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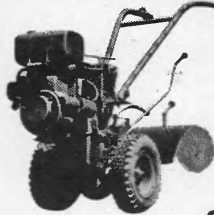
June 1981

## Illinois Rural Electric News



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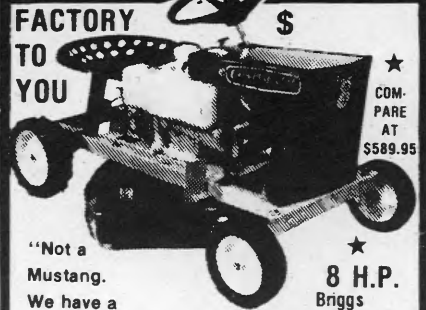
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# Illinois Rural Electric News

## The 'Subsidy' myth

The 45-year history of rural electric cooperatives attests to the fact that their members have performed well as stewards of government trust and confidence.

From time to time, especially when the rural electrification program has come under attack by government officials who may not fully understand the electric cooperatives and their relationship with their government, criticism of a so-called "subsidy" to rural electric systems surfaces. Somehow, they theorize with limited information, that rural consumer-members of electric cooperatives are disproportionately subsidized, presumably at the expense of urban consumers and taxpayers.

Generally, the myth goes something like this: due to the existence of the Rural Electrification Administration and its insured and guaranteed loan programs, member-owned rural electric systems enjoy an unfair interest cost advantage not available to investor-owned (IOU) and municipally owned utilities serving urban areas. Actually, all electric utility interest costs are "subsidized" by the federal government with rural electric systems paying significantly higher effective interest costs than IOU's or municipals.

There is little that is uncomplicated about utility financing, but some basic information may help clear up misconceptions some may have. Even though the task of providing electric service in their service areas is far from complete, Illinois electric cooperatives do not receive two-

percent loans from the REA. In fact, no tax funds are advanced to cooperatives even at the five-percent rate. Insured loans originate in a revolving fund that is not a part of the federal budget. Most (86 percent) financing money is made available through REA-guaranteed loans funded by Federal Financing Bank borrowing in private money markets. Cooperatives pay prevailing rates plus a small fee. Rates are higher now, but for calendar 1980 the effective rate of interest for electric cooperatives was about 10 percent.

This compares with the approximately 7.5-percent effective interest municipals paid, and the nine percent paid by IOU's. For municipals, bond holders' interest income is not subject to federal income tax. This loss of tax revenue reflects the level of "subsidy" provided to municipals. Investor-owned utilities are allowed certain federal income tax advantages through investment tax credit and accelerated depreciation (neither is available to electric cooperatives). The effective IOU interest rate was approximately one percent less than that paid by electric cooperatives in 1980.

Since the density of meters and revenue per mile of line for cooperatives is about a tenth of that of municipals and IOU's, Congress and the President over the years have recognized the need to partially equalize opportunity between urban and rural areas through their support of the rural electrification program.

Rural electric consumers do pay their "fair share."

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Cover: Among Illinois electric cooperative leaders in Washington in May for the Legislative Conference were, from left, James H. Eddleman of Springfield, Milo Thurston of Pulaski and Tim Reeves of Dongola. (See article beginning on page 6.)

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## Dreary day fails to dampen spirit

*Clockwise from above: Walking to the Lincoln Home from the visitors' center. A guide explains the finer points of the Governor's Mansion. Returning from the mansion. Talking to Secretary of State Jim Edgar was a high point for some of the students.*

Some 170 Illinois high school students braved gray skies and intermittent rain to take part in the Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day activities April 22 in Springfield. The tour was coordinated by Gary Buller, director of the Member Services Department of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Students on the tour represented 16 Illinois electric cooperatives.

A highlight of the day took place when Gov. James R. Thompson stopped by briefly during the lunch break to speak to the students, many of them finalists in "Youth to Washington" essay contests at their local electric cooperatives. Speaking on a timely topic, the Governor urged the group to go home and ask their parents to support a gasoline tax increase to provide more money for transportation in the state.

"The gas tax has only been raised once in the last 27 years," Thompson said, "and we're just not taking in enough money to keep up the transportation system. Many people downstate think they wouldn't be affected if Chicago's mass transit system stopped suddenly today. Well, they're wrong. Many manufactured goods we use are made there, and all banking transactions north of Springfield go

through the Federal Reserve Bank there.

"On the other hand," the Governor continued, "many people in Chicago think they wouldn't notice if the downstate roads became impassable. They're wrong, too. A good transportation network for our agricultural products is absolutely essential if we're to have a viable economy in this state.

"Our legislators can't seem to understand the need for a gas tax hike, so I hope you'll go home and ask your parents to support it," he concluded.

State Representative Michael McLain of Quincy added spice to the luncheon by challenging the governor's remarks. "I had a great speech I was going to give," he said, "but I just threw it away so I could rebut what the Governor said. The legislature understands the need to maintain and improve the state's transportation net-



## f '81 'Youth Day' participants

work. We just think we need to clean up the way the money is being spent now, before we appropriate more. The Governor isn't doing that. We're not spending our money efficiently.

