illinois

rural electric news

THE ENERGY PICTURE



How big a part will solar power play?



Nuclear Power Plant Safety Check Set

Work is underway in Idaho to set up the most realistic test to date to check out the safety of nuclear power plants, reports the March 22, 1976 issue of *Newsweek*. Plans are to deliberately attempt a nuclear accident, releasing cooling water from a reactor core. Such a release is supposed to set off automatic emergency cooling systems.

While earlier tests have proven the safety of the systems, critics have charged that the studies are not based on real experience, since earlier tests were made without the use of an actual nuclear core.

national news in review

Rural Electric Rally Set for May 3, 4, 5

Rural electric leaders from throughout the United States are expected to attend a rural electric rally in Washington, D. C., on May 3, 4 and 5. Grass roots representatives of NRECA's 1,000 member systems will call on urban as well as rural Congressmen to represent the views of the consumer-owned organizations. High on their list of concerns will be proposed changes in REA loan criteria and energy-related problems.

Rural Electric Growth Outstrips That of Urban Areas

David Hamil, administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, noted in the March 11, 1976 issue of *Public Utilities Fortnightly* "The fact is that the need for electricity continues to bear down harder on rural systems than on the industry as a whole. Distribution cooperatives had an overall increase of 7.2 percent of kilowatt-hour sales in 1974, compared with little or no increase in sales for investor-owned utilities."

NRECA Seeks Change in Estate Tax Exemption

NRECA has recommended to Congress approval of legislation which would raise the Federal Estate Tax Exemption from \$60,000 to \$300,000.

Robert D. Partridge, executive vice president and general manager of the Association, submitted a statement of support of such legislation now pending to the House Committee on Ways and Means on March 19. Referring to a resolution adopted at NRECA's annual meeting in February, Partridge said that the "Present IRS policy of appraising farm property at its highest sale value often forces its sale for a nonfarm use in order to provide funds for payment of estate taxes."

Partridge also testified in behalf of adjusting gift taxes and reduce to one year the period in which transfers of property are held to be in contemplation of death.

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COVER: Among the most important questions about future energy sources is that which asks what part solar energy will play in the overall picture. Staff artist Becky Wavering's puzzle illustrates the question. See related story on pages 10, 11 and 12.

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illinois rural electric news

How Much Is Enough?

Electric rates across Illinois and the nation are continuing to escalate as the cost of generating, transmitting and distributing electricity continues to increase in response to higher costs for fuel, materials, labor and capital. An increasing share of the higher cost of generating electricity is caused by measures taken by electric utilities to comply with air and water pollution control standards mandated by law and adopted by national and state pollution control agencies.

During the emotion-charged national pollution debate in the late 1960's few argued against the proposition that we must stop polluting our environment and begin the task to cleaning up our air and water. When threats to the public health were brought into the debate, few in government even bothered to question the limits of the pollution control standards being rushed into regulations across the nation. The industries being regulated did raise questions but they were quickly overruled in the "interests of the public health."

Probably the most costly and controversial pollution control regulations adopted by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and its state counterparts have to do with sulfur oxide emissions by electric generating plants. Across the nation billions upon billions of dollars may be required for sulfur oxide trapping devices known as scrubbers to meet air pollution emission standards. At Southern Illinois Power Cooperative where a new 170-megawatt generating plant addition is under construction, scrubber equipment will cost about \$10-million based on 1974 estimates. Consumer-owners of the three distribution cooperatives served by that plant will have an estimated four mills a kilowatt-hour added to their electric assessments to pay for the scrubber equipment, its operating cost and the loss of generating capacity caused by the equipment.

Sulfur oxide emissions are created when coal and the sulfur it contains is burned to generate electricity. It is well accepted that at sufficiently high levels sulfur pollution is harmful to human health. However, recently, the sulfur oxide removal standards which scrubber devices are designed to meet were brought into serious question by a series of reports in the Los Angeles Times. The EPA sponsored scientific research to find out at just what level sulfur pollution threatens human health. It was intended that the conclusions drawn from that research form the basis for today's sulfur oxide removal regulations.

The Times series now presents evidence that the conclusions drawn from the EPA research were based on faulty data and, a more serious charge, that the results of the research were distorted to fit the views of Dr. John F. Finklea, former director of the EPA's National Environmental Research Center. Health effects research data form the basis for setting air quality regulations and standards. Therefore, if this research data has been distorted, biased, or altered as alleged, then the validity of air quality regulations and standards is open to serious question.

Electric cooperatives, and their state and national associations, are urging the U.S. Congress to immediately determine whether the charges against Dr. Finklea are true, and whether the data on which our Federal air pollution control laws are based may be largely invalid. Cooperative members should also contact their Senators and Congressmen to urge that the charges against Dr. Finklea be investigated.

The issue is not whether to relax pollution control regulations to the point where the public health is endangered. The issue is "Exactly at what level do sulfur oxides in the atmosphere present a threat to human health?" It is a multi-billion dollar question and there is at least a hint that at present, we have been given the wrong answer.

500 PAPERWEIGHTS AND STILL COLLECTIVE

Paperweights carry a lot of weight as far as Maggie Walls is concerned. She uses them to add sparkle and color throughout her home, and also has a sizable display on a large shelf.

Since the purchase of her first paperweight in 1930 on a trip to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, her collection has grown in size and scope to include weights of all shapes and sizes from all over the world.

The first is an off-white hand-carved onyx egg, and her most recent acquisition is a small chicken.

While the egg came before the chicken—at least in this case—in between are some 500 variously shaped paperweights, most of which are brilliantly colored.

Mrs. Walls and her husband, Lawrence, who live in a large electrically-heated ranch style house on Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative lines, have traveled every state except Alaska tracking down collectibles, in addition to their worldwide search.

When you've got 500 paperweights, all different, you're bound to have a couple that stand out. One of her favorites is a small egg-shaped weight from the Holy Land, while one of the more unusual is crystal-shaped, with a photograph of a nun imbedded in it. It's from Czechoslovakia, and was handed down through several generations by a Czech family before it was given to her relatives, who turned it over to her. She believes it's well over 100 year old. Another, tall and spikeshaped, is made of glass that has turned pink with age.

While several of her paperweights have come along as gifts, she's sought out many of them herself, when she wasn't teaching at country schools around Eldorado.







