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December 1977

Illinois Rural Electric News



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**IMPORTANT
MAIL TODAY**

Illinois Rural Electric News

Beyond the holiday season

The next issue of the *Illinois Rural Electric News* will mark a new year. A year has quickly gone and another will soon be moving past us.

During the next several days, the pleas of children, and many adults, who wished "Christmas would hurry up and get here" will be answered.

Certainly, during this holiday season founded on giving, we all have much for which to be thankful.

Just as it is a time to be thankful, it is also a time to be reflective, to look back over the year, then to contemplate what 1978 will bring.

A year ago, we were just into what turned out to be one of the coldest winters in recorded history. We were also into a winter that would see millions of people out of work because the nation's energy supplies were not available in sufficient quantities to provide for the needs of factories, schools, office buildings, stores and homes.

Yet, here in Illinois, the winter weather's consequences were minor when compared to the crises in many areas of the country.

For that, we should be thankful.

But, our good fortune of last winter should not be misunderstood. The shortages of vital gas and oil for home, school and business heating and manufacturing processes that plagued Ohio could occur in Illinois to the same crippling extent. Prevention of such disruptive occurrences cannot be left to chance.

Such memories of last winter and the thoughts that this winter could be worse are not pleasant during this happy season, but the nation's energy problems have reached the point that we cannot forget them at any time.

For the past year, the *Illinois Rural Electric News* has

published a series on energy conservation designed to provide member-owners of the state's electric cooperatives with information to enable them to help reduce their personal consumption of electricity and, as a result, help hold down their costs. Conservation is very important in the effort to help the country achieve a greater degree of energy independence.

However, conservation is but one of several things the country must do to repel the troubles that can beset our social and economic structure if we do not have sufficient supplies of energy.

As we enjoy this holiday season, let us remember the significant role that adequate supplies of electricity, gas and oil play in the nation's food-producing sector.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, while Congress was wrestling with the Carter Administration's energy bill, the nation's electric cooperatives continued to emphasize that the country must have a policy which embodies conservation, research, greater reliance on coal and nuclear power, environmentally sound development of energy resources, load management, strengthened transmission facilities and wider power pooling.

In November, some observers expected Congress to finish work on the Carter bill by Christmas. Others expected the matter to be unresolved until after January 1.

Whatever comes out of Congress by then still will not be enough.

It should be the holiday wish of everyone that the nation effect a comprehensive policy which addresses all the areas of energy use, supply and development.

Without such, the next Christmas and New Year's holiday season might not be as pleasant as this year's.

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COVER: Festive Christmas decorations help add to the holiday spirit. These particular decorations, including the tree, are extra special. They're candy. (See story on pages 18 and 19.)

ren Illinois Rural Electric News

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Lyle Boyd, of rural Argenta, has done what many think about but never get around to: he has harnessed the sun to dry his crops. Boyd has a 55,000-bushel storage building with solar collectors built into the roofing.

The entire southern roof of the 100-foot building is covered with a suspended-plate collector, and a lean-to containing the motors and fans to

dry the grain is also covered with fiberglass panels to help collect the sun's rays. All in all, there are about 4,400 square feet of collector area.

How well does it work? Boyd does not know, yet, but he expects results to be favorable.

"I thought I'd allowed myself enough time when I ordered the materials last year that I could get it

all built before the drying season," he says, "but the fiberglass went astray before it got here. We put a tracer on it to see if we could locate it, and it went to Ohio and Minnesota before it got here.

"You're not supposed to fool with it when the temperature gets below 35 degrees, and it was lower than that before we got it, so we didn't get it put on last year. The system still dried the corn well, though. We handled the grain and removed seven points of moisture for four cents a bushel. That's not bad, and the corn was in good shape, too."

The fiberglass is on now, and Boyd notes that the temperature in the collectors is 14 degrees (Fahrenheit) higher than the outside air. Three 20-horsepower fans draw the air from the outside, over the collectors, and into the building.

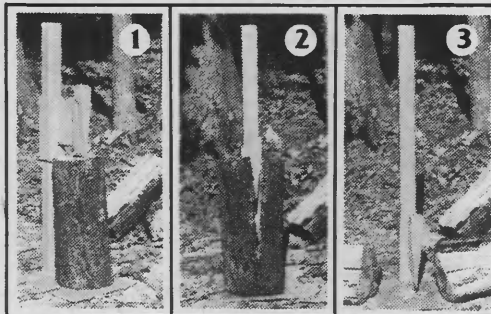
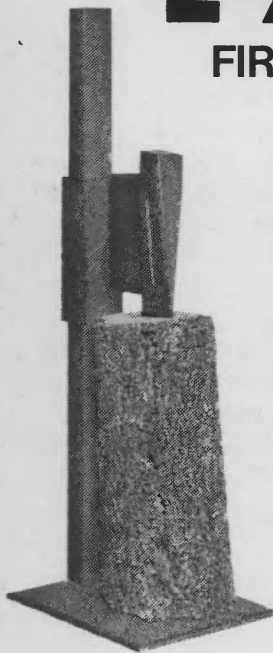
After being heated, the air is blown through 21 perforated tubes placed across the floor of the building to distribute the heat evenly.

"We don't have any electric heat in

Argenta puts solar

Above right: Lyle Boyd, left, and Vince Ijams, power use adviser and wiring inspector for Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, inspect the collector. Right: The collector panel is clearly visible in this photo taken from the southeastern end of the building. The building, which holds about 55,000 bushels, has 4,400 square feet of collector area.

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the system," Boyd laughs, "because the 14-degree temperature rise we get may be too much anyway. There are three access panels for the motors, and if we leave them open the temperature rise is only nine degrees. We may have to go at it that way.

"One thing we're sure of is that we have enough heat. Last winter, before we got the fiberglass up, my son Al turned on the fans. The airflow alone drew that moisture down right now!" Boyd says.

While Boyd is enthusiastic about the cost savings, he is also pleased with the quality of the corn that comes out of the system.

"Just look at the kernels from some of those fast dryers," he says. "The kernels look dull and shriveled up, and a lot of them are broken. They come out of here in real good shape, just like they went in: glossy and golden."

For Lyle Boyd, solar grain drying is a fact, and he is a firm believer. "I think we'll see a lot more of it in the future," he says.



Farmer energy to work





AIEC's new president

He won't forget rural life without

Clement Ikins, president of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), has a deep-seated appreciation for the contributions electrification has made to the social and economic well-being of rural areas.

Yet, it is not just the presence of electricity in his daily life today that has led to that appreciation, but equally his experience in farming and rural living without electricity amidst countryside and farms served with electric power.

