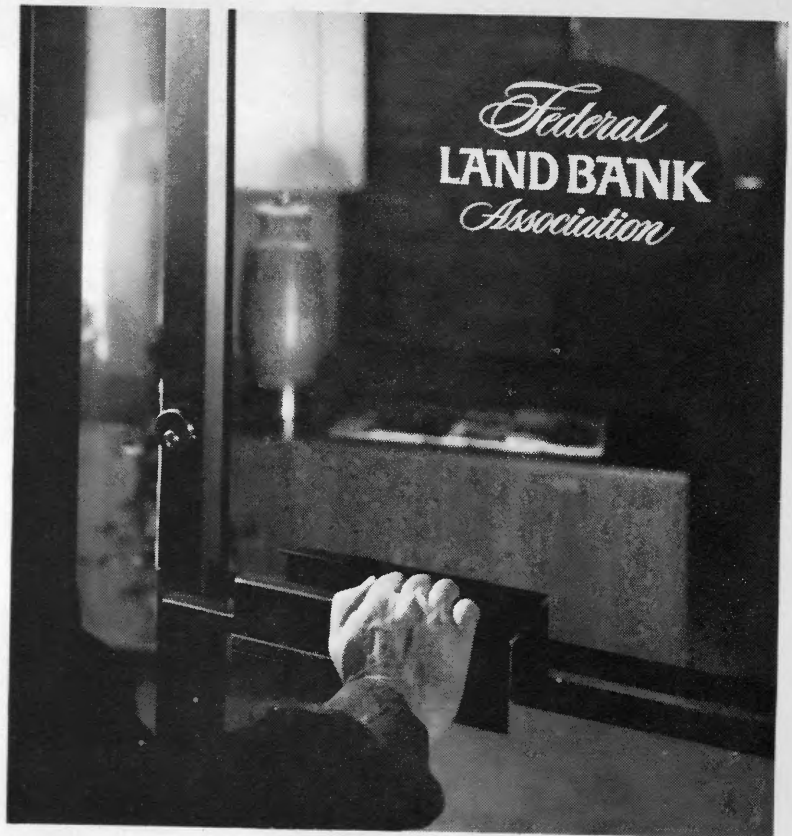




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COVER: Spring is many things in Illinois. Cattle lazing in the unusually warm spring temperatures in grass and dandelions watered by above-normal spring rains typify the season in central Illinois.

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illinois rural electric news

Energy supply development still vital

Never before have Americans been more aware of the energy crisis.

In the days and weeks after President Carter's energy message to Congress in April, readers, watchers and listeners were exposed to more media coverage of the President's proposals to solve the nation's energy problems than they could ever hope to absorb.

Yet, the energy crisis is nothing new—the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association called for a national energy policy 16 years ago when it became convinced the nation was headed toward serious energy shortages. Had more attention been then directed toward the growing problems, it is reasonable to assume we would not be in this difficult position.

That is of little concern now, except that the wisdom exhibited by those who called for appropriate action when they foresaw today's problems many years ago should be utilized to help put the nation's energy ship back on course. President Carter, his administration and Congress should draw upon the expertise of those most familiar with the urgency of the matter.

President Carter's message demonstrated, among other things, that (1) it is the nature of people to respond to a Presidential "call for action," and (2) the many components of President Carter's proposal illustrate the complexity of the energy problem and thus the difficulty of implementing all, or even a majority, of the President's objectives.

Polls taken after the speech indicated a majority of Americans were convinced, for the first time, there is an energy crisis. After the cold, snowy winter and its energy problems, the public was probably ready for President Carter's call for action. Sustaining today's high public's interest in the months ahead will not be easy.

Several reasons exist that make the problems, and solutions, complex. There is no doubt that economics—whether it is the price of foreign oil or the cost of outfitting a coal-fired electric generating station with environmental controls—is a principal factor. In addition, since Congress will play such a key role, politics will also determine whether an effective national policy can be designed and put into effect.

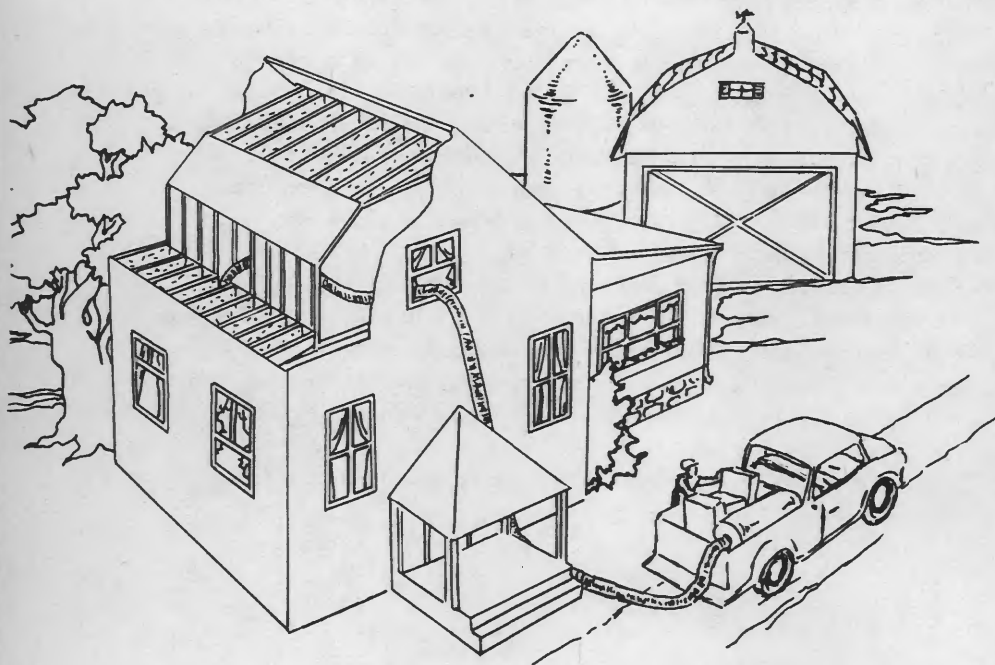
Most experts agree that conservation provides the best short-range method of energy savings. One conservation program—which provides loans through electric cooperatives for weatherizing homes—began as an NRECA-developed idea. (The program is detailed in an article beginning on page 4 of this issue.)

Conservation, however, will not solve all the ills. It will take a concerted effort to develop domestic energy supplies to help this country achieve its goal of energy independence. There is a price to pay for achieving what the President wants: first, all Americans will have to practice conservation and, second, energy costs will continue to rise.

For that price, the nation should get a greater commitment to development of vital energy supplies.

Home weatherization loans

New cooperative-FmHA loan program seeks energy conservation and consumer relief from higher energy costs



Home weatherization, a key element of President Carter's April 20 energy conservation message to the U. S. Congress, is a sound investment that will pay for itself many times over in lower home heating and cooling bills. Unfortunately the initial cost of insulation remains beyond the financial ability of many electric cooperative members.

To make the benefits of home weatherization available to low- and moderate-income electric cooperative members, the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has launched a new low-interest loan program.

