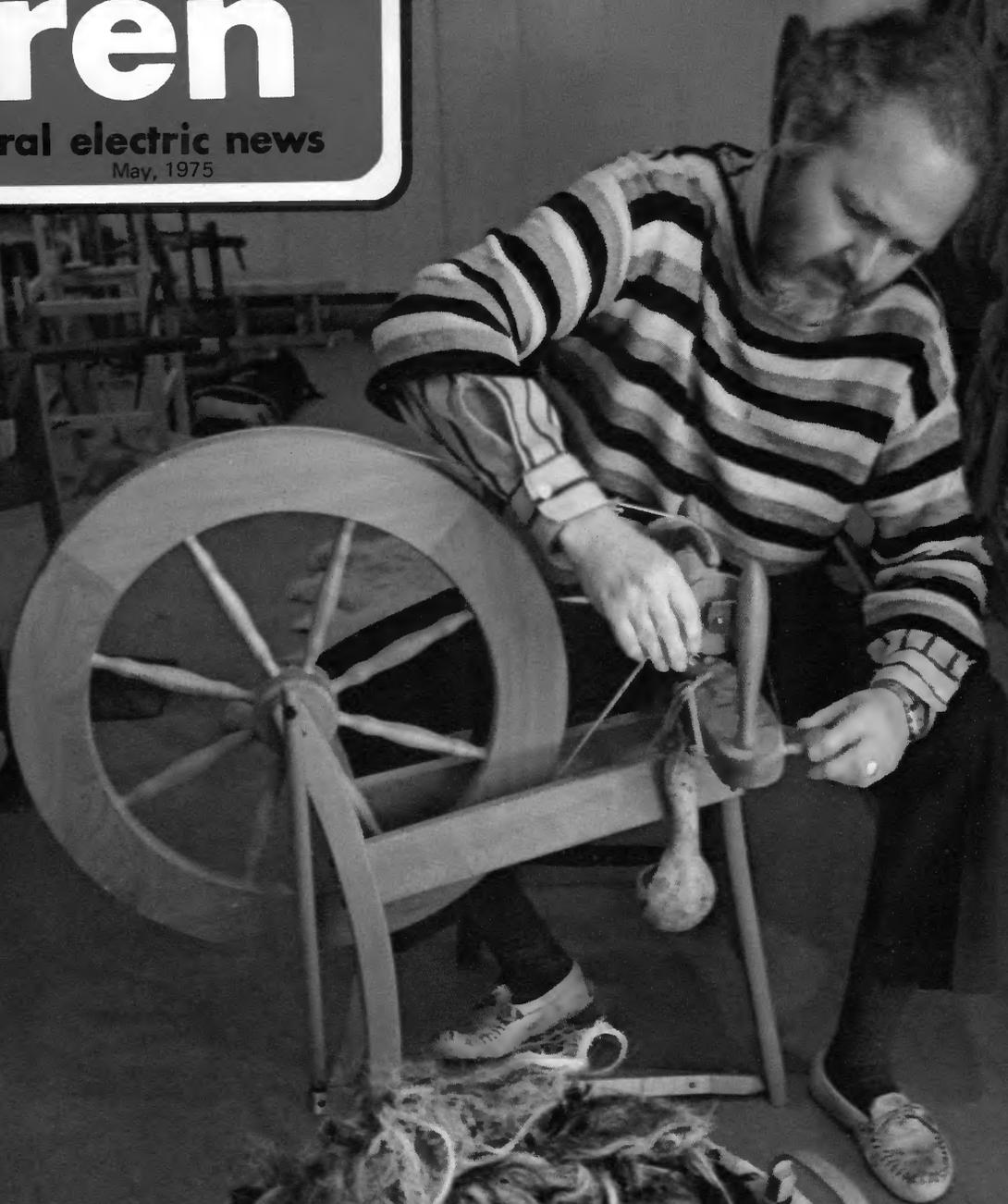


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May, 1975





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May, 1975

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Associate Editors

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COVER—Al Koelling prepares his Ashford Wheel for spinning. Read more about the Country Koellings starting on page 5. Cover photo by Jim Pottorf.

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Illinois rural electric news

Coal Prices Tied to Monopoly Control

A study co-sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association suggesting that the coal industry may be guilty of anti-trust violations has suddenly surged to the forefront in Washington, D.C.

As we reported in last month's issue, Washington Attorney Worth Rowley petitioned the Justice Department last October to convene a grand jury to investigate coal pricing. He supported the petition with a study by Dr. James R. Barth and Dr. James T. Bennett, economists at George Washington University. On February 27 Rowley renewed his request, noting that the original petition had been in Justice's hands for five months.

Rowley submitted that coal price increases are "one of the most significant inflationary factors in the American economy, directly and substantially affecting the entire level of prices in this country. They have been going on since 1970 under circumstances which bear the earmark of illegality and were the subject of our earlier unsuccessful complaint to the anti-trust division in 1971. At that time the division refused to convene a grand jury, contending that high prices represented a market response to a temporary shortage situation and would soon subside—an analysis that was completely false, as evidenced by supervening events," Rowley charged.

The Barth-Bennett study supports in detail Rowley's assessment. In an introduction to the study, the economists note:

"Although some coal prices can be explained by increased costs of production, it appears that the supply response of the coal industry to a rapid rate of price increase cannot be justified on the basis of cost increases alone . . . output has remained virtually constant and operating profits from coal have increased tremendously . . . Coal companies have, since 1967, been the target of acquisitions and mergers. Oil companies . . . have been particularly active in obtaining ownership or operating coal firms. Thus, there has been increasing concentration in the energy sector, not just in coal production alone."

Roughly 80 percent of the cost of operating a coal-fired generating plant goes for fuel. And, when coal skyrockets from \$8.00 a ton in 1972 to over \$22.50 only 21 months later, you can imagine what it does to the cost of electricity.

Since most of the electricity distributed by cooperatives in Illinois is generated by coal-burning plants, skyrocketing coal prices are reaching into your pocket and taking money out of your budget.

Fifteen coal companies produce almost half of this nation's coal. Of the tonnage produced by those 15 companies, 35 percent is controlled by four oil companies. During the past five years, 43 coal companies were bought out or merged with other companies. And, oil industry-related companies were involved in almost half of these acquisitions.

Coal is becoming controlled by the oil industry. Under this set-up, and in a totally profit-oriented energy industry, it is natural that the price of coal will increase in conjunction with the price of oil.

Coal and oil are basic fossil fuels. They should be competing for customers. The law of supply and demand should be working. But that becomes impossible when one industry is owned by the other.