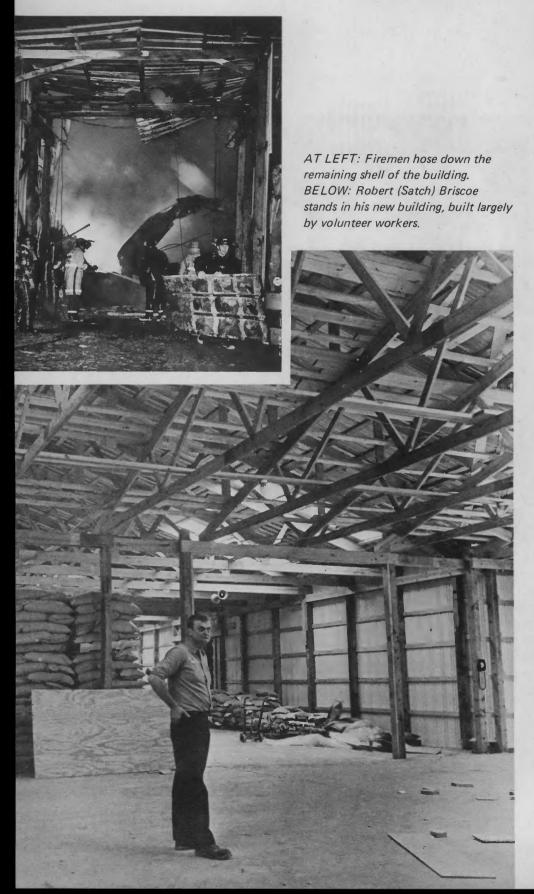
CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW: Some of the more unusual shapes. An overview of Mrs. Walls' collection. A paperweight made to look like a cream pitcher. A paperweight from Czechoslovakia, said to be more than 100 years old.

Mrs. Walls with her first paperweight, and the latest addition to her collection.





Million-dollar Fire Bri



Robert N. (Satch) Briscoe has been in business in the Flora area for some 20 years.

In that time, his business has prospered, as evidenced by the size of his facility east of the Clay County town.

In that time, too, his friendships prospered, as evidenced by the surge of neighborliness when a January fire destroyed the offices and warehouse of RNB Enterprises, a grain, fertilizer and chemical business he owns and operates.

In an eight-day period after the fire, friends, neighbors, customers and even salesmen volunteered their labor to erect a new 12,000-square-foot building at the location of the razed structure.

"You couldn't believe it when you see all these cars pull up and everybody gets out with hammers," Briscoe said, as he relaxed in his new office which is marked by the unfinished ceiling and molding.

"I was just hoping to get going for the June wheat harvest," he laughed. As it turned out, he was "going" by late March.

The fire hit Briscoe's place early Sunday morning, January 25, resulting in losses estimated at \$1-million.

"We lost a steel and frame building which housed our offices and warehouse, along with 27,000 bushels of seed beans in bags, about \$400,000 in farm chemicals, two trucks and two forklifts," he explained.

"And, I'm not just saying this, but the REA people had us power by Monday and we had full electric power by Wednesday. In fact, we had almost full power on Tuesday," he said.

Briscoe's operation is on Clay Electric Cooperative lines.

Many of the people who volunteered their services to help Briscoe rebuild his building are members of Clay Electric.

The fire was first spotted by a Clay member, Dolan Bayler.

Fire departments from Flora, Xenia

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

s Out Good Neighbors

and Clay City assisted in fighting the fire but the smoldering seed beans were too much for water to control. Briscoe said he used two of his trucks to carry off load after load of the burning beans. "It was a strange sight to see a truck with those burning beans on the back, but it was the only way to get rid of them and help put out the fire," he said.

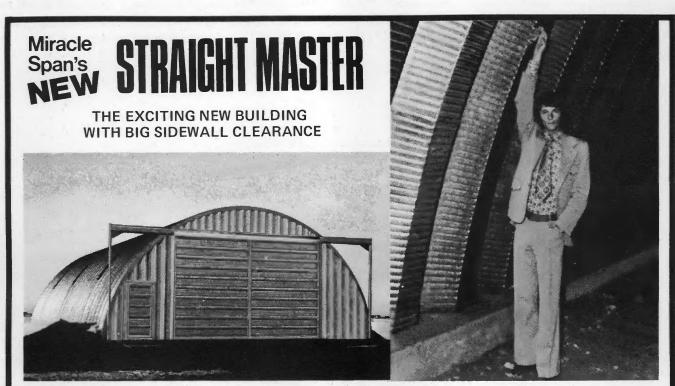
While the average crowd of volunteers and RNB employees totaled about 30 each day, on two days the number swelled to 54 and 52 as people rushed to help.

It took a week after the fire to clean up the mess. Then cold weather prohibited pouring the concrete slab. Work on the new building finally started Monday, February 9.

"We thought it would take three-tofour weeks to build the office part alone," Briscoe remarked. It took two days.

"If I'd had time, I'd have sat down and cried," quipped the smiling Briscoe, who earned his nickname from the old Bowery Boys movies character.

(Continued on page 15)



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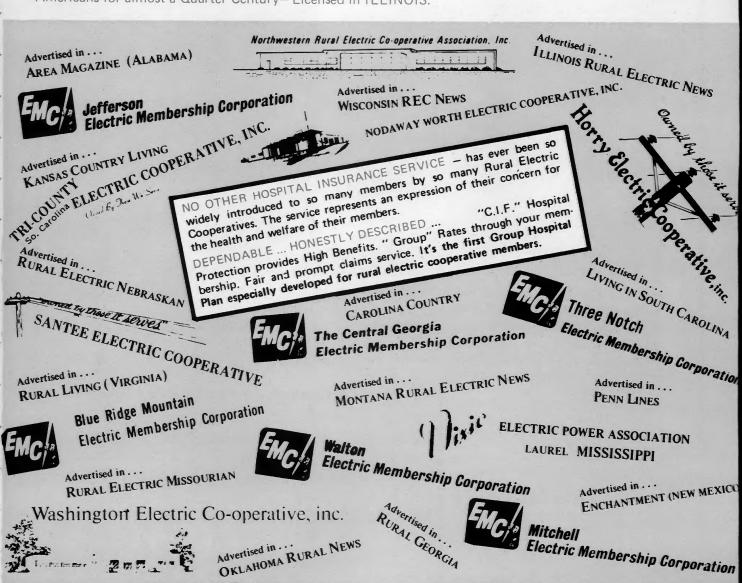
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A VAILABLE TO ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS Daily Hospital Cash

PUTS CASH IN YOUR HANDS WHEN HOSPITALIZED

Here are some of the Rural Electric Cooperatives who have made "Co-op Insurance Fund" HOSPITAL PROTECTION available to their Members (Purely a NON-PROFIT Service on the part of the Co-op). Designed to use the buying power of millions of Rural Electric Members—to help assure dependable protection at low GROUP rates. Also shown are some of the Rural Electric publications in which C.I.F. advertised its membership "Group" Insurance Plan.

Our Insurance Company is a reliable Old Line Legal Reserve Company that has been serving the needs of Rural Americans for almost a Quarter-Century—Licensed in ILLINOIS.



HOSPITAL MONEY!