The program, designed to conserve energy and minimize heating and cooling costs, will be available to members of all electric cooperatives which elect to sign participation agreements with the FmHA.

After the just past record-breaking cold winter devastated family budgets across the nation, the FmHA may have set a record itself in cutting red tape to initiate and implement a new federal program. The program teams up the federal agency with local electric cooperatives to reach out to low- and moderate-income families who are least able to cope with rising energy costs.

For many years— even before the Arab oil embargo accelerated the spiraling of rising energy costs— electric cooperatives have urged and assisted their members to insulate their homes to higher standards to conserve energy and minimize home heating and cooling costs. Today the need is more obvious than ever, and higher energy costs have shortened the time necessary for investment in weatherization to pay for itself in lower heating and cooling costs.



Jim Tucker, FmHA housing chief for Illinois, explains to Illinois cooperative personnel how the federal agency plans to team up with local electric cooperatives to provide low-cost home weatherization loans to low- and moderate-income rural families.

Too often, consumers least able to cope with higher energy costs are those least able to pay the initial cost of home weatherization. Their problem today is similar to the problem faced by many rural residents in the early days of the rural electrification program. Throughout the 1940's and 1950's many consumers wanted the benefits of electrification but could not afford the capital investment necessary to purchase the labor-saving devices that would improve their standard of living.

To meet the capital investment needs of rural Americans, the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 contained a provision, Section 5, that enabled electric cooperatives to lend funds to their members at low interest rates to finance the cost of home wiring and the purchase of electrical and plumbing appliances and equipment.

Over the life of the Section 5 program, more than \$47-million was advanced by the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) to cooperatives for relending to member-consumers. Section 5 loans were terminated in 1969 by REA when the need of the cooperatives for construction loans reached a critical point.

Some cooperatives have continued a modest loan program for their consumers, lending from their own general funds or reserves. Since the need to conserve increasing energy costs has made home weatherization imperative, electric cooperative and other electric utility leaders have discussed various methods to finance

consumers' capital investment needs. Quick action resulted when Robert D. Partridge, executive vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, wrote to U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland suggesting that the old Section 5 loan program should be revitalized to meet modern energy conservation needs.

The Partridge letter, dated February 3 this year, struck a responsive chord with Secretary Bergland and members of the Carter Administration who are promoting energy conservation as the cornerstone of a national energy program. Revitalizing Section 5 to meet today's needs would require time-consuming legislation. Instead Secretary Bergland initiated a series of meetings between representatives of the REA and the Farmers Home Administration, both agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The outcome of those meetings was a totally new loan program that requires no new legislation and bypasses much of the bureaucratic red tape often associated with federal programs.

Once details of the program had been worked out by FmHA and REA, federal officials turned to state and national electric cooperative organizations to make the program available to local cooperative members as quickly as possible. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, REA and FmHA coordinated a series of regional meetings attended by FmHA state directors and statewide cooperative organizations

such as the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Information obtained at regional meetings was then transmitted to local cooperatives at statewide meetings for final consideration by cooperative boards of directors.

Simply stated, the REA-FmHA home weatherization plan calls for the FmHA to advance federal funds to local electric cooperatives which relend the money to qualifying cooperative members. The loan funds will assist cooperative members to install insulation and other energy saving devices in their homes and members will repay the loans along with their monthly electric bills.

In less than two months following the Partridge letter, FmHA had details of the new loan program in place and representatives of seven electric cooperatives from around the nation, including Manager Dean L. Searls of Adams Electric Co-Operative, Camp Point, were gathered in Washington, D.C., to sign the first participation agreements between the cooperatives and the FmHA. Since those agreements were signed on March 22, Illinois electric cooperative personnel have met at the headquarters of the AIEC in Springfield with FmHA officials to learn the details of the new weatherization loan program. Illini Electric Cooperative, Champaign, was the second Illinois cooperative to join with FmHA to make weatherization available to its members. Other cooperatives are expected to work out details for participation in the program in the days ahead.

During the Springfield meeting Illinois FmHA Director Charles W.

(continued on page 14)



Foreign nations draw on Illinois manager's expertise

For 16 years this nation's electric cooperatives have provided advisors and consultants to foreign countries to help plan and implement electrification programs, especially in rural areas.

Through a program of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, assistance to over 30 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America has been provided by more than 135 rural electrification specialists.

In three of those nations—Guatemala, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea—there is a touch of Illinois, attributable to Dean Searls, manager of Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Camp Point, who has been one of the most active specialists providing valuable help to improve the quality of life in other countries.

Searls assisted Guatemala in 1964 and Vietnam in 1965. This past fall, he spent two months in Papua New Guinea, in the southwest Pacific, working with an Iowa electric cooperative manager to develop an electrification feasibility study for the island province of Bougainville. The Pacific country's government funded the trip and paid Searls' base salary.

Searls left the United States on October 20, made stops at Honolulu, the Fiji Islands and Sidney, Australia, and arrived in Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea, on October 23.

"We took a brief tour of the mainland of Papua New Guinea," Searls relates, "and we were especially interested in the electric generation facilities there. There are a lot of interesting agricultural areas, too, and

research is being done in the field of peanut production. Coffee, tea and pineapples are also grown there."

The flight from Port Moresby to Bougainville took about three hours.

"The island is about 120 miles long and about 60 miles wide at its widest point, and many of the plantations are situated along the coastline, where there are fertile, level areas, and the mountains rise steeply up behind them.

"The best way to get around the island is by airplane, because the roads are narrow and muddy and bridges are often washed out by the tremendous rainfalls they have there.

"The government of Papua New Guinea is working hard to improve the road network," Searls emphasizes, "but the rains wash them out as quickly as they can be repaired. The



Far left: Visiting a girls high school. Searls is at right in the photo. Others are Al Smith, an Australian guide; the superintendent of the school, and one of the school's employees. In the near photo, Searls displays some of the souvenirs he brought back from his trip, including a heavily decorated hunting spear, a similar bow-and-arrow set, cocoa beans, handwoven baskets, bracelets, native fish hooks, necklaces and carvings.

island, which is just south of the equator, receives about 200 inches of rainfall in a year."

The team found a number of factors that impede progress on the island. There is no communication system—no telephones outside the larger towns and no two-way radio contacts except between some of the Catholic missions. Some of the village people have radio receivers, and these are their only contacts with the outside world.

On the other hand, the area is well-equipped with landing strips, and many plantations have their own. Buin, on the southern end of the island, was a major Japanese staging area for the invasion of Guadalcanal and the southern Solomons, and a well-maintained 6,000-foot runway is located there.

"The runway was covered with

crushed coral at the beginning of World War II," he says, "and it set up like concrete. It looks like it's as good as new, and Air New Guinea uses it a lot. They use several Douglas DC-3s for cargo carrying, and they use Fokker F-27s and Britten Islanders for passenger flights."

Searls and the other consultant, Jack Hicks, Marion, Iowa, flew and drove over most of the island, and noted that much of the agriculture involves the production of cocoa and copra, the dried kernel of the coconut palm used for processing into coconut oil.