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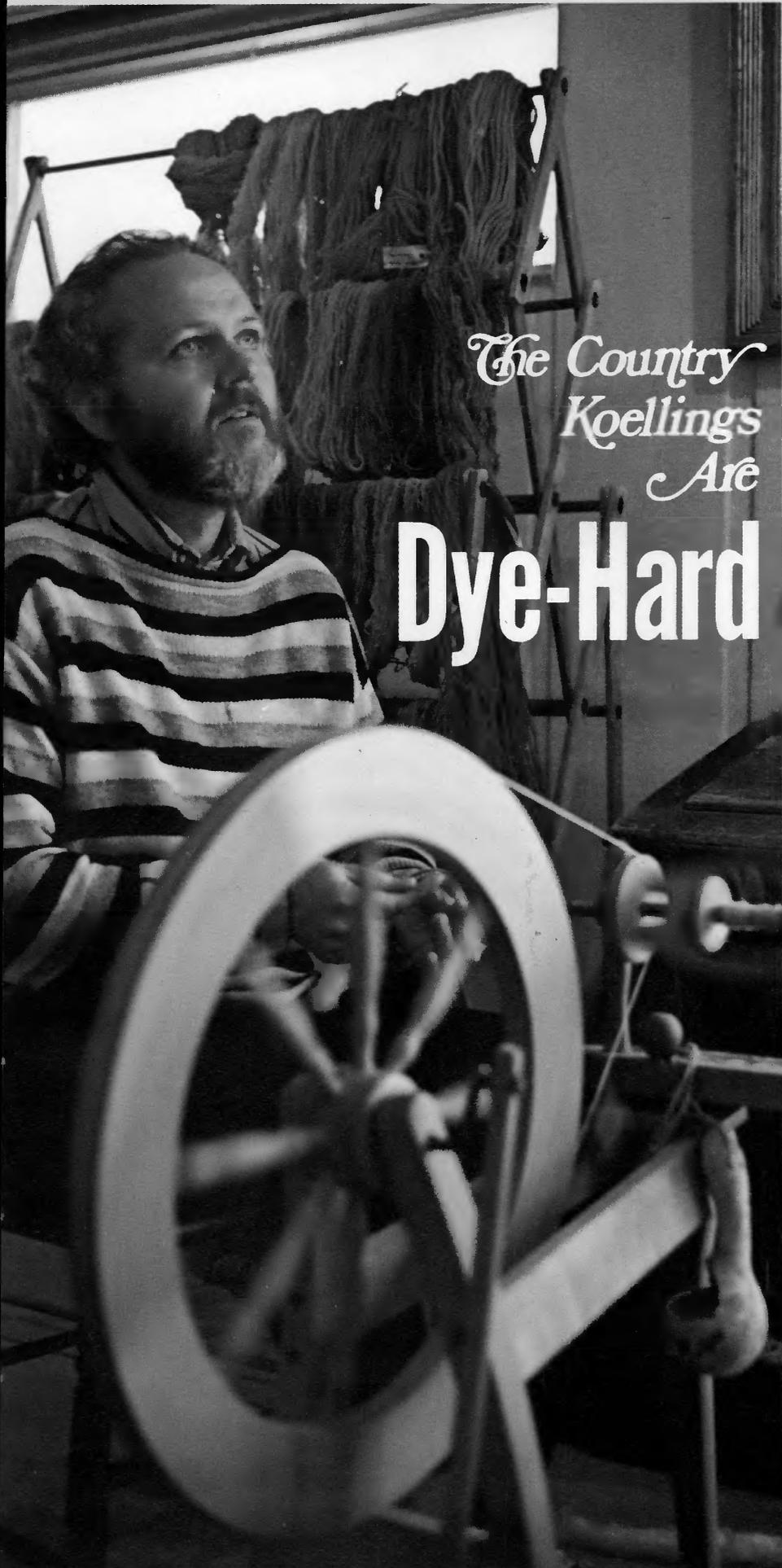
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In his spinner's workshop at his home near Petersburg, Koelling explains the workings of an Ashford Wheel from New Zealand.

*The Country
Koellings
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Spinners

Now that the Koellings have moved to the country, they can do many of the things they have always wanted to do but couldn't.

And whatever they do, from dyeing and spinning their own wool to planting the family garden, there is only one way for them to do it—naturally.

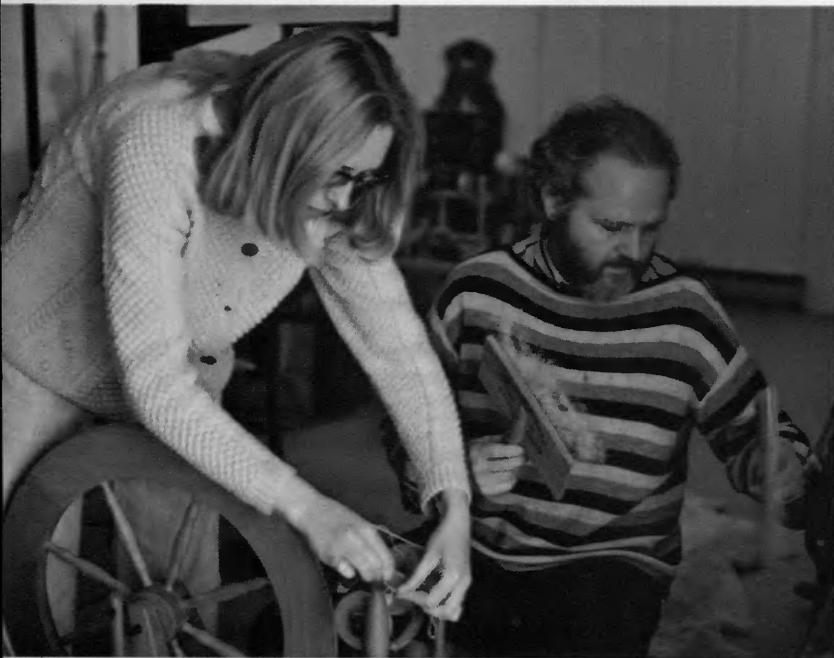
Tired of suburban living and the concessions they had to make to it, Al Koelling, his wife, Charlene, and their two children, moved to a 15-acre tract east of Petersburg and became members of Menard Electric Cooperative.

Everything around the Koelling house is homegrown or homemade the natural way. They do their own canning and make their own ketchup. In fact, they no longer even care for the taste of store bought ketchup.

Their 15 wooded acres are too hilly to farm but just right for country living and grazing sheep. The sheep provide them with the raw product for Al and Charlene's favorite pastime—dyeing and spinning wool.

Each May a friend of the Koellings shears their sheep. Their
(continued on next page)

The Country Koellings



Before the wool is spun, it usually is carded. Carding is similar to brushing. The two cards resemble dog brushes and remove some impurities from the wool. The Koellings also have a small hand-operated carding machine which came from Canada.



The Koellings and their daughter, Jill, display some of the hand-spun and naturally dyed wool. The Koellings gather every type of plant imaginable to make their different and colorful dyes.

five dark-colored Shropshire sheep produce ample amounts of dark brown and gray fleeces. They buy white fleeces, which are later dyed into many different colors, from area farmers.

"Most farmers get rid of their dark-colored sheep because their fleeces do not bring as good a price as the white ones," Mrs. Koelling explained, "but we're just interested in the color.

