



illinois
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rural electric news
November 1974

national news in review

Ropp to Head Up Illinois Farmer Consumer Report

Former Illinois Director of Agriculture Gordon L. Ropp, will serve as chairman of a statewide committee of 100 farm and agribusiness leaders which is coordinating a new program to establish direct, two-way communication between farmers and consumers.

Others on the committee include leaders from commodity and livestock groups, general farm organizations, farm women's groups and businessmen from the many businesses that support the Illinois farmer.

"Our objective is to build public support for agriculture by putting the farmer and the consumer in direct touch with each other so they can both work for a stronger agriculture and a stronger America," Ropp said. "We believe the consumer should be just as interested in a sound agriculture as the farmer. The program we are going to carry out offers an exciting opportunity to clearly establish this point."

Ropp noted that the overall effort is being coordinated by the Agriculture Council of America, a one-year-old organization supported nationwide by some 350 farm groups and companies that do business with the farmer.

Grassroots Effort Needed to Improve Rural Health Care

Programs for reversing the deteriorating health care situation in America's rural areas "need a grassroots constituency movement," concluded Chairman Bill Alexander (Ark.) of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Family Farms and Rural Development, which held hearings in October on federal health policies in rural areas.

Urging "imaginative . . . innovative approaches" toward general development of a community, Alexander indicated area residents should take the initiative for improving the entire locality to attract needed physicians and other professionals.

Rep. William Roy of Kansas, the only member of Congress who is both a physician and an attorney, said a bill he authored in April would provide financial incentives to encourage physicians to practice in rural areas presently inadequately served. He also urged support of the previously introduced Rural Health Act, which would ensure a "fair share" for rural areas of federal health improvement funds and would establish new agencies for providing technical assistance and surveys for rural areas in health care matters. (RENS)

Construction Halted on Oil Shale Plant

Development of oil from shale, an important element in the nation's effort to achieve independence from imported oil, received a setback with the announcement of suspension of plans for construction of what would have been the first commercial oil shale plant in the United States.

Colony Development Operation, a joint venture of Atlantic-Richfield Oil Co., Shell Oil Co., Asland Oil Inc. and Oil Shale Corp., announced that because of soaring costs and "U. S. energy policy uncertainties," it was suspending indefinitely plans to start construction next spring of a 50,000-barrel-a-day oil shale facility in northwest Colorado.

The company said construction costs have jumped from an earlier estimate of \$450-million to more than \$800-million by 1977. In addition, a spokesman said construction of auxiliary services would boost the final cost to over \$1-billion.

While considered a blow to shale prospects, the announcement reportedly does not directly affect development on other Western shale-oil lands recently leased to oil companies by the federal government. Those leases do not call for commercial plants until 1980.

According to some observers, the only way the U. S. will ever see shale oil used to an appreciable degree as a source of energy would be through massive government support in the form of funding and price floors on conventional crude.

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COVER— Only a frosty fall morning could make a thistle beautiful. This shot was taken at the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge which is served in part by Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Steeleville.

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Illinois rural electric news

Consumers Lose by Two Votes

Senate supporters of a bill that would have created an independent Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA) recently failed by only two votes to invoke a cloture rule and end debate on the bill.

It was a shame, for the real losers are the American people.

The vote was 64 to 34 for cloture, just shy of the necessary two-thirds. Had the motion passed, the bill was certain to have won Senate approval. It had previously passed the House.

The legislation was supported by a coalition of more than 100 national, state and local groups including the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Consumer Federation of America and many labor, citizen, religious and consumer groups.

It was also backed by several responsible businesses including Montgomery Ward, Motorola, Zenith, Polaroid and Connecticut General Life Insurance.

ACA was proposed in the platforms of both the Democratic and Republican parties in 1972 and had been endorsed by 31 state governors, the National Conference of Mayors, the American Bar Association and the National Association of Attorney Generals.

The bill was opposed by a wide range of business and industry groups led by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the National Association of Manufacturers and the Grocery Manufacturers Association. Obviously, according to many consumer advocates, these groups do not want competition in federal decision making any more than they want it in the marketplace.

In recent months, the tragedy of the voiceless consumer has been profoundly felt in rural and urban America alike.

Last December, the Federal Energy office made decisions about how to deal with the energy crisis and drafted regulations governing fuel allocations and possible rationing systems. But all through the decision making process, no one in the federal government felt he had an official obligation to speak for the consumer.

According to Midge Shubow of the Consumer Federation of America, one of the main reasons for the formation of the ACA is because rules and regulations made by the federal government have always been affected by special interest groups.

Business and industry present their viewpoint to congressional committees and federal regulatory agencies by maintaining lobbying staffs of knowledgeable attorneys with vast resources. When individual consumers want to express their views, financial considerations are prohibitive, and the political expertise is missing.

The ACA would help balance this inequity in lobbying power. It would act as legal counsel to represent the consumer when decisions which affect his health, safety and economic well-being are being made.

While the bill appears dead in this Congress, its supporters, led by Senator Charles Percy of Illinois, say they will try again early in the 94th Congress.

And if pre-election polls are accurate, many new faces will appear on the legislative scene. Hopefully, some of these new faces will have replaced the old ones who voted against the creation of the ACA.

The American consumer can't afford to be muted any longer.

otter lake

In the early 1960's, the famed "bath on Saturday night" was no laughing matter to six small towns south of Springfield. It was more a matter of necessity.

For years, the towns—Auburn, Divernon, Girard, Pawnee, Thayer and Virden—had depended on Springfield for their water supply. But as the towns grew, they experienced recurring water shortages of increasing frequency, especially during the summer months.

Realizing the growth of their town depended upon reliable water supply, the cities joined together to form the Auburn, Divernon, Girard, Pawnee, Thayer and Virden Water Commission (ADGPTV).

Today, at the expense of more than \$3.7 million and the construction of 800 acre Otter Lake, the ADGPTV serves more than 14,000 residents and is ready to grow with the area it serves.

Otter Lake, located about seven miles west of Girard, has a water capacity of 5.5 billion gallons according to Leonard Watret, superintendent of ADGPTV.

Watret said the treatment plant at the lake can produce 2.5 million gallons of pure water a day. Electric power for the treatment plant and the system's pumping stations is supplied by Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., Auburn.

The project took three years to complete—a relatively short time considering the complexities of building a water system. One reason was because only 10 miles of water lines had to be built since the towns were already receiving their water from Springfield.

The system's consumers use about 1.15 million gallons of water a day. The pumping tanks at the treatment plant hold about 500,000 gallons of water. Another storage tank at Auburn contains about a million gallons.

All water is sold wholesale to the towns except for 200 residents who are near main feeder lines.

A staff of only six men handle the system. In case of an emergency, the towns supply additional personnel.

Besides the benefits of an adequate and dependable water supply, Otter Lake is fast becoming a major Central Illinois recreational area.

The land around the lake is leased from ADGPTV by Harold Ramey for camping and scouting areas. The 39 miles of shoreline is easily accessible by foot and the lake is stocked with bass and channel catfish.

The northern part of the lake is strictly for the angler and the southern part is reserved for skiing enthusiasts.

Ramey's rules at the lake are plainly stated on a sign that reads: "Welcome to Otter Lake. This lake is for you. Take only memories, leave only footprints."