"Democracy," he explained, "is a frustrating process, and it's slow. The Governor wants to speed up the gas tax bill, and it's frustrating not to be able to. Democracy is slow because everybody who has something to say can say it, and that takes time."

McLain praised Thompson for having the courage to propose a tax increase in a time of decreases, adding, "Jim Thompson is a good politician, and he's a politician for the '80s. He recognizes that this will be a decade for governing by consensus, in which everybody will want to participate."

A tour of the Governor's Mansion highlighted the trip, and students took advantage of an opportunity to see the

lavish appointments in the building. A tour of the Lincoln Visitors Center, which told much about Abraham Lincoln's years in Springfield, was also on the agenda, as was a tour of the Lincoln Home.

The students visited the Capitol Building and saw the House in session. They also learned many interesting features about the historic structure. A high point for some during that visit was an opportunity to talk with Secretary of State Jim Edgar, who chatted briefly with them and urged them to become involved in the legislative process.

Many of the youths wound up their day with a visit to the Illinois State Museum. A visit to the old State Capitol building was cancelled because of the weather.

There was more in store for students from several cooperatives.

They closed a busy day with a special dinner with legislators from their areas.

The day was also a busy one for state legislators. The House was called into an unscheduled session at 6 p.m., preventing many Representatives from attending the dinner. Legislators who managed to break away from busy schedules to attend portions of the day's activities included: Rep. Ralph Dunn of DuQuoin, Rep. Frank Watson of Greenville, Rep. Clyde Robbins of Fairfield, Sen. John Davidson of Springfield, Sen. Vince Demuzio of Carlinville, Rep. Michael McLain of Quincy, Sen. Laura Kent of Quincy, Sen. Kenneth McMillan of Bushnell, Rep. Irvin Smith of Springfield, and Rep. Clarence Neff of Stronghurst. Representatives Sam McGrew of Galesburg and Helen Satterthwaite of Urbana sent representatives.



*Senator Charles Percy talks with the Illinois electric cooperative representatives.*

## **Illinois delegation responsive** **Importance of REA program stressed to Congress**

Leaders representing most of Illinois' electric cooperatives returned home following the May 11-12 Legislative Planning Conference in Washington with the opinion that the Illinois Congressional delegation understands well the needs of the rural electrification program. Illinoisans were among the more than 2,000 rural electric leaders from across the nation who attended the 1981 NRECA Legislative Planning Conference coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

During the two-day event, groups representing Illinois electric cooperatives called on all 26 members of the Illinois Congressional delegation to express their concern about proposals by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that would curtail, and to some extent end, the present financing arrangements used to meet the capital requirements of electric cooperatives.

Reports on most contacts with Senators, Representatives and/or their staffs indicated understanding and support for the Illinoisans' position.

Coordinators of the conference said that contact was made with the office

of every United States Senator and United States Representative.

The major topic of discussion in the meetings with the Illinois delegation was the concern Illinoisans share over OMB proposals to alter the method by which rural electric systems obtain financing capital. Basically, the OMB proposes two things: severing of the Rural Electrification Administration from its relationship with the Federal Financing Bank (FFB), and cutting of REA insured loan authorizations and raising the interest rates electric cooperatives pay. The OMB claims that such actions would help balance the federal budget, a contention electric cooperative leaders brand as untrue because the FFB is not a part of the federal budget and neither are the insured loan program funds.

Rural electric leaders label the OMB proposal and its reasoning as an "empty sacrifice." Rural Americans, the leaders told Congress, are willing to shoulder their fair share of the load to bring about solutions to the nation's economic problems. However, they cautioned, cutting REA access to the FFB and curtailing REA loan programs will do nothing to reduce the federal budget and the federal deficit.

In fact, they said, the net result of the OMB proposals would be opposite the goal of the Reagan Administration to slow inflation and reduce interest rates. By severing REA's relationship with the FFB rural electric systems would be forced into the open money market, a predicament which would increase interest rates paid by the rural systems, and there is considerable concern as to the availability of adequate financing outside the FFB. Higher interest costs, due to a large extent to the capital structure of electric cooperatives, mean higher electric rates for rural consumers.

There is no cost whatsoever to the federal government for REA guaranteed loans funded through the FFB, and in fact the cooperatives' participation assists the FFB in achieving its objective of coordination of government borrowing programs and provides the FFB with over \$11-million in profit annually, Congressmen were told.

The FFB was created in December 1973 to assure coordination of federal and federally assisted borrowings and to assure that such borrowings are financed in a manner least disruptive to private financial markets and



*Representative Dan Crane, left, talks with Thomas H. Moore of Springfield, executive vice president and general manager, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, on the Capitol steps. Looking on is Crane's Administrative Assistant, Cliff Downen.*



institutions. Since its beginning, the FFB has produced a profit for the federal government of \$162-million. The FFB is fully self-supporting. A number of federal agencies besides REA utilize the FFB, which secures money on the private market at prevailing rates.

