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rural electric news

May, 1976



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to RE Consumer Members by



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ARTICLES

SIPC Planning	4
Restful Stop	6 & 7
Atwood Air Farce	8 & 9
A Unique Career Goal	10 & 11
Legislative Breakfast	12
A "Major" Collector	18 & 19
Metric Conversion	23
Microwave Energy Saving	24 & 25
Potluck Buffet	25 & 26
Patterns	29
Trading Post	30

COVER: It's planting time again in Illinois. This scene, showing Paul F. Cody of Divernon, is being repeated across the state.

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illinois rural electric news

Happy Birthday REA

No call to arms signaled the beginning of the revolution many Americans are commemorating this month. No cannon "fired the shot heard 'round the world" to symbolize the beginning of the struggle. This was a quiet revolution that has allowed rural Americans to share more fully in the benefits and responsibilities secured in the American Revolution 200 years ago.

The Quiet Revolution had its beginning May 20, 1936 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 which established the Rural Electrification Administration as an independent federal lending agency. The Act charged the REA with the responsibility to provide low-cost loans to cooperatives, investor-owned utilities or other organizations interested in extending electric service to rural areas.

Farmers and other rural residents had long sought the advantages of central station electricity that their city cousins had been enjoying. Private utility companies were loath to invest their funds in distribution lines in the sparsely settled rural areas and where they did extend their lines, few could afford the high rates. President Roosevelt described the problems facing rural residents in a speech he delivered in 1938 in Barnesville, Georgia.

"Fourteen years ago a Democratic Yankee came to a neighboring county in your state in search of a pool of warm water wherein he might swim his way back to health. . . There was only one discordant note in that first stay of mine in Warm Springs. When the first-of-the-month bill came in for electric light for my little cottage, I found that the charge was eighteen cents a kilowatt-hour. . . about four times what I pay at Hyde Park, New York.

"That started my long study of public utility charges for electric current and the whole subject of getting electricity into farm homes."

Few investor-owned utilities were willing to extend their electric lines into the rural areas, even with the low-cost REA loans, but farmers were quick to respond to the new legislation. With little technical knowledge but with burning desire farmers drew on their experience with nonprofit, consumer-owned cooperatives to take advantage of the REA legislation. Today nearly 1,000 rural electric cooperatives in 46 states serve approximately 25-million consumers with central station electric power.

During its 40-year history the Rural Electrification Administration has made almost \$10 billion in direct, guaranteed and insured loans. Through 1975 REA borrowers had repaid \$4,979,012,120 and only \$44,478 had been written off as losses. Last year alone rural electric cooperatives repaid more than \$204 million in principal on their government loans and another \$150 million in interest to the REA.

Minimum amounts of federal tax funds are now used in the REA loan program. The major amounts of funds for government approved insured and guaranteed loans to REA borrowers come from the private money markets. To supplement REA loans, cooperatives have had to form their own lending institution, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, which participates with REA in many loan programs.

The American Bicentennial Celebration is serving as a year-long reminder that Americans must constantly guard the freedoms won by their forefathers 200 years ago. On the 40th Anniversary of the Rural Electrification Act electric cooperative members should pause to pay tribute to the pioneers who worked with the REA to bring electric service to the countryside and guard against those who would destroy the effectiveness of the Rural Electrification Administration.

1978 Target Date For SIPC Expansion



The annual report drew the interest of directors and managers of three distribution cooperatives which comprise SIPC as well as representatives of several other Illinois electric cooperatives.

Construction expected to be completed in 1978 will add 170 megawatts (mw) of electric generating capacity to Southern Illinois Power Co-operative's Lake of Egypt station, providing the necessary electric power for the continuing growth in the areas served by the generating and transmission cooperative.

Roger C. Lentz of Eldorado, SIPC board president, outlined the plans for completion of the generating unit addition to the existing 99-megawatt plant during SIPC's annual meeting March 25 near Marion. SIPC provides electric power for three Southern Illinois distribution cooperatives: Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Steeleville; Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado; and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola.

The addition will be financed through an \$83-million loan approved last year by the Rural Electrification Administration of Washington, D. C.

SIPC Manager L. Thomas Clevenger of Marion reported to members that the cooperative encountered "slippage" in finally arriving at a construction starting date for the new unit.

The "slippage," he explained, was the time lost due to obstructions presented by state and federal environmental agencies. He cited the cooperative's history of burning "gob," a by-product of the coal mining industry. Despite the fact that burning of the waste material helped clear the area of aesthetic blights and eliminated a potential subsurface water contaminant, Clevenger said environmental agencies contended the method of burning "gob" created unacceptable nitrogen flue gas emissions.

SIPC, however, eventually obtained a variance from the nitrogen emission rules.

He said the cooperative was also successful in avoiding construction of a cooling tower for the new unit. Such

an addition to the construction cost would have pushed the cost per kwh up another four to six mills, he said.

Despite the "slippage" of about five months, Clevenger said the unit should be on line by mid-1978.

Milo Thurston of Pulaski, secretary-treasurer, told the members a drop in the per-ton cost of coal from Williamson Coal Co. from 1974 to 1975 resulted in a reduction in the fuel adder and reduced the overall cost of power to member-cooperatives. He said coal cost an average of \$18.65 a ton in 1974 and dropped to \$16.16 per ton in 1975. Coal represented the cooperative's greatest expenditure during 1975—\$4,871,620—accounting for over 53 percent of the expense dollar, he said.

Lentz explained the need for planning for the future. He said South-eastern Electric will add new sub-station capacity during the next year more than equal to the combined loads of all three member-cooperatives in 1963. He pointed out growth in residential kwh sales of over 15 percent annually and said SIPC would provide power for Dog Island Dam, Shawnee College and a new pipeline.

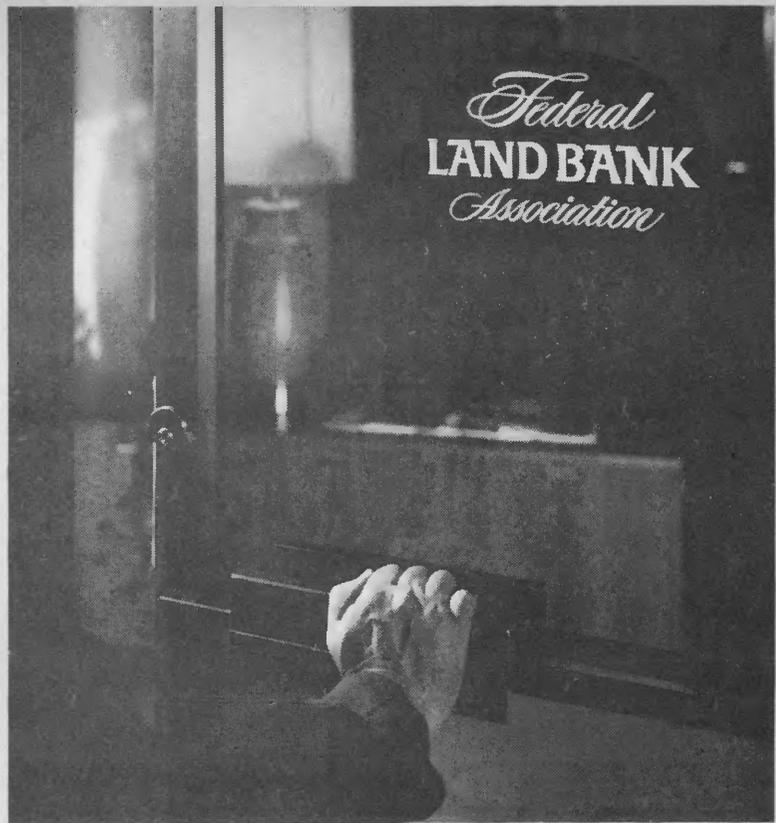
"Our future planning must be based on the primary goals of meeting growing member needs for high quality electric service at the lowest possible cost consistent with responsible management and with a minimum adverse environmental effect," Lentz added.

During the business session, James D. Holloway, acting manager of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, was elected to the board of directors, replacing Raymond S. Holt, who is retiring as manager of Egyptian Electric June 30.

Other directors reelected were Bill Cadle of Marion; Floyd Dillow of Dongola; Frank Easdale of Coulterville; Frank Jacquot of DeSoto; Lentz; Dale A. Smith of Cutler; R. T. Reeves of Dongola; Orrie V. Spivey of Elizabethtown; Thurston; Glenn Tripp of Cobden, and Ray Webb of Tunnel Hill.