APRIL ENROLLMENT

Designed to use the buying power of millions of Rural Electric Members to assure dependable hospital protection at low GROUP rates, You CAN choose the NUMBER ONE PLAN to help cover hospital costs NOW - - But you CAN'T "pick and choose" when you will go to the hospital. (Accidents and illnesses strike without warning.)

"CO-OP" YOUR HOSPITAL BILLS!

Now you can "CO-OP YOUR HOSPITAL BILLS . . . through the "CO-OP INSURANCE FUND." For most rural residents this plan provides their first opportunity to belong to an Insurance "Group" - and buy group protection at low group rates.

The Plan itself is not new. C.I.F. has spent over five years to fully develop the program. RURAL LEADERS helped in its design and development . . . men such as ORVILLE L. FREEMAN (former U. S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE and Governor of Minnesota), CLYDE T. ELLIS (for 25 Years Manager of NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION).

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PLAN'S VALUABLE HIGHLIGHTS:

Pays \$50.00 PER DAY CASH for Every Day in the Hospital.

- \$350. One Week in the hospital . \$1.500.
- One month \$18,200. One year
- PLUS If Accidental Death Takes Place pays 100 TIMES The Daily Benefits . \$5,000.

SIX REASONS YOU NEED THE C.I.F. PLAN:

1. Pays for one whole year (365 days).

PAYS IN ADDITION TO:

- 2. Other Insurance you may already have
- 3. Workmen's Compensation.
- 4. Veteran's Hospitalization
- 5. NO AGE LIMIT to apply.
- 6. Pays beginning the VERY FIRST DAY in the hospital.

SIX MORE REASONS:

- 1. The ONLY time you can buy Hospital Protection is BEFORE you need it.
- 2. This year hospital costs are averaging as high as \$128 per day (Amer. Hosp. Assn.)
- 3. NO ONE CAN AFFORD TO TAKE A CHANCE ON HAVING THEIR SAVINGS (or what you own) WIPED OUT!

CONSIDER THESE FACTS:

- 4. One person in every third family will go to the hospital this year. Almost everyone will go to the hospital sooner or later.
- 5. YOU CAN'T BE CANCELLED so long as you pay your premium and the policy group remains in force (no matter how many times you go to the hospital regardless of how many thousands of dollars you may collect in claims).
- No Hospital Plan pays for everything (lost pay, food, school, clothing, etc.). YOU NEED EXTRA CASH

COMPARE

To protect your pocketbook – AND – to protect yourself – COMPARE! The CIF Hospital Income Plan offers: LOW GROUP cost. You PAY NO NEY until your policy/certificate is in your hands. HIGH daily benefits. 100 TIMES daily benefits for Accidental Death. Starts paying FIRST DAY in hospital. We sincerely believe this combination of superior benefits provides more honest protection at less cost - and is UNMATCHED by any other similar plan we've seen.

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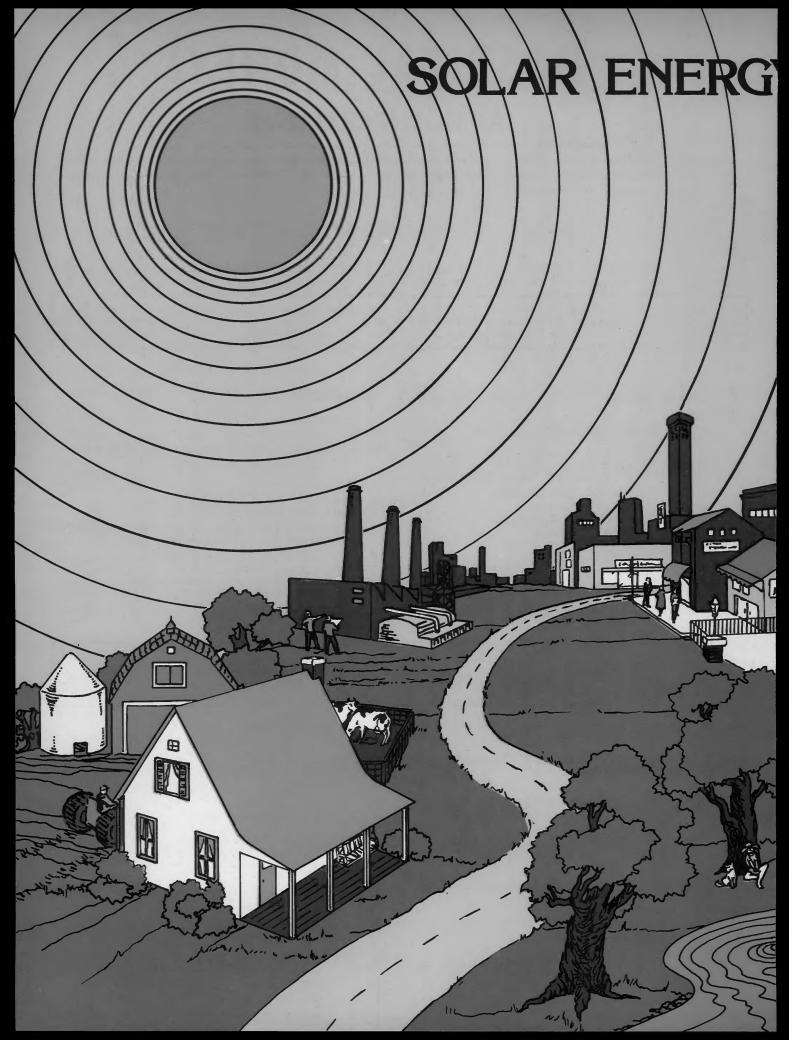
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A Question of Practicality

If you get a few people together and the conversation turns to energy, sooner or later it'll turn to "free energy," or solar energy. To many, it's the pat answer to our long-term energy needs.

"They're working on solar energy," someone says, "and soon we'll be able to heat our homes with it, maybe even run our appliances." And they're right, kind of. Solar energy can help us solve our energy problems, no doubt about it

But it won't be soon.

Before you dash out to rip out your electric meter, take a minute to think about solar energy. It's not a solid answer to our energy problems, but it can be a part of the solution. Right now, though, about all you can do with solar energy is to enjoy it at the beach or the golf course, or to encourage your crops to grow.

You'll also be able to use it to provide much of your home heating needs if you're willing to shell out a stiff investment in solar heat collectors and a storage system.

Technology already exists that will enable you to heat your home. No major breakthroughs are needed.

The quickest and cheapest way to utilize solar energy is often by taking advantage of "passive solar energy," which simply means taking the most

possible advantage of the sunlight falling on the home. Often, homes are built in such a way that sunlight is collected in a room that has large windows. Then, when the sun goes down, heavy drapes are drawn across the windows to retain the warmth.

Another, more efficient method of collecting passive heat involves the construction of a heavy masonry wall at the south end of the building to soak up daytime heat for later radiation. Both these methods have aesthetic drawbacks. One advocate of the passive approach has built the south wall of his house out of an enormous stack of 55-gallon drums filled with water, which are exposed during the daytime to sunlight coming through glass walls. At night, he cranks up a wall to cover the collectors and prevent as much heat loss as possible.