In the past, lack of adequate water supply has been a detriment to development and growth in many rural areas.

But here, what once was very dry unproductive land is now a beautiful lake in a natural setting.

More importantly, Otter Lake provides more than a bath on Saturday night. It provides that last needed ingredient for the area's development—water.

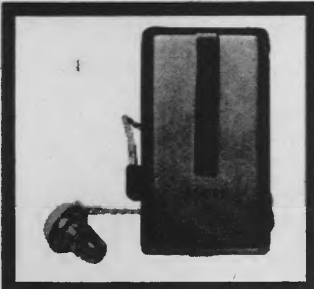
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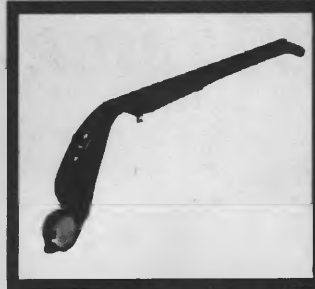
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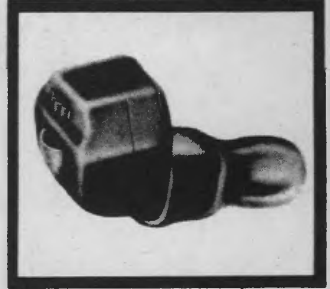
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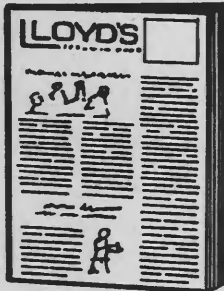


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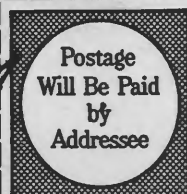
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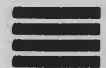


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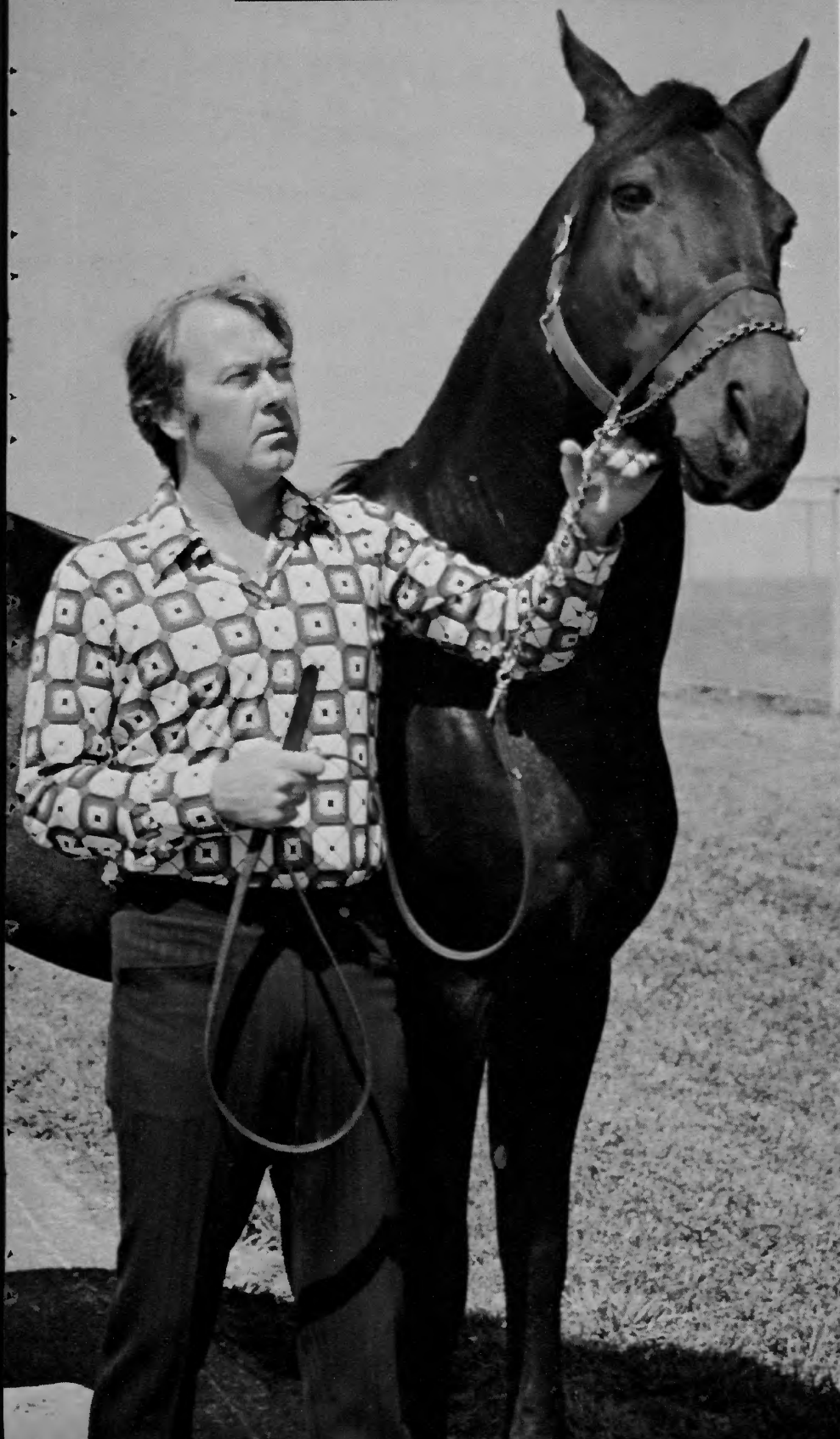
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Horsing around near LeRoy

marsh stud farm



Larry Marsh, owner of Marsh Stud Farm, keeps a tight rein on Gamecock, one of the stable's prize stallions.

Someone once said, "build a better mouse trap and the world will beat a path to your door." Change the mouse trap to a stud farm and you would have the reason Larry Marsh is succeeding in the horse business.

If there was an "in" place among mares to breed, Marsh Stud Farm would hold that distinction—and for obvious reasons.

Where else can she find the luxury of synthetic-turfed floors, 150 acres of pasture to romp in, private stalls and periodic grooming?

And where else can her owner find a stud that has sired 535 foals of racing age that have won more than \$8-million in harness racing?

These and several other reasons make Marsh Stud distinctive. Collectively, they make the farm one of the most well-known and respected horse breeding establishments in the state.

Located on the outskirts of LeRoy, 15 miles east of Bloomington and 25 miles west of Champaign, the farm is billed in a national racing magazine as the "newest and most modern breeding facility in the world." Marsh adds, "the most efficient and factory-like, too" with the other superlatives.

And that is what the operation is all about—using new and more efficient ideas for breeding, coupled with established studs, to produce quality standardbred foals. A standardbred horse, to differentiate from its cousin, the thoroughbred, is a horse which 150 years ago could race a mile in what was termed a "standard" time. Eventually, this ability became the mark of the breed. Two prominent examples of standardbred horses are trotters and pacers.

Marsh Stud Farm, located south of Chicago for five years before moving
(continued on next page)



ing to its present location, was gaining national recognition when a shopping center developer offered Marsh enough financial incentive to make a move desirable. After looking at more than 50 sites, Marsh chose LeRoy—both for its central location and easy access to major thoroughfares.

