of the month and mail in the card, and we in the office can't understand why month after month people will neglect it. So it was discussed at the last meeting of the Board of Directors, and it was decided that a penalty imposed might help out. After the first of May if you fail to read your meter and send in your card, a penalty of twenty-five cents will be added to the bill. It will be entirely separate from the 5% penalty which is now added when you fail to pay your bill on or before the 25th of the month.

We believe that since the system was constructed before the war, a great many of our members have added to their wiring. Some, no doubt, quite extensively, while possible some others a very small amount. But occasionally we have members that get into trouble due to the faulty wiring, and we would like to suggest that if you have added to your wiring during that period or since it was inspected, that you make a notation on your meter reading card that you send in so that at sometime in the future the wiring inspector will look over the situation for you, and suggest any corrections that might be necessary. This is for the safety of the property and the improvement of your service in which your Cooperative is very much interested. We will be glad to take care of this at a cost

## Live Wires On Menard Co-op



This is the gang of "live wires" that keeps the lines of Menard Electric at Petersburg repaired and in order for the members of the cooperative. Five of them were in uniform until a short time ago, one served on the homefront in farm production for victory. Now they are together as a "scrappy unit" to maintain service regardless of the weather and other "enemies" of the co-op. This picture was taken after they had been asked how they felt working together as buddies on the same crew and the grins speak for them. Left to right: Roy I. McDaniel, William A. Sams, Albert L. Hinrichs, George J. Wilhelm, Raymond H. Kitchen and Alvin C. Bertram.

Working together in much the same spirit as they had as members of Uncle Sam's crew during the war, the men back from service at work for Menard Electric cooperative, Petersburg, take especial pride in their team-work and spirit of companionship and are turning out a lot of work to prove it. A. E. Becker, manager, reported in praising the accomplishments of his new employees on "the outside" of the project's operations.

With the exception of Alvin C. Bertram, one of the new "recruits" on the co-op crew, all of the new men are veterans of World War II, some having taken a job with the co-op the first time, others having been away on leave-of-absence and now happy to be back on the old job.

Line crew foreman is Albert L. Hinrichs of Petersburg, who left his job to work for Uncle Sam as a member of the Army Signal Corps in the European theater, having spent 12 months overseas in communications work as a staff sergeant.

His work in uniform kept him in trim for his civilian job, the Army merely substituting telephone for power poles, and his work as a lineman being turned into the channels of keeping lines in repair so that messages would get through when the battles were being fought.

"Al" went right to work for the Army at a camp in New Jersey, was moved overseas to continue his job in England, then followed the invading forces into La Havre, France, immediately after D-Day, and continued making repairs and doing maintenance work on communications lines across France and to the Rhine River in Germany.

He was a line foreman for the co-op four years prior to putting on a khaki uniform and he admits he's glad to be back home with his wife, the former Irene Goans, and to enjoy

the peaceful quiet of Petersburg.

"There's a lot of work to catch up on that couldn't be done during the war," Al remarked one day recently. He had climbed seventy (70) poles that day getting some of it done!

### Other Army Workers

William A. Sams is another member of the co-op crew who found the Army an excellent school of experience in line work. He finds his job as a line foreman not much of a change from his three years as a member of a heavy construction crew in the Signal Corps, 29 months of which he spent overseas in the African, Italian and European theaters of operation where he collected six battle stars and a chest-full of ribbons.

Back home again, he and his crew are assigned to the Petersburg area to repair and maintain the co-op lines. He and his wife, the former Margaret E. Sanders of Lincoln, make their home in Petersburg.

When Raymond H. Kitchen of Riverton enlisted in the Army more than nine months before Pearl Harbor he had never given a thought to the idea of climbing a telephone or power pole, but his training in the Signal Corps and experience as a lineman on battle communications in the Pacific theater of operations qualified him to serve as a lineman on a co-operative and he is working in the Dawson area of the Menard project.

During his 30 months overseas he strung lines and did maintenance work on Signal Corps installations in Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines and finally in Japan. His early entrance into the Armed Forces entitled him to wear the American Defense ribbon in addition to several others including a Presidential Unit Citation.

But Raymond found co-op work and the idea of cooperative power nothing new to him; he and his father,

Lee Kitchen, operate a farm near Riverton before he went into the Signal Corp and the Kitchen farm is served by the Menard Electric co-op.

Kitchen is married to the former Marylou Woltz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester E. Woltz of Riverton, and they have one child, Venalon, aged 3.

The bachelor of the co-op crew is Roy J. McDaniel of Petersburg who has been assigned to work the Mason City section of the project. McDaniel served as a radio operator in a mechanized cavalry outfit, having enlisted in September of 1940, more than a year before Pearl Harbor, and serving until September of last year, a full five years. Two years of his service was spent overseas in the European Theater where he garnered three battle stars, the Bronze Star, a good conduct medal and the ETO ribbon. Because of his early enlistment, he also was entitled to wear the American Defense ribbon and he was awarded the ribbon of the American Theater of Operations.

