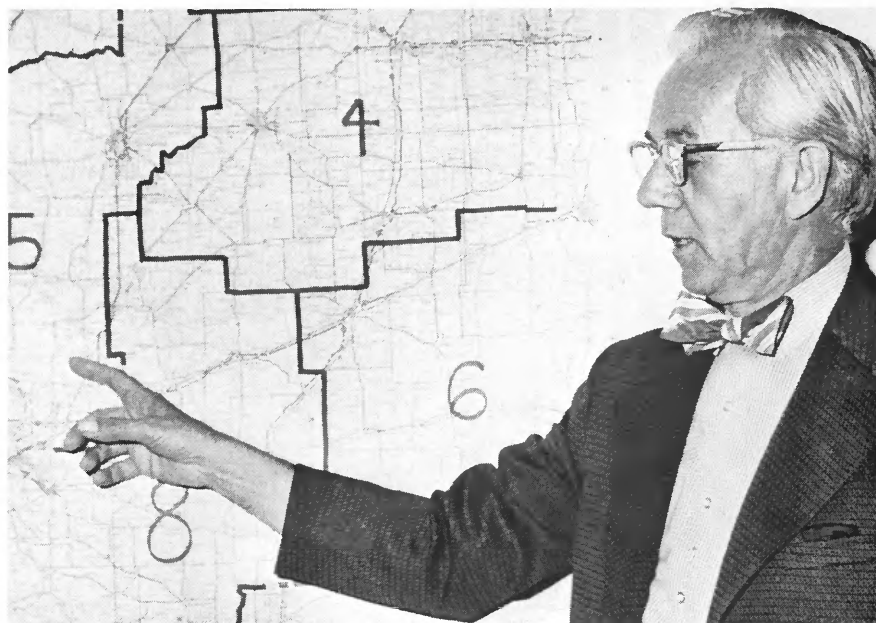


Improving Health Is IHIA's Goal



W. Henderson May discusses health improvement activities going on in one of the many areas that IHIA serves.

Electricity is not the only thing that Illinois rural citizens have obtained through cooperation. A case in point is adequate insurance coverage.

Before 1948, most Illinois rural residents went without health insurance benefits because of high costs. And disability insurance was even more expensive. But if they would organize, they could buy coverage under group rates.

"That's why 24-years ago the Illinois Health Improvement Association (IHIA) was created," W. Henderson May, IHIA executive director, said in a recent interview.

"The idea for forming IHIA was similar to the idea for electric cooperatives," he added. "Where you organized to provide electricity, we did it for insurance coverage."

TODAY IHIA represents 115,000 members from 95 county Health Improvement Associations (HIAs). At least 80 percent belong to electric cooperatives, May estimated.

Besides using the organization to lower insurance costs through group purchases, members have formed an army of volunteers to work in a number of health improvement activities.

Blood banks, donation of equipment to hospitals, health and dental care for underprivileged children, working with state and local public health officials, health education forums, sponsoring safety programs, Kidney Foundation work and work-

ing with 4-H clubs are just a few of IHIA's projects.

"Our goal is to find ways to improve the health of our members and for that matter, anyone in rural Illinois," May said.

"A good example is our work in no-doctor towns," he explained. "Our plan was to supply a clinic to these areas staffed by doctors from nearby communities.

"We have also published some information on how to improve local ambulance services. You can imagine how important this is in isolated areas of our state."

IHIA is also striving to supply Illinois with more qualified health personnel.

In 1963, the Health Improvement Foundation was established by IHIA to provide loans and scholarships to students in health sciences.

"Each year the foundation provides seven \$500 scholarships to these students," May said. "We try to award them to rural kids, but this isn't always the case. We do ask that the students try to spend one year in Illinois after graduation."

Likewise, the county HIAs provide deserving students with scholarships. And some organizations award a \$50 savings bond to 4-H members for their activities in health projects.

"We are very interested in getting more people into the health services profession," May said.

MAY EXPLAINED the need for

health service personnel is not only in the medical field. "There is a desperate need for administrative, management and hospital planning people too."

How do you become a member of IHIA?

"Any civic minded person can become a member of IHIA by paying \$3 dues," May said. "They can then join us in our volunteer programs."

To be eligible for the insurance coverage, the qualifications are a little more confining. You must be a resident of a rural area or community of less than 3,000 persons, or self-employed and under 60 years of age on the date of application.

IF YOU JOIN as a volunteer, prepare to be committed.