Relocation also allowed Marsh to build from the ground up and incorporate his own concepts into his breeding farm.

"Anymore, very few breeding farms are built from scratch" Marsh said. "Most of the breeding farms are old, established places that have built up a steady business and reputation over the years at the same location.

"But I was my own architect and we built this from nothing," he added. "I approached this from a commercial aspect, I knew what I wanted and this is it."

From a distance, the farm looks like a spoked wheel with the main building serving as the hub. More than five miles of cyclone fence divide the outdoor acreage into enclosed pastures. There is also additional land nearby which Marsh uses to grow his own hay.

The main building contains the stable, offices and the breeding area. It is slightly larger than a football field (360 feet long and 72 feet wide) and covers 26,000 square feet. Electricity for the farm is provided by Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, Inc., Bloomington.

"The way the farm is designed, it can be operated without ever leaving the main building," Marsh said. "All I have to do is open the door of the breeding room and I can get any mare or foal from any one of the paddocks. There is no other place like this under one roof."

Walking into the massive blue and white concrete building from the front, one first runs into something that shouldn't be there at all—a two-story house. The house is the brain center of the operation. Marsh runs the farm from his carpeted, air conditioned office.

The lounge area houses another of Marsh's modern approaches—closed-circuit television. The television



banks allow Marsh and a mare's owner to monitor the breeding operations and watch the foaling stables without ever leaving the comfort of executive chairs and air conditioning.

According to Marsh, television, along with computerized records of the mares, has made it far easier to keep track of the operation at all times.

Stretching the length of the building is a driveway-sized street, complete with electric lights and soon to be fitted with synthetic-turf.

To the right are spacious stalls for the mares and foals, the indoor paddock, the breeding room and the veterinarian's office.

A full-time veterinarian supervises the breeding and otherwise keeps the stallions, mares and foals in good health. Marsh is extremely proud of the fact that he has never lost a mare or foal.

All of the breeding is done by artificial insemination, which allows the stallions to breed far beyond their normal capacity.

"With standardbred horses, artificial insemination is the accepted method of breeding," Marsh said. "It allows a stallion to breed six or more mares in a day, something he couldn't do under normal conditions. It is also safer for the mare and more efficient."

Marsh's unique self-sustaining concept for the building allows him to replace quantity for quality.

"The whole building only has 28 stalls for the mares," Marsh said, "but this is all we need. We can accommodate a lot more mares since we have an indoor paddock. The indoor paddock gives the mares and the mares with foals freedom and exercise regardless of the weather and ground conditions."

At the opposite end of the building are the four stallions on which the operation's success depends: Gamecock, Egyptian Dancer, Speedy Flight and "the ancient one," Poplar Byrd.

The star of Marsh Farm is Poplar Byrd. To be more exact, 30-year-old Poplar Byrd, p, 4, 1:59.3 by

Volomite out of Ann Vonian. A lineage which summed up means he is as valuable as the price of his services says he is.

Poplar Byrd, "the old one" as Marsh calls him, has achieved some notable accomplishments which makes the \$1,200 fee he commands worth it to many horsemen. Besides being the sire of 13 winners of \$100,000 or more, Poplar Byrd was the sire of the first standardbred stallion to earn a half-million dollars and the first to top the one-million mark.

"He is a venerable stallion," Marsh said. "Some stallions gain popularity for a while, but not many keep that popularity for a long time. Poplar Byrd has lasted."

"Gamecock and Egyptian Dancer are also well-respected as studs, and Speedy Flight has produced a good looking crop of yearlings," Marsh said. Stud fees range from \$1,200 for Gamecock and Poplar Byrd to \$850 for Egyptian Dancer and \$500 for Speedy Flight. Multiplied by the 200 mares Marsh breeds his four stallions to in a year and . . . well, it shouldn't take too long to pay off the \$500,000 cost of constructing their home.

Although Marsh does own around 50 mares and races a few yearlings, his farm is strictly a breeding facility. There are no racetracks, no time trials and no sulkies. "That is another business," Marsh said. "Breeding the fastest standardbred horses possible is my business."

And business depends largely on the reputation of

(continued on page 10)

CENTER: Marsh's occupation is unusual in that his product—standardbred foals—are both beautiful and potentially offer a large return on the investment. OPPOSITE ABOVE: From beautiful mares do little horses come. One of the colorful mares on the farm roams the pasture. BELOW: Marsh breeds approximately 200 mares a year to his four standardbred stallions. Each mare is herself a quality animal, as are the stallions.



stud farm

(continued from page 9)

the stallion and the quality of the mare.

"When I put a stallion with a mare, I want to know that the colt produced won't damage the reputa-

tion of the stallion," Marsh said. "There is too much money involved to have a stallion's name compromised by a questionable mare." That is why each mare is under contract and the contract states that no questionable mare will be bred by any of Marsh's stallions.

Marsh hasn't quite completed his

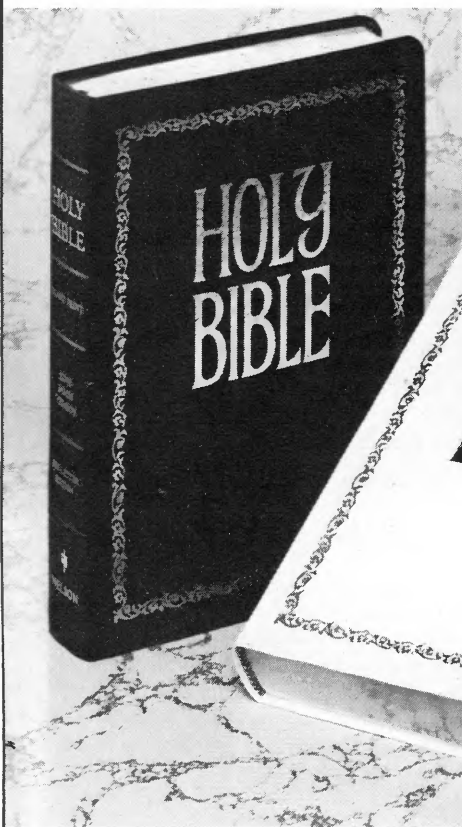
farm, either. He intends to add just a few more extras—such as synthetic-turf in a few areas and possibly radiant heat for the entire barn.

Marsh is a person who thinks of the little things—which is readily apparent in his operation.

This is the type of attitude that will probably lead Marsh to accomplish his twin goals of being the largest commercial breeder in the state and producing the fastest foals possible.

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- Q. Will you cancel my policy if I have too many claims?
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- Q. Can my rates ever be raised?
- A. Your rates can never be changed unless there is a general rate adjustment of this class in your entire state.
- Q. When does this plan become effective?
- A. Full coverage under this plan is available 30 days following the effective date of the policy.
- Q. If there is a history of cancer in my family, may I still purchase at the same premiums?
- A. It has been our experience that those most closely related to the expense of cancer are the most anxious to secure additional financial strength.
- Q. What is the age limit on purchase of this policy?
- A. What effect does age have on the policy?
- A. Full benefits are paid regardless of age, and you may continue your policy the rest of your life.
- Q. Must I be released from the hospital before I can collect benefits?
- A. No. Benefits are payable to the insured as confinement is incurred, on a monthly basis if he chooses.
- Q. Does this plan pay direct to me or the hospital?
- A. Benefits from the Cancer Insurance Plan are paid directly to the insured or to whoever he designates.