During the board's reorganizational meeting, Lentz was reelected president; Smith, vice president, and Thurston, secretary-treasurer.

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A Restful Pause fo



They come by car, truck, cycle and on foot. Some even came one spring day by "Santa's Rocket Sled."

Their destination is common, though their transportation may not be.

All are stopping between Cairo and Marion, deep in Southern Illinois, at rest areas on each side of Interstate-57.

The stopping areas, totaling 18.8 acres on the northbound side and 26.9 on the southbound side, are much more than meets the eye.

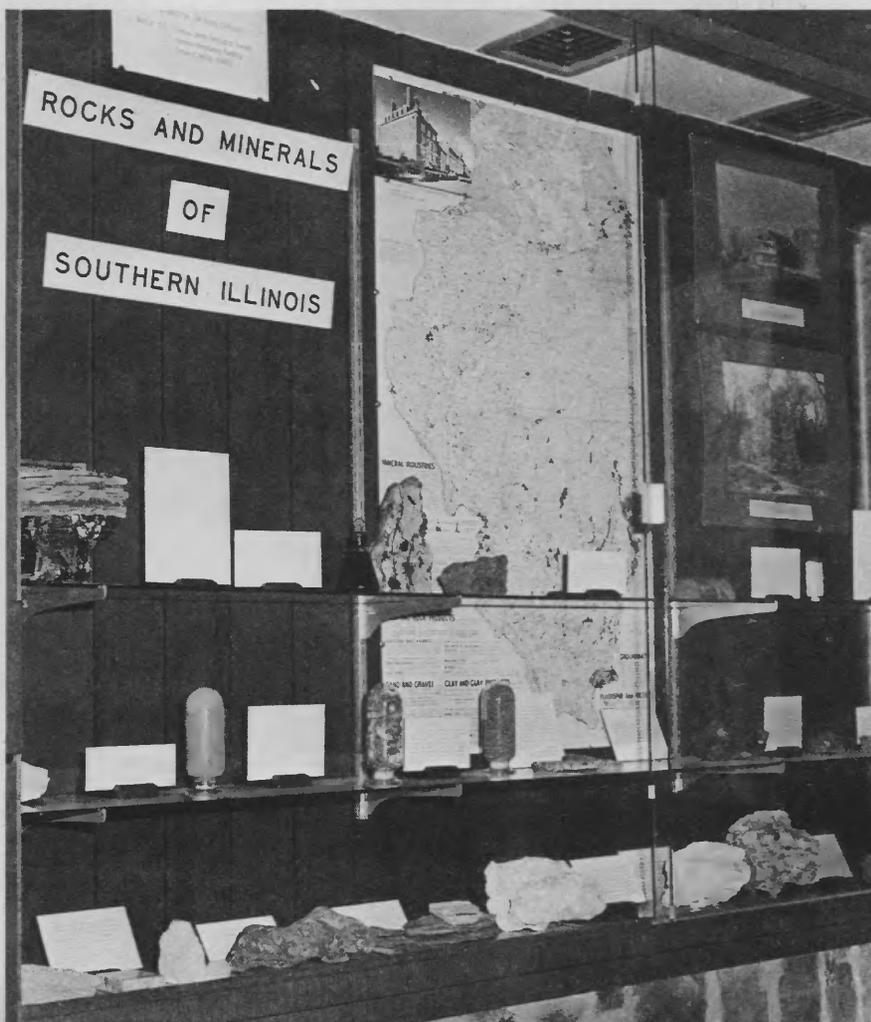
When the travelers riding "Santa's Rocket Sled" (a bus-like Christmas ride for children) pulled off the northbound lane, they probably had very little idea of just what it takes to make a facility such as this capable of meeting travelers' needs.

The two stations, both served by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative at Dongola, are a far cry from the roadside stopping areas of yesterday. Travelers in the past seemed content to find a picnic table and a trash barrel.

At the I-57 stops, the parking is more than adequate for cars, trucks and any other sort of vehicle. Each unit is equipped with pay telephones, restrooms, trash barrels, cold drinking water and special ramps and facilities for wheelchairs. In addition, four men rotate three daily work shifts to provide the areas with full-time attendants.

Bob Owen of Goreville, an engineer for the Illinois Department of Transportation, explained that the rest stations are unique.

He pointed out the waste-water lagoons and emphasized the fact that both buildings are air-conditioned and there is even a backup drinking water well system. "We've never been closed



he Traveler

since we opened," he said, relating that the areas first opened in July, 1973.

"The primary purpose of this type of facility is safety. We want travelers to stop and relax," Owen stressed. During holidays, when travel is at its peak, free coffee is provided for those stopping.

The southbound unit, in addition to its traveler comfort facilities, also has photographs of Southern Illinois scenes and displays of rocks and minerals of the southern portion of the state.

Southern Illinois Electric's construction to provide the stations' service included two transformer pads, one for each side, and about 3½ miles of line. Southern Illinois Power Cooperative transmission line was utilized in the service.

A number of mercury vapor lights provide excellent illumination for the two stations after dark.

Proper condition of waste-water required that the station be staffed with persons capable of laboratory testing the lagoon water. Owen and two of the full-time station attendants completed a three-month course at Shawnee College to enable them to make the weekly tests. An equipped laboratory occupies a portion of the building on the east side of the highway.

Those who stop have some nice things to say about the rest stations. One spring visitor, Fern Ducomb Kahlert of Carlyle, Illinois, offered that the stop itself was worth the trip from Carlyle. A truck driver who travels over the country suggested it was the nicest rest area he had visited.

Melvin Holden of Anna, an
(continued on page 22)



TOP LEFT: Bob Owen, left, shows J. Lowell Eddleman, office manager of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, the equipment used in the water testing laboratory. LOWER LEFT: Visitors to the southbound area find an interesting display of Southern Illinois rocks and minerals. ABOVE: The tree-enclosed building that greets northbound travelers.

Tucked quietly in the countryside down a winding gravel road with a solemn wind sock wafting gently in the breeze overhead to mark the spot sits the headquarters, hangars and repair shop of that famous private flying circus, the Atwood Air Farce. Air Farce?

"Well, that's what we call ourselves. Really, we're just a bunch of nuts who like to fly oddball planes," says Earl Adkisson, chief mechanic, restorer and nominal commander of the squadron. "I guess you could call this a club or a cooperative. We just think of the organization and field as a place where we can enjoy ourselves and be with other people who share the same interests."

Those interests are a squadron of classic, experimental and antique air-planes in an assortment which labels the Air Farce as one of the most distinct units in the air or on the ground short of a museum. Adkisson thinks there are about 17 members in the group and even more planes but admits "the guys won't stand still to be counted."

"But, you can see us coming," Adkisson says. "When we get a few of these planes in the air and fly them somewhere, people know who we are before we land."

Headquarters for the Air Farce is a strip of land near Tuscola. Electric service is provided by Illini Electric Cooperative based in Champaign.

"We started this club for a lot of reasons," Adkisson said as he walked through the hangar pointing out the unusual and the rare. "Before, many of these guys had their planes at other airports," he said. "When you fly planes like these, sometimes you get sensitive to remarks by other people. Several of the guys just plain got tired of the people who fly modern planes making fun of these babies."

But by far the worst problem was vandalism. Because many of the planes have unusual parts which can be removed relatively quickly and easily, the owners often returned to find a plane with many missing parts.

"Out here, we don't have that problem," Adkisson says. "We've got a couple of dogs and someone around the house who always keeps an eye on the planes."

As Adkisson approached a wingless plane with a fabric fuselage that resembled Swiss cheese, a grimace came over his face.

"That's one of my planes," he said. "It's a 1930 Simplex Red Arrow with a seven-cylinder radial engine. It's the only one of its kind anywhere."

"I found it in a barn in Indiana. After I restored it, it had been in several magazine stories, and invited to a lot of air shows. It was a good-flying plane and I flew it for four or five years. My pride and joy, I guess you could call it."

"Then, I left it out on a field and vandals hit it," Adkisson said. "It's pretty much of a mess now, but there is no damage to the engine or air frame so I'll be able to restore it again."

Restoring and servicing planes is Adkisson's main reason for being in the Air Farce. Many mechanics won't work on the older planes or the experimental types, he says.

"And I'd rather work on them than the newer ones," he adds. "Nothing gives me a bigger kick than working on these older machines and keeping them flying. They're harder to maintain and they handle differently, but I wouldn't trade working on them for anything."