Ikins, who was elected to head the statewide organization of the state's electric cooperatives during the annual meeting of the AIEC in August, produces corn and soybeans on a farm he operates with his son, Donald, near Onarga in Iroquois County. Certainly, electricity is a vital element in the day-to-day operation of that farm and the rural home in which Ikins and his wife, Joyce, reside.

It wasn't always that way, though.

His farm background goes back to 1920 when his father began farming just east of Onarga. But, as was the case with so many people, Ikins found

it necessary to leave the farm in the 1930's and find work in the city. After a few years in Kankakee and Chicago—where he attended business college and night school—Ikins chose to return to Iroquois County and farming.

In 1939, Ikins and his young bride—who had grown up in nearby Buckley and was accustomed to the conveniences of electricity—moved onto a farm which had no electricity. (Although Ikins had experienced farm life without electricity, during his years in the city he too had become accustomed to the handiness, comfort and usefulness of electricity.) The farm the Ikinses rented was near, but not in, the service territory of the young Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative (EIPC) headquartered in Paxton. And the investor-owned utility which served the area did not provide electric service to the property. It was the only farm available for rent, Ikins recalled.

“Moving back to the farm without electricity was a real jolt,” Ikins said.

For 10 years, they lived on the rented farm without electricity.

As a result, the Ikinses have a great

deal of respect for the advantages of electric power. “We don't take it for granted, as many people do,” Joyce Ikins said.

Since farming operations during the 1940's did not involve nearly as much use of electricity as today, the Ikinses do not recall so much the inconvenience of not having electricity for farming chores. Instead, it was something that few would think of that was the most notable change they experienced when they finally moved onto a farm with electricity. Both agree, “It was running water.” They had carried water from outside for 10 years and having running water at their fingertips, thanks to electric-powered pumps, made life on the new farm more enjoyable than any other change.

Moving to that farm—which was the family home place—also signaled another change for Clement Ikins. The farm was served by EIPC and Ikins became a member-owner of the cooperative.

In fact, he not only became a member-owner, but became a busy participant in the cooperative's activities. He was so busy and so

Far left: Framed by a panoramic view of his Iroquois County farm, AIEC President Clement Ikins checks his rain gauge, a daily chore he considers to be among the most important for a farmer.

Upper right: Ikins climbs aboard his combine, the heart of his harvest-season activities. Lower right: Clement and Joyce Ikins share a relaxed moment in the den at the rear of their rural home near Onarga.



lectricity

involved that, in 1957, he was elected to the board of directors of EIPC. In the 20 years on the board he has served as both vice president and president. He eventually became alternate as EIPC's representative on the AIEC board and, in 1969, was selected as a director of the statewide. His election as AIEC president followed several years as vice president. Ikins succeeded Stanley Greathouse of Johnsonville as AIEC president. Greathouse, a director of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield, was elected Illinois director of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

His service to the rural electrification program has cut into the time necessary to operate his farm, Ikins said, but added that Donald has taken over much of the responsibility. "A few years ago he was helping me; now I'm helping him."

In those years of cooperative membership and leadership, Ikins has witnessed change and sees more.

Changes affecting cooperatives over the years, Ikins said, are mostly related
(continued on page 15)



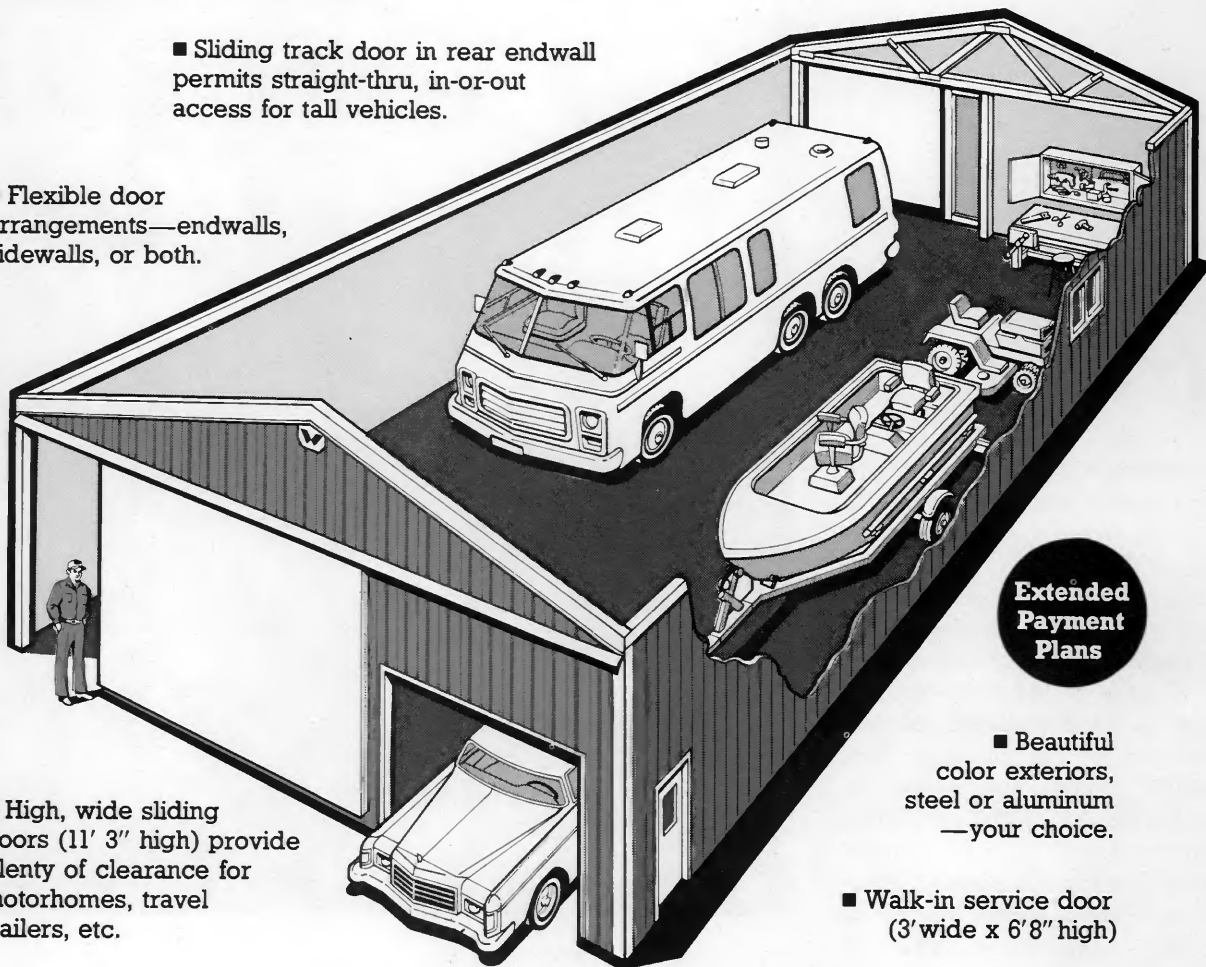
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Electric power assessments of member-owners of 17 Illinois electric distribution cooperatives are expected to increase in 1978 as the result of another wholesale power rate increase by Central Illinois Public Service Company (CIPS).