HERE'S OUR GUARANTEE

After you receive your Cancer-Money Plan Policy, examine it carefully. Show it to your lawyer, your doctor, a trusted friend. If you return the Policy within 10 days—for any reason—we will promptly RE-FUND any premium you have paid!

William V. Wagner
President
American Life Insurance Co.
Home Office—Chicago, Ill.

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- Here's how you can get this valuable coverage. Just fill in the attached coupon. Mail it today. SEND NO MONEY. If you are accepted, you will receive your Cancer Insurance Policy by return mail along with your premium notice and Hospital Identification Card.
- Send coupon to
American Life Insurance Co. 221 N. LaSalle St. Chicago, Illinois 60601

THIS IS A CANCER ONLY POLICY

WHILE CANCER CAN OFTEN BE CURED—

It requires the most expensive kinds of treatment. The treatment is often prolonged and Most hospitalization insurance is NOT adequate to cover the expenses of CANCER treatment.

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pay for services rendered by such institutions. This policy pays only for loss resulting from definitive cancer treatment, including only direct extension, metastatic spread (and/or its direct effects) or recurrence (and pathologic proof thereof shall be submitted to support such additional claims as provided under the terms of the policy). This policy does not cover any other disease or sickness or incapacity.

Notice: a provision in the Cancer Insurance Plan policy states: "If this policy is issued as a family unit, such family unit is defined as the named insured, the spouse of the named insured and all the dependent children of the named insured, unmarried and under 19 years of age." Newborn children are automatically added. There is no need to list individual members of the family on enrollment request.

Send No Money Now!

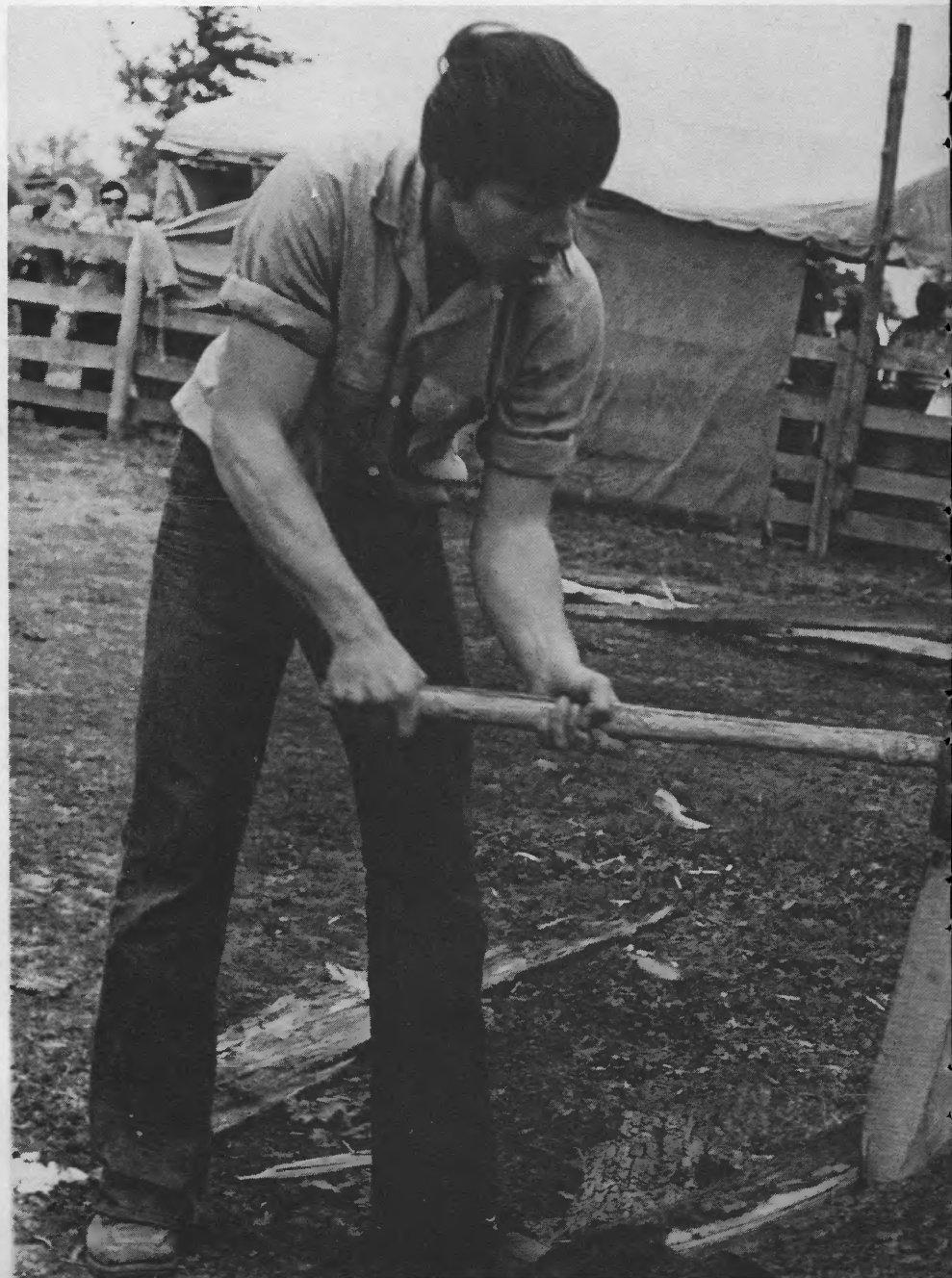
American Life Insurance Company 221 N. LaSalle St. Chicago, Ill. 60601
Cancer Insurance Enrollment Request Application

Name	First	Middle Initial	Last	Year of Birth	State	Zip
Street Address						
REPRESENTATION & AGREEMENT OF POLICYHOLDER: I hereby represent that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief no person to be insured under this policy has now or has ever had Cancer in any form except _____ who is to be excluded from the coverage of this policy.						
CHECK PLAN DESIRED			<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Plan \$1.00 per month Renewal \$11 per year		<input type="checkbox"/> Family Plan \$2.00 per month Renewal \$22 per year	
SIGNATURE X						
FORM #A-25						
						IRE 114

Policy Form #CA-25

BE SURE YOU SIGN APPLICATION AT THE X!

Land of Lincoln Crafts



Thousands recently stepped back into yesteryear for a few hours and enjoyed the sights and sounds of their forefathers.

The scene was the Land of Lincoln Crafts Festival, held annually each fall at the New Salem Carriage Museum, one-half mile south of New Salem State Park. Because of the central location, the festival has become popular with visitors from all corners of Illinois and neighboring states.

More than 160 local people, many of them electric cooperative members, demonstrated 60 crafts which our ancestors took for granted in

their everyday lives, but today have been forgotten by most people.

The annual event was sponsored by Petersburg Town and County Women's Club. Electric power for the site was provided by Menard Electric Cooperative, Petersburg.

Much of the festival was a gourmet's delight with fresh smoked ham, sassafras tea, bittersweet, paw-paws, pumpkin bread, cottage cheese, kraut, hominy, sorghum and sweet cider.