"After the sheep have been sheared, you separate the wool and wash most of the grease out," she said. "It's best to use homemade or Ivory soap which doesn't have any detergent in it. If you use a detergent, all the grease will be washed out—you need a little grease to make the wool spin right."

After it dries, the Shropshire wool is ready to be carded and spun and the white fleeces are usually dyed. Of course, the Koellings use only natural dyes derived from different plants and insects.

Koelling has been working with natural dyes most of his adult life.

He is presently curator of botany at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. Before that he was a professor of botany at Auburn University in Alabama.

The Koellings gather every type of plant imaginable to make their different and colorful dyes—onion skins, tulip tree leaves, cockleburrs, marigolds and black walnuts among them. They also use exotic insects from South America.

"You really have to know what you want before you start dyeing or spinning," Koelling said. "If you're not careful, you could lose everything."

To make homemade dye, the plant materials are placed overnight in a kettle, large enough to hold four gallons of dye bath and a pound of wool without crowding. The mixture is boiled for one-half to two hours depending on the color to be extracted. An alum solution or lime and water is added to mordant the color (set the dye).

According to Koelling, the wool must be clean and moist when ready

to enter the dye bath. The wool is then placed in the lukewarm dye bath. You must keep the wool in motion, moving it back and forth and lifting it in and out to get the dye distributed evenly.

"You heat just to the boiling point and let the kettle simmer," Koelling explained. "When the water gets low, lift out the wool, add boiling water to reach the original level, stir well and return the wool to the dye bath. The color that shows on the wet wool should be a trifle darker than the shade desired."

The wool is rinsed thoroughly and strung over a clothesline in the shade to dry. The ends are tied together and a brick is placed inside to stretch the wool while drying.

"You get so many different and beautiful colors from natural dyes," he added. "Goldenrod makes a beautiful yellowish-tan; cockleburrs, a greenish-yellow; black walnut hulls give you a dark brown; and onion skins form a rich burnt orange.

"We really get a sense of satisfaction from making our own

dyes," he said. "You start with raw materials that are basically useless and you manipulate them into something. You do the whole thing and it's a great deal of fun."

When the wool is dry and clean, it is ready to be carded. Some spinners card the wool before they dye it, but it depends on what kind of texture you want to work with.

Carding is similar to brushing. The two cards resemble dog brushes and remove some impurities from the wool. The Koellings also have a small hand-operated carding machine which came from Canada.

After carding, the wool is ready for the spinning wheel. The Koellings have three types of wheels, a Walking Wheel, an Ashford Wheel and a Made-Well Spinner.

"It takes about an hour to produce an ounce of yarn," Mrs. Koelling said as she demonstrated

how the Made-Well Spinner worked. "This is our fastest wheel. Although both Al and I spin, he does all the knitting. I'm a lousy knitter."

"Once the wool has been spun, you have to put tension on it to keep it from unspinning," Koelling said. "Wool is our favorite fiber, but we also work with flax to make linen."

Koelling estimated that a fleece provides 8-10 pounds of wool. Or, for the layman, that's roughly two good-sized knitted sweaters. "But it all depends on how thick you spin. There are all kinds of extremes. Most of our efforts were the result of trial and error."

According to Koelling, their decision to move to the country was the best one they ever made. He also said he felt some of his suburban neighbors were glad to see them move.

"I think some of our old neighbors

thought we were a little strange," he said. "They were always wondering what we were up to in our backyard boiling all that strange smelling stuff.

"One time a kettle of black walnut hulls accidentally boiled over on the kitchen stove," he recalled. "You talk about something that stinks, black walnut hulls are the worst. I'm sure our neighbors will never forget that day or us."

Although most of the wool they dye and spin is for their personal use, the Koellings do sell some of their wool at a premium price.

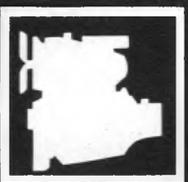
A lot of things in life come at a premium for the Koellings. Koelling has to drive 40 miles to and from work each day. And the children had to learn that country living isn't all fun and play.

But they enjoy every minute of it—naturally.

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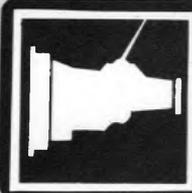
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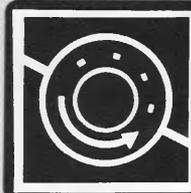


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FAR RIGHT: The river pilot guides the diesel-powered boats only by the throttle and rudders. RIGHT: Four of the pushboats are shown docked at Luhr Landing. CENTER LEFT: Repairs are being made on the river dredge, Elco, to get it ready for the summer work ahead. CENTER RIGHT: This cutting head is lowered into the river to clear the channel. BOTTOM: The switchboat Vicki Ann moves an unloaded barge to another mooring at Luhr Landing.



To Luhr Bros., Inc.

its rivers are its highways

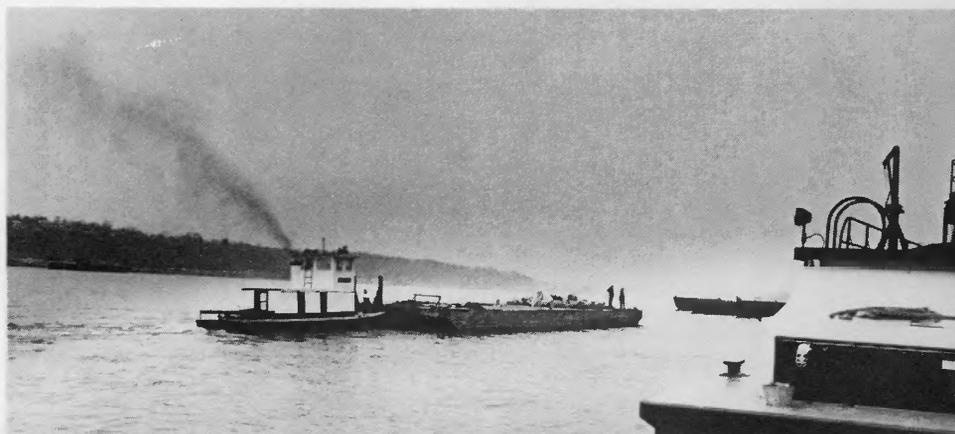
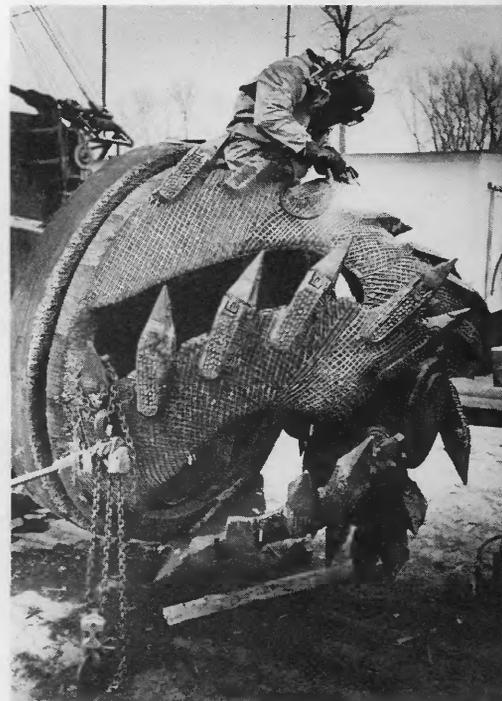
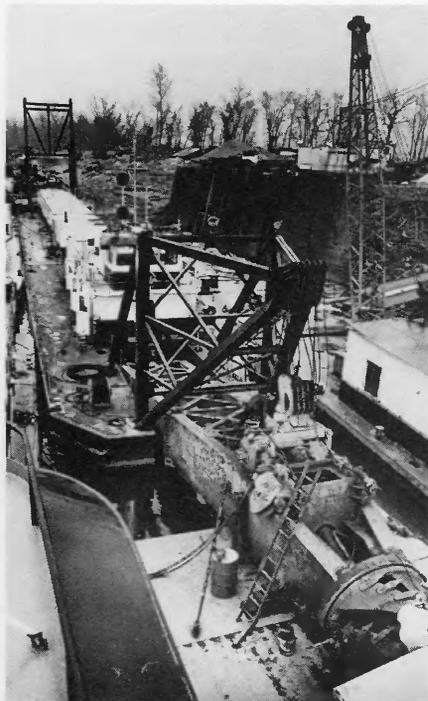
Our mighty rivers were the first main arteries of transportation into the new land. Today, those same water routes have weathered the tests of time and still play an important role in moving goods and commodities.