The guaranteed program, the leaders stressed, involves a guarantee by the REA Administrator. That fact, coupled with the FFB coordination of government borrowing, creates more favorable interest rates than the agencies could otherwise obtain on their own. It is estimated that rural electric systems, if adequate supplies of funds are available on the money market, would pay at least 1½ percent higher interest rates than would be available through the FFB.

A major point stressed to Congress about the guaranteed program is the fact that the repayment history of rural electrification is spotless. There have been no defaults on loans obtained through the FFB, a claim many of the other agencies who receive loans through the FFB cannot make. Yet, the program is the only one singled out by the OMB for removal from the FFB program.

Insured loans, Illinoisans told their representatives, account for less than 15 percent of total rural electric borrowing. Insured loans are not actually insured, and are made from a special revolving fund established in 1973. Money in the revolving fund comes from principal and interest repayments, sale of borrowers' notes and mortgages, and proceeds from the sale of interim notes by the REA Administrator to the Treasury. They are not a part of the federal budget, but have a floor and ceiling established



*James H. Eddleman of Springfield, standing, director of the Legal and Public Affairs department, AIEC, and Clement Ikins of Onarga, discusses the rural electric program with Representative Tom Corcoran.*

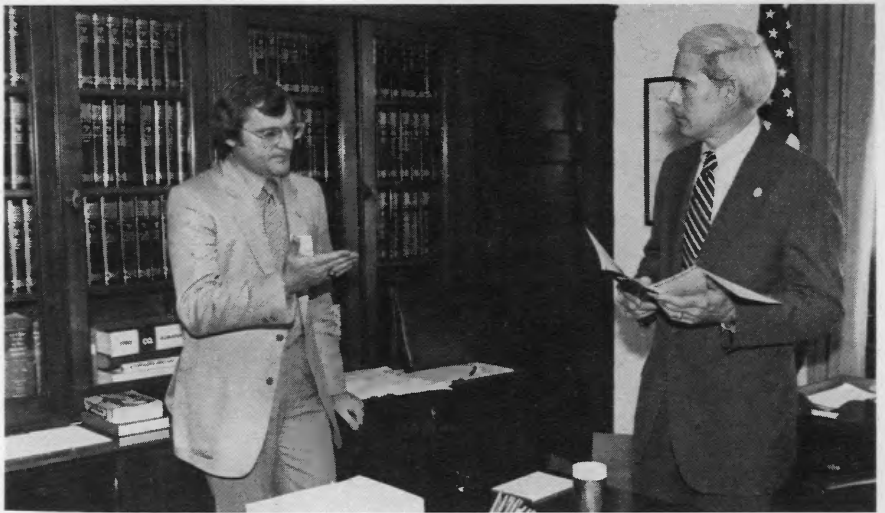


*Senator Alan Dixon, left, greets Bill Endicott of Fairfield. In the background is Roger Mohrman of Camp Point.*



*Representative Tom Railsback shakes hands with Tom McDonald of Princeton. Other Illinoisans in the photo, from left, are: Charles McClave of Hanover, Eugene Kunkel of Granville, Albert Hagenbuch of Utica and Neal Futhey of Golden.*

*From top: Representative John Porter listens as James H. Eddleman of the AIEC staff expresses electric cooperative viewpoints in matters of importance to electric cooperative members. Representative Paul Findley talks with Illinoisans who represent cooperatives in his district. Representative Paul Simon, right, answers a question from Bob Vander Pluym of Breese. Representative Mel Price meets in his office with, clockwise from Price, Bob Vander Pluym of Breese, Earl Struck of Springfield, Wilbert Rueter of Carlyle, Larry Haas of Belleville and Joe Fellin of Waterloo.*



annually by Congress.

Much of OMB's rationale for believing that rural electric systems can afford higher interest rates is the agency's misconception that rural electric cooperative rates are eight to 12 percent below those of other utilities. Actually, the opposite is true. Extensive studies have shown that average electric cooperative rates are about 12 percent higher than other utilities. That represents a miscalculation of almost 25 percent by OMB. Obviously, if the OMB proposals are adopted, the rate differential will increase sharply in the coming decade.

Developments taking place in Congress during the week of the conference pointed to Congressional action toward a favorable solution to the OMB proposals. On Tuesday, May 12, Illinois Senator Charles Percy indicated that the House and Senate Conference Committee on the Budget would restore language concerning the revolving fund and the cooperatives' access to the FFB. Later that night the committee agreed on those restorations.

Final resolution of the crucial rural electric financing question is yet to come. Illinois rural electric leaders expect final determinations to hinge on future contacts with Washington officials as they continue their efforts to dispell the misconceptions which have played a major part of the ill-conceived OMB proposals.





## Appreciation for preferred site selection

# Soyland gets Pike 'red carpet' treatment

An estimated 400 Pike County residents packed into the Pittsfield American Legion Hall April 20 to show their appreciation to Soyland Power Cooperative for naming Pike County as preferred site for its proposed \$500-million, 450-megawatt, coal-fired electric generating station. Representatives of more than half of the 15 Soyland member-cooperatives and a number of Soyland employees were the special guests of the Greater Pike Industrial Corporation for a dinner and a public reception.