One area where an electric system appeared to be feasible was in the Arapa River Basin area, which has electric generation capacity, but is short on distribution. "They use a lot of steel poles there, and they're

expensive, but we found that they also have plenty of timber that can be used to set up distribution lines."

Buka, at the northern end of the island, also has an excess of generating capacity. A third site, at Wakunai, has good possibilities for hydroelectric generation, Searls notes.

Electricity seems to be a good source of energy for drying cocoa and copra. Cocoa, one of the country's important cash crops, must be dried properly or it will be low in quality and bring a lower price. At present, Searls says, the cocoa beans are dried on large racks in the sun. The racks are so constructed that when it rains, as it often does in the afternoons, a sliding roof is rolled over the beans. Wood fires are built under the racks to aid in drying, too, he adds.

The people there are ahead of us in the use of solar energy, he says, partly because sunshine is so plentiful. Solar energy may be a key to drying copra and cocoa beans, if storage can be developed to make it feasible.

Bougainville is also the site of a large open-pit copper mine, said to be the largest in the world, and some of the preliminary refining is done before the ore is shipped out for processing.

The life style on Bougainville is quite different from ours, Searls says, with many of the islanders living in thatched huts which sit above the ground on stilts.

Considerable household cooking is done outside over wood fires, unless rain breaks up the festivities, he says.

"Much of the marketing is done in the local marketplace," Searls says. "Sometimes we'd be driving along the road and we'd see a few brightly dressed women in a clearing right beside the road, and they would have

(continued on page 10)

Menard



John and Linda Chalmers in front of their cattle operation. Cattle make up only a small portion of the business, which is mainly a hog operation. Sheep and dogs are also part of the diversified operation.

John Chalmers, a 35-year-old Oakford area farmer who was named this spring as one of four of the nation's Outstanding Young Farmers by the United States Jaycees, is quick to shift the credit for his accomplishments to people who work with him on his livestock farm in Menard County.

The contest is sponsored by the Jaycees to promote a better understanding between urban and rural communities, and to give the farmer recognition for all his contributions to America's prosperity.

Chalmers, whose national honor followed his selection as Illinois' Outstanding Young Farmer by the state's Jaycees, says, "I've had enough publicity. The people who work with me deserve their share, too, because they do much of the work."

Chalmers and his wife, Linda, traveled to Bismarck, North Dakota, to receive the coveted award. They have two children, Michelle, 12, and Scott, 9.

Chalmers holds a B.S. degree in agriculture from the University of Illinois, and after graduation worked on farms in Iowa and Illinois. He began his own operation December 1, 1969.

The farm employs five full-time people, including Carl Higginbotham, who is assistant manager in charge of support, and whose primary areas of responsibility are in maintenance, grain handling and new construction. His secondary responsibility is in feed manufacturing.

Other jobs are similarly delineated, with each employee having primary and secondary areas of responsibility. Even though the jobs are carefully outlined, they're not desk jobs. Work clothes and sturdy shoes are in order for anybody working on the Chalmers operation, which is served by the Menard Electric Cooperative.

Larry Jones is another assistant manager, and his primary responsibility is small pigs. His wife, Jane, works part time, treating all newborn litters and helping with some of the secretarial work that is necessary on such an operation.

Don Peden, associate manager, is in charge of operations when Chalmers is away, and Doug Juergens works with the small pigs. Bub McCoy is Higginbotham's assistant, with primary responsibility in finishing and ruminants; he helps in maintenance, too. Bill Sears is construction foreman.

Elizabeth Baslar, a student at

ner wins national Jaycee award

Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, works part time at the farm as part of her studies.

"We use some part time student help on a regular basis," Chalmers remarks, "and I work closely with the students' advisers to make sure we get students who really want to learn animal agriculture, rather than those who just want to find some kind of a job. It's better for both of us that way."

With the diversity of the operation, everybody manages to keep busy. "The commercial hog enterprise is our number one operation," Chalmers says, "and we have some 7,000 hogs in residence at the moment. We sell open gilts as a secondary operation. Most hogs are marketed directly to Oscar Mayer, he says, because he thinks the direct marketing arrangement makes for more efficiency than other methods. "I sell to Oscar Mayer for several reasons, but one of the main ones is that they have some programs that benefit the hog producer; they're involved.

"We also have one of the largest sheep operations in Illinois, with about 200 head in residence, including a small ewe flock and some lambs we're finishing out.

"We have a small cow-calf herd, and finish a few steers as well," he says. There are 27 breeding animals now in the cow herd, and about 40 heifers and steers.

"We don't produce our own grain. We buy virtually all of it from our neighbors and mix it here in our own operation. We have storage capacity for 85,000 bushels," Chalmers says.

"Feeding is done mostly by a pneumatic system," he explains, adding, "after 60 feet, everything we've got is pneumatic."

While grain farming is not part of the operation, Chalmers does have

about 95 acres in pasture.

The Chalmers farm is a diversified one, probably as diversified as a farm can get without going into the grain or specialty crop business, and it boasts yet another operation that few other

livestock farms in Illinois work with—a kennel operation. They breed, raise and sell Saint Bernards.

Linda manages the ruminant and kennel division, and serves as office manager, too.

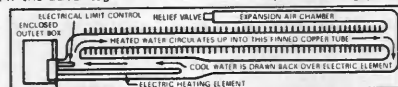
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Foreign nations

(continued from page 7)

produce from their gardens for sale. They just laid them out on banana leaves. They'd usually offer bananas, various vegetables and pineapples. I bought some of the best-tasting pineapples I've ever eaten at one little roadside market. The entire trip was a very interesting experience," he adds.

During his stay in Bougainville, Searls met and visited with the provincial governor and department heads of the government and they expressed a desire to provide their people with many services such as better roads, schools, health facilities and employment opportunities. The rural electrification feasibility study Searls helped develop is one facet of fulfilling that desire.