Adkisson became an aircraft mechanic during World War II, but even in high school he had worked in airports. When he left the service he became the first mechanic at the University of Illinois' airport, then started the Tuscola airport in 1953.

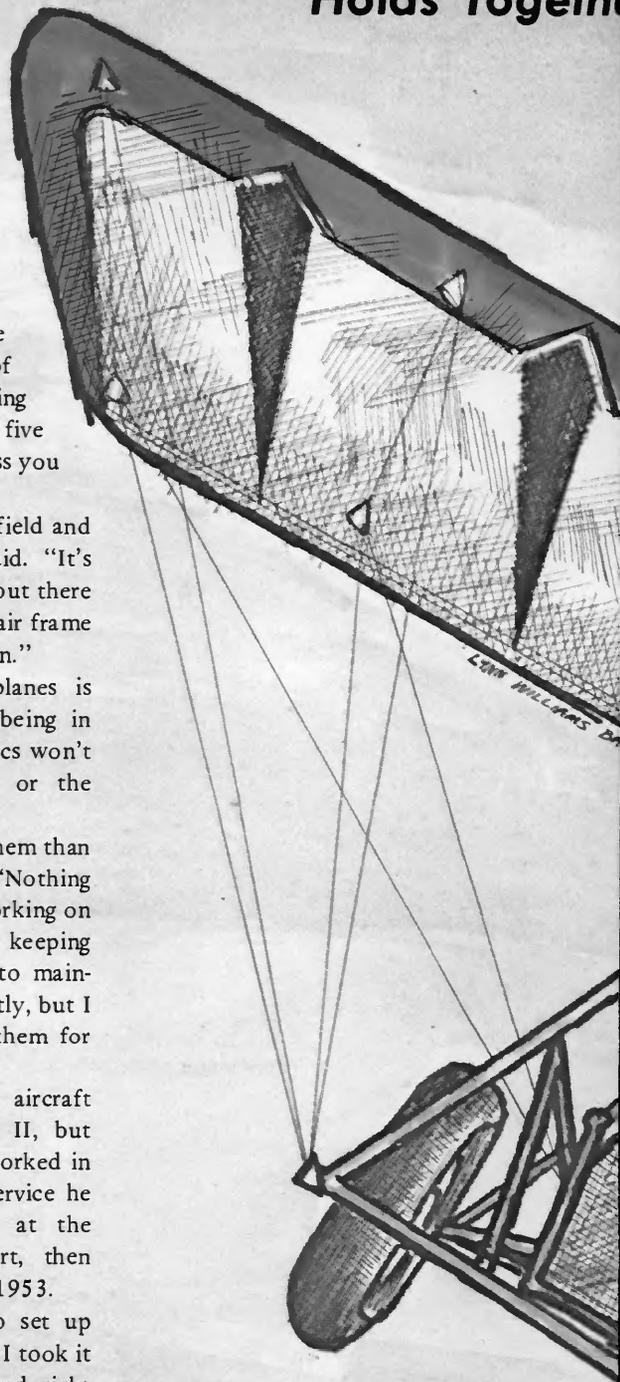
"The opportunity came to set up my shop here at this strip and I took it in 1972," Adkisson says, "and right now I'm doing more business than I ever did before."

Though restorations are his speciality, Adkisson also handles the minor repairs and works part time doing aerial mapping for a Champaign company. What time is left is taken up by work on his own planes.

"I've rebuilt a 1938 J-3 Piper Cub, Adkisson says, "and that's another one of my planes over there." Pointing to an high-wing model which looks like a

(continued on page 28)

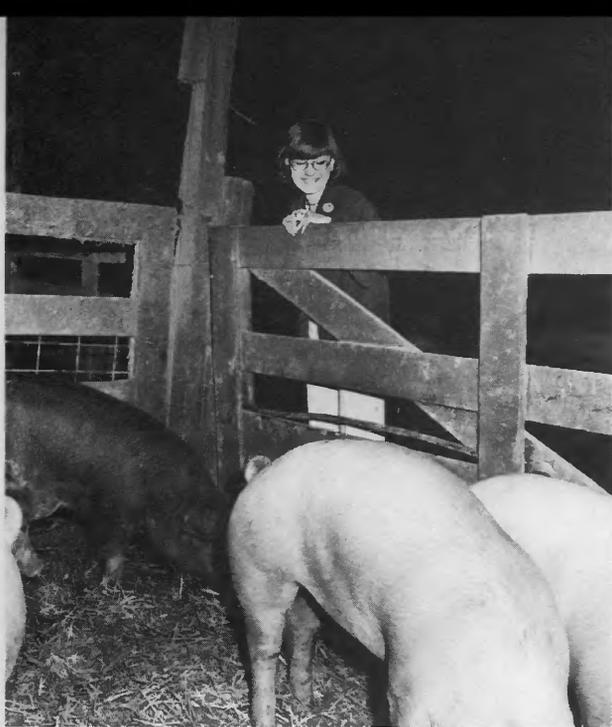
Wing "Nuts" Holds Together



ATWOOD AIR FARCE



ABOVE: Earl Adkisson sits at the controls of his replica of a 1908 Demoiselle. It took him more than a year to build the craft, which has won two awards for quietness.



ABOVE: Kathy at the sale barn. AT RIGHT: She's shown spraying the garden tractor she helped her brother rebuild. FAR RIGHT: Driving her brother's truck.



B. Matejko Waverling

KATHY LAWYER:

Is There a Sale Barn in Her Future?

Kathy Lawyer is a petite young woman with light brown hair and brown eyes. Attractive enough to have been a candidate for the "Miss Eastern Illinois Electric Cooperative" title, she seems equally at home in a formal, a pantsuit, or in work clothes under the hood of a truck or in a livestock barn. She doesn't make a fuss of driving her brother's four-speed three-quarter ton pickup any more than she fusses about driving her own little '73 Gremlin.

Kathy, who's 19, has one ambition: to be a livestock buyer. The desire, she emphasizes firmly, is not a passing fancy, nor is it a frivolous wish expressed by someone who doesn't know what the job involves.

The slight Woodland girl was a member of the FFA livestock judging team, which, as she puts it, "came away with quite a few of the trophies" from a judging contest at Kankakee Junior College. She also competed in individual judging, where students judged animals on the hoof and were

told of the results after the carcasses were graded, so see if they had assigned the correct grade to the animals. Other FFA activities include projects in home beautification, ag welding, and mechanics.

She worked at a sale barn until injuries she suffered in an automobile accident sidelined her. Now recovered, she works there when she's needed and is looking for full-time work.

Her road to a career as a livestock buyer has been a bumpy one, Kathy relates.

"I was getting set up for my high school classes and I told my counselor that I didn't want to take home economics because it was dopey, and he told me it wasn't. To me it is. I wanted to take a vocational trades class, and I told him so.

"He didn't really believe me at first, but I convinced him. As soon as he realized that it wasn't something silly, like a dare, he said I could take the class if the teacher didn't mind."

The teacher didn't mind, but he urged Kathy to find another girl to take the class with her. "I found a girl who'd take the class—she didn't really want to, but she took it because I asked her to," Kathy says with a quick laugh, "and she got so she liked it, too. She took it again the second year, but we were in different classes then."

The classes interested Kathy and she learned to do arc welding, oxy-acetylene welding, and to work on trucks, cars, and various kinds of farm equipment.

"That mechanics class was a lot of fun," she remarks, "and a funny thing happened to me in it. I took the early bird class, where you go to school at 7:30. Nobody's really awake then, but we had this truck to work on. We'd had it running to make sure everything was okay, and somebody suggested that I hook up the exhaust pipe to the manifold, so I crawled 'way down under the hood. I got down to where I could hardly move, and got stuck.

"The guys just stood around trying to figure out how to get me out, and I kept saying, 'Get me out of here, darn it!' It's funny now, but it wasn't then. Everything down there was hot, and I was upside down."

Kathy's putting her shop skills to good use. Along with her brother John she's repairing a garden tractor, which she painted black. They're now awaiting delivery of an engine block so they can rebuild the engine.

But while the 110-pound slip of a girl obviously enjoys wielding a spraygun or brandishing a wrench, she's even more at home in a sale barn.

"I like it here," she laughs, "it gets a little close when the weather's hot and sometimes the wind howls through here in the winter, and it's not the kind of place where you'd want to wear your best shoes, but I like the atmosphere. It's a little self-contained world of its own, and you meet the nicest people here. I hope to make a career of it."