Solar heat collectors have been around for some time, but they haven't seen much use because they cost too much initially to make them practical. With energy costs increasing and the demand for solar collectors going up right along with them, the cost of solar heating should drop as quantity manufacturing picks up.

Flat plate solar heat collectors are most commonly in use now. They're a lot like a large shallow box with insulation on the bottom and sides and a sheet or two of glass on the top. Those with two sheets of glass are more efficient than those with only one sheet. Twin pane units with a vacuum between the panes are more efficient yet. They're more expensive, too.

The bottoms of the units are painted black, and, if the unit is designed to heat water, tubing is imbedded in the bottom. If the unit is built to heat air, fins are built onto the underside of the panel, where a duct is built to transfer the heat to where it is needed.

Flat plate collectors now cost about \$7-10 a square foot, and the size of the cluster needed depends on the location and size of the home. On the average, you can expect to have

collectors about half the square footage of your house, according to some experts. Others say a cluster about 25 percent of the house's size will do the job.

At any rate, most people agree on one thing; in most areas, you'll need some auxiliary heating system, and it will need to be big enough to heat your entire house in the event you experience a long sunless spell.

At present prices for electricity, a typical solar heating installation—which is expected to cost \$6,000-\$8,000—could be expected to pay for itself in ten years, but that could shorten if the price of electricity continues to climb.

As in most "something for nothing" propositions, there's a joker in the solar heating deck. Let's assume you opt to heat your home by grabbing some of that "free energy," since technology is more advanced for heating than other uses. Unfortunately, you need heat most during the winter. Ironically, that's when the sun's rays are weakest. But you forge ahead anyway, and install collectors on your roof. They do a pretty fair job, but there's a hitch. The sun shines about half of each day; less in the winter. The rest of the time it's illuminating the other side of the world-heating somebody else's solar

So you build a storage setup. During the day you heat air or water by circulating it through the solar panels, and you store it, along with the heat it has picked up from the sun, to warm you tonight. Studies have shown that you'll need a heavily insulated 1,500 gallon water storage tank, or a large bed of rocks, to keep you warm through a 2-3 day cold snap. The water or rocks are used to retain heat from air. Larger storage facilities to keep you warm longer than that are considered to be "economically unfeasible."

Solar heaters are also being tested in grain drying applications. In a Georgia test, a 100-foot plastic tube was used

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SOLAR ENERGY: A Question of Practicality

(Continued from page 11)

to increase the temperature of air going into the bin. It raised the temperature by 20 degrees.

Research is going on now that will allow you to plaster your roof with photoelectric cells that turn the sun's rays directly into electricity. Such cells have existed for years, but they're too expensive to take the place of other forms of energy. They're used now where other forms of energy are not available, on space ships, for example.

Theoretically, the amount of solar energy which falls on 140 square feet, if it could be converted directly to electricity, would supply about 20,000 kilowatt-hours a year. That's enough to run an average, air-conditioned allelectric home. Unfortunately, most cells offer an efficiency of five to ten percent, which means that a solar collection panel would have to be enormous to do the job. Even worse, at present, they're far too expensive to be even remotely useful to the average homeowner.

The promise for solar electric cells seems to be great, and an economically feasible rooftop installation within the next ten years maybe possible. In the meantime, there are some realities to be faced.

The electricity from the panels is direct current, while most household electrical devices in the U.S. take alternating current, so the electricity from the sun would have to be converted to alternating current.

Also, the amount of electricity produced by the cells varies with the season or the time of day. If a heavy cloud passes between the sun and the solar array, output drops to next-tonothing. That problem can probably be solved by the use of batteries, which would absorb current regardless of the fluctuation, but dispense it in a fairly constant amounts, or at least level off the low spots. Some batteries would be necessary in any case, since some electricity is used after the sun goes down. Batteries will have to be improved before such a setup can be made workable. Such a bank of batteries, even if they're better than today's batteries, could conceivably fill a small utility room.

While there seem to be many disadvantages to solar energy, there are also many benefits. There is an unlimited amount of sunshine, it's completely nonpolluting, and, once the initial investment is paid out, it is free.

Once the problems of high costs are solved, the picture for solar energy should brighten considerably.

While it may seem far out, plans are already afoot to set up a several-acre plot of mirrors that will "track" the sun and focus their reflected rays on a solar tower, which amounts to a giant boiler which will power a conventional steam generator. The major problem is how to store such power for use after sundown, but cost is yet another important factor. The mirrors must swivel automatically with the sun,

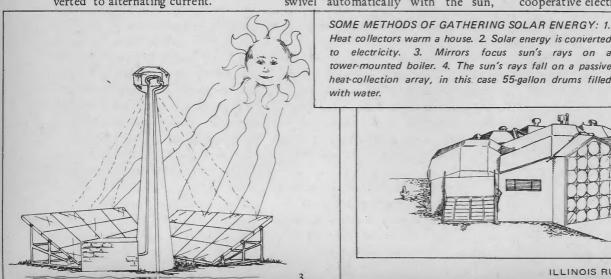
even in fairly high winds, and the costs will have to be kept to around \$6 per square foot of reflecting surface if the plan is to work out. Of course, if other fuels continue to increase in cost, such a plan may look more and more

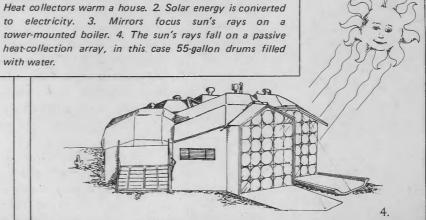
Another plan to harness solar energy is literally "far out." If all goes according to plan, sometime in the future solar collectors will orbit in space, where there is no night, no fog, no haze, and no cloud cover. They would beam their collected energy to earth by microwaves.

attractive as time goes by.

While predictions vary greatly, some suggest that by 1985 or 1990, one-half of one percent of our energy needs will come from the sun, and by the year 2000 and beyond, all forms of solar energy may supply as much as 15 percent of the total U.S. demand. While that doesn't sound like an awful lot, it's still a substantial amount, and the work that's been done so far has just scratched the surface.

But for now, it's good to have that cooperative electricity.





WIPCO

Larger Clinton Purchase Anticipated



Examining the WIPCO annual report during the cooperative's recent annual meeting are, from left, Robert F. Zook, Howard Montgomery, Hickory H. Hurie and Alvin R. Davis, all Menard directors; Neal Futhey, Adams director, and John E. Root, Menard manager.

Revised planning by Western Illinois Power Cooperative is expected to result in increased ownership of the Clinton Nuclear Plant of Illinois Power Company, benefiting the seven electric cooperatives which form the membership of WIPCO.