There was something for all ages. And although it only lasted a week-end, it brought back many fond memories of days gone by.

Festival



BELOW: Chester Pettit of Springfield (left) and Homer Lounsberry of Oakford, a member of Menard Electric Cooperative, set their team to work. BOTTOM: Dell Price of Petersburg, also a cooperative member, slowly stirs a fresh batch of sorghum. CENTER: The fine art of rail splitting was handled by several hearty young men. FAR LEFT, BELOW: Mary Hurie of Petersburg demonstrated chair caning. FAR LEFT, ABOVE: According to Mrs. Ernest Ayers of Pawnee, a member of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., Auburn, goose plucking really doesn't hurt the pluckee.



ABOVE: Silhouetted by the midday sun, linemen learn the use of "hot sticks" at the outdoor training laboratory. CENTER: Proper tools and safe methods make working on live, energized electrical lines possible. These two linemen are rigging a pole so they can do repair work on the crossarm.





Illinois Linemen

Learn safety safely

Uninterrupted service is the basic goal of consumer electrical systems throughout Illinois. But electrical systems are not fail-proof—they require routine maintenance, periodic updating and, when mother nature strikes, emergency repair.

All of this is the work of a lineman. And when possible it is work done on the line while 7200 volts of electrical energy are still flowing through it.

This hotline work, as it is called, keeps cakes rising in ovens, televisions tuned to your favorite program and, more importantly, farms and factories operating.

As one might expect, this type of work takes highly specialized skills and knowledge and, when correctly performed by proven methods, it is both safe and efficient.

A unique school, the only one in Illinois, teaches these skills and has been teaching them for 20 years. The "Hot Line Training School" is sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives under the auspices of the Illinois Electric Cooperative Job Training and Safety Committee.

It is held each year during the

month of October at Southern Illinois University's Vocational Technical Institute campus at Carterville, where there is a specially constructed field laboratory. This outdoor laboratory has various types of electrical line construction, simulating those used by electric systems throughout the state.

Those linemen attending the school come from cooperative and municipal electric systems, and spend all day for a full week performing a variety of repair and maintenance operations.

This year, 80 linemen participated in the four one-week schools learning "the hot stick way" of providing continuous, dependable electric service to consumers in all parts of Illinois.

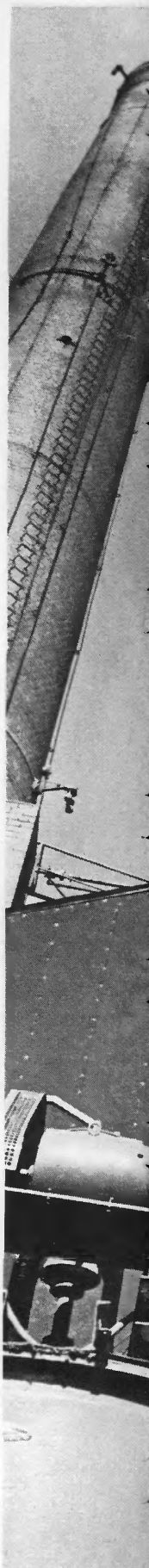
Next time mother nature casts her fury in the form of ice, wind or rain and electric service is interrupted, take one second and think of all the times "hot stick" equipped linemen kept electricity flowing to you.

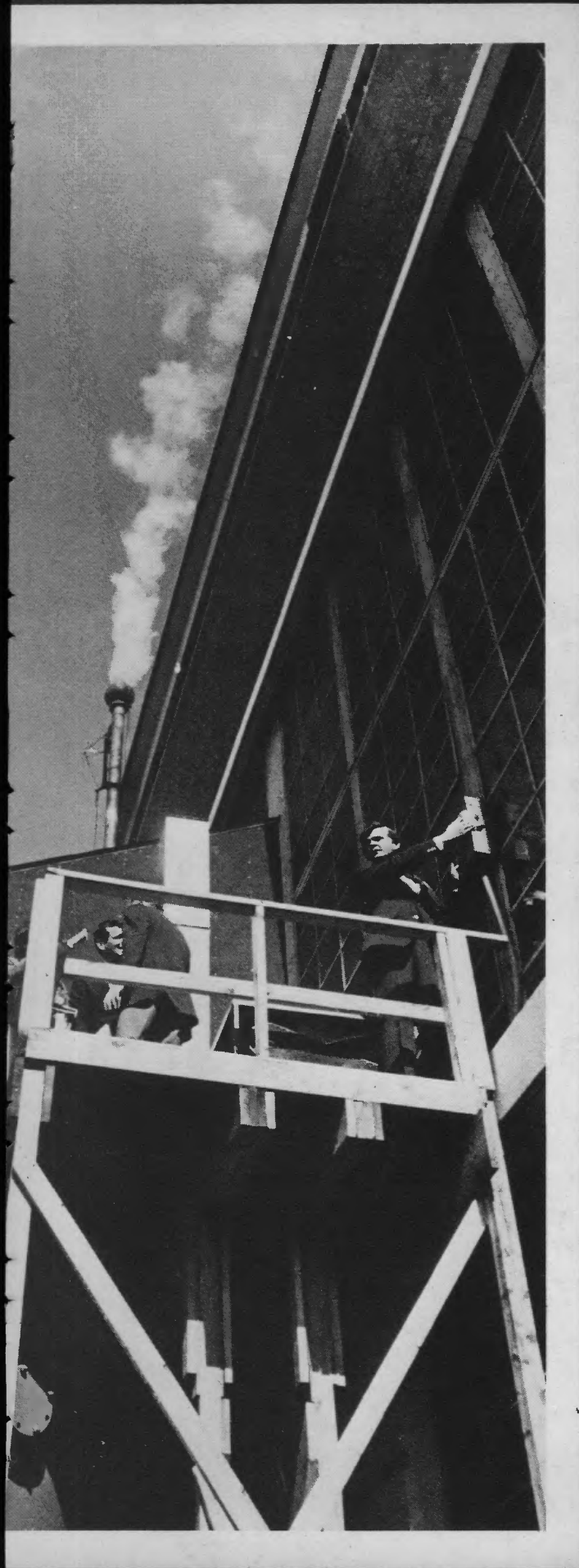
And be confident that they are not taking "uncalled for risks," but are applying proven techniques learned safely at this unique school.

Illinois Coal '92

the challenge

Mines to Market:





It has been widely publicized Illinois has one of the largest known reserves of coal. In fact, it has more than any other state in the United States.

In our energy hungry society, the potential 37 billion tons of mineable coal would give Illinois a prestigious position in the energy future of our country.

Attaining that future position was the subject of Coal II, the second conference on Illinois coal, held October 1 and 2 at Southern Illinois University (SIU), Carbondale.

Coal I, the initial conference, was held last March in Chicago. It chiefly emphasized the conversion of Illinois coal, which is high in sulfur content, to cleaner forms of fuel.

Since the Coal I conference, many new processes for the use and conversion of Illinois coal have advanced into developmental stages. These processes include gasification, liquefaction and advanced scrubbing methods.

An experimental working model of the last process was dedicated by Gov. Dan Walker on the opening day of the conference. The prototype scrubber, coupled with the smokestack at the SIU power plant, is being tested as to its feasibility for removal of harmful sulfur dioxide pollutants from stack emissions.