Legislative Breakfast: Agriculture's Importance Stressed



UPPER RIGHT: James Holloway, center, of Egyptian Electric Cooperative of Steeleville and a former state legislator, talks with Illinois Agriculture Director Robert (Pud) Williams, left, and Senate President Cecil Partee. ABOVE: Governor Dan Walker, second from left, greets Illinois Future Farmers of America President Boyd Schaufelberger, left, State Senator William Harris and State Senator John Knuppel upon his arrival at the legislative breakfast.

Reminding Illinois legislators of agriculture's importance was the basic purpose of a special legislative breakfast April 14 in Springfield hosted by Illinois Department of Agriculture officials and 28 sponsoring farm organizations and commodity groups.

Included among the 28 organizations and groups were the Electric Cooperatives of Illinois, made up of 27 distribution cooperatives and the three generating and transmission cooperatives in the state.

Illinois Agriculture Director Robert (Pud) Williams explained the purpose was to remind the legislators of the importance of agriculture in Illinois and that through working together in legislation and understanding the needs of agriculture, a strong agricultural economy can be maintained.

Highlights of the meeting included remarks by Governor Dan Walker and Senate President Cecil Partee and Walker's signing of a proclamation declaring June as Dairy Month in Illinois. The Stauffer Chemical Company presented a multi-screen slide presentation entitled "Stewards of the Soil."

Cornelia Hodges, executive secretary of the Illinois Pork Producers Association, served as master of ceremonies.

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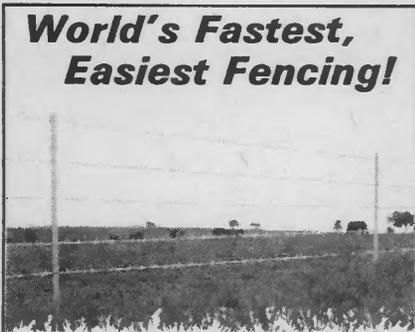
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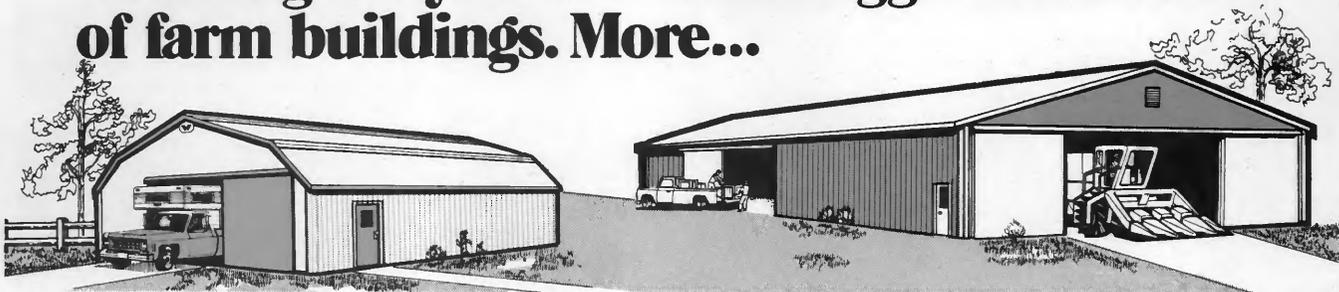
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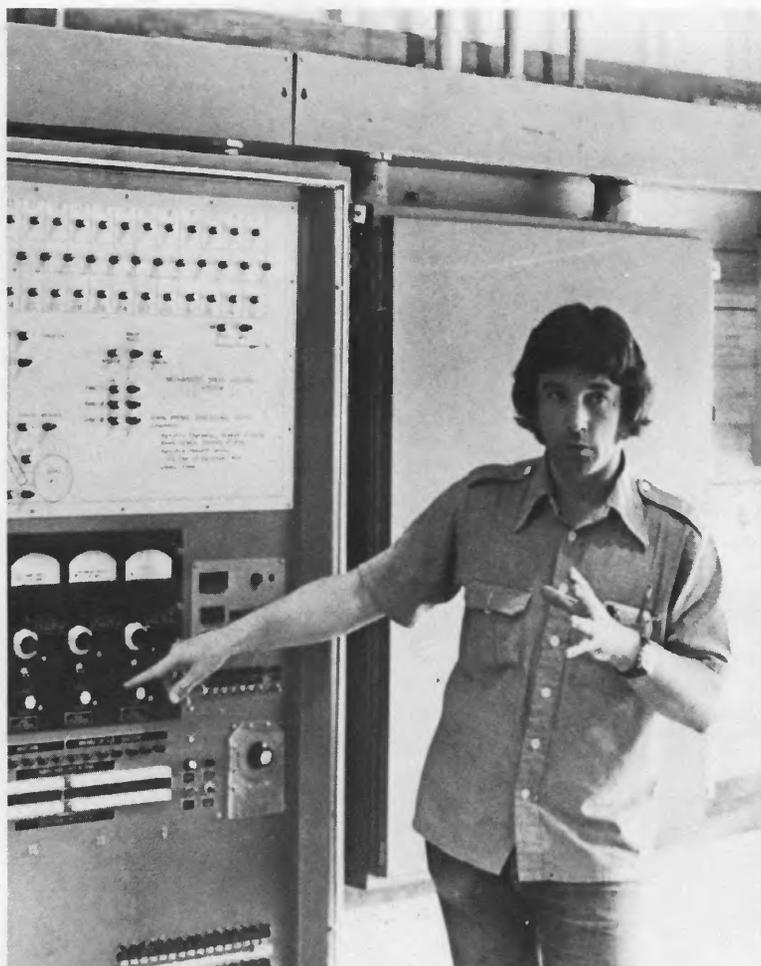
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IFEC Board Members Tour Dixon Springs Ag Center



Members of the Illinois Farm Electrification Council's Board of Directors held their quarterly meeting Monday and Tuesday, April 19-20 at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center in southeastern Illinois near Simpson. They combined the meeting with a tour of the center, during which they saw various experiments in progress.

Dr. Jim Kaiser, director of the center, guided the group. One experiment the center is conducting concerns the runoff from confinement feedlots, with runoff from identical lots going to entirely different drainage fields; a permanent meadow and a wooded slope. Water running into ponds below each watershed is sampled to determine the bacteriological content, and various points on the drainfields are also sampled. The object of the experiment is to learn how large drainfields need to be to accommodate given numbers of animals.

Another project involves zero-till corn production and the adaptation of "off the shelf" farm equipment to

permit zero-till farming without the extensive purchase of new equipment. "We use a planter set up for 30-inch rows," Kaiser related, "and we precede it with a herbicide to clear out the fescue. The planter opens the ground, drops a treated seed, a 'pop-up' fertilizer that gets the corn up quickly to make a canopy, a mousekiller to prevent rodent damage, and a herbicide.

"The herbicides are necessary to kill the previous growth. That's what plowing's all about anyway. We're just substituting chemical energy for the fossil-fuel energy you'd use in plowing.

The group also observed a herd of two-and three-way cross cows. "We're looking for the best beef producers for our particular area and specific conditions," says Kaiser, who noted that some of the cows seemed to be better milk producers than had originally been expected, and perhaps less suitable for beef production than they might have been.

Research is being done too, the group learned, on a zero-discharge hog manure disposal system. One of the interesting displays was at the sheep production unit, where feeding is heavily mechanized and electrical energy is used extensively to mix rations and to automatically feed 25 pens of sheep. Different rations can be fed to any or all of the pens. A system of augers, motors and conveyors can be set to provide different mixes of silage, corn, soybeans and supplement, with the mix then going to the feeding troughs. The entire operation is controlled from a single panel.

"One of our main research objectives here," Kaiser said, "is controlling erosion. "We're only one cropping season away from dust bowl conditions. Down here we have loess soil, which is easily windblown. Fescue holds it well, but some farmers, especially those who don't remember the dust bowl, are planting row crops. We're going to have to work hard to prevent erosion." Other objectives, he said, are raising the level of fertility and developing profitable and practical programs for crops, livestock, forestry, horticulture and wildlife.



ABOVE: IFEC board members who toured the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center. They are, from left to right: E. F. Olver, University of Illinois; Russell Stauffer, public affairs representative for AIEC; F. B. Lanham, University of Illinois; C. W. Wells, Illinois Power Company; Dean Searls, manager of Adams Electrical Co-Operative; and M. A. Tayman, Commonwealth Edison Company. Stauffer represented T. H. Moore, manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.