During the reception, Pike County officials commended Soyland for selecting Pike County and expressed their appreciation to Soyland's staff for its cooperative spirit in working with local business, government and community leaders.

United States Representative Paul Findley of Pittsfield recalled the day he received a telephone call from Soyland General Manager Royal B. Newman to advise him that Pike had been selected as the preferred site. "Selection of Pike County as the preferred site has to rank as one of the great historic moments of Pike County and as time goes on we'll all appreciate far more than we can possibly this evening what it's going to mean to this area. So we are all very much in your debt. What thrills me also, and very greatly, is the knowledge that Soyland is headed by a group of people who have imagination and determination. They have commitment. They have a progressive spirit that is going to excite all of us as we see the splendid project they will unfold here in Pike County."

It was a special type of "homecoming" for Soyland Board President Walter R. Smith, Manager of Illini Electric Cooperative, Champaign. Smith is a native of Pike County. He traced the history of the site selection process that began with all of Illinois, was reduced to three primary sites, and finally to the Pike County location just south of Florence. Permanent employment at the plant



*Above: Royal B. Newman, general manager of Soyland Power Cooperative, was among several speakers during the reception. Seated, from left, are John Sheppard, president of the Pike County Board of Supervisors; Dale Willard, a member of the Greater Pike Industrial Board; Walter Smith, president of Soyland's board of directors and Mrs. Smith.*



*Left: Byron McCoy, right, president of Edgar Electric Cooperative, Paris, talks with U. S. Representative Paul Findley.*

will be about 150 persons, Smith added.

Newman explained that licensing costs will be about the same as those of land acquisition, roughly \$4-million. He said Soyland, at last count, had been in contact with 177 various government agencies regarding regulatory requirements necessary for construction of the plant.

He said the construction startup date is estimated as Spring 1983, with operation anticipated in Spring 1987. An estimated 1,500 workers will be employed during construction, he added.

Soyland Power Cooperative is a federation of 15 Illinois electric distribution cooperatives organized in 1963 to meet the bulk power needs of its member-cooperatives. The coal-fired plant proposed for Pike County is the second electric generation project of Soyland. The federation owns a 10.5-percent ownership in the

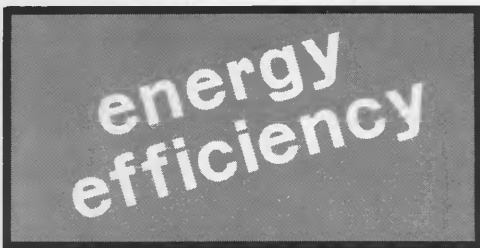
nuclear Clinton Power Station being built by Illinois Power Company in DeWitt County. Electric cooperatives which make up Soyland include: Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc., Flora; Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., Breese; Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon; Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, Inc., Bloomington; Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, Paxton; Edgar Electric Co-operative Association, Paris; Farmers Mutual Electric Company, Geneseo; Illini Electric Cooperative, Champaign; Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., Princeton; McDonough Power Cooperative, Macomb; Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc., Waterloo; Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelbyville; Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., Greenville; Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc., Mt. Vernon; and Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield.

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7.0	44.10	52.93	70.57	88.21	105.86	123.50	211.71
8.0	38.59	46.31	61.75	77.19	92.63	108.06	185.25
9.0	34.31	41.17	54.89	68.61	82.33	96.06	164.67
10.0	30.88	37.05	49.40	61.75	74.10	86.45	148.20
11.0	28.07	33.68	44.91	56.14	67.59	78.59	134.73

\*Values based on 950 Hrs. Annual Use @ 6.5 cents per KWHR

Annual Average cost of operation for various size air conditioners is dependent on BTU ratings and EER. Estimated annual operating costs can be determined by matching the EER under the closest corresponding BTU column.



## Watching your EER's and BTU's can save on cooling costs

As living costs — including energy — continue to increase, it is more important than ever to get the most value from your electricity dollar. During the hot summer months, air conditioning accounts for a major portion of your electric bill. An important way to use energy efficiently and wisely, as well as minimize cooling costs, is to purchase a more energy-efficient air conditioner.

As you may be aware, cooling capacity of air conditioners is rated in BTUs (British Thermal Units) per hour. This rating indicates the amount of heat that can be removed from the inside air each hour by the air conditioner. For example: A room air conditioner with a cooling capacity of 7,000 BTUs per hour would remove

approximately 7,000 BTUs of heat from a room each hour.

Before buying an air conditioner, you should take the following information to a knowledgeable dealer. How large is the area to be cooled? Is it well insulated? How many windows are there, and are they weather stripped? If it is a bedroom, will it be necessary to cool it during the day, or at night only? These important questions must be answered to determine the amount of cooling capacity needed.