To Luhr Bros., Inc., a heavy construction firm located at Columbia, Illinois, the river is not only a means of moving materials and equipment, it is part of their business.

The firm, founded by Eugene Luhr in 1938 "from scratch," has now grown into an immense operation. It has a Midwest Division located at Nebraska City, Nebraska; a western division located in West Sacramento, California; an office in Cape Girardeau, Missouri; a stone quarry at St. Genevieve, Missouri; home offices in Columbia and Luhr Landing, a river port facility on the Mississippi River.

The firm was incorporated in 1948 and Luhr served as president of the family-owned business, until he was killed in a plane crash in 1958. Alois Luhr, his brother, now heads the corporation with Mrs. Adelheid Luhr, the founder's widow, serving as its secretary-treasurer.

River operations for Luhr Bros., Inc. are located at Luhr Landing, west of Columbia. Power for the facility is supplied by Monroe Electric





Cooperative, Waterloo.

Luhr Bros. Inc. built its first pushboat in 1947 and began river operations in 1959. Today, the landing is used as a repair facility, storage center and river port for the construction company.

During the winter months when most major construction is halted due to weather the fleet consisting of 11 pushboats, 50 barges and a river dredge, are brought in, repaired and made ready for the busy summer months.

The diesel-powered pushboats vary in size from the Vicki Ann, the smallest—to the Tallahatchie, the largest and most recent addition to the fleet. Each of the boats, with the exception of the Tallahatchie are named after members of the Luhr family—Michael A., Twiyla Marge, Al Bob, Billy Gene, Jay Gene, Vicki Ann, Mike, Siola, (Alois backwards) and the Cheryl-Vick-Beth.

The construction firm has done work on various segments of the Mississippi, Arkansas, Ohio and Illinois rivers. The company's river dredge, the Elco, did 42 miles of channel work on the Kaskaskia River to make it navigable and worked last summer on the Kerr-McClellan navigation system on the Arkansas River.

In 1973, the Elco helped cooperative members on Kaskaskia Island, which is served by Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Steeleville. Receding waters from the flood that infiltrated the island's levees left deep holes on parts of the 14,000 acre Illinois island. The Elco pumped silt from the river bottom to fill the holes.

Luhr Bros. Inc. hauls about 95 percent of its own commodity of rock, sand and dirt as well as equipment in the 35 barges which make up another portion of the fleet. Most of these barges are capable of carrying from 1000 to 1200 ton.

It is true that Luhr Bros. Inc. uses the river to its fullest advantages to transport equipment and material in the heavily burdened barges. But in another sense, the part of Luhr Bros. which does work on the river itself repays the natural highway by keeping the channel clear and the water flowing free.

RIGHT: Aeilts, in his capacity of encouraging new industry in Carthage, talks to Howard Perry, president of the Industrial Development Corporation. OPPOSITE, BELOW: A demonstrative Aeilts gives his opinion at a city council meeting to Charles Carpenter, right, chairman of the Sewer and Water Committee. OPPOSITE, ABOVE: Being mayor requires close cooperation with county government and frequent visits to officials at the county building.



CARTHAGE, ILLINOIS

Where the Manager is the

When he is discussing the rising cost of wholesale power, planning the construction of a tie-line or explaining a member's bill to him, he is the manager.

But when it comes to encouraging new industry to come into town or establishing a bicentennial ordinance at the city council meeting, he is your honor, the mayor.

The he in this case is Les Aeilts, manager of Western Illinois Electric Coop., Carthage and first-term mayor of that west-central Illinois community of 3,300 persons.

It would be one of the most time-worn and weary cliches to say he is a man who wears two hats, even though it could never be truer. Say rather he came into two jobs at almost the same time, relatively green and untried at either, and has made impressive contributions in both.

Aeilts became mayor of Carthage in May, 1973 as the candidate of the Citizen's Party. At the time he was the member services director of the cooperative. He became manager on July 1, 1973.

"It sounds funny, but I was actually drafted to run for mayor," Aeilts said. "A group of interested citizens in town and a good many cooperative members out of Carthage encouraged me to run, I accepted and I was nominated at the caucus of the party."

The platform Aeilts ran on had planks to put an end to conflicts of interest in the city council and at the same time revitalize it, bring new industry into the community and to improve the city's services—especially water, streets and sewers.

According to Aeilts, the first was accomplished with the election of new council members and the interjection of a new goal in the city council, while the latter two pledges are ones that are constantly being worked on.

"There had been some unrest in the community over conflicts of interest in the council," Aeilts said. "Our party said this would not continue if we were elected and it hasn't.

"My one goal when I became

mayor was to decentralize the city council and charge the individual council people with greater responsibilities," Aeilts added.

The first step was the delegation of authority into standing committees. Carthage has water and sewer, personnel, safety, streets and alleys and general committees—each with its own chairperson and responsibilities from among the eight councilpersons.

"The council members wanted the responsibility and they accepted it," Aeilts said. "I might add through a very diligent effort they've done well at it, too."

It is Aeilts' philosophy that the mayor's responsibility is to see the business of the city progress normally both day-to-day and at the council meetings.

"We always have open meetings where the community is encouraged to come and express their opinions and participate in the running of their city," Aeilts said.

One instance of this Aeilts cites concerned a proposed airport for the



city. "Another of the election promises was, that should we feel anything was going to be controversial, there would be a hearing on it," Aeilts said. "By the attendance at the hearing on the airport, we were glad we had one. Besides giving the people a voice in their government, it also gave the council an indication of the feelings of the community. A majority felt we should look into the possibilities and come up with a proposal."

