

Modern Conveniences Improve Camping Fun

By Charles E. Albright

Through the unusual name of "JOMOCO," brotherly bonds have been strengthened, much to the satisfaction of many.

JOMOCO, the two brothers explain, stands for Joe, Maurice (he's affectionately called "Mo") and Company. It's part of the name (Honeybend Camp JOMOCO) of their campgrounds just off U.S. Route 66, some five miles north of Litchfield in central Illinois.

It all started when Maurice Whitworth, a Girard businessman for 23 years, went into a hospital with what was diagnosed as a disabling illness. During his recuperation, older brother Joe approached him with the idea of establishing a recreational business to be managed primarily by Maurice and his wife, Dorothy.

So, work was started last August on their 76-acre site. A great deal of brush was cleared, two lakes were built, roads were constructed, picnic shelters and a multi-purpose building were constructed and scores of camp sites were prepared.

ALSO, A RUSTIC LODGE with a welcoming sign reading "Have Fun" was constructed with adjoining and beautiful living quarters for Maurice and Dorothy.

Then, about the first of May, the campgrounds was opened to the public.

"And they came, hundreds of them have been coming," recalled Joe and Maurice in a recent interview. "We're real pleased. We've had lots of help in getting this place ready and we're glad people are enjoying it."

Maurice continued: "On the Fourth of July weekend we had 518 registered guests. There must have been at least 750 persons here for the big cook-out and fireworks display."

At another crowded weekend, some first-time guests said this of the campgrounds. "We came here with three other families. We had hoped to camp side by side, but it was too crowded. However, we're all close together, and these are beautiful camp sites. We'll be back, and often."

One of the repeat guests, Paul Staab, a Springfield businessman, explained why he likes Honeybend Camp JOMOCO.

"Everything we want is here. We enjoy the company of others who camp here. Our boys love to fish in their well stocked lakes. Besides, Joe and Mo are real fine people and they make us feel right at home."

Several people leave their campers all summer at some of the 12 permanent camp sites along a tree-lined stream which meanders by many of the other 82 rock-padded camp sites. All these sites have water and electricity with sewer facilities also provided the permanent spots.

There are 120 new camp sites being built, and nearby is a grassy area where people may pitch tents. Fees for the tent sites are \$2 a day while another \$1 is charged where water and electricity is provided.

"EACH OF OUR CAMP sites also has a permanently mounted outdoor grill, a garbage can and a picnic table," said Joe Whitworth. "We want our guests to be comfortable."

"And Walt here has helped make it comfortable for them," he said, pointing at Walter L. Hart Jr., who works in member services and electric sales for Rural

Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. headquartered at Auburn.

"The cooperative," Joe continued, "has been very helpful in bringing us electricity through underground installations so that the natural surroundings remain as appealing as possible."

From the air conditioned cab of a pick-up truck, Joe Whitworth pointed out various facilities on the well-kept grounds.

Beyond the lodge lay a small, screened-in building where fishing catches from a nearby lake can be cleaned. Fishing fees are \$1 a pole a day.

On the far side of the grounds is a stables for the horses that carry guests on trail rides. An archery range is on the opposite side of the campgrounds.

A SWIMMING LAKE and beach are located conveniently to the camping and tenting areas. Fees here are 35 cents for children and 65 cents for adults. ("Please tell your readers," Mr. Whitworth asked, "that we have a fulltime lifeguard trained in lifesaving techniques.")

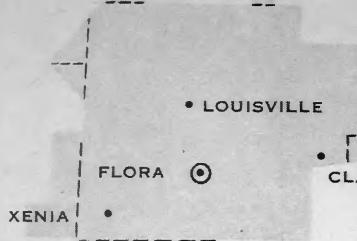
Close to the beach is a steel building containing hot and cold showers, flush toilets and a laundromat.

"We've tried to provide for the comforts of our campers," Mr. Whitworth explained. "Sure, they want to enjoy the outdoors, but they don't want to rough it that much. They want some of the conveniences we all enjoy. So, we've tried to make our place quiet, peaceful and modern."

Roy D. Goode, manager of Rural Electric Convenience, is among the many who agree they certainly have done that. As Mr. Goode points out, Honeybend Camp JOMOCO already has received a three-star rating (out of a maximum of four stars) from a leading camp directory.

Camping fun each year attracts more and more Americans such as these two youngsters looking across the recently opened Honeybend Camp JOMOCO near Litchfield.





Clay Electric News Special

Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Phone: 662-6126

Flora, Ill.

26th Annual Meeting

Progress Continues as Services Expand

There was something for all. Each member attending received a prize. Everybody enjoyed a sack lunch. There were business reports to consider and directors to elect. A farmer and philosopher-lecturer from Ohio gave a serious message in a lively fashion. Finally, the spotlight turned on the youngsters as they delighted the crowd with their square dancing and singing.

And after it all was over, directors of Clay Electric Co-operative agreed another successful business year was completed.

REPORTS SUMMARIZING accomplishments of the past were presented to the crowd of more than 1,400 persons attending the cooperative's 26th annual meeting in Char-

ley Brown Memorial Park near Flora recently.