The scrubber was built through the cooperative efforts of the Illinois Institute for Environmental Quality, SIU and Chemico, a New York based chemical equipment firm.

Coal II was designed to further the objectives of Coal I and discuss ways to increase production and use of Illinois coal.

Nearly 400 people from all segments of Illinois coal's past, present and future attended the conference. They heard talks on the technological, financial, environmental and safety aspects of what the future holds for increasing production to meet expected demands.

Environmentalists, industrialists, labor-leaders and miners met, elbow to elbow, in the auditorium of the SIU Student Center and, as the saying goes, "let it all hang out."

While expressing ideas freely, they disagreed with and questioned the speakers openly, giving the two-day meeting a forum type atmosphere with much audience participation.

Governor Walker termed the conference "a start at finding solutions to the tough challenges that lie ahead." Many of the challenges facing the future of Illinois coal were outlined during the conference.

Environmentally, Illinois coal is unburnable in present energy producing facilities because of rigid air quality standards. However, Illinois coal has a high heating value which makes the potentially high cost of cleaning up the fuel a little easier to swallow.

LOWER LEFT: "Preparing for the Mine of the Future" was the topic of this panel discussion moderated by Senator Bradley M. Glass, Northfield. CENTER: Governor Dan Walker throws the switch to activate the experimental smoke scrubber at SIU.

(continued on page 20)

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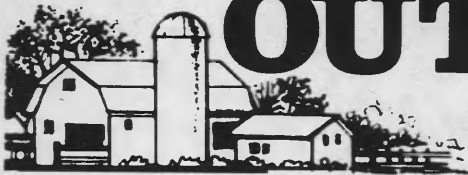
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Illinois coal 2

(continued from page 19)

One of the most challenging problems is that of production. Today, Illinois coal production is a fairly bleak picture, one that has been fading for many years. The convenience and relatively low cost of oil and natural gas, the increasingly stringent environmental protection laws and the Federal Mine Health and Safety laws have all had adverse effects on coal production.

In 1970, Illinois coal production was 65 million tons. This dropped to 61.5 million tons in 1973. These figures were possible with modern mining methods, but are a far cry from the record output of 89 million tons in 1918 during the pick and shovel days.

The present energy situation has caused the outlook for coal to brighten.

The technology of mining equipment and new methods of mining are also advancing as the need arises in our crisis-oriented society.

In the same light, Illinois is up-
(continued on page 28)

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When Clarence Tate of Fairfield stopped bringing his work home, his wife wasn't the least bit upset. It was something about the strange odors that had seeped from the basement and the absence of plastic articles around the house.

Now those chemical odors are safely housed in the old Boyleston Grade School. And what was being made with the chemicals and plastic is now, 10 years later, being marketed nationally.

Tate's invention is a unique magnetic film which can be color-coded and used in an unlimited number of commercial applications.

The first product made with the film is the Tate Slate now being distributed from Maine to Washington.

As his brochure states, "the slate brings a new and remarkable concept to the field of writing and printing devices. It writes without the use of chalk, crayon or ink and eliminates the dust and mess usually associated with the slate blackboard."

The slate is magnetically operated. Color-coded micromagnets, microscopic in size, are turned by a magnetic activator to present a colored field. When a magnetized marker is drawn across the field, a mark is produced. Each end of the marker produces a different colored mark.

"What makes the slate work is the film," Tate said. "It is the real invention. The slate is only the first embodiment—the introductory item."

The slate makes a fitting entry into the market for Tate, since indirectly the film was an outcropping of an observation he made on blackboards one Sunday in church.

His wife, a Sunday School teacher, was using an ordinary blackboard to illustrate a lesson. And, as Tate puts it, "she was creating a dusty mess." It started him thinking.

"Later, while everyone else was considering the scriptures, I will have to admit I was thinking more about what could be done to improve the blackboard," Tate said.

Tate, who has always been interested in science and physics, even though they don't exactly fit in with his real estate and abstract business, set up a basement lab to see if he



School children will probably be the first to enjoy the Tate Slate. Part of the fun will be learning the slate's capabilities, just as these Springfield kindergarten students are doing.

NEW MAGNETIC PROCESS MEANS

Chalk One Up for Clarence Tate

couldn't eliminate the blackboard's mess.

It was then his wife started noticing the odors and the lack of plastic in the house.

"When I started, I was experimenting with every type of material I could find," Tate said. "In fact, my family started hiding anything plastic they wanted to keep. Otherwise, they knew I would have it either melted, cut up or dissolved."

In 1962, Tate applied for his first patent on the film process he developed. Subsequent discoveries convinced him that the chalkless, dustless and messless novelty item he wanted to make would be only an incidental compared to the other potential uses of the film.

"I believed the film had a market value," Tate said. "And I began looking for financial support to aid me in developing its possibilities."

He found that support close to home. Fifteen Fairfield area businessmen contributed \$25,000 each and Thalatta, Inc., was formed to manufacture and market the film.

Thalatta, which was taken from the Attic Greek word for a great

discovery, literally "Eureka," is how his wife must have felt when he moved the project out of the basement.

Forming the company was really only the first step in manufacturing the film.

"We spent two years tooling up," Tate said. "It took a year just to have the specially designed machinery built and operating. And it also took some time to select the optimum materials for producing the film."

Thalatta, Inc., moved to the Boyleston School House about a year and a half ago. Electric power for the business is provided by Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield.

Presently, the company employs 10 people to produce the film and slates. And like most inventors, Tate is already looking for new ways to use his film.

"The toy field isn't the only avenue we intend to follow," Tate said. "The film could be used in science class to help identify the magnetic poles and graphically show
(continued on page 23)

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Chalk One Up for Clarence Tate

(continued from page 21)

them. It could also be used for greeting cards . . . maybe for kids in the hospital. Not only do they get a card, they would get something to play with too.

"I believe one wide-open market for the film is in the field of computers and computer readouts," Tate added. "With electronic readouts, you need an external power source to maintain the image. With this film, the image will be retained until it is magnetically altered."

Regardless of what Thalatta's future successes are, Tate's little "revelation" about blackboards has proven that, although one can never be sure when or where an idea will occur, it might be worthwhile following it up.



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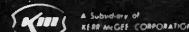


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EASY BEEF AND VEGETABLE APPETIZER

- 2 pounds cooked roast beef, cut in 3/4 to 1-inch cubes
- Celery sticks
- Zucchini squash slices
- Carrot sticks
- *Russian Dip

Prepare beef cubes and vegetables, wrap separately and chill. Serve with Russian Dip.

*RUSSIAN DIP

- 1/2 cup Russian dressing
- 1 cup dairy sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon snipped parsley, if desired

Thoroughly mix Russian dressing, sour cream and Worcestershire sauce. Chill 1 hour or more. Stir in parsley before serving, if desired, or garnish with parsley. Yield: 1 1/2 cups.

BAKED IDAHO APPETIZERS

- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 envelope onion soup mix
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 1/2 cups instant mashed Idaho potato flakes

Combine water, butter and onion soup mix in a saucepan and bring to boil. Remove from heat; stir in milk and instant potato flakes. Cool mixture. Press in buttered and floured cooky molds or small muffin pans or form in balls. Bake in hot oven (400° F.) 25 to 30 minutes, until golden brown. Remove from pans and arrange on tray. Yield: 1 to 2 dozen appetizers.