Henri Servais: A 'MAJOR' PIPE COLLECTOR



Hobbies are funny things, and a precious little excuse is needed for an enthusiast to begin some kind of avocation or another. The existence of a mountain is reason enough for some to start climbing, and the existence of a piece of string is all some people need to start winding a ball. As for pipes, Henri Servais explains how he began pipe collecting even though he doesn't smoke.

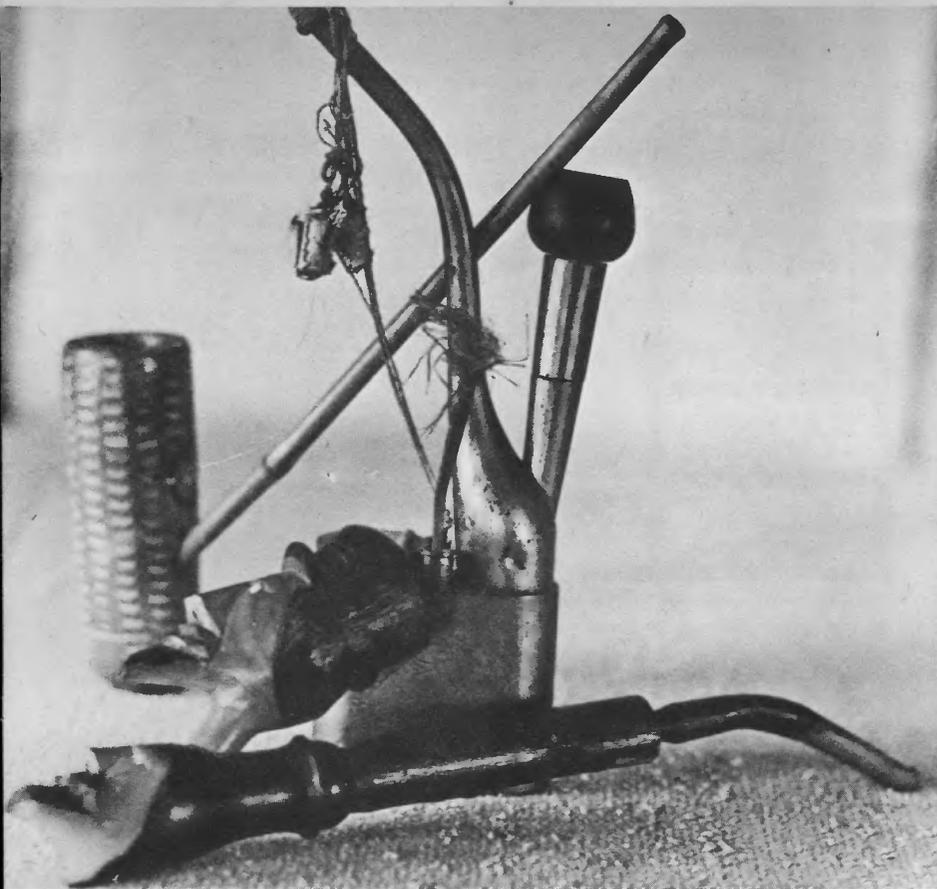
"I was working for the Salvation Army and we used to get a lot of rummage—old clothes and stuff. We found five or six pipes in with a bundle of old clothes, and I polished them up and put them on my desk."

From that small beginning grew a collection of 586 pipes of all shapes and sizes.

"People would come into my office and see those pipes on my desk. They'd say, 'why, I've got some old pipes at home and I don't smoke—I'll bring them in,' and before long I had a whole bunch of pipes. Then people started giving them to me as gifts, like for my birthday."

The French-born Servais and his wife, Hortense, live near Hillview, on





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Some of the more unusual pipes in Major Servais' collection. A close look at the Major's "prisoner of war" pipe. Major Servais holds one of his favorite pipes.



Illinois Rural lines. He's been collecting pipes since 1945, and had been working for the Salvation Army for nearly 20 years before he began his hobby. He retired in 1961 in Jacksonville after 35 years, winding up with the rank of major.

Taking down a pipe mounted on a nearby wall, Servais holds it gently, saying, "This was made for me by a man I helped out of a difficulty. He didn't have any way to repay me, so he made it by hand. It's made from a section of a tree, and the stem is a branch that he hollowed out by poking the core out with a hot wire. I've had it about 30 years."

"I used to have the pipe John Dillinger had in his pocket when the FBI caught up with him, but somebody took it," he says, "and here's another interesting one." He picks up a Bavarian-style pipe, almost caressing it.

"This was made by a man who was in a German prisoner-of-war camp for two years," Servais remarks, "and he somehow got hold of the stuff he needed to make it. He carved it with a pen knife. He needed a connection for the stem—they're usually made out of

stag horns—and he couldn't get hold of any, so he used a bone from a prisoner who had died."

Replacing the pipe on its hanger, he found another, shaped like the head of a bull, and his face lit up with a broad grin. "The fellow who gave me this—I think he was insulting—he said, 'You've been shooting the bull all your life, so here's a bull for you.'"

Many of the pipes in his collection are curios—shaped like footballs, Indian heads, bulls and automobiles. Others are more traditional. He has several calabash pipes, meerschaums, clay pipes, long-stemmed churchwardens and corncob pipes, as well as a collection of Bavarian pipes with wood or porcelain bowls. A large brass one was designed for opium, while a smaller briar has a water reservoir under the bowl to take the bite out of the smoke.

After talking about his pipes, the major returns to the one that is obviously one of his favorites—the homemade tree limb pipe. "It's one of a kind," he smiles, "and it was made by hand, just for me, by a friend."

Such a pipe would be a good addition to any collection.

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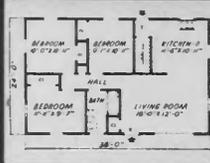
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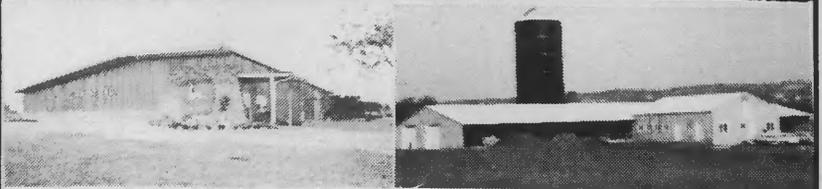
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A Restful Pause for the Traveler

(continued from page 7)

attendant who was on duty in late March, said the upcoming school vacation season would again be the busy time of the year. Holden said the traffic count increases considerably when children are out of school, even in the spring when school vacations may only be a matter of days or a week.

Holden takes a certain amount of pride in what he and his fellow workers can do.

"According to space, we can take care of just as many people as Lambert

Field in St. Louis," he said.

Holden, Wayne Elkins of Buncombe, Delbert Stoner of Ullin and Carl Lindsey of Makanda form the four-man team who staff the facility night and day, seven-days per week.

Holden admitted he liked his work and dealing with people although the job is not without difficulties and problems.

"One morning about two years ago, I was having lunch about 3 a.m. when two men, all bloody and their clothes ragged, came up out of the woods along the highway and asked for help. They were from Cairo and their car

had run off into the Cache River down the hill. They made it out. The other person in the car drowned," Holden explained about one incident.

He said there have been other emergencies, too, but that's part of his job.

During the summer months when travel is heaviest, the station on the northbound lane is converted into a tourist information station. During the daylight hours, personnel employed by the Illinois Department of Tourism provide interested travelers with literature about Illinois attractions and offer other assistance.

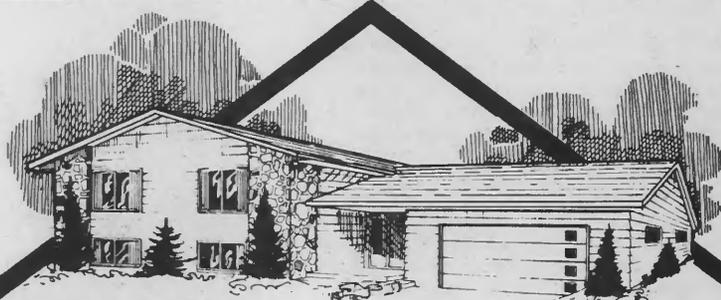
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As Metric System Nears-



Can Americans Kick the Foot?