The mayor believes that although

Mayor

there are few major problems that the city faces, there are many immediate needs the council and mayor must try to meet.

"It seems like there is an almost constant need for improvements in streets and roads, as well as surface water drainage," Aeilts said. "These are the kinds of problems we are working to solve and hopefully anticipate in the future."

What he feels would be the major accomplishment of his administration and of immense benefit to Carthage is the placement of new money in the city by new industry.

"Carthage's economy is presently centered almost entirely around agriculture and agricultural products," Aeilts said. "In the past, either a low crop yield or a low crop price would adversely affect the city's sales and growth.

"By bringing in an industry—not just any industry, but one we feel will not pollute our air, water or soil—we will be able to stabilize the

(continued on page 21)



Timber Trails Camp-In

where roughing it

Back in the days when dude ranches were beginning, the appeal was to get back to nature and rough it. It wasn't long though until dude ranchers were asking for automatic heat along with hot and cold running water. One dude ranch operator was heard to complain, "The people want to rough it easier and easier all the time."

We all know "roughing it easy" won out. Today's counterpart of the dude ranch, the campers' park, makes going back to nature as comfortable as possible.

Timber Trails Camp-In, located near Mulberry Grove, is the epitome of roughing it easy. It would be a nice place to be caught in case of an extreme national emergency and you had to stay on. Electric power for the camp is provided by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., Greenville.

No question about it, though, none of the easy roughing it would be possible without electricity. The campers, with all the comforts of home, depend strictly on electricity to energize the lights, the heat, the air conditioning, water and sewer.

Fishing, though . . . now that's the exception. It is still the time-honored pole and line. That's where the real roughing it comes in. And agree-

ment is unanimous that this is the one thing we don't want electrified.

Timber Trails Camp-In, owned and operated by Dean and Jeannine Dugan, has another thing going for it. It is located just off busy highways I-70, Route 40 and Route 140, but far enough off that there is not even a hint of highway rumble.

In 1959, the Dugans bought a 256-acre farm of which the Camp-In is now a part. Noting the beautiful wooded area abounding in multitudinous flowers, ferns, small streams and springs, the idea for a camping area was incubated in 1960. It was then they built the lake which is now well stocked with hand-fed channel cat, bass, bluegill and redear.

Developing the area has fit neat-



ABOVE: Fish in the new growing pond are fed pellets to boost their size by Jeannine Dugan, owner, along with her husband, Dean. ABOVE, RIGHT: There are 120 campsites provided with electric hookups at Timber Trails. RIGHT: The camp's office provides both recreation facilities and supplies.



fun!

ly into their other farm work. (Just recently the Dugans have completed a new lake, which now is stocked with small fish to be grown out and then transferred to the main fishing lake).

Through the 60's, the Dugans made use of the area for private recreational purposes, but even then they worked toward the day when they would open to the public. Electric service was built to the area, then to 120 camp locations.

Meanwhile, Jeannine continued her nine-year employment with Southwestern Electric until a daughter, Erin, was born. With a family consisting also of three older children, Deanna, Renee and Steve, the Dugans decided to carry out the full-time camping enterprise they had been planning for a decade.

Operating the Camp-In means hard work and long hours for the Dugans. But they like it. People from far and wide see the signs along the highways and come in for overnight camping. Others from the area come in for several days of camping each year. And a few of the more fortunate virtually live there.

The Dugans are members of the Association of Illinois Rural Recreational Enterprises (AIRRE). Membership has helped in providing interest to attract tourists. Various events and services keep the people coming back and bringing others along. They have hayrides for the children, live musical entertainment on Saturday nights. During the camping season, which runs from April 15 to Nov. 1, they set up dates for free ham and bean suppers, and on another date, an annual corn boil.

Meanwhile, all the while the Dugans continue to refine the services at their already fine camp and remain on the lookout for new ideas that will make it easier and more enjoyable to rough it.



ABOVE: Mrs. Dugan talks with Eldon Turley, member and community relations director for Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., Greenville, which provides the camp's electric power. BELOW: The Dugan's daughter, Erin, invites all of her friends and their parents, too, to camp at Timber Trails Camp-In.



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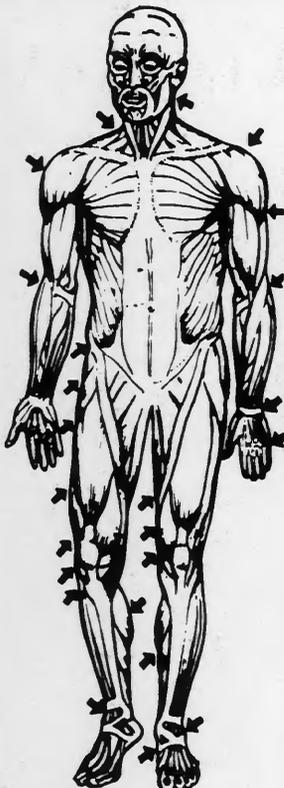
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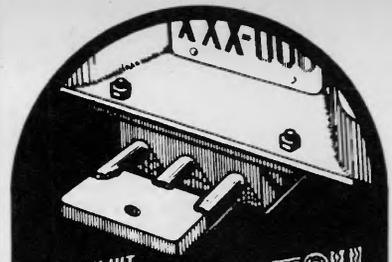
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Divernon's Poet Laureate

Hayward T. MacMurray was told in college that if he ever wanted to amount to anything as a poet he would first have to learn the rules governing the trade. Second, he would have to join a poetry society.

The now 74-year-old MacMurray did neither. But it hasn't kept him from writing some pretty fair poems over a 57 year period and earning the reputation as Divernon's Poet Laureate.

MacMurray, who lives on a farm about one mile east of Divernon, began writing poetry in college, slowed down for several years and lately has been writing with increased intensity. His farm is provided with electric power by Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., Auburn.

"I became interested in writing while I was in college," MacMurray said. "I had grown up with Longfellow, Kipling and my favorite, Edgar Guest, but you couldn't say I really studied them. I did learn from them though, so I started writing some poetry on my own."

Although he worked on the University of Illinois newspaper and took several speech and composition courses, all of which might have led him into a poetry-writing career, he chose farming upon graduation.

"I'd considered writing for a living and joining a poetry society like people said I should, but I was also interested in eating three square meals a day, so I stuck to farming."

His life in the country provided MacMurray with a seemingly endless number of topics to write about. But for many years, they were just that—things he could have written about, but didn't.

"Oh, I wrote a few poems for people on their birthdays and some parodies for songs, but that was about it," MacMurray said. "And even what I did write I wrote in my head, not on paper."

About six years ago though, while he was in the hospital, MacMurray decided to write a poem to his doctor. "My doctor said he had never seen a good poem about autumn leaves and it started my wheels turning," MacMurray said.

"I wrote that poem and another one each day until

I left the hospital."

Some 80 poems later he is still writing.