BEEF BALLS ROSE

- 1/4 cup hot water
- 1 envelope beef-flavor mushroom mix
- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 2 beef bouillon cubes
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/4 cup butter, margarine or drippings
- 1 cup Rose wine
- 2 sprigs parsley
- 2 tablespoons catsup
- 1/4 teaspoon thyme
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons snipped parsley

Add 1/4 cup hot water to Beef-Flavor Mushroom Mix and combine with ground beef and egg. Shape mixture into balls (1 tablespoon each) and place in roasting pan or jelly roll pan. Bake in slow oven (325° F.) 20 minutes or until done. Add boiling water to bouillon cubes to dissolve. Blend flour with melted butter, margarine or drippings; add bouillon and wine gradually, stirring well after each addition. Add parsley sprigs, catsup, thyme and garlic and cook, stirring constantly, until thickened. Reduce heat, cover and continue cooking 15 minutes. Remove sprigs of parsley. Remove hot beef balls from pan with slotted spoon, stir into sauce and turn into serving dish. Sprinkle with snipped parsley. Yield: Approximately 4 dozen balls.

TIFFANY CHIPS

- 2 small or medium-sized Idaho potatoes
- 1 cup wheat or corn flake crumbs
- 3 tablespoons Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds
- 1/2 cup butter, melted

Scrub but do not pare potatoes. Cut in half lengthwise, then cut each half lengthwise into 4 or 5 wedges. Combine half cereal crumbs with Parmesan cheese and half crumbs with sesame seeds. Dip potato wedges in melted butter and coat half with each crumb mixture. Place on baking sheet or jelly roll pan. Bake in a hot oven (400° F.) for 20 to 25 minutes. Yield: 16 to 20 appetizers.

BEEF TERIYAKI KABOBS

- 2 pounds sirloin steak, cut 3/4 inch thick
- 1/4 cup Italian dressing
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup white wine
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 can (13 1/4 ounces) pineapple chunks, drained
- 8 kumquats, halved
- 8 mushrooms, halved
- 8 canned water chestnuts, halved

Cut steak into 3/4-inch cubes and place in bowl. Combine Italian Dressing, soy sauce, wine, honey and ginger in saucepan. Simmer 10 minutes; cool. Pour over beef cubes, cover bowl and marinate in refrigerator 2 to 3 hours. Remove cubes from marinade and thread on bamboo skewers, alternating each cube with a piece of pineapple, kumquat, mushroom or water chestnut. Place kabobs in roasting pan or jelly roll pan. Place in hot oven (450° F.) and cook to rare or medium (7 to 8 minutes). Serve hot. Yield: Approximately 15 kabobs (4 beef cubes each).

CUCUMBER BEEF ROLLS

- 18 to 20 thin slices roasted beef sirloin tip
- 2 packages (3 ounces each) cream cheese
- 1/2 cup grated cucumber*
- 1/4 cup grated radishes
- 2 teaspoons onion salt

Soften cream cheese, add cucumber, radish and onion salt. Spread on slices of cold roast beef, allowing about 2 teaspoons for each slice; roll up slices; wrap and chill. To serve, cut rolls in halves or thirds, depending upon length; secure each piece with small wooden pick and arrange on platter. Yield: Approximately 3 to 4 dozen rolls.

*To grate cucumber, scoop out seedy center portion and grate remainder with skins on and press out liquid.

GUACAMOLE BEEF ROLLS

- 18 to 20 thin slices roasted beef sirloin tip
- 1 medium-sized avocado
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 tablespoon grated onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon coriander
- 4 drops hot sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 cup chopped tomato

Mash avocado. Add lime juice, onion, salt, coriander, hot sauce, chili powder and tomato. Combine thoroughly. Spread on slices of cold roast beef, allowing about 2 teaspoons for each slice; roll up slices; wrap and chill. To serve, cut rolls in halves or thirds, depending upon length; secure each piece with small wooden pick and arrange on platter. Yield: Approximately 3 to 4 dozen rolls.

CHEESE BALL

- 1 8-oz. sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 4-oz. blue cheese or Roquefort
- 2 tablespoons horseradish
- 1 clove garlic, crushed (garlic powder may be used)
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- Cayenne pepper to taste (optional)
- 1 cup finely minced parsley
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Thoroughly mix all ingredients except parsley and pecans. Combine parsley and pecans and blend half of them into cheese mixture. Spread remaining parsley mixture on sheet of waxed paper. Form cheese into a ball and roll it in parsley mixture until well coated. Chill before serving. May be made long before serving. Freezes beautifully. Yield: 3 lbs.

HOT HORS d'OEUVRES

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup grated sharp cheese
- 1/2 cup sifted flour
- Cayenne (as desired)
- 1/2 tablespoon caraway seeds
- 3 oz. jar stuffed olives

Mix together butter and cheese, add sifted flour, dash of cayenne and caraway seeds. Mix together until thoroughly blended. Wrap small amount of mixture around each olive. Refrigerate for at least an hour. Bake at 400 degrees 15 minutes or until brown.

SAUSAGE BALLS

- 3 cups Bisquick
- 1 lb. good, lean sausage
- 12 to 14-oz. sharp cheese

Mix sausage and mix together with hands. Grate cheese and mix with flour mixture. Roll into small balls. Cook at 400 degrees for 15 minutes. These can be made up and frozen ahead of time.

"DIPPER'S NUGGETS" CHICKEN

- 6 whole broiler-fryer breasts, skinned, boned and cut into 1 x 1 1/2 nuggets (6 nuggets each half of 12 to 14-ounce breast)
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 3 tablespoons sesame seed
- 1 cup flour
- 1 to 1 1/2 pints Mazola corn oil

Mix eggs, water, salt, sesame seed and flour into a batter. Heat corn oil, over medium heat in a heavy sturdy, flat-bottomed 3-quart saucepan or deep fryer, filling utensil no more than 1/3 full. Heat over medium heat to 375° F. Dip nuggets into batter; drain off excess batter. Add nuggets in a single layer, about 8 or 9 at a time. Fry about 3 to 5 minutes or until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve with following sauces. Makes 12 servings.

Nippy Pineapple Sauce: In saucepan mix 1 jar (12 ounces) pineapple preserves, 1/4 cup prepared mustard and 1/4 cup prepared horseradish. Heat. Makes 1 1/2 cups.

Dill Sauce: In bowl mix 1/2 cup sour cream, 1/2 cup mayonnaise, 1 teaspoon dried dill weed and 2 tablespoons finely chopped dill pickle. Let stand at room temperature for 1 to 2 hours to blend flavors. Makes about 3/4 cup.

Royalty Sauce: In saucepan mix 1 cup catsup, 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard, 1 tablespoon brown sugar, 2 tablespoons vinegar, 6 tablespoons Mazola margarine. Mix and cook 4 to 5 minutes stirring constantly. Makes 1 cup.