They used to tell the story about a U.S. Army sergeant in Europe who was given the job of explaining to his truck drivers how to convert miles to kilometers and vice-versa. "If you're driving along and see a sign that says it's 20 kilometers to your destination you just divide that by eight. That gives you two and a half. Multiply that by five, subtract one, and you'll know how far you have to go. Any questions?" One of the students raised his hand and asked, "Why subtract one?"

"Because," was the reply, "it'll take you a kilometer to do the figgerin'."

The story may or may not be true; it probably is. Americans have been baffled by the metric system since there has been a metric system to be baffled about.

The system we're accustomed to is a patchwork system, but it's ours. Most important, we already know it.

Actually, there's really no present system. An English king decided that a yard should be the distance from the tip of his nose to the tips of his fingers, so that's the way it was, and a foot was the length of a man's foot,

Gradually, over the centuries, these became the basis for the English, and American, system of weights and measures. It's no wonder we treasure such a system, it took a lot of hard work to memorize it.

As a matter of fact, the metric system, if you look at it from an unbiased standpoint, is the easier to learn.

Metric measurements are like our monetary system in that they involve multiples of ten. This makes it easy to convert from one unit to another. Ten millimeters will give you a centimeter, and ten of those will make a meter. A

Metric Conversion Tables

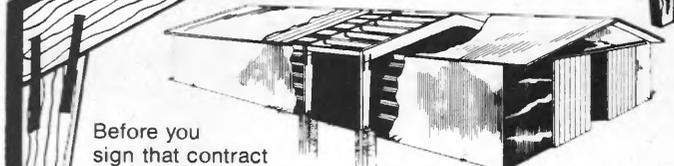
MULTIPLY THESE:	BY THESE:	AND GET THESE
inches	*2.54	centimeters (cm)
feet	*30.48	centimeters (cm)
yards	*9.144	meters (m)
miles	1.609	kilometers (km)
square inches	6.45	sq. centimeters (cm ²)
square feet	.0929	sq. meters (m ²)
square yards	.836	sq. meters (m ²)
acres	4047	sq. meters (m ²)
acres	.4047	hectares (ha)
square miles	2.59	sq. kilometers (km ²)
teaspoons	4.93	milliliters (ml) or (cm ³)
tablespoons	14.79	milliliters (ml)
ounces (fluid)	29.57	milliliters (ml)
cups	.2366	liters (l)
pints (liquid)	.4732	liters (l)
quarts (liquid)	.9464	liters (l)
gallons	3.785	liters (l)
pints (dry)	.5506	liters (l)
quarts (dry)	1.101	liters (l)
pecks	8.81	liters (l)
bushels	35.24	liters (l)
cubic yards	.7646	cubic meters (m ³)
ounces (weight)	28.34	grams (g)
pounds	.4536	kilograms (kg)
tons (2,000 lb.)	.907	tonnes (t) (1000 kg)
degrees Fahrenheit	(°F-32) (5/9)	degrees celsius (°C)

thousand of those will add up to a kilometer. That's simpler than the one inch equals a foot, three feet equal one yard, or 5,280 feet add up to one mile.

Or so they tell us. For a while, we'll probably have to remember to subtract that kilometer, because it'll take that long "to do the figgerin'."

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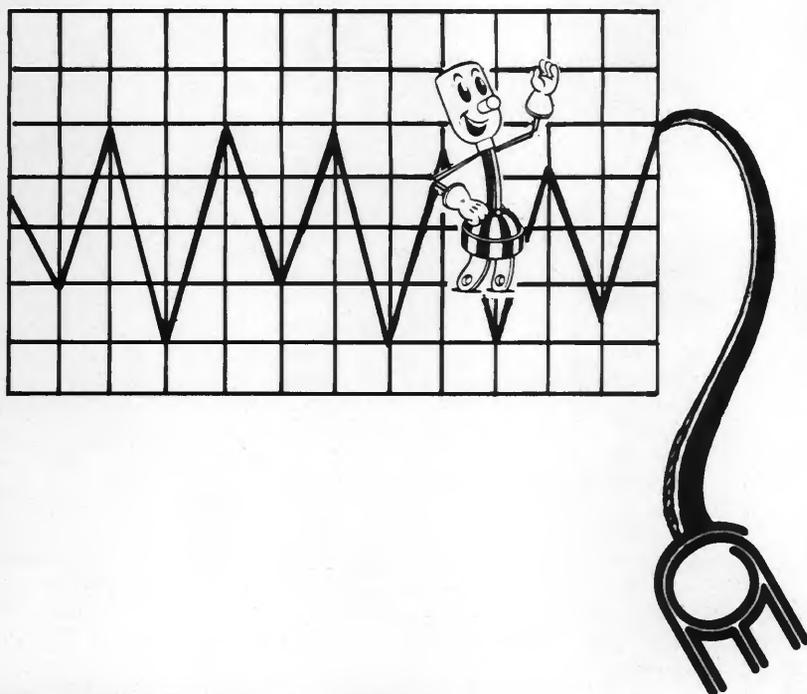


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Baked Beans Serves: 4	Microwave Conventional Oven	.24 1.62	10 minutes 1 hour	85.2%	83.3%
Broccoli-Fresh 1-½lb., Serves: 4	Microwave Cooktop	.18 .36	6 minutes 16 min. 37 sec.	50%	64.7%
Carrot Cake 3 layers	Microwave Conventional Oven	.38 1.16	14 min. 30 sec. 1 hour 7 min.*	67.2%	75%
Chicken Oven-Fried (4) Breasts	Microwave Conventional Oven	.25 2.14	9 minutes 1 hour 7 min.*	88.3%	86.6%
Rice Pudding Serves: 4	Microwave Cooktop & Oven	.36 2.06	6 minutes 1 hour	82.5%	73.7%
Turkey 12 lbs. 9 oz.	Microwave Conventional Oven	2.18 4.64	1 hour 18 min. ¹ 4 hours 47 min.	53%	72.8%
TV Dinner 15 oz.	Microwave Conventional Oven	.30 2.78	9 min. 30 sec. 27 min. 45 sec.*	89.2%	66.1%

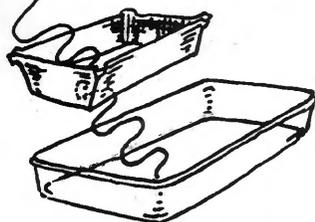
* Includes preheat time

¹ Includes browning element time

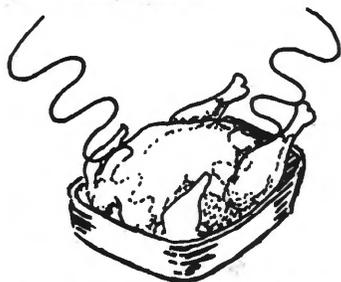
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Microwave cooking has evolved from an expensive gimmick of 20 years ago to what many homemakers now consider a necessity. The purchase and use of a microwave oven has taken on such importance because of Americans' eating habits and their patterns of life-style.

Microwave cooking can make your life easier, whether you cook for small or large families. There are no overheated kitchen or worries about what to serve drop-in guests. Meals can be simple or fancy without concern for time involved.

Microwave cooking is not only a futuristic household asset. It is also a stingy user of electricity. The cooking time is decreased drastically from conventional cooking. None of the energy is wasted on heating the air around the food, the utensil, or the oven walls, or preheating an empty oven. The energy goes directly into the food where the cooking process takes place.

The energy causes the molecules in the food to vibrate, setting up a motion that builds heat. This heat cooks the food.

Most microwave ovens work on ordinary house current, 110 to 120 volts. The cost of operating a microwave oven is generally one-fourth to

two-thirds less than that of a conventional oven, which requires 220 volts.

Helen Metcalf, home economist for Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Mt. Vernon, says there are a number of features to consider when purchasing a microwave oven.

Mrs. Metcalf says it is important to check the oven's interior size to determine if it will accommodate the sort of foods you plan to cook. Be sure the warranty is understood. It is important to know the length of time, who pays what, who services and where the service will take place, she adds.

Basic safety considerations require, she goes on, that the unit bear the Underwriters' Laboratory seal for electric safety and a dealer should have a leakage testing instrument for annual checks.

The length of the waves on portable, home-use models of microwaves is about one-fourth to three-fourth inches in length. This is 2,450 megacycles. The wave length this size cooks small or thin foods better. Some models are available that are 215 megacycles which have wave lengths of about 2½ inches. These are poor for cooking thin foods such as bacon. The 2,450 megacycle models use 120-volt

circuits where the 215 megacycle models require 240-volt circuits.