When buying an air conditioner, the secret is to spend less on the purchase, get maximum comfort for your dollar and spend less to operate the unit. The tendency in the past, among both dealers and consumers, was to estimate cooling

area of a room or home and then add a "little extra" for good measure. As a result, many units now in use are oversized. An oversized unit will run less to keep temperature at a certain level, but will not dehumidify, thus it will not maintain comfort. In addition, note the size of windows and their location (south, west, etc.). They are the largest source of solar heat gain. The knowledgeable dealer will have charts in order to translate your notes in order to select the correct air conditioner for your application.

After you have determined the amount of cooling capacity, compare the energy-efficiency ratio (EER) of various air conditioners. The EER is the number of BTUs per hour of cooling resulting from electrical input of one watt. The higher the EER, the more efficient the unit is generating more cooling capacity availability for your KWH of electricity. An air conditioner with an EER number of 8 or higher will help you to conserve electricity. If the EER does not appear on the metal nameplate or tag, follow this simple formula: The EER is computed by dividing the BTUs by the watts. A 16,000 BTU unit that uses 2,000 watts will have an EER of 8.

An air conditioner with a higher EER may cost more to purchase,

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however, you obtain more cooling capacity and you reduce your operating cost and obtain more for your electric dollar, year after year. The more efficiently and wisely you use energy, the less energy you will waste, and as a result you will save more money. For example, an air conditioner with a BTU rating of 8,000 and an EER of 8 will cost about 33 percent less to operate than a model with an EER of 6. For comparative purposes, check the chart on this page entitled "Annual Operating Costs" to see how EER ratings affect operating costs for various sizes of room air-conditioners.

Residential room air conditioners are increasing in popularity and come in a number of different styles. These units can be installed in sash or casement windows or even through the wall. In selecting a window unit, be certain that you are able to describe your window style and have the dimensions for your air conditioning dealer. Window units are designed to cool individual areas and are easy to install and are an economical way to cool single rooms.

What about central air conditioning? A central air conditioner cools, dehumidifies and filters the air for your entire house. An efficient electronic air cleaner in combination with your central air conditioner can reduce dust, dirt, pollen, smoke and other air pollutants by electrostatic precipitation. This may also be beneficial to those with allergies.

An air conditioner should be kept clean and in good working condition. If your air conditioner is dirty, it has to work harder and as a result uses much more energy. Close attention should be given to ensuring that the filters are clean so your air conditioner can work at maximum efficiency. A good periodic cleaning will ensure a good working condition for the air conditioner, and will help save you money on its operating costs. It is always an excellent idea to check your owner's manual for specific cleaning and maintenance instructions.

Other tips which may help you reduce your cooling costs are as follows: Tighten up your home with insulation and weather stripping to help reduce cooling costs and also

heating costs. Extra insulation reduces the "heat gain" in the summer so your air conditioner works less. Block out the sun by drawing drapes. Locate the air conditioner on the shady side of your house. Eliminate any obstructions to the air flow around your air conditioner by trimming bushes, shrubbery and keep leaves and grass and any other obstacles away which may hinder operation.

During the summer set your thermostat controls at the highest setting which is reasonably

comfortable. The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers have found that 78 degrees F. is a comfortable temperature for most people during the summer. Each degree setting higher on your air conditioner can save approximately four percent on your operation cost.

For additional or more specific information on determining the cooling capacity needed by your air conditioner or other related items, contact your local electric cooperative.

## Protecting a valuable asset

You've insured your house, your car . . . probably even your stereo and television set. But, did you ever stop to think about your most valuable asset? You depend on good health in order to work and bring home your family's income. Isn't that an asset also worth protecting?

The financial security and all the things you've worked so hard for can be lost when an unexpected sickness or injury strikes. Think about it. If you were struck by a heart attack (or some other serious illness or accident), could you pay your medical bills and still manage to make ends meet without your income?

That's why most **Illinois Rural Electric Co-operatives and Telephone Co-operatives** participate in Mutual of Omaha Association Group plans.

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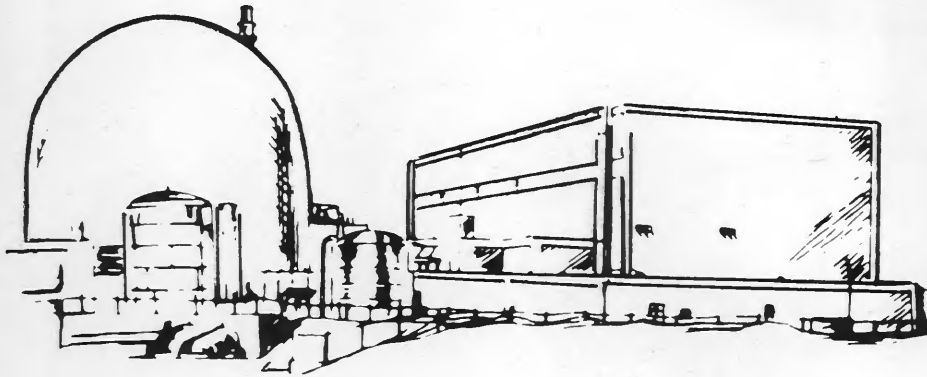
# Highlights of Illinois 'Rural

The April 22 "Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day," although marred somewhat by rain, still held many interesting experiences for participants, as shown in these photos. Clockwise from right: Governor James R. Thompson speaks to the group; his comments provoked a spirited response from Michael F. McClain of Quincy. Clarence Neff of Stronghurst visits with constituents. Members of the group found an exploded view of Lincoln's home fascinating. Juice, milk, rolls and coffee greeted the students at the beginning of the tour. Memorabilia in the Governor's Mansion's mini museum held interest for some. Kenneth McMillan of Bushnell visits with students from his district. In the center photo, a group waits to go into the Lincoln home.