Officials of the Jacksonville-based electric generation and transmission cooperative outlined the anticipated purchase during the annual meeting, explaining that negotiations were underway with Illinois Power Company to increase WIPCO's ownership from 40 to 100 megawatts.

Ralph Erb, WIPCO board president, addressing the membership at the March 10 meeting, said the ownership in the Clinton plant was part of WIPCO's continuing effort to provide electrical power for its seven member distribution cooperatives: Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Camp Point; Illinois Rural Electric Co., Winchester; M. J. M. Electric Cooperative, Carlinville; Menard Electric Cooperative, Petersburg; Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., Auburn; Spoon River Electric Co-operative, Canton, and

Western Illinois Electrical Coop., Carthage.

Original plans called for a 40-mw Clinton purchase, as outlined during last year's meeting of WIPCO. It is estimated, those attending the meeting were told, that the 100-mw purchase will provide generating capacity for the cooperative through about 1985, according to the report of WIPCO General Manager Donald B. Bringman.

In addition, Bringman said future planning beyond 1985 included installation of a 400-mw fossil-fuel-fired steam generating unit at Pearl Station.

"During the past year," Erb added, "major effort has been expended on power supply matters with REA, after almost one year, finally approving a loan application relative to transmission system improvements."

Erb went on to say these improvements are those necessary for three years, or through 1978. The participation in the Clinton nuclear plant is to be financed by a future REA loan, Erb said. That application is being prepared, he added.

Erb also outlined the power co-

operative's continuing efforts to meet Environmental Protection Agency rules and regulations. A wet scrubber has been installed at the Pearl Station and is presently being readied for full-time operation.

"Negotiations with Central Illinois Public Service Company for continuation of purchased power with a cost increase of approximately 10 percent were completed," Erb told the group. "Next year similar negotiations will take place with Illinois Power Company."

Bringman utilized a number of bar graphs in the annual report booklet to supplement his report.

"The cooperative had a substantial growth in energy use during 1975 but only moderate growth in demand during the year, resulting in an improved load factor," Bringman said.

He pointed out the relationship of purchased power costs and fuel costs to the remainder of the cooperative's expenses, emphasizing the nearly 80-percent portion required by power and fuel costs. He added that

(Continued on page 15)

Board Names Holloway Acting Manager of EECA

James D. Holloway of Sparta has been named acting manager of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association of Steeleville. The appointment by the cooperative's board of directors was effective February 23.

On July 1, 1976, Holloway will become manager of the cooperative, succeeding Raymond S. Holt. Holt will formally retire on June 30 after serving as manager of Egyptian Electric for the past 30 years.

Holloway has been an employee of Egyptian Electric for almost 17 years. He joined the cooperative staff as administrative assistant to the manager in July, 1959, and became assistant manager in October, 1974. He continued in that capacity until his recent appointment.

Holloway is a native of Granite City and has lived in the Sparta area since 1945. He is 44 and married to the former Doris E. Cundiff. He was graduated from Sparta Consolidated Grade School in 1945 and from Sparta High School in 1949. He attended Washington University night school in the fall of 1949 and spring of 1950.

The new administrator served 16 years as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives from 1959 until 1975. From 1954 until 1958 Holloway was Randolph County Treasurer. As a State Representative, Holloway first introduced electric cooperative legislation in the Illinois General Assembly and was the chief cosponsor of the Electric Supplier Act.

Holloway worked with his father and brothers in a family farming operation from 1945 to 1951. From 1951 until 1954, he was vice president and purchasing agent of Midwest Package Corp., doing work for the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Holloway is currently serving as president of the Land of Lincoln Purebred Livestock Breeders Association, is vice chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee

of Illinois and a member of the Masonic Lodge, Mississippi Valley Consistory, Shrine, Ainad Temple and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sparta. He is also a past director of the Illinois Walking Horse Association.



James D. Holloway, acting manager of Egyptian, is pictured above.

New Way Found To Stop Hair Loss, Grow More Hair

HOUSTON, Texas — If you don't suffer from male pattern baldness, you can now stop your hair loss . . . and grow more hair.

For years "they said it couldn't be done". But now a firm of laboratory consultants has developed a treatment for both men and women, that is not only stopping hair loss... but is really growing hair!

They don't even ask you to take

They don't even ask you to take their word for it. They invite you to try the treatment for 32 days, at their risk, and see for yourself!

Naturally, they would not offer this opportunity unless the treatment worked. However, it is impossible to help everyone.

The great majority of cases of excessive hair fall and baldness are the beginning and more fully developed stages of male pattern baldness and cannot be helped.

But, if you are not already slick bald, how can you be sure what is actually causing your hair loss? Even if baldness may seem to "run in your family," this is certainly no proof of the cause of YOUR hair loss.

Hair loss caused by sebum can also run in your family, and many other conditions can cause hair loss. If you wait until you are slick bald and your hair roots are dead, you are beyond help. So, if you still have any hair on top of your head, and would like to stop your hair loss and grow more hair . . . now is the time to do something about it before it's too late.

Loesch Laboratory Consultants, Inc., will supply you with treatment for 32 days, at their risk, if they believe the treatment will help you. Just send them the information listed below. All inquiries are answered confidentially, by mail and without obligation.

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Million-dollar Fire Brings Out Good Neighbors

(Continued from page 7)

"The people worked from early morning until sundown," Briscoe said. "They came from as far as 25 miles away to help."

"The only thing I got tired of was hearing somebody yell for the blue-prints," Briscoe laughed.

The offices and warehouse are not completely finished but business goes on as usual. There are tons of seed beans back in the warehouse and fixtures are being placed in the office and showroom area.

Briscoe has added a kitchen to the new place and fixes lunch. He said he may put in a pool table to help customers pass the time during the busy season. On a mid-March day, a visitor could find Briscoe running back and forth from his office to the kitchen fixing lunch.

The Clay County native has been in business at his present location, just off Highway 50 three miles east of Flora, for about five years, he said. Before that he and his wife operated their own fertilizer business in Flora for about 15 years.



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CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Solar grain drying was one of the most attention-drawing exhibits at the show. A large number of heavy equipment items help attract crowds. Andy Bird of Tri-County Electric, left, and John Kober of Egyptian Electric discuss the show with a visitor. Helen Metcalf and Pat Cagle, both of Tri-County Electric, demonstrated microwave oven cooking.



ANDLING SHOW







For 15 years exhibitors of farm specialized equipment have found the annual Southern Illinois Farm Materials Handling Show to be one of their most effective methods of displaying their labor-saving devices to a rural audience.

From its beginning in 1960 as a workshop on the campus of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, the show has evolved into one which attracts an estimated 7,000 persons each year to the three-day event and fills over 100 booths at the Washington County Fairgrounds at Nashville.