"I sometimes go weeks without an idea, then all of a sudden things come to me in a rush," MacMurray said. "I can be working on one or several at a time. One evening I sat down and wrote 88 lines. That was the longest poem I've ever done."

MacMurray doesn't have a special place to work. Just as a poem comes at any time, it also comes at any place. Some of his poems have been written on the back of an envelope while riding in a car, scribbled down to be typed later, while others were done in his home. "You just can't tell when an idea will hit you," MacMurray said.

"And you also can't tell how long it will take you to finish a poem once you've started it," he added. "I worked on one poem for a long time . . . worked and worked at it. Finally, one day, it just fell into place."

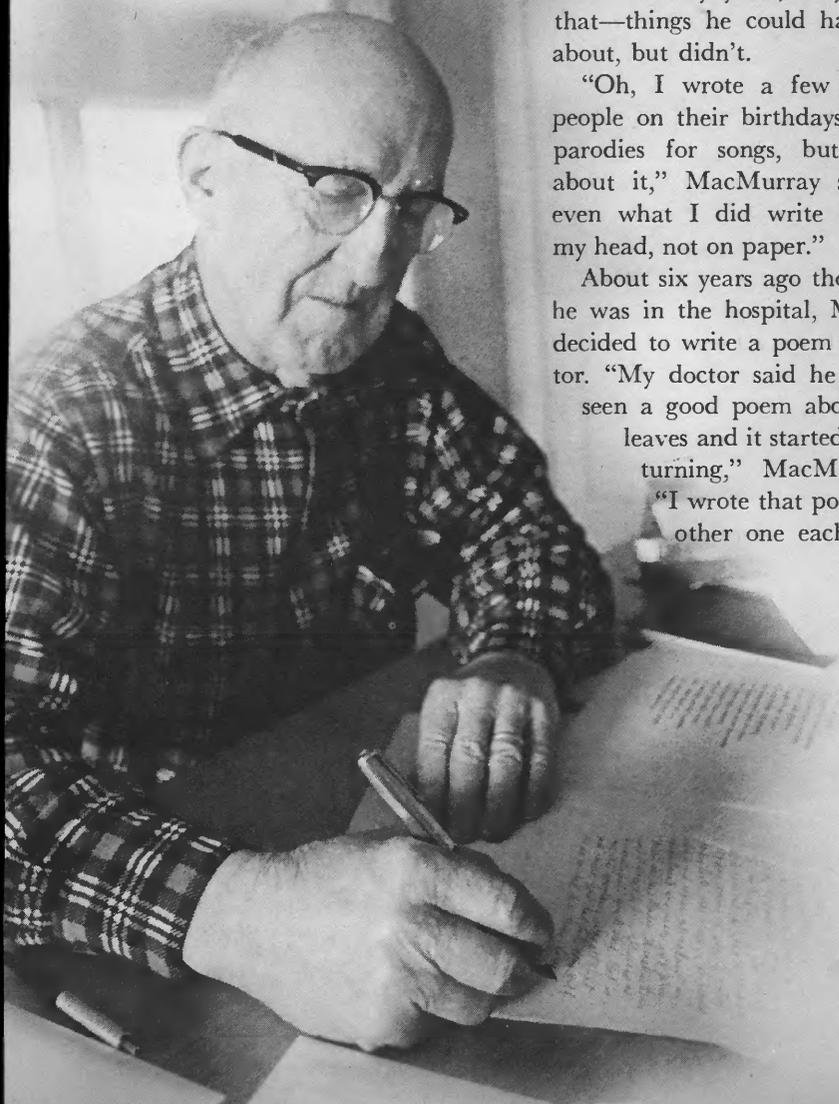
Being a poet and being able to express his feelings is important to MacMurray. Because he never learned the strict rules and forms of poetry, he still isn't that sure how good it is, but his poems bring him a lot of happiness and fun. "I write what appeals to me," MacMurray said. "If it doesn't conform to the rules that's alright."

He does insist his poetry have both rhyme and meter. If it doesn't, then he won't use it. "So much poetry written anymore might as well be called prose and be done with it," MacMurray said.

"I know what I like, and a poem has to have meter and rhyme for me to like it."

MacMurray writes most about the things he knows best—the farm and the natural beauty of the rural area. Although he says he doesn't write very much "serious" poetry, some of his poems are serious, especially the ones dealing with the beauty he has

(Continued on next page)



Divernon's Poet Laureate

(Continued)

seen and which anyone can see if they only look.

AUTUMN

The husks along the road are brown;
The bean fields have a sheen
Of yellow, where but weeks ago
There stretched unbroken green.
There is a coolness in the air;
The daylight fades so soon;
The stars come out to celebrate
And greet the harvest moon.
The cricket chirps his serenade;
A spider-web drifts by;
Our eyes will soon turn upward
Toward the honkings in the sky.
You do not need an almanac,
For Nature has contrived
These signs, and others, to proclaim
That autumn has arrived.

And because he is a person who sees a poem in even the most unimportant object, all of his poems are entertaining. They were meant to be light-hearted and they succeed at it. They can also give the breath of life to inanimate objects in a humorous way.

BALING WIRE

It's almost vanished from the scene.
It once was quite essential.
We used it down around the barn,
And for things residential.
It started out when hay and straw
Was baled for hogs and cattle,
And after that its deeds would make
A new computer rattle.
I've done so many things with it;
Repairs both small and drastic.
It has so many uses that
I've called it Farmer's Plastic.
But if a coil of it was dropped
Into the sticky mud,
The man who hung his toe in it
Was tumbled with a thud.
When pulling loads, if trouble came
To neck-yoke, trace or tire,
There was no need to worry if
You had some baling wire.
I've used it for so many things,
I hope He'll understand
Why I sometimes hope I'll have some
As I near the Promised Land.

The Pearly Gates will silent swing
Beneath a gleaming spire.
But will they always work just right
Without some baling wire?

No matter what he writes, whether serious or humorous or both, there is an underlying truth to the poetry. This is most true when he writes about things he has himself experienced. In some of his poems the essence of the man is interjected.

THE AUCTION

The auctioneer is silent;
All the bidding's finished now.
The combine and the tractors
And the planter and the plow
Will soon be moving down the road
To work on other land.
Today's proceedings moved along
About as they were planned.
Don't think I'm through with farming,
Though it may be different now.
There's lots more to this business
Than just following a plow,
Or bucking bales of hay.
I still can see God's glory
As the daylight fades away.
I still can hear the pheasants crow,
And watch the squirrels frisk,
Though I'll do it from my garden
'Stead of working with a disk.
I still can sing and whistle;
I can whittle with my knife.
There still are lots of things where I

Find happiness in life.
I've got a sense of humor. Lord,
Don't ever let it fail.
That item, like some others,
Wasn't on the bill of sale.