Effective January 1, bulk power rates for the 17 cooperatives will increase by an average of 13.4 percent, marking the fourth contract price increase in four years.

While the 13.4-percent increase will represent a significant increase in power costs, the cooperatives originally were asked to allow a 23.3-percent average hike amounting to \$9,022,000. During negotiations with CIPS, a cooperative subcommittee was successful in reducing CIPS' original request to \$5,168,000, just over half of the bulk electric power supplier's initial proposal.

Subject to the approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the increases will vary from cooperative to cooperative, ranging from a high of 13.9 percent to a low of 12.5 percent.

Settlement on the rate increase was finally reached in October by the cooperatives' team of negotiators—the CIPS Bulk Power Negotiating Subcommittee of the Energy, Environment and Engineering Department of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Since January 1, 1975—the effective date of the cooperatives' original contract with CIPS—the supplier of bulk power has increased the rates each January 1. The annual increase proposals result because of a contract provision in the original contract which enables the utility to request renegotiation of the rate upon six-month written notice. In each year since the original contract was initiated, CIPS has sought increases in the rates.

This year's rate increase, CIPS said, is related to costs associated with the new generating station near Newton in Jasper County. CIPS planned to have the 600-megawatt plant in operation this month. In addition, inflationary pressure on all costs also contributed to CIPS' request for the increase, the utility said.

Cooperatives who receive all or part of their wholesale power from CIPS include: Clay Electric Co-operative,

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, Edgar Electric Co-operative, Illini Electric Cooperative, McDonough Power Cooperative, Norris Electric Cooperative, Shelby Electric Cooperative, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative and Western Illinois Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative which produces about 35 percent of its power and purchases the remainder from CIPS and Illinois Power Company (IPC). The WIPCO

members are: Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Illinois Rural Electric Co., Menard Electric Cooperative, M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, Spoon River Electric Co-operative and Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

Subcommittee Chairman Donald B. Bringman, manager of WIPCO, said that although the negotiated settlement was less than 60 percent of the original CIPS proposal, he was not pleased with the fact that there will be an increase, regardless of its size. He said the increase helps to emphasize the need for the cooperatives to explore all alternatives for developing future power supplies.

Bringman also said that the increases would have to be passed on to the seven WIPCO member-cooperatives.

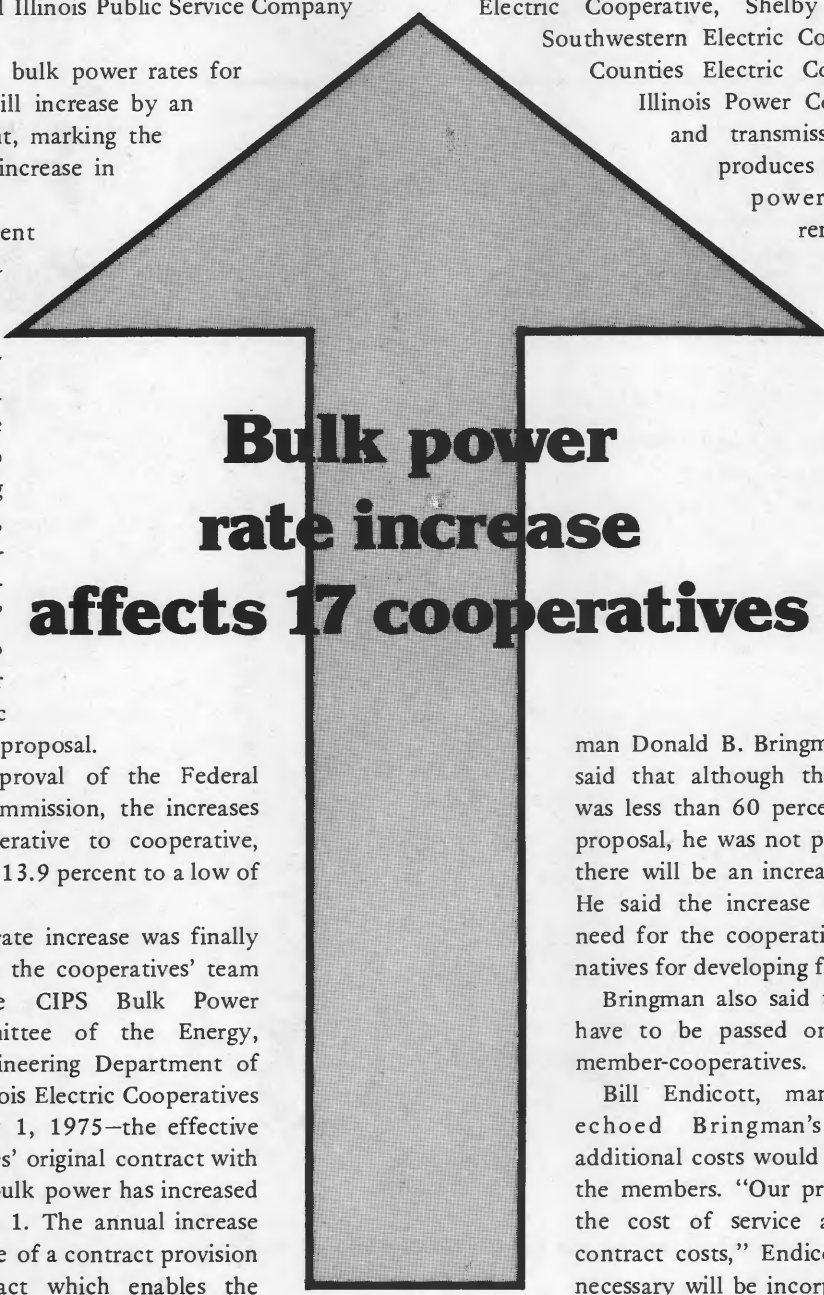
Bill Endicott, manager of Wayne-White, echoed Bringman's statement that the additional costs would have to be passed on to the members. "Our present rates are based on the cost of service according to the 1977 contract costs," Endicott said. "Any increases necessary will be incorporated in the wholesale

power cost adjustment, not our base rate, though," he added.

"Costs in all areas are going up," he continued, "but the cost of wholesale power is about 70 percent of our total operating expenses for the cooperative. And, it appears these negotiations will be an annual matter for years to come."