In that 15 years, the show moved from Carbondale to West Frankfort in 1962 and, in 1964, moved to the Nashville location.

The first year in Nashville saw the show housed in one permanent display building and two rented tents.

Growth since then has been significant.

The 1976 show, held this past March 2-4, had exhibit space use exceed 110 and featured a home show, daily auctions, a style show and the usual crowds running into the thousands. Space is so tight that sponsors of the show foresee a need for expanded exhibit areas.

The show is sponsored by the Illinois Farm Electrification Council, the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University School of Agriculture, Illinois Power Company and nine Illinois electric cooperatives, including Clay Electric Co-operative, Flora; Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Breese; Egyptian Electric Cooperative, Steeleville; Monroe County Electric Co-operative, Waterloo; Southeastern Illinois Electrie Cooperative, Eldorado; Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola; Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Greenville; Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Mt. Vernon, and Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield.

The home show was sponsored this year by five cooperatives—Southwestern, Egyptian, Clinton, Tri-County and Wayne-White—and Illinois Power Company with assistance by the Egyptian Porkettes and the St. Louis Dairy Council.

Conservation Project

Waking New



TOP: A tractor-drawn distributor applies alfalfa and bromegrass seed to a roadside as part of a wildlife project sponsored by the Illinois Department of Conservation.
RIGHT: Dennis Kirkham, a conservation biologist, observes from the bed of a pickup truck as Bill Wood checks their innovative bromegrass seed distributor.



Aten-year study begun in the early 1960's by the Illinois Natural History Survey to determine if pheasant production could be increased has developed into a full-time project of the Illinois Department of Conservation.

The basis of the study was to find out if roadsides could be a source of habitat in the form of undisturbed nesting cover for the pheasant. The findings, according to Dennis Kirkham, a biologist with the Roadside Seeding Project head-quartered in Gibson City (Ford County), show that use of roadsides for habitat can significantly increase the pheasant population. In fact, Kirkham says, other types of game birds, as well as rabbits and nongame birds, thrive in areas where the seeding project is currently taking place.

Kirkham, a member-owner of Illini

Electric Cooperative, says, "The key to future wild-life populations is good habitat, and as Illinois farming intensifies, with hay and pasture (which is used for nesting cover) being replaced with corn and soybeans, the remaining acres become increasingly important for the survival of ground nesting wildlife."

"Today the total quantity of habitat is limited by economic considerations and an increasing need for food production," Kirkham points out. "Wildlife must now utilize what habitat remains and Illinois Department of Conservation biologists must work to improve the quality of and preserve existing habitat," Kirkham says.

Kirkham's job, briefly, is to work with land-

Homes for Wildlife

owners to seed the roadsides and delay mowing until August 1, or at least to delay mowing.

Up to now, Kirkham indicates, 475 miles of roadside in McLean, Ford, Livingston, Iroquois and Champaign counties have been seeded with a combination of alfalfa and bromegrass.

The program is continuing and as seeding techniques are improved, he adds, another 500 miles of roadsides will be seeded annually with expansion into Piatt, Macon, Douglas, DeWitt and Vermilion counties.

Kirkham says the old Soil Bank program provided thousands of acres of valuable habitat for Illinois wildlife. Large portions of these acres were put into undisturbed grass and legume cover for several years. The ringneck pheasant prospered in this era, he adds, until that species reached a population peak in 1963, the last year of the soil bank.

The study indicated a declining pheasant population after 1963. The study also showed there were almost three times as many hatched pheasant nests on the seeded, unmowed roadsides as on the mowed roadsides. Kirkham says the study further indicated that delayed mowing on a typical (unseeded) roadside resulted in twice as many hatched nests as found on a mowed roadside.

Kirkham and Bill Wood of Sadorus, also a member-owner of Illini Electric Cooperative, keep the project going in East Central Illinois.

Wood is maintenance supervisor for the project.

The seeding requires a certain amount of inventiveness and innovation. The specialized equipment the two have fashioned explains their interest and dedication to the project.

The alfalfa seed is heavy enough to fall from a distributor drawn behind a tractor. However, the bromegrass seed, though it is at times distributed from a dual seed distributor the two men developed, is best sown when placed

along the roadside using a pickuptruck mounted forced-air distributor they made.

It incorporates the basic elements of a fertilizer distributor but features a special extension arm draped with canvas. The seed is blown into the draped canvas and is guided to ground level by the drape.

Kirkham says there is a side benefit to the seeding. "Once the grasses and legumes become established, they effectively control most noxious weeds and present a uniform appearance, acceptable to the public," he says.

The program is broken into two parts. One involves the reseeding and delayed mowing; the other simply involves the delayed mowing.

Highway department personnel and landowners are contacted prior to the seeding for permission and to ask the

(Continued on page 22)



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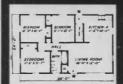
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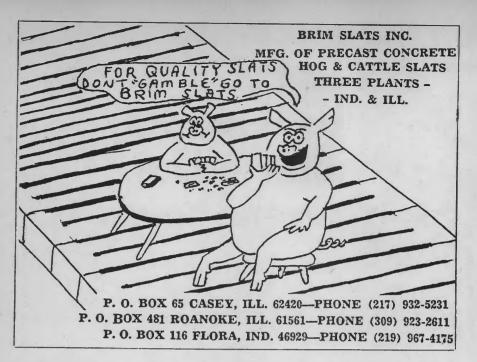
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(Continued from page 19)

landowner to delay mowing the vegetation once it becomes established until August. Signs are posted on the seeded roadsides when they become established, Kirkham says.

The second program involves wellestablished roadside stands of grass farmers wish to leave unmowed until the August 1 date. Signs are posted to explain why the roadsides are remaining unmowed.

Kirkham points out that the mowing of roadsides is a costly process in terms of fuel, maintenance, equipment breakdown and time. It also becomes deadly to wildlife as many nesting birds will not leave a nest once incubation is well underway.

The program, he adds, has met with about 90 percent cooperation from landowners in the areas involved thus far.

The importance of full utilization of roadsides, he points out, is that roadsides provide about eight acres of potential wildlife habitat in a section

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Larger

Clinton Purchase Anticipated

(Continued from page 13)

purchased power costs nearly doubled from 1974 to 1975.

During the annual meeting's business session, four electric cooperative leaders were elected to the WIPCO board of directors. They are: A. Leo Goleman of Divernon, Wayne Harms of Carlinville, Charles R. Melvin of Carthage and Robert F. Zook of Athens.

The new directors succeed Wendell DeMoss of Bowen, Henry F. Egelhoff of Jerseyville, Ernst R. Hild of Illiopolis and Loren A. Rhea of Waverly.

Following the election of the new directors, the board reelected Erb as president. Other officers elected included Lester W. Aeilts of Carthage, vice president; V. T. Parks of Milton, secretary-treasurer; and William H. McCamey of Canton, assistant secretary-treasurer.