THE OVERALLS

I've seen you stiff with snow or sleet,
Or wringing wet when baling hay.
I've rummaged through your pockets deep
For items I had stowed away.
My barlow knife, to clean my shoes
Before I ventured in the doors;
A blade for screws, for holes in straps;
That knife could handle lots of chores.
Some staples, when I'd fixed the fence
When it had loosened from a post,
And yet it seemed I often lacked
The thing I really needed most.
The tickets when I hauled some wheat;
The nails to fasten up that plank.
Where did I put that letter with
That latest statement from the bank?
That batch of postage stamps I bought,
(That day I may have worn some jeans)
And clear forgot about until
I came in soaked from weeding beans.
That Ingersoll, tied by a string,
I am assured will not be missed.
I now am counting minutes from
A watch that's carried on my wrist.
I wore you when we moved about
On wooden wheels pulled through the mire,
And now we race across the land
On cement road and rubber tire.
But now, they tell me, I'm retired;
So, overalls, I guess you're fired.

Hayward T. MacMurray

MacMurray qualifies as an un-

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published poet even though more than 20 of his poems have appeared in local newspapers. Many of his poems have been in Springfield's *Illinois State Journal-Register's* Poet's Corner."

Recently, MacMurray received a letter asking him to enter the first national Walt Whitman Contest for unpublished poets. First prize in the contest, sponsored by the Academy of American Poets, Inc., will be \$1,000 and having the submitted manuscript published.

"I don't know whether I'll even get to first base in this contest, but I've gotten about 75 of my poems together and sent them off," MacMurray said.

"My wife, Isabelle, and other people have been after me to get my poems published, so even if I don't win the contest I may go ahead and get them printed."

One thing writing poems has

brought MacMurray is recognition. "You'd be surprised how many people will stop me on the street or in a store and say how much they like my stuff. Kind of makes me feel good."

In the near future, MacMurray intends to write a different kind of poetry. "Let's say I hope to anyway," MacMurray said. "You

shouldn't say what you are going to do, but what you hope to do.

"I think it's time to write something serious in 1976," he added. "It's time for someone to write about the principles that made this country great. We've got to get our eyes back on those principles again."

Maybe one of MacMurray's poems would help.

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1 1/2 cups flour
Dash of salt
1/2 cup shortening
1 1/2 cups (6 oz.) shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
4 to 6 tablespoons water
1 1/2 cups sugar

3 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
2 cups cranberries
1/3 cup water
6 cups thin peeled apple slices
1 tablespoon margarine

Combine flour and salt; cut in shortening until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in cheese. Sprinkle with water while mixing lightly with fork; form into a ball. Divide dough in half. Roll each half to 11-inch circle on lightly floured board. Place one in 9-inch pie plate. Heat oven to 400°. Combine sugar, tapioca and cinnamon. Add cranberries and water. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture boils. Remove from heat; stir in apples. Cool slightly. Spoon into pastry shell; dot with margarine. Cover with top pastry; seal and flute edges. Bake at 400°, 45 to 50 minutes. Cool.

NEW ENGLAND SLAW

1/2 cup mayonnaise
2 1/2 tablespoons vinegar
4 teaspoons cream-style prepared horseradish

1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
6 cups shredded cabbage
1/2 cup chopped onion

Combine mayonnaise, vinegar, horseradish and seasonings. Pour over cabbage and onions, toss lightly. Chill. Serve in bowl lined with cabbage leaves, if desired. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

CHICKEN CACCIATORE

1 (3 1/2-4 lb.) ready to cook chicken, cut up
1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup cooking oil
1 clove garlic, minced
1 cup finely chopped onion
1 green pepper, finely diced

1 (16-17 oz.) can tomatoes
1 8-oz. can tomato paste
1/4 lb. mushrooms, sliced
2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon oregano

Wash chicken, dry well with paper towels. Dredge in flour. If using electric skillet, turn control knob to 360 degrees, preheat. Heat oil in skillet. Brown chicken on all sides. Add remaining ingredients. Turn temperature to "Simmer". Cook, covered, 1 hour or until tender. Serve with hot spaghetti and grated Parmesan cheese. Serve to 6.

MARINATED ROAST

1 (4-5 lb.) beef roast
1/2 cup soy sauce
1/2 cup dry sherry
2 cloves garlic, minced

1 tablespoon dry mustard
1 teaspoon ginger
1 teaspoon thyme
Salt to taste

Put in plastic bag and let marinate two nights in refrigerator. Cook 2 1/2 to 3 hours on rack in shallow pan, uncovered, at 325 degrees.

HAMBURGER PIE

Pastry for 2-crust pie
2 tablespoons bacon drippings
1/2 cup chopped celery
2 tablespoons chopped onion

1/4 cup chopped green pepper
1 lb. ground beef
1 can tomato soup
Vegetable Sauce

Make pastry, roll out half, fit into 9-inch pie plate. Sauté in bacon drippings celery, onion and green pepper. Add ground beef, cook until brown. Add tomato soup. Simmer 15 minutes and fill pastry lined plate. Cover with top crust. Bake at 450 degrees until crust is brown. Serve with:

VEGETABLE SAUCE:

3 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons flour

1 can chicken gumbo soup plus water
1 can peas and carrots, drained
1 teaspoon salt

Melt butter, blend in flour. Stir soup stock in slowly. Cook until thickened. Add carrots, peas and salt. Serve pie in wedges and pour sauce over it.

BAKED CHICKEN

Pour 1/3 cup vegetable oil into large baking pan, heat in oven while preparing chicken. Dip chicken first in a mixture of 3/8 cup buttermilk and 1/2 teaspoon salt, then in a mixture of 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour and 1 teaspoon salt. Place chicken, skin side down, in baking pan. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake 30 minutes at 400 degrees, turn chicken and sprinkle again with paprika. Bake 25-30 minutes longer.

REFRIGERATOR ROLLS

Crumble 1 yeast cake in bowl with 1 cup lukewarm water and let stand 5 minutes. Add 1 egg and beat well. Add 1/4 cup sugar and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Beat thoroughly. Add 2 cups of flour and mix. Melt 3 tablespoons of shortening or oil, mix with other mixture and add 1 1/2 cups flour. Stir, let rise until double in size. Make into rolls. Grease tops and put in greased pans in refrigerator. Will keep up to 4 days. When needed, remove from refrigerator and let rise about 1 1/2 hours before cooking at 325 degrees for 20 minutes.

FIG PRESERVE CAKE

2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon soda
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 cup cooking oil
3 eggs
1 cup buttermilk
1 cup chopped fig preserves, (drain syrup from preserves before cutting up)
1 tablespoon vanilla
1/2 cup nuts (optional)

Sift first 8 (dry) ingredients together and add oil, eggs, buttermilk, preserves, vanilla and nuts. Bake in greased and floured 9x13 pan 45 minutes at 325 degrees or a tube pan 350 degrees until one. Cake is good as is, but if you'd like a sauce for it, Mix and boil 3 to 5 minutes the following: 1 cup sugar, 1/2 cup buttermilk, 1 tablespoon margarine, 1 tablespoon corn syrup, and 1/2 teaspoon soda. Pour on warm cake.