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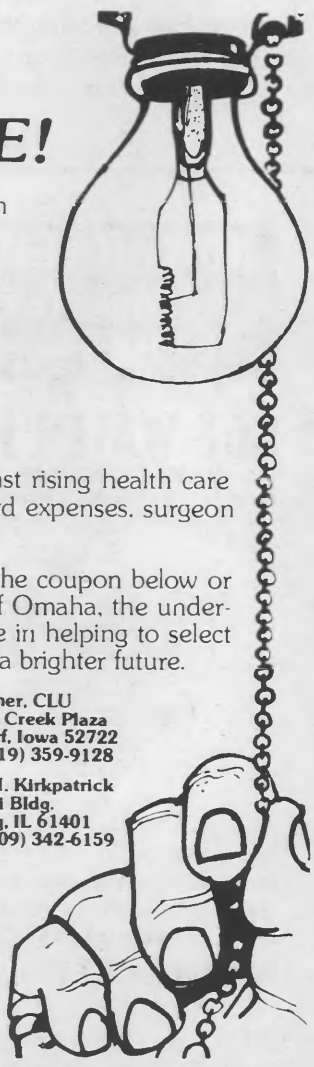
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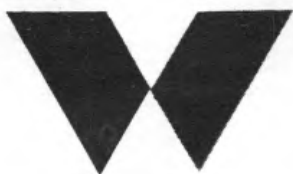
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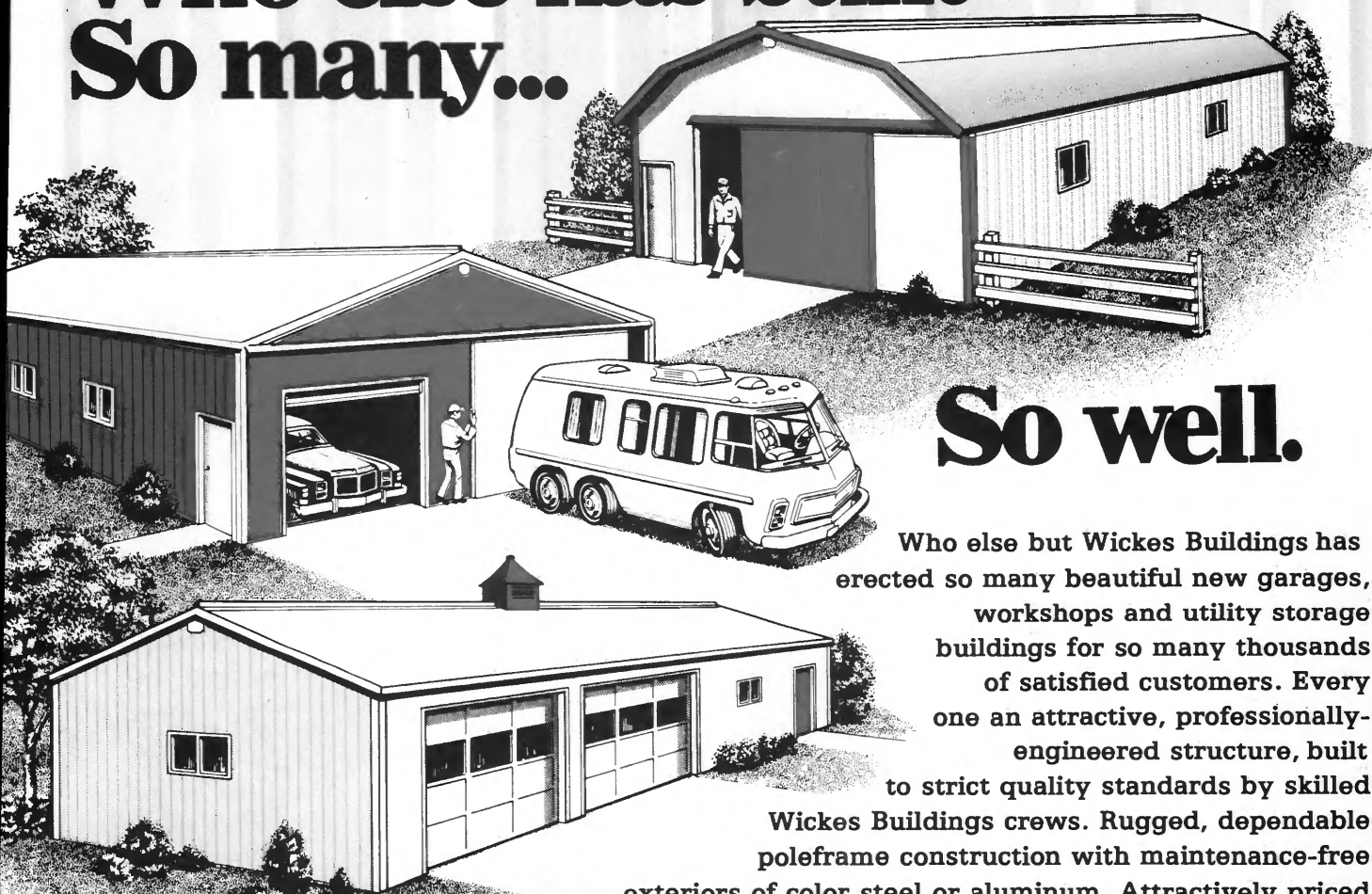
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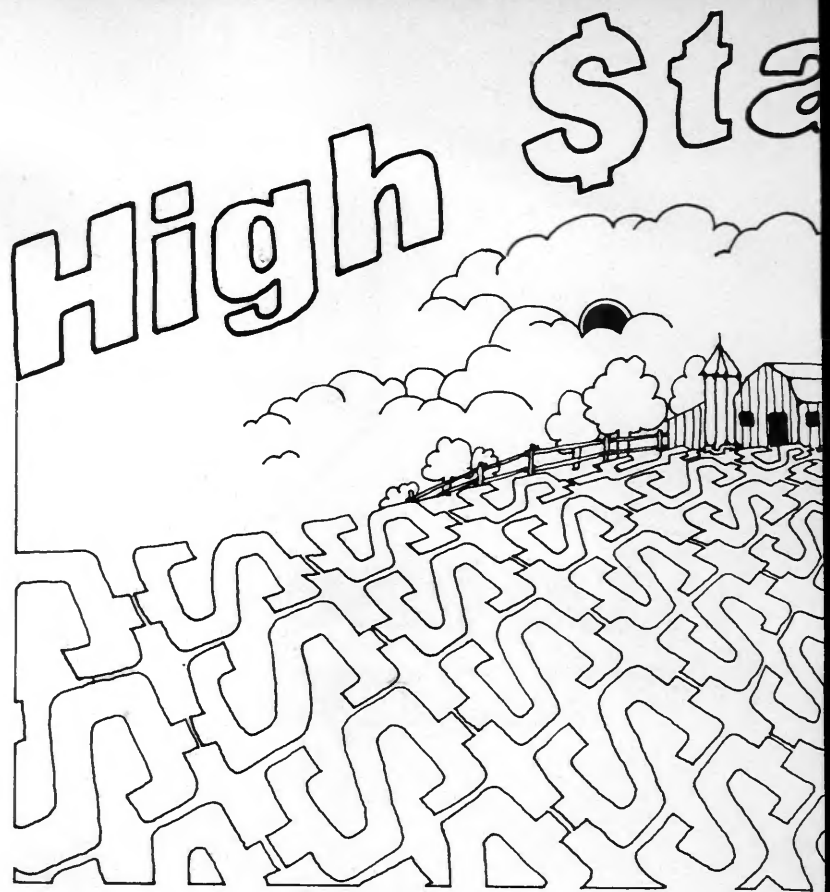
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- The American dollar was devalued, in effect making U. S. farm products more affordable overseas.
- World population increased.
- An apparent easing of world tensions resulted in increased foreign trade.

Some states last year didn't reflect the sharp national gain in land values. In Mississippi and Nevada, there were no increases. Illinois land prices, on the other hand, led the nation in percentage increases—a whopping 41 percent. Between November 1974 and November 1976, Illinois' average sales price per acre rose 69 percent.

Dollar values ranged from a low of

\$76 an acre in New Mexico to \$2,852 an acre in New Jersey. Eleven states, seven of them in the populous northeast, had per-acre farmland values exceeding \$1,000. In only two states, New Mexico and Wyoming, did the average farmland values lie below \$100 an acre.