# Electric Youth Day'





## Clinton Power Station

# Regulatory delays mean increased consumer costs

In Mid-April the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a special pre-hearing conference in Champaign to allow presentation by the Prairie Alliance, an anti-nuclear group, of a revised petition for hearing on the issuance of an operating license for Illinois Power Company's Clinton Power Station. As of press time, no decision had been made by the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

During the conference, representatives of two Illinois electric generation and transmission cooperatives (G&T's) — made up of 22 of the state's electric distribution cooperatives— presented statements as to the costs of any further delays in the construction and licensing of the Clinton station. The two G&T's, one made up of 15 cooperatives and the other of seven, own 20 percent of the Clinton station.

Lester W. Aeilts, manager of Western Illinois Electrical Coop., Carthage, and president of the board of directors of Western Illinois Power Cooperative (WIPCO), explained to the Licensing Board that some 44,000 farms, homes and businesses in a large area of western Illinois depend on WIPCO for electrical requirements.

WIPCO owns 9.5 percent of the plant.

Aeilts said a delay in granting the license to operate Clinton would increase costs for WIPCO due to the interest WIPCO must pay and subsequently charge its member cooperatives as construction costs on its investment in the plant. Aeilts noted that a one-month delay in commercial operation will increase WIPCO's cost of interest during construction by \$1.97-million. In addition, Aeilts said, "there will be on-going costs related to maintaining the plant and operations capacity, inflation, etc. These easily could run \$1-million per month."

The one-month interest costs for the delay could cost each of the 44,000 member-consumers of WIPCO cooperatives up to \$50 per month. Aeilts said. The second category of costs aside from interest could add about \$23 per month, he added.

Walter R. Smith, manager of Illini Electric Cooperative, Champaign, and president of the board of directors of Soyland Power Cooperative, presented the Licensing Board with similar costs which would result from further delays in licensing and commercial operation for the more than 100,000 member-owners of the 15

distribution cooperatives which made up Soyland, which owns 10.5 percent.

Donald B. Bringman, general manager of WIPCO, in a report prepared for the WIPCO board in late winter but not a part of the NRC presentation cited a number of studies conducted to determine the effect of delay in completion of Clinton and the resulting costs increases. Future costs were also studied.

"It is estimated that Clinton Unit One will be complete and in commercial operation in September 1983," Bringman said. This represents a three-month delay from estimates made in November 1980, he added. He said three principal factors have combined to slow construction progress and escalate costs: inflation, revisions required by the NRC, and effects from Three Mile Island.

The WIPCO report, which covers years 1981 to 1990, is based on several theoretical situations, three which include Clinton being completed at three various dates, one which provides for meeting requirements by means of purchased power without Clinton and a fifth alternative of construction of a fossil-fired plant.

Conclusions of the studies indicate:

1. Although the kilowatt-hour costs resulting from a large-capacity plant are somewhat higher in initial years, the large-plant costs tend to level off in a short period of time, while the costs of the smaller plant continue to increase and surpass those of the large-capacity plant.

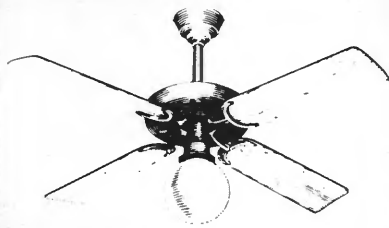
2. Delays in completion of the Clinton plant will increase costs to consumers.

3. As in the case of the comparisons made in item No. 1 previously, completion of Clinton or installation of a fossil fuel fired station will result in higher kilowatt-hour costs during the first years of operation, but costs with such facilities after three or four years will be less than with addition of smaller combustion gas turbines and continued purchase of power.

Early completion of Clinton will result in lower power costs after 1987 than costs associated with increase power purchases and installation of combustion gas turbines, the report concluded.