Walter Smith, manager of Illini, said that cooperative will be "faced with adjusting our retail rates, especially since we are working on such close margins. I expect the increase to

(continued on page 17)



Bulk power rate increase affects 17 cooperatives



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Clark Kubicki manages the Eaton Corporation Controls Division plant in Hanover, where items manufactured include control valves for washing machines, thermostats for liquid cooled engines and vending machine valves.

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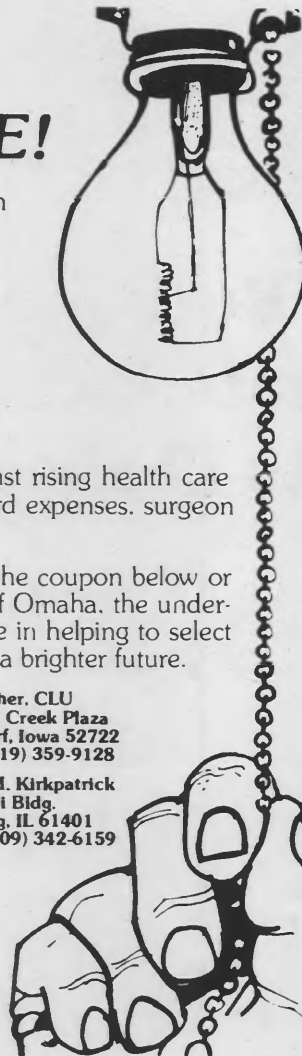
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Hanover plant's products

Up in northwestern Illinois, in the tri-state area where Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin meet, is the town of Hanover, which boasts in the neighborhood of 1,300 inhabitants. It also boasts an industry whose products are used by virtually every American, often several times a day.

The Eaton Corporation Controls Division is one of the larger civilian employers in the area. It is served by Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Elizabeth.

Clark Kubicki, plant manager, says, "We build mixing valves for appliances, such as washing machines and dishwashers, and thermostats, emission controls and vacuum switches for the automotive industry, and we build thermostats for inboard and outboard boat motors, too." Valves for vending machines that dispense liquid products are also part of the product line, he notes.

Kubicki, who has been with the company for 43 years, opened the Hanover plant in April 1965. "The building, a four-story reinforced concrete structure, was constructed by the Hanover Woolen Mills in 1918," he says, "and we bought it in 1965 and initiated a major rejuvenation project. The building needed a lot of work.

"We didn't get too far with the renovation, though, because the Mississippi River started to rise and

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threatened our plant in Savanna. We made a hasty decision to move our valve and thermostat line to Hanover, even though the building was far from being ready, and we moved in the last week in April with two supervisors and six employees.”

The plant is but one of several Controls Division plants across northern Illinois. “We have two plants in Havana,” Kubicki says, “and a fabrication plant in Rochelle. There’s also a molding plant in Batavia, where they make the molded plastic parts. We don’t do any actual fabrication here. We receive parts from other plants by truck, assemble them and ship them out.

The products made by the division are used in virtually every kind of motor vehicle, and in appliances manufactured by several companies. We sell to Maytag, Speed Queen, Hobart, D and M, White Consolidated and Whirlpool.”

“All the automotive companies buy our products, too,” he remarks, adding, “Our products are original equipment in cars produced by Ford, General Motors, Chrysler and American Motors, and we supply parts for their aftermarket sales too, for replacement parts and so on.”

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As home energy costs rise, wise consumers seek ways to maximize each dollar spent for home heating and other uses. In 90 percent of homes, especially those in cooler areas such as Illinois, it is possible to save 10 to 30 cents of every dollar currently spent for home heating energy by reducing air infiltration and making a number of inexpensive repairs and adjustments.

Older homes are especially susceptible to cracks around doors and windows. Masonry exteriors—stone, stucco, and brick—often develop cracks and should be repointed. But old or new, frame or masonry, insulated or not, all homes suffer some unnecessary heat loss.

Heat escapes and cold air enters wherever two different materials or parts of a house join and through any opening, however small, between heated areas and unheated areas or the exterior of a home. Remedies for these situations—caulking, weather stripping, and sealing—are among the least expensive of heating energy savers and, in most cases, are do-it-yourself jobs.

Caulking

Check for cracks in the areas listed. Using a putty knife or caulking gun, thoroughly fill each crack with a good quality caulking compound.

On the outside of the home, check:

- Around window and door frames, sills, and joints.
- At corners formed by siding.
- Between porches and main body of home.
- Around water faucets and electrical outlets.
- Where chimney or masonry meets siding.

On the inside of the home, check:

- Between foundation and sill plate.
- Around ceiling fixtures.
- Around water pipes and drains.
- Where furnace flue goes through attic.
- Around attic entry.
- Between heated and unheated areas such as attached garage and crawl space.

All cracks should first be cleaned. Deep or wide cracks should be filled with fibrous insulation, caulking cotton or sponge rubber before caulking.

Weather Stripping

Windows that open and exterior doors in a home should be checked and a durable weather stripping material added wherever air leaks are found.

Be especially watchful in the following areas:

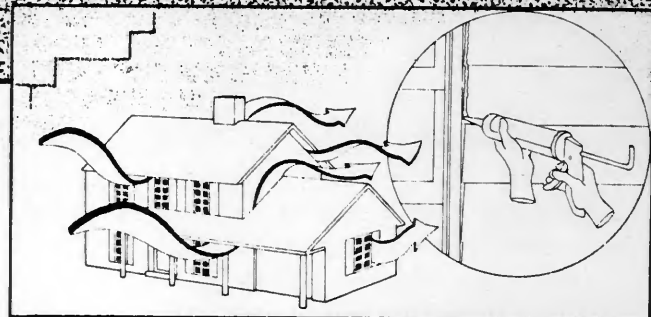
- Around loose-fitting window sash and casings.
- Around loose-fitting entrance doors.
- Around doors or any openings between heated and unheated spaces.

Consult a reputable hardware or building materials supplier about the type of caulking compound or weather stripping required for your particular job. Such dealers can also answer questions about proper application and installation.

Space Heating/Cooling

- Lower heating thermostat to absolute minimum

Saving home energy



Heat escapes wherever two different materials or parts of a house join; caulk all cracks to reduce heat loss.