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(Continued from page 30)

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7 to 10-lb. boneless smoked, "fully-cooked" ham

Place ham on a rack in an open roasting pan. Insert roast meat thermometer so the bulb is centered in the thickest part. Do not add water. Do not cover. Roast at 325 degrees until thermometer registers 140 degrees. Allow approximately 15 to 18 minutes per pound. Spread ham with Piquant Glaze 10 minutes before end of cooking time.

cup sugar tablespoon cornstarch 1/4 cup water

Piquant Glaze
2 tablespoons vinegar
2 tablespoons sweet pickle relish
1 tablespoon prepared horseradish

Mix sugar and cornstarch in small saucepan. Add water and vinegar; cook until thickened, stirring constantly. Stir in relish and horseradish and cook 1 minute.

REFRESHING LEMON MOLD

3 3-oz. pkgs. lemon flavored gelatin 3 cups boiling water 1 6-oz. can lemonade concentrate

1 cup mayonnaise 1 cup heavy cream, whipped

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water; add lemonade concentrate, stirring until melted. Cool. Gradually add gelatin mixture to mayonnaise, mixing until blended. Chill until partially set. Fold in whipped cream; pour into oiled 2-quart mold. Chill until firm.
Unmold on serving platter. Garnish with strawberries and mint, if desired. 12 servings.

BLUEBERRY-CHERRY SALAD

1 family-size black cherry gelatin 2 cups water 1 can blueberry pie filling

1 cup crushed pineapples 1 pint sour cream 1/2 cup pecans (optional)

Dissolve black cherry gelatin in 2 cups boiling water. Let stand until cool. Add pie filling and pineapple. Let thicken good then add sour cream. Stir in lightly, leaving it marbled. Add pecans if desired.

BROILED FISH

Fresh or frozen fish fillets or steaks Corn oil

Lemon juice Salt Paprika

Line broiler pan with cooking foil and preheat broiler 5 minutes. (Do not grease.) Rub both sides of fillets generously with corn oil. Arrange in preheated pan, sprinkle with salt and paprika. Drizzle a little lemon juice over servings. Broil just until fish is nicely browned and tender.

COFFEECAKE

1 cup brown sugar 1 cup white sugar 1 cup margarine or butter 3 cups flour 2 well-beaten eggs

LAKE

1 cup + 2 tablespoons buttermilk

1 teaspoon soda

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 cup raisins

Crumble first 4 ingredients together and set back 1 cup of crumbs for topping. Mix eggs, buttermilk, soda, salt, vanilla and raisins. Beat all together until smooth. Pour batter into a 9x12x2 greased and floured pan. Mix 1 cup nuts with crumb mixture if desired. Sprinkle on top of batter. Bake at 350 degrees for about 1 hour. While still warm drizzle thin powdered sugar icing over cake. I use frozen orange juice or fresh orange juice in the powdered sugar icing plus oleo the size of a walnut. This freezes beautifully.

ASPARAGUS AU GRATIN

Arrange fresh cooked asparagus on baking sheet. Dot with butter; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Top lavishly with grated Parmesan cheese. Place in broiler with surface of food about 4 inches below heat. Broil until cheese browns lightly.

FROZEN FRUIT SALAD

1 (1 lb. 4-oz.) can crushed pineapple

1 tablespoon cold water

1 (8 oz.) can sliced peaches 1/2 cup fresh white seedless grapes, halved natved
1/2 cup maraschino cherries, chopped
10 marshmallows
1/2 teaspoon crystallized ginger,
finely chopped
1/4 envelope unflavored gelatin

1 tablespoon cold worsel
14 cup orange juice
5% cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup chopped pecans
21/2 pkgs. dessert topping, whipped 3/4 cup mayonnaise 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Drain fruit, save % cup pineapple syrup. Cut peaches in 1/2-inch

cubes. Combine fruit, marshmallows and ginger. Soften gelatin in cold water. Heat pineapple syrup to boiling. Add gelatin, orange juice, lemon juice, sugar, salt, stir to dissolve. When mixture starts to thicken, add fruit and nuts. Fold in whipped cream and mayonnaise.

SWEET POTATO NESTS

3 17-oz. cans whole sweet potatoes, drained, mashed 1/3 cup brown sugar, packed 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup margarine, melted
1 cup chopped peanuts
11/4 cups miniature marshmallows

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Combine sweet potatoes, sugar, seasonings and margarine; mix well. Divide mixture into 12 portions; shape into balls. Roll in nuts. Place on cookie sheet; indent centers with spoon to form nests. Bake at 350 degrees, 10 minutes. Fill centers with marshmallows; continue baking 5 minutes. 12 servings.

COCONUT POUND CAKE

eggs cup shortening cup hutter or margarine 1/2 cup hutter or marga 1/2 cups sugar 1/2 tsp. almond extract 1/2 tsp. coconut extract

11/2 tsp, beking powder
3 cups sifted cake flour
1 cup milk
2 cups grated fresh coconut or
canned flaked coconut

Separate eggs, placing whites in a large bowl, yolks in another large bowl. Let egg whites warm to room temperature—about 1 hour. Pre-heat oven to 300° and grease a 10-inch tube pan. With electric mixer at high speed, beat egg yolks with shortening and margarine until well blended. Gradually add sugar, beating until light and fluffy. Add extracts; beat until blended. At low speed, beat in flour (in fourths) alternately with milk (in thirds), beginning and ending with flour. Add coconut; beat until well blended. Beat egg whites just until stiff peaks form. With wire whisk or rubber scraper, gently fold whites into batter until well combined. Turn into prepared pan. Bake 2 hours or until cake tester inserted near center comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack 15 minutes. Remove cake from pan; cool thoroughly on wire rack. Before serving, dust top lightly with confectioners' sugar. Serves 12 to 16.

STRAWBERRY BANANA PIE

1 3-oz. pkg. cream cheese 3/4 cup powdered sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla 1 pkg. Dream Whip

Cream the cheese, sugar and vanilla. Mix Dream Whip as directed on package and fold into cheese mixture. Line cooled 10-inch pie shell with mixture. For filling, use about 2 cups drained strawberries (unsweetened). Mix juice (½ to ¾ cup), ½ cup sugar, 4 tablespoons cornstarch and cook until thick. Cool. Add drained strawberries. Pour over cheese mixture. Slice 2 bananas, put on top of pie. Then top with another package of prepared Dream Whip. Serve chilled.

COCONUT PIE

eggs cups sugar tablespoons flour or less stick margarine, melted (I use a little less)

1 tall can evaporated milk (13/3 cups)

1/2 cup water 11/2 cups coconut (1 can Angel Flake) Beat eggs, add other ingredients and pour into unbaked pie crust. Bake at 300 degrees about 1 hour. This makes a large 10" pie. For chocolate: 3 tablespoons flour and 3 tablespoons cocoa.