Farmland prices are controlled by the classic principles of supply and demand economics. The less land there is available and the more people want to buy land, the higher the farmland price. Many factors influence the supply and demand equation, and they vary in importance from region to region. But most of them reflect the diverse interests competing for farmland on the "demand" side of the equation.

Farm expansion is the largest single reason for farmland purchases. According to a recent Economic Research Service study, 60 percent of all farmland transfers in the continental U. S. between March 1975 and March 1976 were for farm enlargement. Farmers experiencing high per-acre operating costs often try to reduce average per-acre costs by

spreading them over more acres. Frequently, the strategy works, resulting in higher profits for the farmer.

Industry, too, wants land for expansion, and while pressure from industry is much less than pressure from farmers wishing to expand, in some areas it can be significant. Industry is often willing to pay more for land than farmers would.

Still another group seeking farmland is the homebuilders. Because of "metropolitan influence," which used to be called "urban sprawl," people living in the cities are building homes outside the city limits, but still in the urban area.

This gives birth to new suburbs, and many suburbs sit on former farmland. With 73 percent of the American public living in metropolitan areas, the "metropolitan influence" will remain important in future years.

Then there are the recreation-retirement developments which can take good land out of agricultural use forever.

The availability of farmland as well as demand for it is greatly dependent

es n the Country

on commodity prices. When prices are up, the demand for farmland goes up because the attractiveness of farming is enhanced. At the same time, and for the same reasons, the willingness to sell the farm weakens. The result, in the tradition of supply and demand economics, is higher farmland prices.

Weather comes into play when commodity prices are considered, and weather's effect can also be felt in the real estate market. For example, if a wide area suffers a prolonged drought, forced sales of farmland for debt repayment or other cash needs could result. Many times, farmland sold under these circumstances can be bought at bargain prices.

Such is not the case now in the western corn belt, where there's been a drought the past year. Few sales have been reported, and prices received for farmland have remained high. The higher prices reflect the buyers' and owners' beliefs that better weather is ahead.

Farmland values, in the northern plains and mountain states, on the other hand, reflect less optimism and lower buyer expectation for the future. Prices in these states have been fairly stable, either holding steady as in Nevada, or increasing at a rate below the national average as in North Dakota (14 percent) and Utah (nine percent).

A factor besides weather and commodity prices is the increasing extent of ownership of farmland by nonfarmers.

Part-time farmers, too, are con-

tributing to the increasing demand for a limited amount of land. As of March 1976, 11 percent of all farm tracts transferred in the U.S. were purchased as part-time farms.

The farmland demand goes up if oil, coal, or other minerals are found on or near it, provided the mineral rights are under the landowner's controls. In southern Illinois, for example, new-found coal deposits have spurred demand for the land.

Farm programs, too, can affect land demand. For years, the cotton program, with strict allotments, made some southern land much more valuable than it otherwise might have been.

Besides the demand factors, supply plays a strong role in establishing price. The number of farms is limited, and the number of farms for sale is even more limited. The scarcity of listings has helped drive the price of farmland upward. While the number of inquiries for farmland purchases has increased, the number of farms for sale has remained fairly steady since 1972.

What has not remained steady is credit availability, the one item that affects almost all land purchases, regardless of the location. More than any other factors, the willingness and the ability of lending institutions to provide money for land purchases affect all segments of the real estate market. Eighty-seven percent of all real estate transfers between March 1975 and March 1976 relied on credit. Thus, the lending of money is the keystone of most land purchases.

Looking to the future, researchers say land values will continue rising, but by how much is difficult to gauge. Researchers rely heavily on reports on farmland values from reporters all over the nation. These reporters are farmers, land brokers, county officials, institutional lenders, and others familiar with the farm real estate market. At the end of last year, half the reporters predicted farm values would rise at the rate of five percent or more for the year ending November 1. The other half of the reporters predicted little change; almost none predicted price decreases.

For 1977, prices are expected to continue upward. The biggest percentage increases will probably come from the corn belt states again, and from the Appalachian states. In the corn belt, high commodity prices—especially for corn (until recently) and soybeans—have bolstered farm enlargement, but there is also a scarcity of listings, a combination that often means high land prices.

In Appalachian states, scarcity of listings, the metropolitan influence, farm enlargement, and crop prices were most often listed as reasons for the expected surge in farmland prices.

(Based on Farm Real Estate Market Developments, Supplement No. 1, by Larry Walker, National Economic Analysis Division. Special material from David Brown, Economic Development Division, U.S.D.A.)

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Home weatherization loans

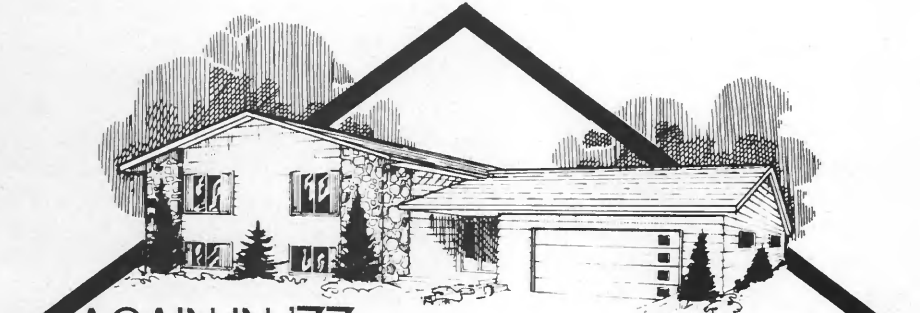
(continued from page 5)

Shuman, a member of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon, told Illinois cooperative leaders, "We in the FmHA are very enthusiastic about this new loan program. We have had a weatherization loan program, but to be frank, we have not been effective." He said FmHA expects the new system, working through the electric cooperatives, to effectively reach rural residents who need help to finance weatherization of their homes.

"This will cost the cooperative time and money," Shuman said, "but it will make for a better living standard in rural America." He urged cooperative personnel to contact his office or any one of the 42 county FmHA offices in Illinois if additional information is needed by local boards of directors who must decide on program participation.

Jim Tucker, FmHA housing chief in Illinois, cautioned that not all cooperative members would be eligible to participate in the loan program even if they meet FmHA ownership and income standards. Under federal law, FmHA loan funds cannot be used for improvements on property located within metropolitan areas or in certain other densely populated areas. Tucker said each participating cooperative would be given a map outlining areas outside the FmHA loan-making authority.

In order to qualify for a home weatherization loan of up to a maximum of \$1,500, a borrower must be a member of a participating electric cooperative and must certify that he owns the property to be improved and that he has an adjusted family income of no more than \$15,600. The cooperative will process the one-page loan application, assist its members in contracting for the weatherization work to be performed and obtain the loan funds from the FmHA for disbursement to the member. The member will repay the loan plus interest over a period of up to five



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years, paying monthly installments to the cooperative along with his monthly electric bill.