Manager Elmo A. Cates looked out at the crowd and said: "As you can see from the reports (detailed financial statements had been distributed at the registration table) the cooperative is still doing well."

Then the manager spoke of a serious problem and encouraged continued support by the members. "We have had considerable expense replacing wire stolen from our lines. About \$3,000 worth was taken north of our Flora substation and the same amount along the Bible Grove Road. It will cost more to make the replacement."

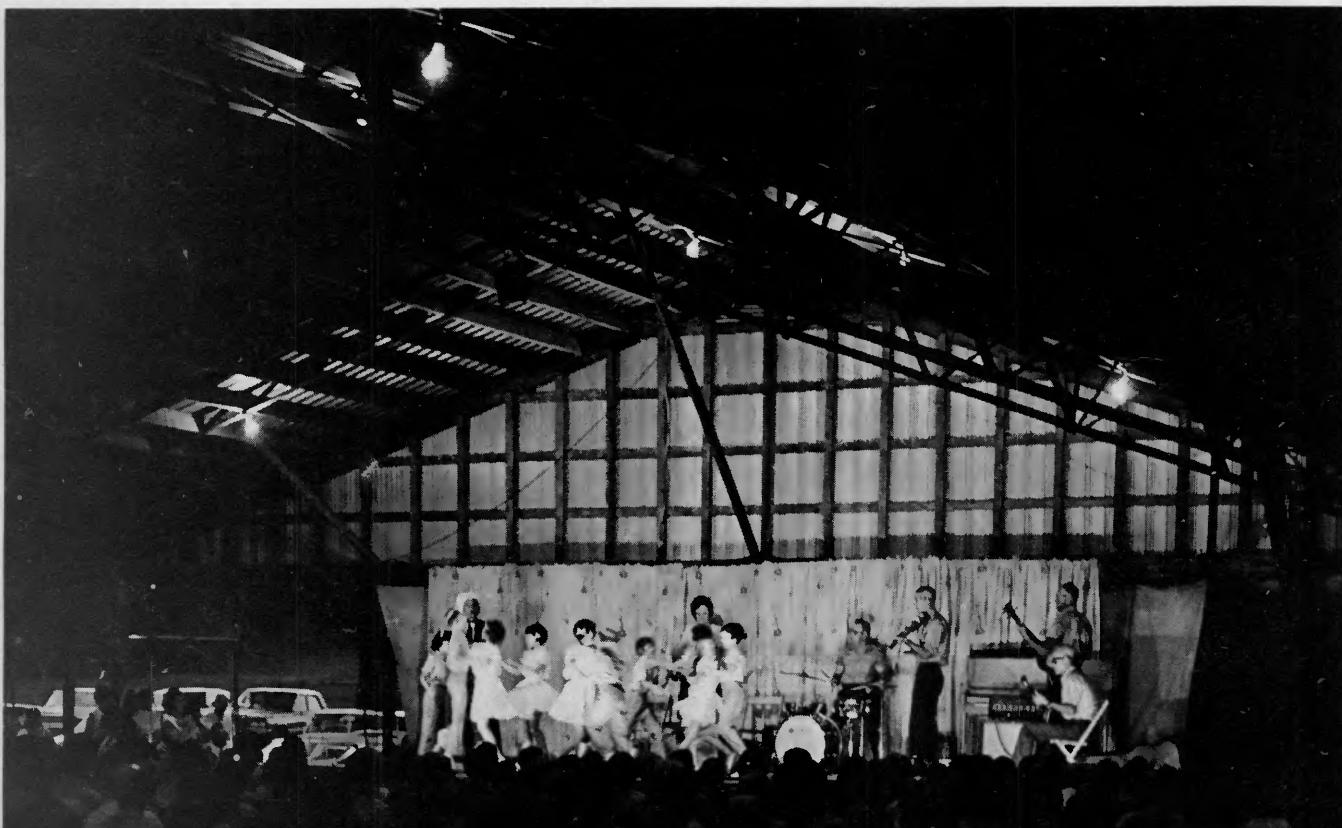
MR. CATES then told how cooperative members and the public

alike can help. "If you see any suspicious activity along our lines, call our office or law enforcement people so these expensive thefts can be stopped."

The manager had other news for the members. A maintenance crew, he said, has been located in the Hord and Bible Grove area for quicker assistance to members living in the cooperative's northern service area. That crew may be contacted by telephoning 686-4331 or 686-3696.

The treasurer's report drew this complimentary message from Cooperative Attorney William R. Todd. "The Cooperative through its board of directors and management is giving excellent service at low rates.

This is the scene where more than 1,400 persons jammed the Clay County Electric Building in Charley Brown Memorial Park west of Flora for Clay Electric Co-operative's 26th annual meeting recently. On stage are "Uncle Joe and His All Girl Square Dancers of Flora," one of the entertainment acts.



And this is being done while substations are built, other equipment added and loans are paid ahead of schedule."

THE PRINTED REPORT taken from an audit shows that Clay Electric now has assets totaling \$1,908,847 with all but \$290,311 repaid on loans which total \$1,753,087.