TUNA TIDBITS

- 1 can tuna
- 1/2 cup flour
- Salt
- 1/4 cup juice from fish
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 egg

This can be made with tuna, salmon or mackerel. If there is no juice in can, add water to make 1/4 cup. Beat egg, stir in tuna, flour and salt to taste (about 1/2 teaspoon). Stir with fork. Mix liquid with baking powder and stir into fish mixture. Using two iced teaspoons, drop small bits into hot deep fat. The tidbits will float, turn once, lift out and drain on papertowels. They will look "lacy".

CHEESE SPREAD PARTY SANDWICHES

- Day-old bread
- 2 glasses Old English cheese
- 2 eggs, uncooked
- 1 stick margarine

Beat cheese, eggs and margarine together in electric mixer. Add a dash of Tabasco sauce. Cut crust from thin bread slices. Then cut slices into 4 squares each. Spread softened filling on each square of half the slices. Stack other half of slices on the spread ones. "Ice" each double square, top and sides. Freeze on cookie sheet. Pack in containers, put in freezer. Place on cookie sheet as needed and brown in hot oven until crisp on outside. 3 dozen sandwiches.

FRUIT COOKIES

- 1 1/2 lb. dates
- 1 lb. candied cherries
- 1 lb. candied pineapple
- 1 lb. pecans
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 3 whole eggs
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon soda
- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1/3 cup brandy
- 1 tablespoon juice

Cut up fruit and nuts. Cream together margarine and sugar. Add beaten eggs. Mix soda in water, add lemon juice, then add to creamed mixture. Add brandy. Mix and sift cinnamon, allspice, and flour together 2 or 3 times. Mix all cut-up fruits well into flour mixture until fruit is coated. Combine together. Drop by teaspoonfuls on cookie sheet. Bake 20 minutes at 325 degrees. Of you may bake in small loaf pans. Wrap in brandy-soaked napkins. You may freeze the loaves provided you let them stand a few days wrapped in brandied napkins and sealed in foil.

SEVEN LAYER COOKIES

- 1 (15-oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate bits
- 1 cup butterscotch bits
- 1 cup chopped nuts (pecans, walnuts, or mixed)
- 5 tablespoons butter or margarine

Put butter in 9-inch square pan in 325 degree oven. When butter is melted, spread crumbs evenly over butter. Now spread coconut, then chocolate bits, butterscotch bits, then nuts. Do not mix layers. Spread or pour condensed milk over all and bake at 325 degrees for about 30 minutes (25 minutes if using glass dish). Cut into 1 1/2-inch squares. Freezes well. Makes 36 squares; double recipe for a tea for 25 people.

HEAVENLY HASH

- 1 can chunk pineapple
- 1 small pkg. small marshmallows
- 1 pkg. dream whip
- 1 apple, chopped
- 1/2 cup nuts
- 1 small jar maraschino cherries

Combine pineapple and marshmallows. Let set overnight. Add the dream whip, apple, nuts and cherries.



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Commercial Catfish Farmer Going into

conservation business

Around Victoria, John W. Curry's name is usually associated with that of his company, GWEBCO, Inc., one of the largest catfish producers in the state.

If Curry has his way, however, his name may soon become synonymous with conservation.

Curry, along with his father-in-law, a college professor and two pet food producers, started making an impact on the commercial catfish industry in 1965 on land owned by Curry's father-in-law.

Curry farms 2,500 acres nine miles east of Galesburg and is also president of the National Corn Grower's Association. Power for his farm is provided by Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., Princeton.

"A coal company in the 1950's strip-mined the land," Curry said. "They mined by the old standards and destroyed the acreage for use as cropland or almost anything else. When the coal company left, there were 400 acres of unusable land and about 40 acres of water. "An area like this can either be an eyesore or something productive and aesthetically pleasing," Curry said. "We decided we wanted the latter."

John Curry looks over one of the 40 ponds which contain the catfish his company once sold on a commercial basis. The ponds will soon be given over to conservation in an effort to preserve the balance of nature.



The idea of a commercial catfish farm arose after Curry met Dr. Milton Bowman, a professor of Biology at Monmouth College.

"Dr. Bowman had done extensive research on the culture of channel catfish, especially in the areas of experimental spawning, feeding and feed formulation," Curry said. "So, we decided to put everything together and make use of the disturbed land in a commercial fish venture."

By any standards, the business was a success. In peak years, the company was selling around 50,000 pounds of dressed catfish and anywhere from 200,000 to 300,000 pounds of fingerlings. The fingerlings, between two-and-12 inches, were generally used for stocking ponds.

"At first, we suffered some economic reverses," Curry said. "But there were moments of success, along with a lot of hard work, and we finally got our money back out of it."

By 1972, however, the company was suffering from an "erosion of manpower," according to Curry. Dr. Bowman had returned to teaching, the pet food producers had sold out their business and Curry's father-in-law passed away.

"With my farm and other things, it became harder to operate the catfish operation on a commercial basis," Curry said.

The lack of manpower, coupled with a deep interest in maintaining the balance of nature, started Curry reorienting the land toward conservation and sport fishing.

"I'm not saying that this will never be a commercial operation again, but for now I intend to reduce it down so I can manage the land at a more leisurely pace," Curry said.

"The proper balance of nature can be a beautiful thing," Curry said. "Maybe if we create the climate conducive to that here—a blend of water and land—we will have done just a little for civilization. Starting a conservation project will be returning the land to its best use and user—nature."

Curry intends to turn some of the ponds into fishing areas for sportsmen. He is also becoming involved in a program to protect endangered species of ducks and geese.

As for the experience of being part of one of the largest commercial catfish companies, it is something Curry will never forget.

"It was a lot of fun to be a pioneer in something," Curry said. "Many of the ideas we developed here have become the fundamentals of similar operations elsewhere."

"But, I think turning back the land to its natural state will be as much fun," Curry added, "and a lot more important."

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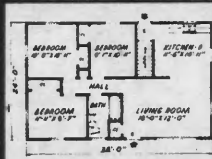
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illinois coal 2

(continued from page 20)

grading miner education, with Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel, and Rend Lake Jr. College, Mt. Vernon, taking the lead by offering two-year mine technology programs.

Another, and deemed by many as the most crucial challenge, is that of miner and mining company relations. These problems are going to have to be worked out if the industry hopes to provide the manpower necessary to meet future energy demands.

Transportation challenges also have to be overcome. This is an era when everyone is talking of rail abandonment and many of our railroads are in financial dismay. Yet, it should be a time when they are preparing to handle the brunt of transportation for Illinois coal. Likewise, in areas where feasible, waterways should be developed for barge traffic.

All of these challenges, and others, have to be met and surpassed if there is to be a future for Illinois coal.

It has been estimated the world will have to rely on coal-derived fuels for at least the next 150 years. United States coal reserves equal a potential energy source seven times as great as the world's proven reserves of oil. A great deal of this future energy lies in the coal in Illinois.

What all this means is, Illinois can become, if everyone works at it, the leader in the field of coal production and coal transformation into energy to quench the nation's needs.

However, increased production is going to take commitments from industrial, financial, business and other segments of our society.

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- No. 9127 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ yards 45-inch fabric.
- No. 9050 is cut in sizes 34 (38" bust with 40" hip); 36 (40 bust, 42 hip); 38 (42 bust, 44 hip); 40 (44 bust, 46 hip); 42 (46 bust, 48 hip); 44 (48 bust, 50 hip); 46 (50 bust, 52 hip); 48 (52 bust, 54 hip).
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