The best location of the food is in the center of the oven. If there are several items, arrange them in the circle.

Most ovens have "a high energy spot" (where energy concentrates in one spot) so food should be turned or rotated during cooking for more even cooking results.

The government requires that there be two safety interlocks so the unit can not be operated without the door shut. You should not look directly in the window while the oven is in use, just in case there is some leakage.

The ovens are very good for reheating and defrosting.

They are very cool appliances. This cuts down on the air conditioning load in the summer.

Cycle control features operate by the energy coming on for a short while, cycling off, then back on again. Not all models have this feature.

There is no danger of the waves building up in the body as many people think. Only ionizing waves, such as X-Ray and Ultraviolet, build up. Microwaves are nonionizing waves such as TV, radio and infrared.

Cooking energy should be a minimum of 650 watts. The higher the wattage, the faster it cooks.

Do not use metal cooking utensils unless the manufacturer specifically says you can. If you do the waves will be reflected back to the magnetron tube and burn it out. The same goes for popcorn as it does not have a high enough moisture content and water molecules are what absorbs the waves. Do not operate an empty oven for the same reason. It is a good idea to keep a cup of water in the oven when it's not in use just in case someone turns the oven on.

What is the magnetron tube? It is a special vacuum tube that converts electrical energy to high frequency microwave energy which is capable of generating heat within the food for rapid cooking. Replacement costs can run up to \$200.

Utensils that can safely be used are glass, paper, and any the manufacturer of your particular oven says you can. Some say you can heat TV dinners in their ovens; don't unless the manufacturer of your oven says you can.



Spell welcome with a potluck buffet. What better time for old friends and neighbors to show off their culinary skills than at

a new-neighbor party. Make it easy on the hostess. A little organization adds up to smooth sailing at a co-op party.

POTLUCK BUFFET

WELCOME PUNCH

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5 quarts water | 3 cups orange juice |
| 15 teabags or 1/2 cup loose tea | 1 1/2 cups lemon juice |
| 3 tablespoons whole cloves | 2 cups honey |
| 12 cinnamon sticks (2 inches long) | |

Bring water to a full rolling boil. Pour over tea and spices, cover and let stand for 5 minutes. Strain into a large container. Add fruit juices and honey. Stir until well-blended and keep warm. When ready to serve, pour into a large pitcher and place on candle warmer. Ladle into individual mugs. Garnish with a cinnamon stick stuck through a lemon slice. Makes about twenty-five servings.

INSTANT TEA FOR A CROWD

Bring 4 quarts freshly drawn cold water to a full rolling boil. Pour over 1/2 measuring cup instant tea. Stir well to dissolve. Makes about twenty-five servings.

CALIFORNIA SALAD TRAY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 cans (16 oz.) cling peach halves | Monteirey Jack cheese |
| 1 can (16 oz.) pear slices | Grapes |
| bottled Italian dressing | Lettuce |
| 1 package (12 oz.) pitted prunes | Fruited Tuna Molds |
| Cheddar cheese | |

Marinate peaches and pears in dressing and stuff pitted prunes with cheese. Rinse grapes well. Drain. Line tray with lettuce. Arrange grapes in center. Place salad molds around grapes. Place marinated peaches and pears on tray. Arrange stuffed prunes. Keep refrigerated until serving time.

FRUITED TUNA MOLDS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 can (17 oz.) fruit cocktail | 1/2 teaspoon celery salt |
| 1 can (7 oz.) tuna | 1 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire |
| 2 envelopes (1 tablespoon, each) unflavored gelatin | 5 drops Tabasco sauce |
| 3 cups tomato juice | 1/2 cup mayonnaise |
| 3 tablespoons lemon juice | Water cress |

Drain fruit cocktail and tuna. Soften 1 package gelatin in 1/2 cup cold water. Combine 2 cups tomato juice, 1 tablespoon lemon juice and seasonings in saucepan. Bring to boil. Add softened gelatin. Simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in fruit cocktail. Fill 2/3 cup individual molds half full with mixture. Chill to set. Combine tuna and mayonnaise. Soften 1 package gelatin in 1/2 cup cold water. Bring remaining 1 cup tomato juice and lemon juice to boil. Add softened gelatin. Simmer until gelatin is dissolved. Stir in tuna mixture. Pour into molds over jelled tomato fruit mixture. Refrigerate until set. Unmold to serve on California Salad Tray. Garnish with water cress. Makes ten individual molds.

BAKED RAVIOLI DINNER

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1/2 can (12 oz.) luncheon meat | 1/4 cup water |
| 1 tablespoon shortening | 1/2 lb. Mozzarella, shredded |
| 1 cup chopped bell peppers | 1 cup fresh broccoli flowerets |
| 3/4 cup chopped onion | 1 tablespoon soft butter or margarine |
| 2 cans (15 oz.) ravioli | 2 tablespoons breadcrumbs |

Cut luncheon meat into triangles 1/4" thick. Saute in shortening until lightly browned. Add peppers and onions, saute until golden. Remove from heat, add two cans ravioli and water. Stir lightly. Turn into 1 1/2 quart greased baking dish and bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Arrange Mozzarella on top of mixture during last ten minutes of baking. Blanch broccoli for five minutes; drain. Combine broccoli with butter or margarine and breadcrumbs. Arrange broccoli on top of ravioli. Serves six.

SPAGHETTI FRIENDSHIP RING

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 pkgs. spaghetti dinner with meat sauce | 1/4 cup margarine |
| 2 pkgs. (10 oz.) frozen, chopped spinach | 3 eggs, slightly beaten |
| 1 1/2 cups chopped onions | 1/2 cup sliced mushrooms or 1 jar (4 1/2 oz.) sliced mushrooms, drained |
| 1 jar (4 oz.) pimientos, chopped | 1 tablespoon oil |

Preheat oven for 375 degrees. Cook spaghetti according to package directions. Combine frozen spinach and onions in a saucepan containing 1 1/2 cups boiling water. Simmer until spinach is completely separated; drain. In a large bowl or pot, combined cooked spaghetti, spinach, pimiento, packaged canned cheese, margarine, and eggs. Toss with fork. Spoon into one well-greased 8 1/2 cup ring mold, pat lightly. Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes. Cool ten minutes. Run knife along edge and center of mold to loosen spaghetti. Unmold on large serving platter. Heat sauce in saucepan. Saute mushrooms in oil for five minutes, drain. Add to sauce. Simmer sauce and mushrooms together for ten minutes. Serve over spaghetti ring. Serves eight to ten.

SPICY PRUNE CAKE

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1 cup cut-up pitted prunes | 1 can (6 oz.) orange juice concentrate |
| 1/2 cup water | Powdered sugar |
| 1 pkg. spice cake mix | |

Simmer prunes in water for 5 minutes. Cool. Follow package directions for mixing cake using orange juice concentrate for part of liquid. Fold in prunes. Bake in 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking pan according to package directions. Dust with powdered sugar. Cool. Cut diagonally to form diamonds.

GOLDEN PEACH COBBLER

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 cans (29 oz.) cling peach slices | 2 teaspoons brandy extract |
| 1 cup marmalade | 2 pie crust sticks |
| 2 tablespoons cornstarch | |

Drain peaches, reserving syrup. Combine 1/2 cup reserved peach syrup with marmalade. Combine cornstarch with 1/4 cup reserved peach syrup and add to marmalade mixture. Stir in brandy extract. Roll out pie crust thicker than usual. Cut in 1-inch strips. Turn peach slices into 1 1/2 quart shallow baking dish. Pour marmalade mixture over fruit and top with lattice of pastry strips. Bake at 450 degrees F. for 30 minutes. Serves eight to ten.

HOT CHICKEN SALAD

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 cups diced chicken or turkey | 2 cups mayonnaise |
| 4 cups diced celery | 4 tablespoons lemon juice |
| 1 cup slivered almonds | 4 tablespoons chopped onions |
| 1 tablespoon monosodium glutamate | Salt to taste |

Mix all ingredients and put into a baking dish and refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Remove from refrigerator and top with 2 cups crushed potato chips and 1 cup of grated cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until thoroughly heated.

STRAWBERRY PIE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 cup sugar | 1 cup water |
| 3 tablespoons cornstarch | 2 tablespoons white syrup |
| 2 tablespoons strawberry gelatin | Red food coloring |
| Baked pie shell | Coolwhip |

Cook sugar, cornstarch, water and syrup until thickened. Add gelatin and red food coloring if desired. Let set until cool, then place well drained, whole fresh berries in baked pie shell and pour filling over. Top with Coolwhip.

GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 cans No. 303 green beans, drained | 1 can mushroom soup, undiluted |
| Salt and pepper to taste | 1 pkg. frozen onion rings |

Place beans in casserole. Salt and pepper. Spread mushroom soup over the top. Arrange onion rings over top and bake 30 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees or until onion rings are slightly browned.

FRUIT SALAD

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 can fruit cocktail (20 oz.) | 1 box orange gelatin |
| 1 can crushed pineapple (20 oz.) | 1 (12 oz.) box cottage cheese |
| 1 can mandarin oranges | 1 9-oz. carton coolwhip |

Drain fruit well and mix. Sprinkle dry gelatin over drained fruit, mix well. Fold in cottage cheese and coolwhip.

CHICKEN AND RICE CASSEROLE

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1 cup raw rice | 2 soup cans of water |
| 2 cans soup (cream of mushroom, celery or chicken) | 1 cut-up chicken |

Mix soup and water until smooth. Place rice in a 13x9 casserole dish. Pour soup mixture over rice. Place chicken pieces on top of rice and soup. Bake uncovered at least 2 hours at 250 degrees.

BUTTERMILK PIE

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 9-inch unbaked pie shell | 3 eggs, unbeatn |
| 1/2 cup butter | 1 cup buttermilk |
| 2 cups sugar | 1 teaspoon vanilla |
| 3 rounded tablespoons flour | Dash of nutmeg (optional) |

Have butter soft, add sugar and cream together well. Add flour and eggs, beat well. Stir in buttermilk, vanilla and nutmeg. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake for 45-50 minutes at 350 degrees or until firm. Place on wire rack to cool completely before serving.

ANGEL BISCUITS

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 5 cups flour, sifted | 3 teaspoons baking powder |
| 1/2 cup sugar | 1 pkg. yeast |
| 1 teaspoon soda | 1/2 cup warm water |
| 2 teaspoons salt | 1 1/2 cups buttermilk |
| | 1 cup shortening |

Sift dry ingredients together. Cut in shortening. Dissolve yeast in warm water and combine with buttermilk, then add to dry ingredients. Stir well and then knead. Add more flour if necessary. Roll out on floured board about 1/2 inch thick, cut with biscuit cutter. Place in pan, brush tops with melted butter. Bake at 450 degrees until golden brown. (Cut out biscuits may be frozen on cookie sheet until firm, then placed in plastic bags and kept in freezer until needed.)

1-2-3-4 POUND CAKE

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 cup shortening | 1/2 teaspoon soda |
| 2 cups sugar | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 4 eggs | 1 cup buttermilk |
| 3 cups flour | |

Cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beat between each. Add vanilla. Alternately add butter and dry ingredients. Pour batter in a greased tube pan. Bake at 325 degrees about 1 hour and 15 minutes or until light golden brown. Serve plain or with fruit, whipped cream or ice cream.

ATWOOD AIR FARCE

(continued from page 8)

turn-of-the-century airplane. "It's a replica of a 1908 Demoiselle; it took me about a year to build in my spare time. You like it? I'm prejudiced, but I think it's sharp myself."

"They call them experimental, but what they are really saying is that they are replicas of older models and home-built," Adkisson says.

"Experimental is just one classification," he added. "Planes from 1940-53 are called classics, from 1930-40 are golden age crafts, from about 1918-30 are antique, from 1914-18 are WW I craft and anything before 1914 are pioneer craft. The dates keep changing, too."

The experimental planes are the ones people enjoy seeing the most, if only because some of them are so unusual.

"That plane over there," Adkisson indicates, "is a homebuilt replica of a Curtiss Pusher." Right now, we just have two replicas of these old pioneer classification aircraft, but we intend to maybe get one more and take them to shows and things."

For Adkisson, the experimentals are the most fun, both to build and to fly.

"I guess what I'm really interested in is how flying used to be," Adkisson said. "To me feeling the same sensations of flight and encountering the same problems as the people who flew the originals is just a fantastic feeling. I'm kind of a fiend on the history of early aircraft."

According to Adkisson, the Air Farce members spend a lot of time flying on their free afternoons, or going to air shows or just sitting around talking airplanes on bad weather days.

As we walked among the crafts, Adkisson named them, giving a description of what makes them different-something only a person who is well-versed in the history of aircraft can do.

"Now that is a 1939 Aeronca Defender, the oldest plane we've got here," he said. "Over there is the only all-metal 1948 Aeronca Sedan I've ever seen.

"1940 Luscombe, really a cherry

machine, another one over there. Starduster over there.

"1946 Taylorcraft, light, small engine but gets much better fuel usage than any small planes today. It was a Grand Champion at a Lakeland, Florida show."

"That black beauty over there, an experimental, was built for racing. I've

had it up to about 225 miles per hour. Really sweet. Over there's a Breezy.

"That, well that's something else. It's a Bensen Gyrocopter. Looks like a flying chair, huh?

What you've just seen are the planes that make up the Atwood Air Farce," Adkisson concludes. "Just like I told you, we're a bunch of nuts, huh?

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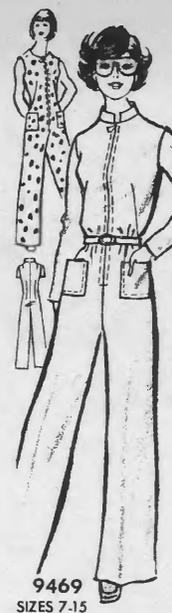
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C.I.F. spent over six years to fully develop this program. RURAL LEADERS helped in its design . . . men such as ORVILLE L. FREEMAN (former UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE and Governor of Minnesota), CLYDE T. ELLIS (for 25 years Manager of NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION).

"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.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PLAN'S VALUABLE HIGHLIGHTS:

HIGH PAYMENTS!

PAYS \$50. PER DAY CASH for EVERY DAY in the Hospital.

- Weekly \$ 350
- Monthly \$ 1,500
- Yearly \$18,200
- PLUS - 100 TIMES the Daily Payments in Case of Accidental Death \$ 5,000

REAL SAVINGS!

Low GROUP Cost

- Only \$6.60 per month and Up.

Alternate Plan:

- Only \$3.30 per month and Up.

* Depending upon ages

FOUR (4) REASONS YOU NEED THE C.I.F. PLAN:

(We suggest you COMPARE)

1. Pays for one whole year (365 days).
2. **PAYS IN ADDITION TO:**
 - (a) Other Insurance you may already have.
 - (b) Workmen's Compensation.
 - (c) Veteran's Hospitalization.
3. NO AGE LIMIT to apply.
4. YOU CAN'T BE CANCELLED — so long as you pay your premium and the group policy 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).

Consider These Facts:

- This year hospital costs are averaging \$128 per day (American Hospital Association).
- One person in every third family will go to the hospital this year. Almost everyone — will go to the hospital sooner or later.
- The ONLY time you can buy Hospital Protection is BEFORE you need it.
- NO ONE CAN AFFORD TO TAKE A CHANCE ON HAVING THEIR SAVINGS (or what you own) WIPED OUT!

MOST hospital stays are SHORT . . . and EXPENSIVE . . . C.I.F. PAYS BEGINNING THE VERY FIRST DAY IN THE HOSPITAL . . . for SICKNESS and ACCIDENT and that means HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS TO YOU.

COMPARE

To protect your pocketbook — AND — to protect yourself — COMPARE! The C.I.F. Hospital Income Plan offers: LOW "GROUP" cost. YOU PAY NO MONEY 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.

CLAIMS HANDLING IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY . . .

Prompt and considerate claims handling is our trademark—wherever you live (or move) anywhere in the world. Our insurance company is licensed in your state, and we are as close to you as your neighbor. A postage stamp or a phone call reaches us promptly.

Co-op Insurance Fund is administered COAST-TO-COAST from its offices in Atlanta, Georgia. Phone (404) 892-3168.

Depository —

NATIONAL BANK OF GEORGIA

Trustee —

COMMERCE BANK OF KANSAS CITY



No Obligation

No Risk

TO GET THE WHOLE STORY—Fill in information and mail to:

CO-OP INSURANCE PLAN

P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, Ill. 62708

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Street Address (or RFD) _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Are you interested in Coverage for:
 Male? Age _____
 Female? Age _____
 Children?

FOR ALL AGES

NO AGENT WILL EVER CONTACT YOU