In 1969, receipts totaled \$67,795 more than the expenses of \$635,911. Major items included \$346,322 for wholesale power purchases, \$55,650 for maintenance work and \$47,376 for tax payments.

Other reports show that the 2,203 members living on 825 miles of line in Clay, Wayne, Richland, Marion, Fayette and Effingham counties last year used 3,709,921 kilowatts of electric energy. That's an average of 561 kwh per month for farm members and 17,483 kwh per month for commercial users. Comparable figures for 1967 of 457 kwh per month and 16,820 kwh show how much both farm and commercial members are increasing their needs for electric power.

THE ANNUAL MEETING crowd also heard an important mes-



Manager
Elmo A. Cates

sage from Henry Schriver, a colorful speaker from Ohio. He told them: "Cooperatives are a basic part of our free enterprise system because they promote the private ownership of property. As much as they've done though, they've hardly scratched the surface because so much remains to be done to meet the members' growing needs of the future."

During their business meeting, Clay Electric members re-elected Carl Barnick of Mason r.r. 2, Scott Harrison of Xenia r.r. 1 and Clem Hilmes of Flora r.r. 2 to the board of directors for three-year terms.

THE BOARD later reorganized and renamed its officers. They are William L. Stanford of Flora r.r. 2, president; Mr. Barnick, vice president, and Franklin Byers of Edgewood r.r. 1, secretary-treasurer.

Other board members are Ralph Hastings of Louisville r.r. 2, Edwin T. Henson of Xenia r.r. 2, Leo Iffert of Noble r.r. 2, and Delaine Traub of Louisville r.r. 3.

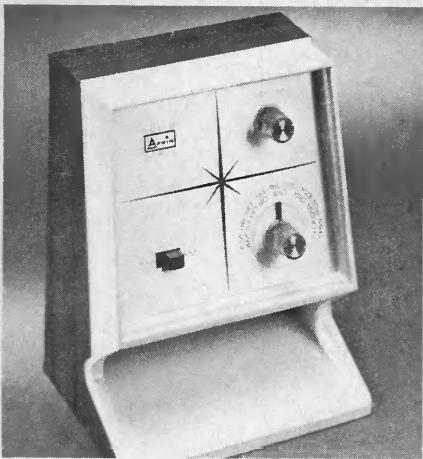


Directors newly elected to three-year terms are (from left) Scott Harrison of Xenia, Clem Hilmes of Flora and Carl Barnick of Mason.



Giving lots of zest and a professional touch is "The Kids from Flora" as they performed in a varied and lively program of popular music before an appreciative annual meeting crowd.

What's New?



- **'Mini-Upright'**

Arvin's new "mini-upright" design AM/FM table radio occupies very little space, yet delivers rich, full-bodied sound. Constructed of walnut wood-grain plastic, the unit features solid-state circuitry, direct-drive tuning, built-in AM and FM antennae and AFC for FM. Suggested retail price is \$16.95.



- **Portable Dryer**

Whirlpool's new portable-converter dryer features attached casters plus a detachable window-venting system with five feet of flexible hose. Factory set to operate on standard 115-volt house current, it can be converted to 230-volt operation for permanent installation.



- **Personal Care Center**

A personal care center including a power massage and complete power manicure attachments as well as the hair dryer is available from the Hoover Co. It all folds compactly into a carrying case. Colors are seal greige deep and harvest gold medium. Suggested retail price range is \$34.75 to \$39.95.



- **Ice Cube Maker**

The new Scotsman automatic home ice cube maker from Queen Products Division, King-Seeley Thermos Co., Albert Lea, Minn., 56007 produces a crystal clear, hard, slow melting ice cube. It makes up to 18 pounds or 480 cubes daily and has a storage capacity of 26 pounds or 670 cubes.

Co-op Leaders Set for Meeting In Springfield

(Continued from page 5)

Establishment of a cooperatively owned Cooperative Finance Corporation. Already some 80 per cent of the nation's electric cooperatives belong. More are joining. Most Illinois cooperatives already belong.

Soon the new organization will be in a position to borrow on the open money market, then make loans to many of the nation's electric cooperatives. This is true in part because the cooperatives themselves are investing seed money in their own CFC. They will own and control the new corporation.

CFC in the immediate future will not be able to supply all fresh capital funds for electric cooperatives. Many such organizations for at least a considerable time must depend on lower-interest REA loans.

But, said Mr. Moore, the cooperatives are seriously endeavoring to become as independent of government loans as is possible. They're making real progress.

Raymond W. Rusteberg of Valmeyer, Illinois' delegate to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association board of directors, also is a member of the CFC board of directors.

FINANCING of cooperative capital needs, of course, is only one of many subjects to come before this year's state meeting.

Steadily rising costs of electric power and its distribution are squeezing electric cooperatives, as they are commercial utilities.

Adequate sources of electric energy pose a problem for most cooperatives who buy at wholesale from commercial utilities. Serious work is being done in this area.

Pollution, development of rural areas, improved services to members, the danger of restrictive legislation, all are cooperative problems.

They all will be examined with great care. Views of many individuals will be heard and considered. And when the three-day program is finished leaders will return to their homes better informed and better able, they believe, to help guide their organizations toward even greater success—and service—in the future.