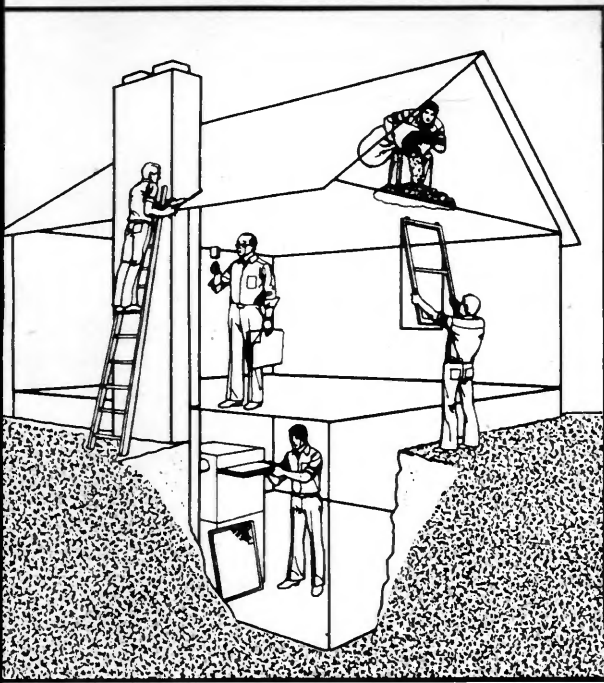
comfort level (68 degrees F or lower). Wear extra clothing if necessary.

- Further reduce thermostat setting during night hours or when dwelling is unoccupied (58 degrees F or lower).
- Consider use of night set-back thermostat that automatically provides night and day settings.
- Heat only those spaces occupied.
- Discontinue use of air conditioning whenever possible.
- Check furnace filters monthly and change or clean as required.
- Service and clean all heating/cooling equipment at least annually.
- Close fireplace damper after fire is completely out. (Wait until next morning if used at night—carbon monoxide fumes are deadly poison.)
- Capitalize on sunshine—use southern exposure windows (and eastern and western to a lesser extent) to help heat home during day.
- Check insulation in ceiling and under floors. Add more if justified and space allows.

Additional Ways to Cut Heat Loss

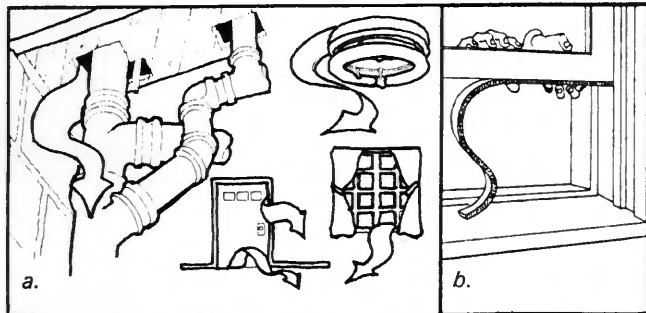
Energy-wise homeowners can reduce heat loss even further:

- Close off infrequently used entrances.
- Keep exterior doors tightly closed, as well as doors



leading to the attic, basement and attached garage. And don't open them unnecessarily!

- Replace conventional fireplace screen with fireproof or glass material to close off fireplace opening.
- Tape unused keyholes.
- Cap unused flues or chimneys.
- Close off unused rooms, especially those on northern or windy sides of the home, and reduce temperature in these areas.
- Close overhead doors of attached garages.
- If zone heating is used, close doors between areas with different thermostat settings, or install doors if there are none.



a. Common areas where heat loss occurs inside the home.
b. Weather strip all windows and doors that open.

Storm Windows and Doors

Windows and doors occupy up to 20 percent of the sidewalls in many homes. Heat losses through and around windows and doors may account for as much as 50 percent of the heating bill.

Storm windows and storm doors cut heat loss by creating dead air space between exterior and interior windows and doors. This air space—it should be at least 3/4"—is the actual energy saver. In areas of 4,000 or more heating degree days, you can realize 10 to 30 percent reduction in heating energy needs by installing tight-fitting

storm windows and doors.

Storm windows and doors may be made of plastic film, semi-rigid sheets of plastic, or glass. Combination screen and storm windows are available. To be satisfactory, all must be installed with weather stripping or gaskets between the storm unit and the window or door frame.

Combination screen and storm windows and doors remain permanently in place. Self-storing screens are incorporated into the units; therefore screens and storms can be interchanged easily. Combination units are available in steel and in plain and baked aluminum finishes. Properly fitted combination units have vents in the frame where the storm sash meets the sill. These vents keep condensation from collecting and causing rot and should always be kept open. If present combination units do not have such vents, they should be drilled into the frames.

The construction and sometimes the actual installation of combination storm windows and doors are jobs for experienced, reputable contractors. The marketplace abounds with combination units of varying quality and cost. Check out several before buying. Be watchful for the quality of hardware, corner joints, and weather stripping. For safety's sake, insist on safety glass or rigid plastic on all storm doors.

Once your choice is made, a contract between you and the contractor should be signed before the work is begun. The contract should specify materials, cost, work content, and warranty.

Water Heating

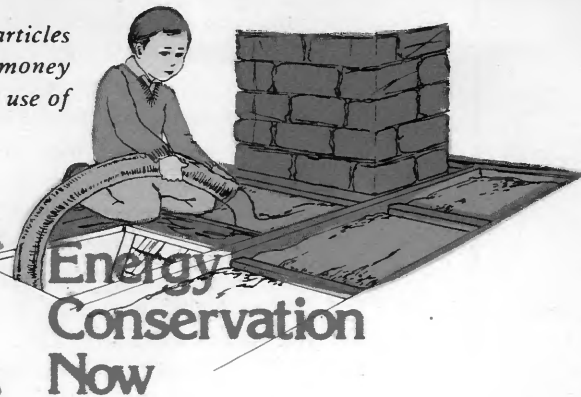
- Set water heater thermostats (top and bottom elements) at 120 degrees F or lowest practical setting. (When making setting, be sure to turn off electrical supply at panel).
- Turn off water heater when away for extended periods of time (3 days or more).
- Reduce shower temperature and shower flow.
- Install flow restrictors in shower heads and bathroom wash basins.
- Shorten shower time.
- Reduce water level and temperature in tub bath.
- Repair leaky water faucets promptly.
- Use full loads with washer, match water level to load size; use warm wash and cold rinse cycles (use hot water only for very soiled clothing).
- Air dry clothes on lines.
- When using dryer, use no-heat or low-heat cycle. Clean lint filter often.

Miscellaneous

- Turn off or limit use of television, radios, stereos.
- Use fry-pans or other small appliances in the kitchen instead of the range (for small families).
- Wash only full loads with dishwasher; air dry dishes.
- Defrost refrigerator and freezer when frost is 1/4" thick.
- Limit exhaust fan use.
- Eliminate unnecessary lighting.
- Reduce bulb wattages where safety or eyestrain are not involved.
- Make use of natural light wherever possible.

Installing blown-in attic insulation

This is another in a series of articles designed to help you save money through the wise and careful use of electricity.



While batts, blankets and pour-in insulation offer their strong points, one of the main advantages they have is that they seem to be reasonably easy to install. One person, with a little preparation, can climb into an attic and do the necessary work.