FRENCH FRUIT TARTS

Crust:

2 cups flour

2 cup brown sugar

1 cup botter

Mix crust like pie crust and press into 9x12 pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes

FRENCH FRUIT TARTS

Filling:

8 oz. pkg. cream cheese

1 cup powdered sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 pkgs. Dream Whip

1 can fruit pie filling

Mix crust like pie crust and press into 9x12 pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes

(Re sure not to overbake). Coal for degrees for 15 minutes. (Be sure not to overbake). Cool. For filling: mix cheese, sugar and vanilla together. Beat Dream Whip according to directions and stir into cream cheese mixture. Pour over crust. Cover top with fruit pie filling right from can. Chill at least 12 hours. If you wish, beat 2 more pkgs. of Dream Whip and put on top of fruit.

PERFECT DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE

2/3 cup butter or margarine
2 cups sugar
4 eggs, beaten
2 cups flour

34 cup cocoa, sifted with flour
1 teaspoon soda in 2 tablespoons water
1 cup cold coffee
1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream butter, add sugar and cream until fluffy. Add beaten eggs and beat well. Add flour and cocoa mixture alternately with coffee, then add soda and water and vanilla. Bake in 2 layers at 375 degrees 25 to 30 minutes. ICING: 2 cups powdered sugar, 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened, 6 teaspoons cocoa, 6 teaspoons cold coffee and 2 teaspoons vanilla.

RAISIN PIE

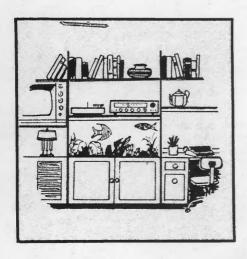
2 cups sugar 1 cup raisins 2 teaspoons vinegar 4 eggs, separated 3 teaspoons spices 1/4 cup butter

Put everything except egg whites in bowl and blend. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold in. Pour into unbaked pie shell and bake at 300 degrees.

Bright ideas for growing house plants



This new hanging fixture is especially designed for indoor plants in most any decor.



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Mary, Mary, Quite contrary—How does your garden

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The lamp fits any type fluorescent fixture and uses no more electricity than standard type lamps.

Use of the special lamp speeds germination of most seeds . . . produces stockier seedlings . . . healthier plants less subject to disease . . . stimulates rooting of cuttings . . . and helps develop strong fibrous root system. Plants mature earlier and blossoms are larger. Use an automatic timer to control the illumination according to the amount of light the plants need. Though not as hot as incandescents, panel lamps generate enough heat to harm plants that come in direct contact with them. So keep them at least four inches away.

THE PLANTER BOX

Whatever style is best for you, many woods—plywood, for instance—can be stained, oiled or painted to match the other furniture in the room. Inside the planter, install a watertight liner, best made of sheet metal (tin) painted with asphalt to retard rusting. Or use heavy-duty polyethylene stapled to the inside of the planter.

Set your planter on a platform that has been equipped with casters, so that the garden can be easily moved for cleaning and you will not have to stoop in caring for the plants.

The best location for your garden is where the temperature during the day is about 70° to 75°, nighttime 60° to 65°. Place the planter away from heating ducts, exhaust fans and heavy-traffic areas. Remember, too, that there will be extra light from the fluorescents, so try to avoid extra glare in an already well-lighted corner. Fiberglass diffusers on the back of panel lamps help cut down on glare, but never put them between the lights and the plants.

SETTING PLANTS

Plants should not be set directly into the planter, but first set in clay pots. This lets you rearrange your garden when you want to accommodate a holiday plant, say, at Easter. Bagged potting soil is available in most garden shops or hardware stores, but you can mix your own from equal parts of loam (garden or top soil), sand or perlite, and peat moss or leaf mold. For a less rich mixture, use three parts of loam to one each of the others. Add one tablespoon of rock phosphate and one of limestone to each gallon of mixture. Before using the soil, mix thoroughly, adding water until it is crumbly. If the soil needs sterilizing (to kill weed seeds or insects, etc.), simply bake it in the oven at 212°F.

Support large potted plants by setting them on other clay pots, upended. Fill in around pots with large gravel to a depth of 3 or 4 inches. Fill remainder of planter with unmilled sphagnum moss, tiny gravel or "cockle shells" — your favorite collection of shells or rocks. The smallest pots can be pushed directly into the moss or gravel.

CARE OF THE INDOOR GARDEN

As soon as you place plants in the garden, begin adjusting them to their new "home." Watering is the most important facet of their care. Saturate the soil ball, clay pot and surrounding moss.

Allow the whole planter to dry out, almost to the point of leaf wilt, then repeat the watering process. Remove any yellowed leaves that may appear. Wash healthy leaves with warm, soapy water and stake the plant stalk.

When you feel that the transplantation has "taken," begin a more regular program of watering. Remember that the moss raises the relative humidity of the air around the plants, which is very beneficial.

The essential plant minerals are phosphorus, potassium and calcium. Once your plants are actively growing, water them with a solution of water-soluble fertilizer once every two weeks. Dry fertilizers are not as satisfactory, since they sometimes remain in the soil undissolved, eventually killing the roots.

Each week, a turn of the pot is beneficial both for symmetrical development and to keep the plants from rooting in the moss.

In general you can follow these rules for correct lamp placement for required intensity of light. When germinating seed keep lamp 6"-8" above soil. For growing plants locate lamp 12"-15" above plant top.

Minimum Lighting Requirements of Selected Plants

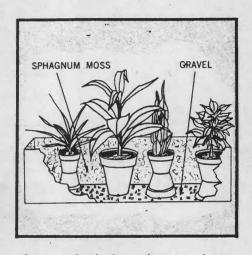
LOW LIGHT
(10 to 13 hours):
Agloonema
(Chinese
evergreen)
Aspidistra
Begonias
Chrysanthemums
Dieffenbachia
(Dumb cane)
Dracaena
Gardenias

Philodendron
oxycardium
Poinsettias
MEDIUM TO HIGH LIGHT
(indeterminate:
12 to 18 hours):
African violets
Aloe
Anthurium hybrids
Begonia
Bromeliads
China asters

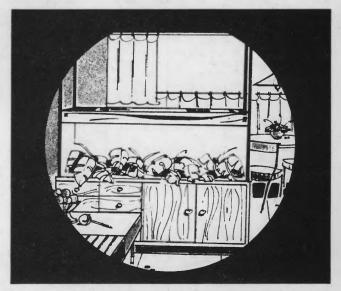
Cissus
(Grape ivy)
Dahlias
Episcia
Fatshedera
Gloxinia
Hedera
Hoya carnosa
Impatiens
Marigolds
Petuna, cascade
Salvia (Scarlet sage)



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Cut-away sketch shows placement of pots in the garden, levels of gravel and moss.



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(Continued on page 23)





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