CHERRY CAKE

1 angel food cake
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup powdered sugar

3 oz. cream cheese
1 small carton Cool Whip (4 1/2-oz.)
1 can cherry pie filling

Cream together cheese and sugar. Blend in cool whip. Slice cake, making two layers and ice layers, top and sides of cake. Put cherry pie filling on top. Refrigerate.

APPLE DAPPLE CAKE

3 eggs
1 1/2 cups salad oil
2 cups sugar
3 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon soda
2 teaspoons vanilla
3 cups chopped apples
1 1/2 cups chopped pecans

Mix eggs, salad oil, and sugar and blend well. Add flour, salt and soda mixed well. And vanilla, chopped apples and nuts. Put into greased 8 or 9 inch tube pan. Bake at 350° for one hour. While cake is still hot pour hot topping over it in the pan.

TOPPING

1 stick margarine

1 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup milk

Combine all ingredients and cook for 2 1/2 minutes. Pour hot topping over hot cake in pan. Let set until cold. When completely cold, remove cake with topping from pan.

COLA CAKE

2 cups sifted flour
2 cups sugar
1 cup butter

2 eggs
3 tablespoons cocoa
1 cup cola drink
1/2 cup buttermilk

1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup small marshmallows

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and beat. Bring the Cola to a boil with Cocoa and add to butter mixture. Add vanilla, buttermilk, flour, baking soda and marshmallows last. Pour into a well greased pan, 13x19x2. Bake at 350° until cake tests done -30 minutes. Ice while cake is hot.

COCOA ICING

1/2 cup butter
1 cup confectioners sugar

3 tablespoons cocoa
6 tablespoons cola

Bring butter, cocoa, and cola to a boil. Remove from heat. Add all of sugar; beat until smooth and spread on cake.

STRAWBERRY PIE

Boil together 1 cup sugar, 3/4 cup water and 3 tablespoons cornstarch dissolved in 1/4 cup water. Cook until thick. Add 3 tablespoons strawberry gelatin, stir until dissolved. Cool. Slice 1 1/2 pints strawberries into mixture. Put in crust and top with whipped cream.

STRAWBERRY PRESERVES

Put 1 quart strawberries into a 3-quart preserving kettle. Add 2 tablespoons vinegar. Let come slowly to a boil, then boil fast for 3 minutes. Add 4 cups sugar, stir until dissolved and bring to a rolling boil, then boil 10 minutes. Stir gently several times while boiling and skim off foam that forms with a spoon. Take off heat and let set 24 hours. Stir 6 times while cooling. This will become a solid jelly and berries will be as fresh ones. A few drops of red food coloring may be added while berries are hot to bring out bright coloring. This should make 2 pints preserves.

FUDGE SUNDAE PIE

Put 1 cup evaporated milk, 6-oz. (1 cup) pkg. semi-sweet chocolate pieces, 1 cup miniature marshmallows and 1/4 teaspoon salt into a heavy saucepan. Stir over low heat until chocolate and marshmallows melt completely and mixture thickens. Take off heat. Cool to room temperature. Line bottom and side of a 9-inch pie pan with vanilla wafers. Spoon half of 1 quart vanilla ice cream over wafers. Cover with half of chocolate mixture. Repeat with rest of ice cream and chocolate. Top with pecans, if desired. Freeze until firm, 3 to 5 hours.

Record High Fuel Cost Discussed at SIPC's 11th Annual Meeting



Ray Holt, manager, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Steeleville, takes a closer look at SIPC's annual meeting report. To his left are Roger Lentz, manager, Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado, and Lowell Eddleman, office manager, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.

Faced with a record high cost of coal, Southern Illinois Power Co-operative, Marion, is working on a plan to mine its own coal at a substantial savings, officials reported at the cooperative's recent annual meeting.

"During 1974 we saw the highest fuel prices ever," Manager Thomas Clevenger said. "Oil, gas and coal prices hit highs never dreamed of. But soon we should be receiving some coal from our own mine in Forsyth."

SIPC's operations at the Forsyth mine began with the purchase of a dragline in January, used by the newly formed Williamson Coal Co. to supply coal to the power cooperative. "Coal cost from this production should be considerably less than what we now pay—as much as 25-40 percent less," Clevenger added.

SIPC is one of two member-owned generation and transmission cooperatives in Illinois. The 99-megawatt (Mw) plant generates electricity for Egyptian Electric Cooperative at Steeleville, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative at Dongola and Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative at Eldorado. The power cooperative is responsible to a combined membership of over 30,000 Illinois consumers in 19 southern counties.

Clevenger also reported that three electrostatic precipitators which reduce the amount of fly ash emitted from the plant's stacks were erected in 1974. These pollution control devices, required by environmental protection agencies, were in operation prior to the peak of winter heating season in mid-December. "Testing of all three units is com-

plete and all are performing within the required limits of dust removal," he said.

Also during 1974 SIPC initiated plans for the addition of another coal-fired boiler to meet the growing power demands of the area it serves, Clevenger said.

"The new generating unit is scheduled to be operating in mid-1978, providing an additional 170 Mw of generating capacity."

Board President Milo Thurston of Pulaski reported that, although the power cooperative burned fewer tons of coal last year, the cooperative spent \$1 million more for it.

"Our average for coal has nearly doubled since 1973," he said. "During the last six months of 1974 our price per ton was at an all-time high of \$12.12."

Thurston went on to say that not only was the coal price much higher last year, but the quality was down, necessitating the use of much more oil to mix with the coal to keep the plant's boilers burning clean.

Secretary-treasurer Dale A. Smith of Cutler reported that coal cost amounted to nearly \$3.5 million or 48 percent of the total budget for 1974. Kilowatt-hour sales totaled \$512 million in 1974 and the power cooperative paid \$212,094 in taxes.

During the business session of the meeting, all 12 members of the board of directors were reelected to one-year terms.

During the reorganizational meeting of the Board, directors elected Roger C. Lentz, president; Smith, vice president; and Thurston, secretary-treasurer. Lentz is manager of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative. Thurston is a director of Southern Illinois Electric and Smith is a director of Egyptian Electric Cooperative.

Other directors are Bill Cadle of Marion, Floyd Dillow of Dongola, Frank Easdale of Coulterville, R. S. Holt of Steeleville, Frank Jacquot of DeSoto, R. T. Reeves of Dongola, Orrie S. Spivey of Elizabethtown, Glenn Tripp of Cobden and Ray Webb of Tunnel Hill.



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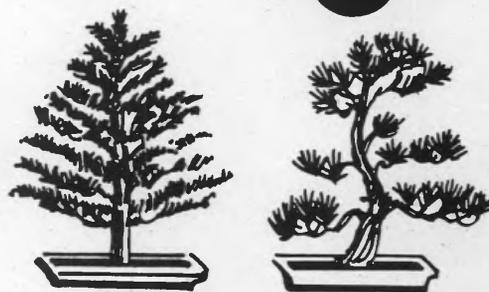
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