All costs for administering the weatherization loan program will be borne by the electric cooperative. The only cost to the member will be the prevailing FmHA interest charge, which in April was eight percent. Should a borrower default on a weatherization loan, the cooperative will not stand the loss, as any loan that becomes delinquent 90 days or more can be turned over to the FmHA for further servicing.

Initial response to the FmHA home weatherization program has varied from cautious optimism to enthusiasm. Many have expressed surprise that FmHA could design a new loan program so quickly with minimum headaches for the participating electric cooperatives.

That the FmHA loan program has been custom designed to fit the electric cooperatives' existing organization may be due in part to the participation at the federal level of Ed Turner, a Southern Illinois native. Turner taught school at Golconda for three years, where he was a member of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado, before going to work as a county FmHA representative in 1966. At the county level Turner was in frequent contact with cooperative personnel, as well as other public utility representatives, as he serviced the needs of FmHA borrowers. Turner drew heavily on his cooperative knowledge when he was given the task of developing working plans for the cooperative-FmHA loan program.

Just how many consumers will benefit from the cooperative-FmHA weatherization loan program is unknown at this time. With two-thirds of the nation's substandard housing and more than half the nation's poor located in rural areas, the program could have far-reaching impact.

Cooperative members should watch their cooperative publications for news of participation and more details on eligibility for the weatherization loan program. The \$1,500 maximum available under the program is more than enough to weatherize most homes to achieve maximum savings on

heating and cooling costs.

Next winter may not set another record for cold weather but the chilling effect of rising energy costs and inflation may be part of the American economy for years to come. Home weatherization will not lower the cost of energy, but it will pay

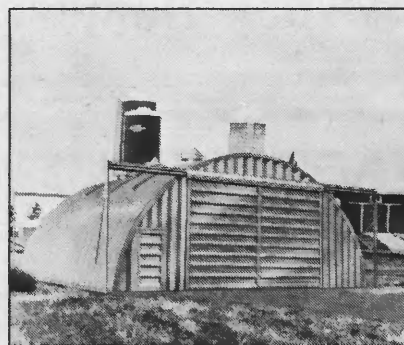
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If progress continues at its present pace, the addition to the Lake of Egypt electric generating plant of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) will be completed in 15 to 18 months, providing SIPC's three member distribution cooperatives with about two-and-one-half times the amount of generating capacity of the original plant built in 1963.

During the generation and transmission cooperative's annual meeting March 31, representatives of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, Steeleville; Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado, and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, heard SIPC Manager L. Thomas Clevenger, Marion, explain that over 60 percent of the equipment for the addition was on site, adding that, "Comparison of construction budget to actual costs can now be more nearly projected to completion. Contrary to what has been experienced by so many other new units, both fossil and nuclear, this unit is still within budget."

The cost of the addition—necessary to provide adequate service in the future to the more than 33,000 consumers who are member-owners of the three electric distribution cooperatives—will be high in comparison to cost of the original plant in 1963. Clevenger said the three units built then were installed for about \$137 per kilowatt (kw) of capacity. Pollution control devices were added in 1974 at a cost of about \$22 per kw, he said, pushing the total to near \$160 per kw of capacity.

"The new unit will cost somewhere between \$520 and \$550 per kw, almost 3.5 times more than the original units," Clevenger said.

Clevenger cited a major cost difference between the original units and the unit under construction. A sulfur dioxide absorber (scrubber) to remove sulfur from the stack gases will

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cost near \$115 per kw of capacity, more than 22 percent of the total cost of the new unit, he explained.

In addition, Clevenger said, an estimated 10,000 kw of the new plant capacity will be committed to the operation of the sulfur removal equipment.

"Nonproductive unit values of this magnitude will have a tremendous impact on the resulting electricity bills paid in the future by everyone," Clevenger added.

SIPC President Roger C. Lentz, Eldorado, characterized 1976 as primarily a construction year for the power cooperative. "By the end of the year, construction work in progress totaled more than \$28-million, 67 percent of the cost of the plant presently in service. By the time the new unit is placed into service in 1978, Southern Illinois Power Co-operative will have a total investment in plant and transmission facilities of approximately \$125-million," Lentz said.

Lentz emphasized that fuel costs per BTU for Southern Illinois Power Co-operative declined and stabilized in the latter part of 1975 and during 1976. He said this condition resulted from a long-term agreement with Williamson Coal Company, which created independence from the fluctuations in price of purchased coal in the open market, and the burning of carbon as a plant fuel supplement.

The need for the plant addition now

under construction was supported by Lentz' projection that members of the three cooperatives served by SIPC would require nearly 40 percent more kilowatt-hours (kwh) in 1980 compared to 1976 in a period when many industry forecasters are projecting an industry-wide shortage of generating capacities in the early 1980's.

"While we anticipate that Southern Illinois Power will have adequate generating capacity to meet its systems' growth, we are very much concerned with both load management and conservation," Lentz said.

Lentz said projections by experts as to saving that may be effected through adequate building insulation indicate an immediate concern should be elimination of waste with regard to poor insulation. "At Southern Illinois Power it appears that growth during the next 10 years is inevitable and that assisting the conservation of energy by its member cooperatives will, by helping to eliminate waste, encourage an orderly change from space heating fuels to electricity without adversely affecting the accuracy of load projections," he added.

"Southern Illinois Power appears to be in an excellent position to meet the future needs of its member cooperatives," Lentz said.

Although inflation increased the cost of doing business, 1976 was one of continued growth financially,

The 435-foot tall stack dominates the site of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative's plant at Lake of Egypt. The stack is part of the construction underway to significantly increase the capacity of the electric generating plant which serves three Illinois electric distribution cooperatives. The exposed structure in the center of the photo will house the new unit. Officials estimate work will be completed during the last half of next year.

Treasurer Milo Thurston, Pulaski, said in his report.

Revenues from all sources amounted to almost \$10.4-million, he said, compared to \$9.8-million in 1975. Total energy sold in 1976 was almost 620 million kwh, up 56 million over 1975. Margins for 1976 were \$873,278. Capital credits allocated to member cooperatives totaled \$834,893.

All members of the 12-man board of directors were reelected.

Following the business session, Dale A. Smith, Cutler, was elected president of SIPC. Thurston was elected vice president and Lentz was elected secretary-treasurer.

Other members of the board are: Bill Cadle, Marion; Floyd Dillow, Dongola; Frank Easdale, Coulterville; James D. Holloway, Sparta; Frank Jacquot, DeSoto; R. T. Reeves, Dongola; Orrie V. Spivey, Elizabethtown; Glenn Tripp, Cobden, and Ray Webb, Tunnel Hill.



Above: Lois Shafer looks on as husband Ed prepares an audio-visual device used during ground school training for student pilots. Upper right: Work was recently completed on the 300-foot long hangar to house 10 of the 20-25 planes at the airport.



Aviation has long been among the interests of Ed and Lois Shafer. Ed learned to fly while he was in the Air Force and he has taught flying for over 10 years. For 11 years, Lois has been one of a select few women who can call herself a corporate pilot.

Until seven years ago, they owned and managed three coin-operated laundries in Collinsville, Ed taught aviation at Belleville Area College and Lois flew for a St. Louis manufacturing firm.