"We are urging our members to sign a uniform donor card issued by Illinois Kidney Foundation," May said. "The card is a legal document in all states. This allows you to donate any of your vital organs after death for transplantation purposes."

How successful IHIA projects will be depends on volunteers. May calls them bright, diligent and progressive people. They are the ones, he says, who make the projects work.

"And you know, I can think of several volunteers who are active in county HIA health improvement projects and also electric cooperative members," he said.

It is not surprising—knowing the type of people electric cooperatives have as members.

Spoon River Special

Spoon River Electric Co-operative, Inc.

930 South Fifth Avenue, Canton, Ill.

Telephone: Area Code 309—647-2700

Another Successful Year For Spoon River Electric



The huge auditorium was full. William H. McCamey, manager of Spoon River Electric Co-operative, Inc., Canton, seemed pleased.

"It looks like we have more than 1,000 persons here," he said. "This is one of our best annual meeting crowds ever."

McCamey and the directors of the cooperative had good reason to be pleased. Last year was the 35th successful year for the cooperative. Not only was it in sound financial condition, but detailed planning had paved the way for future growth and prosperity.

Serving the electrical needs of a four county area is no easy job. In the past, the challenge has been met. In the future, these and new challenges will also be met—with a lot of hard work.

PLAGUED with needs for reliable sources of capital, higher interest rates, and increasing cost of wholesale power, the cooperative made its third capital term certifi-

cate purchase from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). This certificate purchase secures the use of CFC loans in the future as a supplemental financing source.

President Ralph Erb of Ipava, explained in his annual report that this was necessary because future request for loans from REA will require the blending of REA funds with private supplemental financing.

"Most of the loans from REA are paid off in 35 years," he went on to say. "And since this is our 35th annual members meeting, our initial loan of \$440,000 from REA will soon be paid in full. We hope to have a celebration in honor of the occasion."

Spoon River has come a long way since those early days in 1939 when 97 miles of distribution lines served 280 member-owners in Fulton county.

TODAY, the cooperative has over 1,126 miles of line serving



Above: The crowd roared their approval for Donald "Red" Blanchard. Right: Members wait in line after the meeting for refreshments.



Members elected David A. Bailey of Maquon and re-elected Bernard Camp of Avon and Donald L. Elliott of Farmington for a three-year term to the cooperative's board.

more than 3,500 members in Fulton, Knox, Peoria and Schuyler counties.

William H. McCamey, manager, said in his address that last year was the first time real concern began to emerge that an energy crisis was in the offing. He added, "Believe me, the energy crunch is here.

"Our country has been blessed with vast quantities of fossil fuels, coal, oil and natural gas, and it may be hard for many to be concerned that the days of energy affluence may be numbered," he observed. "These fuels are "one time" energy reservoirs and once exhausted are gone forever."

According to McCamey, during the past 12 month period the nation burned approximately 60 billion barrels of oil, 25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and over two-thirds of a billion tons of coal.

"The real impact of these statistics is the ultimate effect it will have upon each individual," he explained. "As fuel reserves dwindle, costs will rise and shortages eventually occur, unless alternate forms of energy, such as nuclear, are found to supplement our rapid depletion of fossil fuels."

DESPITE all the technical and financial challenges the coopera-

tive faces, it is still in sound financial condition, Treasurer Kenneth Easley of Vermont reported.

Easley said total receipts for the year were \$944,203. However, of that amount, \$432,008 went for the purchase of wholesale power, and another \$64,894 for taxes.

"Some people," he continued, "believe that electric cooperatives pay no taxes. Not so. Our taxes have more than doubled since 10 years ago."

Thomas H. Moore, general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), Springfield, lauded the cooperative for the outstanding service it has provided for the past 35 years.

"Last month was designated Cooperative Month and the theme was 'Cooperative Serves.' There is no doubt in my mind that your cooperative does just that."

MOORE said the main purpose of the AIEC was to serve its member cooperatives and their members. And, under the leadership of such AIEC board members as Floyd Hughes of Canton "we will be able to serve you even better."

At the business meeting, members elected David A. Bailey of Maquon over John Hessler of Galesburg for the District 1 seat to suc-

ceed Turner W. Markley of Gilson. Markley had served two consecutive terms on the board and therefore, according to by-law restrictions, was ineligible for re-election.

Bailey, 23, is one of the youngest directors ever elected to the cooperative's board and one of the youngest in the rural electrification program.

Bailey and his wife, Marsha, live on a 1,200-acre farm. He is a member of the Knoxville Methodist Church, the Knox County Farm Bureau, the Knox county Pork Producers and is a director of the Knox County Health Improvement Association.