Blown-in—or pneumatic—insulation is not like that. First of all, you need a formidable-looking machine; then you need someone to pour insulation into it while you're crawling around in the attic hosing the insulation into place.

But blowing insulation into your attic is not a complicated chore. You need some of the same things you'd need to do the job with the other kinds of insulation: a dust mask, goggles and temporary lighting. You'll need some temporary flooring too, since ceilings are not designed to hold your weight.

When you are deciding what kind of insulation you want, you will need to take into consideration what is available. With insulation in short supply, your choices may be limited.

If you decide to use pneumatic insulation, you can get the mineral-wood or cellulose variety. Mineral wool offers the advantage that it is noncombustible. Cellulose is recycled paper which has been treated to make it fire-resistant and rodent-proof.

Cellulose varies in quality, and today's high demand and even higher prices have given rise to many manufacturers, some of which may cut corners; careful treatment is of utmost importance. Buy from a reputable dealer and look for the insulation industry's label of approval or the Underwriters' Laboratories' seal.

Poorly treated material may pose a fire hazard.

Before you can determine how much insulation to buy, you will need to know what R factor you need, and how thick your insulation will need to be to achieve that factor (the R factor is the resistance to thermal passage the insulation give you, and varies from material to material).

Then, you need to know how many square feet of space you need to cover. Federal regulations require that each bag of pneumatic insulation be marked to show how great an area it will cover to various depths, and what R value each depth gives. Your supplier can tell you how many bags you will need to achieve the results you want. Many Illinoisans are insulating their attics to R-38, but if you add any insulation at all you will reduce your heating and cooling bills.

The machine is really fairly simple, and may be supplied by the people who sell insulation, a rental business. There is a big hopper you pour the insulation into, and a mixer that fluffs it up, since it is compressed into a bag when you buy it. Then, there is a

blower, which shoves the material down a hose to the operator and the place he wants to place the insulation. The blower features some kind of regulator so you can adjust the flow, and compensate for longer hoses. Normally, the insulation should come from the hose about like toothpaste from a tube, but if you need to spray it into eaves where you cannot reach, you can increase the flow. Too fast a flow, however, will make for a dusty environment.

To make sure you are getting the depth you need, you may want to divide your attic into sections and find out how many bags you will need for each section, then do one section at a time and see if you are using the right amount.

For example, one cellulose supplier packs insulation in 30-lb. bags. Each bag will cover 16 square feet to a depth of 10 inches, and will give an R-value of 37.5. If your house is 1,000 square feet, you will need 63 bags. Dividing your house into five equal sections will mean that you will need to put about 12½ bags in each section.

You should be sure, before you leave your supplier's place of business, that you know how to work the machine. Many have instructions printed on them, but you can check with the salespeople to be absolutely certain that you know what to do. If you rent the machine, they owe it to you to see that you get the job done right, and if they lend you the machine when you purchase your insulation, there must be a service fee built into the price of the insulation, so ask for the service. It will make for a better job and lower energy bills in the future.

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AIEC's new president

He won't forget rural life without electricity

(continued from page 7)

to the rising cost of electric power.

Ikens pointed out that the cost of electric energy is one of the most difficult problems cooperatives face.

He tied the rising costs associated with electric power generation to both the costs and sources of money for system construction and generating facilities. "No longer are we dependent on the government for borrowing. We are going to other sources, such as our own CFC (National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation)," Ikens said.

"We (Illinois electric cooperatives) are committing more money to generation than we ever thought. It's difficult to convince many people that it's vital, but many areas of the country have been doing it for a long time. But in this area, it's new."

With all the change, Ikens philosophically remarked, "Things stay the same as they change." He said he was pleased that many of the basic principles, such as capital credits and the democratic process of cooperative representation, remain the same.

Of the immediate problems facing electric cooperatives, Ikens singled out the growing differences farmers experience between declining farm product prices and the increasing cost of energy.

As the Ikenses slowly ease themselves out of the farming life, they find more time for two of their favorite activities: grandchildren and travel. "We've got four beautiful grandchildren," Mrs. Ikens offers quickly when asked about her family. Donald has a boy and girl; and their daughter, Jeanne (Mrs. Ronald Hanna of Rantoul), has two girls.

While his electric cooperative service takes a considerable amount of his time, Ikens still finds the time to maintain a membership in Farm Bureau, serve as a leader of the Onarga United Methodist Church, act as secretary of the board of Grand Prairie Seminary in Onarga and is a past president of the Onarga Lions Club.

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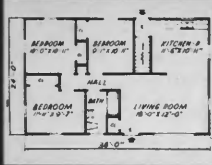
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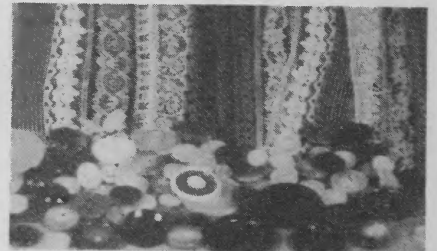
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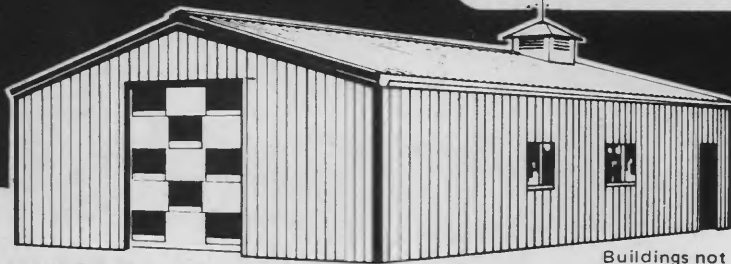
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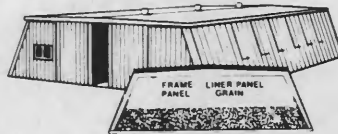
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These models are free, so we suggest you write for yours now. Again, we repeat, there is no cost, and certainly no obligation. Thousands have already been mailed, so write today to Dept. 4554, Beltone Electronics Corp., 310 So. Adams, Springfield, IL. 62701.

Bulk power rate increase affects 17 cooperatives

(continued from page 9)

our members to be higher than the negotiated percentage, due to probable increases in the cost of fuel, which will push our fuel adjustment higher and higher."

Smith added, "We're like everyone when it comes to increasing costs. We're disgruntled, too. We (Illini) are trying to stay in business despite rising costs. Other costs have gone up drastically in recent years. Our gasoline bill has doubled, and we are covering about the same number of miles as before."