So, when they decided then that they wanted to move from Collinsville to the country, it probably was inevitable that aviation would become their primary interest.

At that time the Shafers bought 190 acres near St. Jacob in Madison County. Ed had a herd of dairy cattle and farmed the land for six years. Then, the Shafers did something few have done—they started an airport. Their interest in aviation had overpowered that of farming.

Since their acreage was out away from places and things which would complicate an airport location, the farm was a proper setting. Ed sold his herd and rented out most of his land. What he kept was to be their airport.

Now, on 25 acres, the Shafers have Metro-East Airport, made up primarily of their office and headquarters building, a small hangar and the just-completed 300-foot hangar and the 2,660-foot asphalt runway. Ed estimated that some 20-25 planes are



hanged and tied down at Metro-East.

The airport and the Shafers' home are served by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Greenville. Radio equipment and pilot training equipment requires electricity, and Ed pointed out that he had recently completed installation of runway lights.

Three of the Shafers' five planes are Piper Cherokee trainers and the other two are a Mooney four-passenger and a six-passenger Piper Cherokee Six. The Mooney and Cherokee Six are for charter flights.

In addition, there is a Piper Seneca, a six-passenger, twin-engine plane owned by the R. L. Pohlman Co. of St. Louis. Lois flies it in her role as a corporate pilot.

She has been flying for 15 years, she said, including the last 11 for Pohlman. That job keeps her on the go. "I've flown to all the states except those in the extreme northwest," Lois explained. "The majority of the time the flights are in the midwest, though," she added.

Lois has earned her private, commercial and commercial instrument ratings.

Ed, who caught the flying bug from his father, runs the student pilot training program. He has private, commercial, commercial instrument and instructor licenses.

His training program draws people from throughout the area. "We've got students from Edwardsville, Collinsville and Trenton," he said, including

a number of business people, even a bank president and his wife.

The student program has grown so much that the Shafers have added John Hester, a Highland High School math teacher, as an instructor. Hester helps with evening and weekend classes and will work fulltime during the summer, Ed said.

The most recent ground school class began April 19. Each class includes from 15 to 20 students and the classes are three hours per week for 12 weeks.

Ed estimates that he has from 12 to 15 pilots flying who went through his training program.

The Metro-East Airport—it is marked by the green state signs from U.S. Highway 40 and Illinois Highway 4—boasts the latest training equipment to go with the growing student pilot program.

Just recently, Ed explained, they added an aircraft simulator that enables a would-be pilot to experience in-flight conditions while still on the ground. Ed says actual instrument time can be logged in the simulator. "Not too many people have the simulator in their training programs," he adds.

Another key piece of equipment used by Ed in his training program is an audio-visual course developed by the Jeppesen-Sanderson firm, one of the most respected producers and publishers of navigational and education material for flight training.

As the airport becomes more

established, business continues to grow. "We're getting more transient business," Ed said, "and we've got rental cars now, and a sandwich concession at the field, too.

"We have a new service available, too," Lois added. "We are now approved to operate an air-taxi service, and we have a plane which will carry up to 1,200 pounds of freight at one time," she said. "We've already carried a combine engine and a large truck axle," Ed remarked.

Traffic at the small airport is varied. "We even get some helicopters from Scott Air Force Base," he said. "They stop in for coffee once in a while," he added.

Ed said it was difficult to determine the actual number of landings weekly at the airport but he guessed that, during decent weather and including the touch-and-go training flights, about 100 landings takes place each week.

What's in store for the future of the growing airport? "That's hard to say. As the needs develop, we'll try to fill them and progress. I hope to have a full maintenance facility soon and we plan to have a radio shop open in the near future," Ed said.

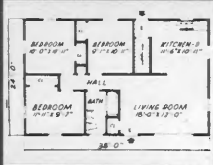
Although there is no set, concrete plan laid out for the airport, it is apparent the growth of the past year is a reliable forecast of things to come for the Shafers and Metro-East Airport.

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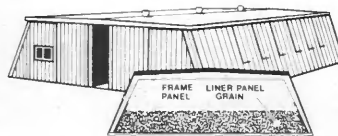
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Menu magic for the month of May

DUCKLING QUARTERS AND PILAF WITH PEACHY SAUCE

- 1 frozen duckling (4½ to 5 pounds), defrosted and quartered
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ginger

Wash, drain and dry duckling quarters. Combine and mix salt and ginger; sprinkle over both sides of quarters. Arrange quarters, skin side up, on rack in shallow roasting pan. Bake at 325 degrees until very tender, 2¼ to 2½ hours. After first hour of cooking, turn quarters skin side down. Bake 30 minutes, then turn, skin side up, for remaining roasting time. Serve with Pilaf and Peachy Sauce. Garnish with mint sprigs, if desired. Makes 4 servings.

PILAF:

- ¾ cup long grain rice (not quick cook)
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 cup thinly sliced celery
- 1 can (4 ozs.) mushroom stems and pieces, drained
- 2 tablespoons sliced green onion
- ¼ cup butter
- ½ cup slivered toasted or chopped almonds or chopped pecans
- ¼ cup chopped candied ginger, optional
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Cook rice as directed on package label, adding bouillon cubes to water before cooking rice. Saute celery, mushrooms and onion in butter over low heat until celery is tender, but not brown. Add hot cooked rice, nuts, candied ginger and salt; mix well. Serve with duckling quarters.

PEACHY SAUCE:

- 1 can (29 or 30 oz.) cling peach slices
 - 2 tablespoons cornstarch
 - 2 tablespoons sugar
 - 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 - ⅓ cup orange marmalade
 - 1 cup syrup
- Drain sliced peaches; reserve 1 cup syrup. Combine cornstarch and sugar. Add the reserved 1 cup syrup and lemon juice; stir until free of lumps. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until thick and clear. Stir in orange marmalade; fold in peach slices and heat. Serve with duckling quarters and pilaf.

TIPSY FRUIT PUDDING

- 1 can (29 or 30 oz.) fruit cocktail
 - 1 pkg. (3¼ oz.) instant lemon pudding mix
 - 1 baked commercial pound cake (11¼ oz.)
 - Sherry
 - Raspberry jam
 - ½ cup whipping cream, whipped
 - Mint sprigs, optional
- Drain fruit cocktail; reserve syrup. Prepare pudding mix as directed on package label, using reserved syrup for part of required liquid. Cut pound cake into ¾ to ½-inch thick slices; cut slices in half. Line bottom and sides of deep glass bowl with cake slices. Sprinkle sherry over cake and spread with raspberry jam. Reserve about ¼ cup drained fruit cocktail for top; fold remaining fruit cocktail into pudding. Spoon ⅓ of fruit cocktail-pudding mixture over cake slices in bowl. Cover pudding with ½ of remaining cake slices. Spoon ½ of the remaining fruit cocktail-pudding mix over top. Repeat process. Garnish cake top with whipped cream and reserved fruit cocktail. Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving. Garnish with mint sprigs, if desired. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

RICE AND BROCCOLI

Saute 1 medium onion in butter. Add 1 cup cream of chicken soup and 1 cup milk. Add ½ lb. Velveeta cheese and 3 cups cooked rice (1 cup raw rice yields 3 cups cooked rice), 2 pkgs. chopped broccoli (cooked), and ½ cup sliced almonds. Pour into greased casserole. Bake at 350 degrees 45 minutes.