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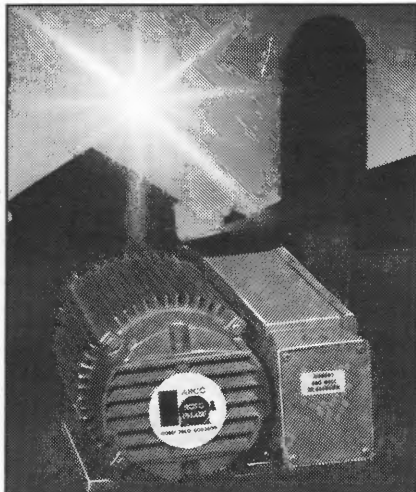
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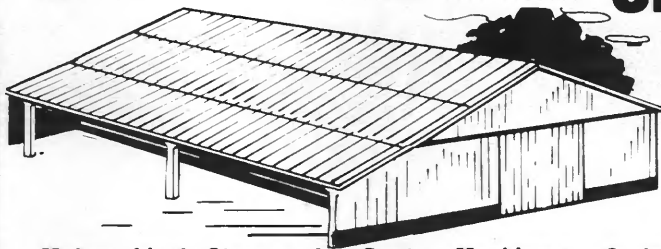
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### BEST EVER MACARONI AND CHEESE

- 8 ozs. (2 cups) elbow macaroni
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Dash of pepper
- 2 cups shredded process cheese
- Tomato slices

Cook macaroni according to package directions. Drain. Melt butter, blend in flour, add milk and cook, stir until thick. Add seasonings. Add 1 1/2 cups of the cheese, stir until melted. Place cooked macaroni in greased 10x6x1 1/2-inch baking dish. Pour sauce over macaroni, salt tomato slices and arrange on top, pushing edge of each slice into macaroni. Top with rest of cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Sprinkle with paprika. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

### CHICKEN SPAGHETTI CASSEROLE

- 4 cups chopped cooked chicken
- 2 cups chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped green pepper
- 2 cups grated cheese (1 cup inside and use other on top)
- 4 chopped pimientos
- 2 small cans mushrooms
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups cooked spaghetti
- 1 cup water chestnuts

Combine all ingredients and bake for about 1 hour covered. Uncover and bake until bubbly and cheese browns slightly. Makes a large casserole.

### LOU'S MEAT LOAF

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 chopped onion
- 1/2 green pepper, chopped
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 egg
- 1 cup cracker crumbs
- Salt and pepper to taste

Mix together ingredients. Shape into loaf and top with sauce made from 1 small can tomato sauce, 1/4 cup chili sauce and 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce. Bake at 350 degrees 1 hour.

### SQUASH CASSEROLE

- 2 lbs. yellow squash, sliced
- 1/4 cup onion, chopped
- 1 cup carrots, shredded
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. herb-seasoned stuffing mix
- 1/2 cup butter

Cook squash and onion in salted water for 5 minutes; drain. Combine soup and sour cream. Stir in carrots. Fold in drained squash. Combine stuffing mix and butter. Spread 1/2 of stuffing mix in bottom of 12 x 7 x 2" baking dish. Spoon vegetable mixture on top. Sprinkle remaining stuffing mix on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Serves 12.

### SCALLOPED CABBAGE

- 1 small head cabbage
- 1/2 cup can milk
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1/4 cup grated cheese
- Butter for topping

Cut cabbage in small wedges. Cook in salted water until tender. Drain thoroughly. Into greased casserole place alternate layers of cabbage and soup-milk-cheese mixture. Top with bread crumbs and dot generously with butter. Bake about 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Yield: 4-6 servings.

### FRESH OR FROZEN CORN PUDDING

- 1 quart corn, fresh or frozen
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 3 cups milk
- Salt to taste

Mix all ingredients together and put in greased baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until set.

### ANGEL FLAKE BISCUITS

- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 pkg. yeast, dissolved in 1/4 cup warm water
- 2 cups buttermilk

Sift flour and dry ingredients. Add milk, melted shortening and yeast. Mix well. Form into soft ball. Put in refrigerator for 12 hours, punching down if it rises. Roll out on floured board and use as desired. Keep unused dough in refrigerator and use as needed.



### BUTTERMILK MEATBALLS

- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 cup milk
- 2/3 cup fine dry bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup minced onion
- 2 1/2 teaspoons salt, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 6 tablespoons butter, divided
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 3 cups buttermilk
- 3 tablespoons prepared mustard

Combine beef, milk, crumbs, onion, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt and pepper. Shape into 32 balls. Brown well on all sides in 3 tablespoons butter. Remove meatballs from pan. Add remaining 3 tablespoons butter. Blend in flour, sugar and remaining 1 teaspoon salt. Add buttermilk and mustard; cook, stirring constantly, until thickened. Return meatballs to sauce. Cover and simmer to blend flavors and cook meatballs, about 20 minutes. Milk may be used if buttermilk is not available. Add 1 1/2 teaspoons additional flour when using milk.

### GERMAN CHOCOLATE PIE

- 1 pkg. (4-oz.) Baker's German chocolate
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cups evaporated milk
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 unbaked 10" pie shell
- 1 1/2 cups angel flake coconut
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts

Melt chocolate with butter over low heat; stir until blended. Remove from heat and gradually blend in milk. Combine cornstarch, salt, eggs and vanilla. Gradually blend this mixture with the chocolate mixture. Pour into pie shell. Mix coconut and nuts, sprinkle over filling. Bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes or until top is puffed. (Filling will be soft, but will set while cooling.) Cool at least 4 hours before serving.