The members also re-elected incumbent Directors Bernard Camp of Avon over Allen Blout of Ellisville and Donald L. Elliott of Farmington over Lyle DeFord of Canton.

At a re-organizational meeting after the business session, Erb was re-elected president; Edward J. DeWerth of Farmington, vice-president; Camp, secretary, and Easley, treasurer.

Entertainment at the meeting was provided by Donald "Red" Blanchard and the Illinois Country Opry. Refreshments were served after the meeting by the Home maker's Extension Council of Fulton county.

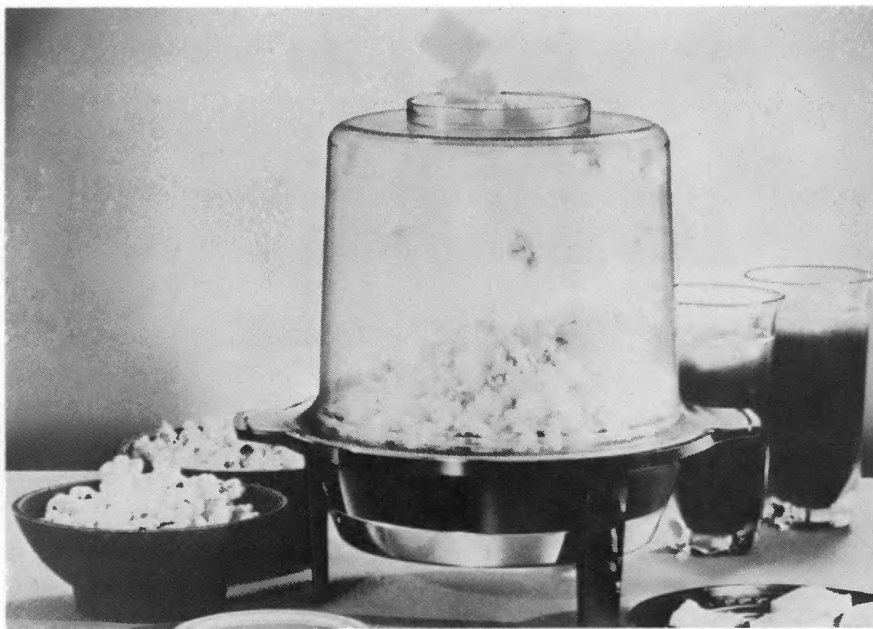
What's New?



Double Baking Power

A double built-in electric wall oven complements Corning's "The Counter That Cooks" built-in cooktop. The top oven is a pyrolytic self-cleaning oven with full black-glass

doors and a variety of standard cooking features. The lower oven is a baking unit, allowing the homemaker to bake or broil in one while baking at a lower temperature in the other.



Self-Buttering Popper

West Bend introduces the Butter-matic—a new 4 quart self buttering automatic corn popper. The unit features a cup set into the clear, dome cover into which butter is

placed. As the butter melts, it drips down into the popping corn. The natural popping action, according to West Bend, mixes the butter in for hot, pre-buttered corn every time.

1972 RD Act Will Benefit Rural Illinois

The Rural Development Act of 1972, recently signed by President Nixon, will provide new opportunities to rural Illinois residents, according to Gordon L. Ropp, director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Ropp said the bill will bring much needed revenues into rural communities, providing opportunities for employment, better living conditions and credit assistance for businesses. He outlined the key provisions of the bill:

1. Broadens the definition of "rural areas" (10,000 for community facility and rural housing financial assistance and 50,000 for rural enterprise and business financial assistance.)

2. Increases funding authorization for the planning and construction of rural community water and waste disposal systems (to \$30 million and \$300 million respectively.)

3. Requires that preference be given on loans or grants to very small communities (5,500 or less) where the present system has deteriorated.

4. Provides for \$10 million authorization in grants for the preparation of comprehensive rural development plans.

5. Requires that purposes for which loans and grants are made to public bodies shall not be inconsistent with state, substate and local government comprehensive development plans.

6. Authorizes loans and grants for the acquisition, expansion or operation of business and industrial enterprises (large or small—private or public—profit or non-profit), or to facilitate the development of such enterprises (industrial parks, pollution control, etc.).

7. Establishes a new Rural Development Credit Insurance Fund to make and insure rural development type loans. No obligation ceiling is established for this particular fund.

8. The Farmers Home Administration operating loan ceiling is increased from \$35,000 to \$50,000 and these loans may be insured.