MEAT CASSEROLE

- 1 tablespoon margarine
 - 1 lb. ground beef
 - 1 clove garlic
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - Pepper to taste
 - 15 oz. can tomato sauce
 - ¾ lb. wide noodles, cooked according to directions
 - 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
 - 1 cup sour cream
 - ½ cup grated yellow cheese
 - 6 chopped green onions
- Melt margarine, add ground beef, salt and pepper. Stir until it loses its color. Drain off fat. Add garlic and tomato sauce, simmer 20 minutes. Meantime, cook noodles. In a bowl, blend cream cheese and sour cream with chopped onions. Place in a greased casserole a layer of drained noodles, then cheese mix, then meat. Repeat again. Top with grated cheese and a dash of Parmesan cheese. Bake at 350 degrees until bubbling.

BLENDER MAYONNAISE

- 1 egg
 - 2 tablespoons vinegar or lemon juice
 - ¾ teaspoon salt
 - ½ teaspoon dry mustard
 - ¼ teaspoon paprika
 - ⅛ teaspoon ground white pepper
 - ½ teaspoon salad herbs (optional)
 - 1 cup salad oil
- Have all ingredients at room temperature. Put egg, 1 tablespoon vinegar, salt, dry mustard, paprika, pepper and salad herbs in blender container, cover and run at low speed. While blender is running, slowly pour in ½ cup salad oil. When more power is required, run on high speed. If necessary, stop blender during processing and push ingredients toward blades with rubber spatula. Add remaining vinegar, and slowly pour in remaining salad oil while blender is running on high speed. Makes 1 cup.

SIRLOIN BURGUNDY BAKE

- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- ½ lb. fresh mushrooms or 2 (4-oz.) cans, undrained
- ¼ cup chopped onion
- ¼ cup chopped parsley
- 2 small cloves garlic, minced
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ½ teaspoon leaf oregano
- ¼ teaspoon sweet basil
- ¼ teaspoon ground thyme
- 1 small bay leaf
- 2 lbs. sirloin steak, cut into 1-inch strips
- 1 can (6-oz.) tomato paste
- ¾ cup burgundy or other red wine

Saute in oil the mushrooms, onions, parsley, garlic, salt, pepper, oregano, thyme and bay leaf for about 5 minutes. Add sirloin strips and brown. Stir in tomato paste and wine. Simmer, covered, about 25 minutes. Pour meat mixture into an ungreased casserole. Remove bay leaf. Top with Cheese Potato Balls. Bake at 375 degrees for 15-20 minutes or until potato balls are light golden brown.

CHEESE POTATO BALLS

- 2½ cups hot water
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ cup milk
- 1 pkg. (5¼-oz.) or 3 cups mashed potato flakes
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- ¼ cup chopped green onion tops or 2 tablespoons chopped chives
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese

Bring water, butter and salt to a boil. Remove from heat. Add milk. Stir in potato flakes just until moistened. Let stand a minute, then add slightly beaten egg and onion tops. Stir lightly to combine. Cool. Shape into balls. Roll in grated parmesan cheese.

PANCAKES

- 2 cups flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1¾ cups milk
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons melted butter

Mix dry ingredients, add milk to beaten eggs and blend. Mix the liquids with the flour mixture and blend. Stir in melted butter. Bake until bubbly. Turn and brown other side about 1 minute on each side.

FRESH STRAWBERRY PIE

- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons strawberry gelatin
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1 pint sliced strawberries
- Whipped cream

Mix and cook until thick, cornstarch, gelatin, sugar and water. Cool. Mix in strawberries, pour into baked pie shell. Chill, then top with cream.

COBBLER PIE

Cream together until light and fluffy ¼ cup soft butter and ½ cup sugar. Sift together 1 cup flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, ¼ teaspoon salt. Stir into this ½ cup milk. Beat until smooth. Pour into greased pan. Drain berries, cherries, or other fruits and pour over batter. Sprinkle over fruit 1½ cups sugar, or to suit taste, then pour 1 cup or more of juice over top. Bake 45-50 minutes at 375 degrees until top springs back when lightly touched.

CHESS PIE

- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup butter or oleo (melted)
- 3 tbsps cornmeal
- 1 tsp nutmeg

Beat eggs well. Mix with rest of ingredients. Pour into uncooked pie crust and bake at 350° until filling is set.

FOUR LAYER DELIGHT

- 1st layer: 1 cup flour, ½ cup chopped pecans, ½ cup margarine
 - 2nd layer: 1 cup whipped topping (from 10-oz. carton), 1 cup powdered sugar, 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
 - 3rd layer: 2 small pkgs. instant pudding, 3 cups cold milk
 - 4th layer: Spread remaining whipped topping on top. Refrigerate for 4 hours.
- Mix 2 minutes and spread on top of second layer. NOTE: If chocolate pudding is used, garnish 4th layer with grated chocolate. Freezes well.

CHOCOLATE ANGEL FOOD CAKE

- 12 egg whites
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1½ cups fine sugar, sifted
- ¼ cup cocoa
- ¾ cup cake flour, sifted 6 times before measuring
- ½ teaspoon lemon extract
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla

Beat egg whites with salt until frothy. Add cream of tartar and beat until stiff but not dry. Fold in sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time. Gradually fold in flour and cocoa sifted together 5 times. Add flavoring. Bake in angel food pan at 275-300 degrees until firm to the touch, about 1 hour. Hang upside down over neck of bottle to cool.



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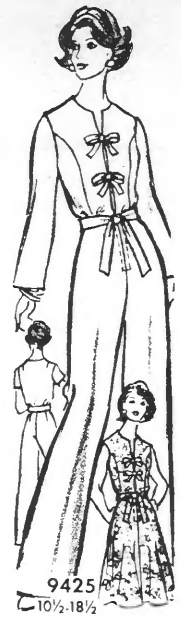
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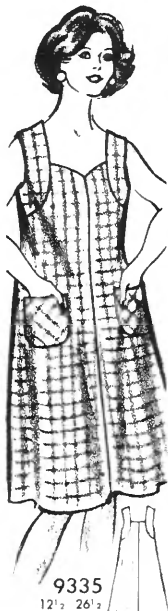
9468
10½-18½



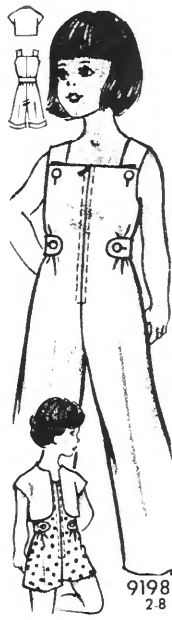
9425
10½-18½



9322
8-18



9335
12½-26½



9198
2-8



9436
SIZES 10½-18½



9233
8-20



9465
10-20
34-48



9211
10½-18½



9020
8-18



9235
34-50

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