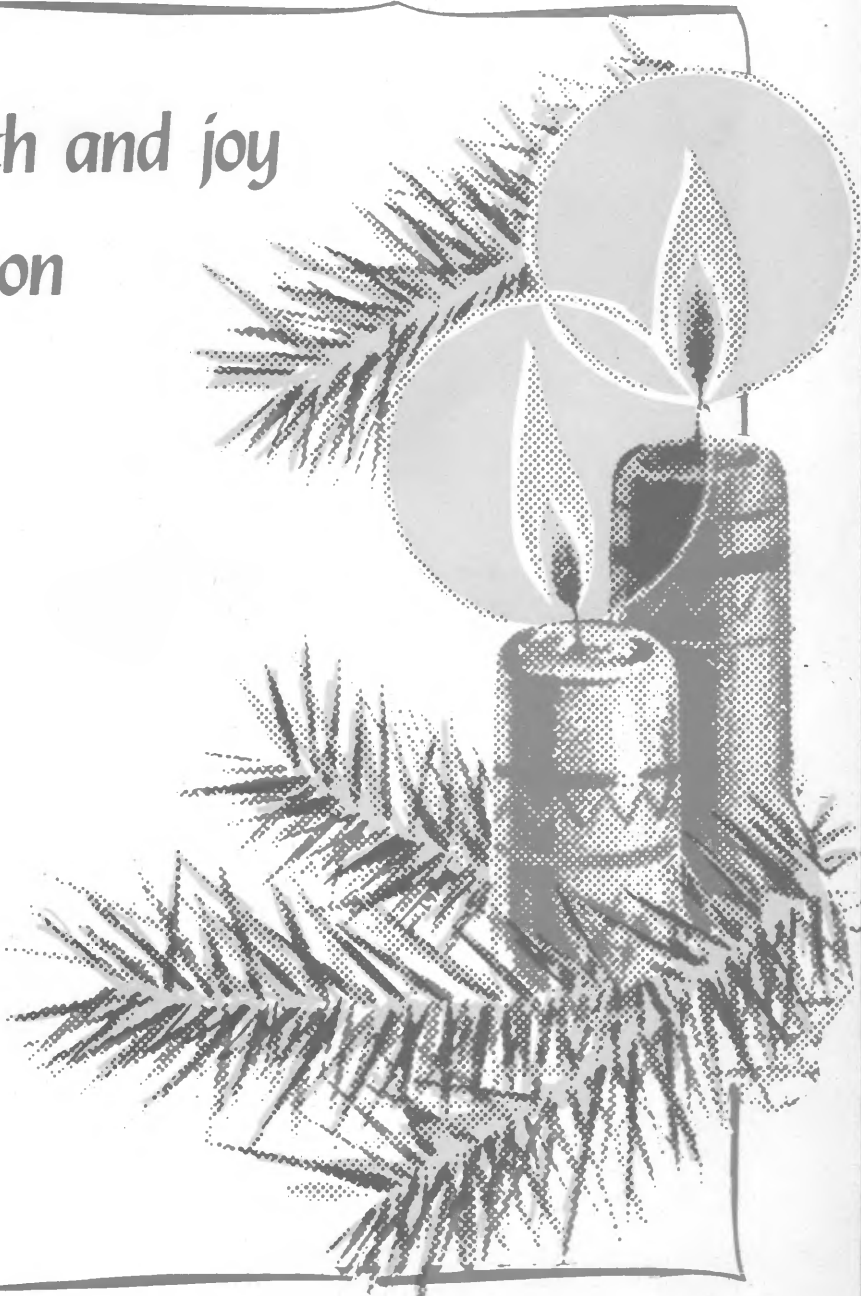
The CIPS contract is one of two bulk power contracts that cooperatives negotiate annually with wholesale power suppliers. In the next several months, the IPC Bulk Power

Subcommittee of the AIEC will conduct discussions with Illinois Power Company concerning its proposal for a proper rate increase to go into effect on August 1, 1978. Those cooperatives affected by the IPC negotiations include: Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, Farmers Mutual Electric Company, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, McDonough, Monroe County Electric Cooperative and WIPCO and its seven member-cooperatives.

On this past August 1, IPC increased its rates to these cooperatives by an average of 23.7 percent, amounting to \$3,144,312.

May all the warmth and joy
of this holiday season
be yours

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
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The Chocolate Factory

Good taste molds custome

Snowmen look on as radiant-faced carolers—so realistic you can almost hear them singing—stroll among green trees, proclaiming the message of Christmas. Happy faces of Santa Claus and angels beam from a Christmas tree in the background. A nativity scene sits opposite a small Christmas tree.

In bright, glowing colors, the molded figures and decorations attest to the quality of the hand crafting that has gone into each piece.

And, just as the various decorations are a treat for the eyes, they are a treat for the palate, too—each piece is made of candy.

The work is the product of the owners of The Chocolate Factory, a small establishment tucked away in the hills of southeastern Illinois served by Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado.

The owners—Shirley Caldwell, Sandra Combee and Linda Meherg—aren't expecting any trouble finding help when it comes time to take down the Christmas decorations in their business. In fact, they may have more help than they need.

Every colorful decoration is hand crafted in their shop. And they put together some of the most delightful delicacies you will find anywhere—and they teach others how to make them, too.

“We give demonstrations to groups of people who want to learn to make their own candies, and it's easy to learn,” Linda says. “You just melt the bulk candy and pour it into the mold. If you want to make something in two or three colors, you just melt candies

Delight

in the colors you want and paint the trim colors into the mold, then pour the main color in on top.

"If you want other colors," she adds, "you can use paste-type food colors, and you can add flavors too, as long as you use oil flavors. It's really not difficult at all."

Holiday molds sell well in the months leading up to Christmas. The Chocolate Factory stocks such a complete selection of these molds that candy crafters can build an entire nativity scene from the manger up.

The Chocolate Factory sells butter-scotch, pink, yellow, green and white candies, as well as the perennial sales topper, chocolate. Bulk candies, molds and other supplies are available so the do-it-yourselfer can make fancy decorations at home. Fancy candies are stocked for those who prefer the readymade product.

Naturally, some candies sell better than others. "The regular chocolate sells faster most of the time," Shirley says, "but it depends a little on the season. The white is an awfully good seller, and it's the best seller during the Christmas season. People like to decorate with it. People seem to like it especially well to make almond bark with, and the others are popular for barks, too."

"Christmas and Easter are the busiest times at the Factory," Sandra says, "because handmade candies make such good gifts; but business is fairly brisk at other times, too. The fastest selling mold shapes, after the holiday forms, are those used for making bonbons." Another mold,

Far left: A sampling of some of the many different kinds of candies at The Chocolate Factory shows the variety of products. Upper right: Tina Meherg makes turtle candies. Lower right: Shirley Caldwell, Linda Meherg and Sandra Combee trim their Christmas tree with candies made at their "factory."

shaped like a peanut, is especially popular for making peanut clusters. Other shapes include various kinds of flowers, turtles, lollipops, happy faces, gingerbread men, pumpkins, rabbits and leaves. All told, there are about 50 different mold shapes lining the walls of the building.