Alvin C. Bertram of Prentice, assigned as a crew member in the Virginia area of the co-op, is the only non-veteran of the new crew. He remained at the home on the farm production front with his wife and two children, Alvin, Jr., 14, and Leta Rae, 4, and did his part of the home front battle by making his farming operations as great a contribution as possible to the cause of victory. Alvin has, he admits, always been keenly interested in the rural electrification program and he has a thorough understanding of what electric power can mean to the farmer and what it meant during the war to increase production. His wife, the former Elizabeth Long, is from the Blue Grass State of Kentucky but she finds her "adopted" state of Illinois entirely to her liking.

as reasonable as possible so won't you just take time to make the notation on your meter-reading card if you have added wiring and wish it inspected.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Welsh, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Whitman and Attorney and Mrs. William R. Harris attended the national convention at Buffalo, New York, on March 4, 5, and 6. They bring back very favorable reports of the convention and the plans for REA for future extension of the lines and service to the agriculture areas.

The first train fully equipped with electric lights was placed in service between New York and Chicago in 1887 by the Pennsylvania Railroad. A turbine, powered by steam piped from the locomotive, drove an electric generator in a baggage car.

Sun curing destroys much of the vitamin A in cut green forage but at the same time adds vitamin D value to it.

## Cal. Congressman Hails Co-ops As Answer to Power

"The cooperative movement is one of the great regenerative forces which will free the people from the domination of organized power," declared Congressman Jerry Voorhis of California at a meeting in Milwaukee sponsored by the Southeastern Midland Oil Cooperatives during Cooperative Week.

Stating that the cooperative method gives an answer to the challenge of power with all its consequences, such as unemployment, depression, misery, and starvation, he said, "This movement can contribute more to the solution of the present economic problems than any other movement."

He emphasized that "... cooperatives cannot succeed in benefiting their own members unless they benefit society as a whole. That is the great threat that the cooperative

movement presents to greedy private interests, and that is why the fight on cooperatives is increasing in intensity."

The Congressman pointed out the basis for the anxiety felt by the enemies of the cooperative movement thus, "When cooperatives show that they make real savings, it may go over to the whole American people that they are paying too much for goods and services. The spread between what the consumer pays and what the farmer gets can be cut down to life size."

### PROTECTION

When lightning strikes electric transmission and distribution lines, lightning arresters protect valuable apparatus connected to the lines by providing a direct path for the discharge of the excess energy to the ground.

As soon as the eggs hatch, spray bagworms on evergreens with one pound lead arsenate and one pound hydrated lime in 25 gallons of water.

## REA Announces -

(From Page Ten)

tractors will enter bids on a fair and equitable basis, secure in the knowledge that the competent, qualified contractor with the low bid will get the work if his prices are reasonable.

The following procedure has been outlined for awarding contracts:

A minimum of three bids must be received at the time of bid opening or else all bids will be returned to the bidder, unopened.

In the event that the low bid is reasonable and the bidder meets both the requirements for which the allocation was made and the provisions of the construction contract, the contract will be approved.

If, however, for any reason, price or other consideration, all bids must be rejected, the borrower will advertise for new bids.

Should no acceptable bid be submitted in response to the second advertisement, the borrower will abandon the plan of proceeding with the construction by contract, until such time as more favorable prices are likely to be obtained. With the consent of the Administrator, however, the borrower may proceed with the construction by force account.

There shall be no negotiations carried on with individual bidders to change their bids after the bid opening or after the rejection of all bids. REA will not consider approving any negotiated contracts.

Until further notice, additional construction on the same system will be approved in the form of an amendment to an existing contract provided there is no change in prices or other provisions. Thus, as allotments for new extensions are made to the borrowers, competent contractors on these jobs are assured of continued employment on a system so long as construction funds are available.

Engineers and contractors, however, are cautioned against proceeding with any work on a construction contract or construction contract amendment until it has been approved by the Administrator.

Reports from contractors indicate that they approve this announced procedure of awarding contracts. It clarifies the business of selecting the contractor and eliminates some of the uncertainties which have hitherto existed.

The borrowers, on the other hand, have a clean-cut, low-bid policy on which to base their decisions. In view of the widening gap in costs which has existed, in recent months, between construction by contract and construction by force account, there has been some feeling on the part of many borrowers that more attention should be paid to force account construction. This new policy, it is hoped, will permit the full employment of contractors and make headway on the large construction program which lies ahead.

REA has not modified its established policy of refusing to approve the award of a contract if facts indicate that the bidder has an interest conflicting with that of the borrower. The REA policy with respect to contractors doing business with private power companies remains unchanged.

### 'LOVERS AS APPRECIATIVE AS THE LIGHT COMPANIES'

A debatable subject in 1883 was whether electric lights were a boon or a hindrance to courting.

At Saratoga Spring, N. Y., a newspaper correspondent wrote that "there is perpetual moonlight at Saratoga by reason of the electric lights, especially around about the Grand Union Hotel. Lovers are quite as appreciative as the electric light companies."

The opposite stand was taken by a Cincinnati, Ohio, paper which flatly stated that "the electric light is not good for courting."

The total pig crop for 1945 is expected to be about 87,000,000 compared with 86,753,000 for last year. The slight increase will come from the fall pig crop.