The young women got into the business after a woman came down from Rantoul to set up a home extension meeting. "We all went to the meeting," Linda says, "because we thought it sounded so interesting. The woman said that this area would be a good place to start a business since there was nobody here doing it, and we decided to do it on our own, so we decided to go in together. Sandra's and Shirley's parents, Helen and Lee Guard, were a tremendous help in getting the business off the ground."

Before opening up their spanking new building in September, the women operated out of their homes. The new building is located on Rte. 146, across from the Dixon Springs State Park.

Since going into business last November, the women have sold some 5,000 pounds of candy. They buy solely from Nestles, and they must order a minimum of 500 pounds at a time.

While candy is the biggest part of the business, it is not the entire operation. The Factory also sells fancy cake pans, cake decorating supplies, and decorated cakes. A small soda fountain and hot sandwich shop complete the picture.





**Christmas is
Nostalgia
Time**

PATCHWORK COOKIES

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 package (12-oz.) semi-sweet chocolate pieces

Cream butter; gradually add sugar, beating until well blended. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in flour. Spread evenly in well-buttered 15½ x 10½ x 1-inch jelly roll pan. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven, 15 to 18 minutes until lightly browned. Remove from oven; quickly sprinkle chocolate pieces over baked cookie base. Return to oven 2 to 3 minutes to soften chocolate. Remove from oven; immediately spread chocolate evenly over cookie base. Mark off into large squares and top each square with one of the following: chopped nuts, crushed peppermint candy, flaked or shredded coconut, green gumdrop cutouts, silver dragees, assorted sugar crystals and/or red cinnamon candies. Chill just until frosting is set. Cut into 1½-inch squares. Arrange cookies patchwork style onto serving tray. Yield: 70:

BUTTER SPRITZ

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ teaspoon almond extract or vanilla
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour

Cream butter; gradually add sugar, beating until well blended. Beat in egg and almond extract. Gradually blend in flour. Fill chilled cookie press ¾ full. Use star attachment to form wreath or "S" shapes on cookie sheets. Use other press attachments for variety. Decorate with red and green candied cherries. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven 8 to 10 minutes. Remove immediately to wire racks to cool. Yield: 7 dozen.

MOTHER'S CHRISTMAS SALAD

- 1 lb. marshmallows
- 1 large can pineapple
- 2 lbs. seeded grapes
- 1 pint whipped cream
- 3 egg yolks
- Juice of 1½ lemons
- Pinch of salt

Drain pineapple, reserving 1 cup juice. Combine pineapple and lemon juice with salt and bring to a boil; beat in egg yolks. Cool. Fold in whipped cream, fruit and marshmallows. Chill.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT COOKIES

- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- ⅔ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ cup molasses
- 2¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- Butter Cream Frosting

Cream butter; gradually add sugar, beating until well blended. Beat in egg and molasses. Combine flour, soda, salt and spices. Add to creamed mixture; blend well. Chill. Using about ⅓ of dough at a time, roll out dough ⅛-inch thick on lightly floured surface. Cut into assorted shapes. Transfer with spatula to buttered cookie sheets. Cut paper straws into ½-inch lengths. Punch a piece of straw into the top of each cookie to form a hole for threading the yarn after baking. Bake in preheated 375 degree oven 6 to 8 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool. Thread with yarn. Outline cooled cookies with Butter Cream Frosting using a pastry tube. Hang on Christmas tree. Yield: about 6 dozen. Butter Cream Frosting: Cream ⅓ cup butter. Gradually add 2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar, 1 tablespoon milk and ½ teaspoon vanilla. Beat until smooth.

CRANBERRY ORANGE RELISH

- 2 cups cranberries
- 1 orange
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 box lemon gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water and chill until slightly thickened. Quarter whole orange and remove seed. Grind cranberries and orange with food chopper; add sugar. Combine cranberry mixture with gelatin and pour into mold. Chill until firm. Unmold and serve.

CHEESE BALL

- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons minced onion
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 small jar dried beef
- Dash of Tabasco sauce

Soften cream cheese and combine with onion, Worcestershire and Tabasco sauce. Form into a ball and roll in chipped, dried beef. Chill.

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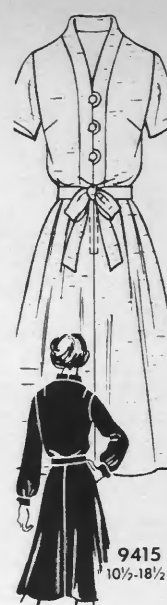
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9191
8-18



9448
6-14



9415
10½-18½



9174
SIZES 8-18



9224
SIZES 10½-24½



9252
P-6-8
S-10-12
M-14-16
L-18-20



9245
34-48



9139
8-20



9310
10½-18½



ONE MAIN PATTERN PART
Easy Sew
9395
WAIST SIZES
30"-45½"



9272
8-18



9147
8-18

- No. 9191 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. Size 12 (bust 34) dress takes 3 1/4 yards 45-inch fabric.
- No. 9448 is cut in Girl's sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14. Size 10 dress takes 2 7/8 yards 45-inch; kerchief 3/4 yard.
- No. 9415 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½. Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 3 yards 45-inch fabric.
- No. 9174 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. Size 12 (bust 34) top 1½ yards, 60 inch; pants, scarf 1½.
- No. 9224 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, 24½. Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 2 yards 60-inch fabric.
- No. 9252 is cut in sizes Petite, Small, Medium, Large. Small takes 4 yards 60-inch fabric.
- No. 9245 is cut in Women's sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48. Yardages in pattern.
- No. 9139 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 2 3/4 yards 45-inch fabric.
- No. 9310 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½. Size 14½ (bust 37) pantsuit 2 5/8 yards 60-inch.
- No. 9395 is cut in Waist sizes 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40½, 43, 45½. Size 32 takes 1 3/4 yards 60-inch.
- No. 9272 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. Size 12 (bust 34) requires 3½ yards 45-inch fabric.
- No. 9147 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 3 yards 54-inch fabric.



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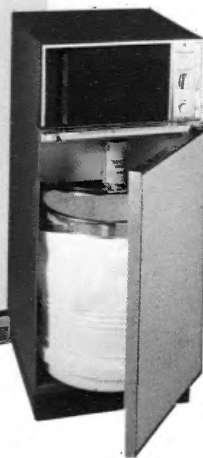
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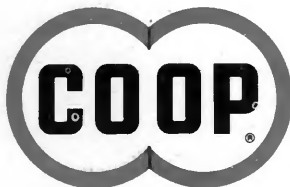
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