### MISS OLGA'S LEMON CUP CAKES

- 4 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 3 egg whites, well beaten
- 5 tablespoons lemon juice
- Grated rind of 1 lemon
- 3 egg yolks, well beaten

Combine sugar, flour, salt and butter. Add lemon juice and rind. Add to egg yolks and milk, well mixed. Fold in egg whites. Pour into custard cups and bake in pan of hot water in moderate oven, 350 degrees, for 45 minutes. Serve with whipped cream. Serves 8. When done, cakes will have risen to the top, serve upside down.

### FRESH ORANGE CAKE

- 2 1/8 cups (2 cups plus 2 tablespoons) sifted flour
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 teaspoons double action baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon grated orange rind
- 1/3 to 1/2 cup unbeaten eggs (2)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Have ingredients at room temperature. Sift into bowl: flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Add shortening, milk and orange rind. Mix with electric mixer on medium speed for 2 minutes, scraping bottom and sides of bowl constantly. Add eggs. Beat 2 more minutes, scraping bowl constantly. Pour into 2 generously greased and floured round layer pans, 8"x1 1/2", or oblong pan 13"x9 1/2"x2". Bake layers 30 to 35 minutes; oblong 35 to 40 minutes. Cool before frosting.

### ORANGE FROSTING

Sift 2 1/4 cups confectioners' sugar; blend with 6 tablespoons shortening and 1/8 teaspoon salt. Stir in until smooth 1/4 cup orange juice and 1/4 teaspoon yellow food coloring. NOTE: If you use self-rising flour, omit baking powder and salt.

### LEMON CHESS PIE

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 tablespoon corn meal
- 4 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- Juice of 1 lemon

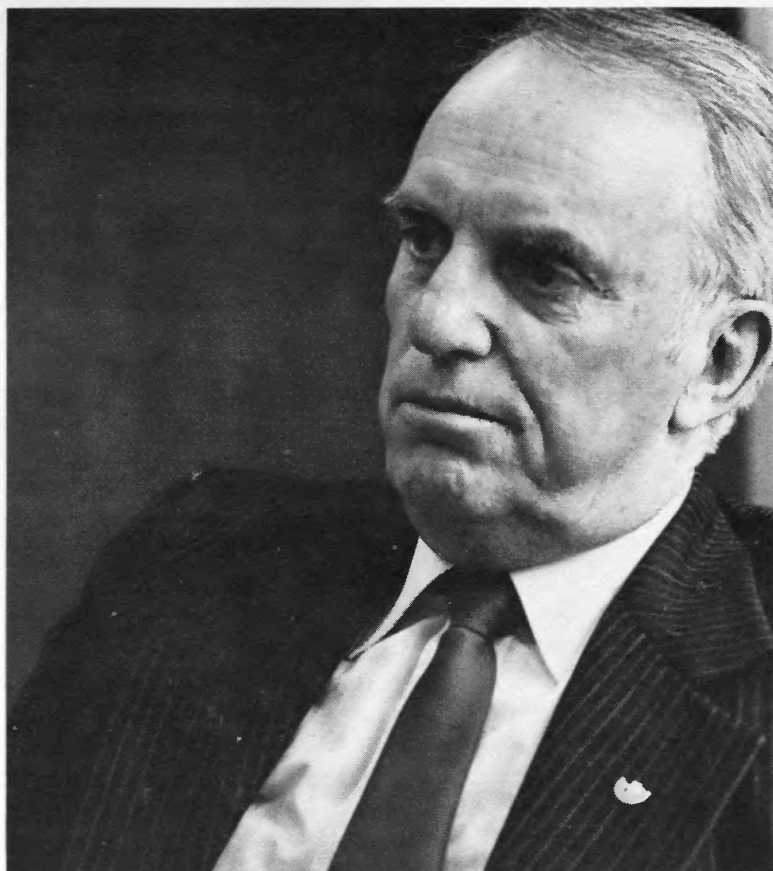
Mix sugar, flour and cornmeal in mixing bowl. Add eggs, milk and butter and lemon juice. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees until done.

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*Harold V. Hunter, a prominent Oklahoma farmer-rancher, is President Reagan's nominee to head the Rural Electrification Administration.*

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## Oklahoman Harold Hunter nominated by Reagan as REA Administrator



**H**arold V. Hunter, 63, of Waukomis, Oklahoma, has been nominated by President Reagan as Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). The Presidential appointment, subject to confirmation by the U.S. Senate, is for a term of 10 years.

Hunter, a prominent Oklahoma farmer-rancher, brings to the REA post a background of successful business enterprise combined with a prior record of distinguished public service at state and federal levels.

Hunter owned and operated HVH farms at Waukomis in Garfield County in association with his son, Losco, and son-in-law, John Loewen, prior to going to Washington to join the Reagan Administration. The HVH Farms operation, a 1,780 acre alfalfa and wheat-producing enterprise, is well known for its high-quality, registered Polled Hereford beef cattle. The HVH herd, raised for breeding stock and developed with selective care over a period of more than 40 years, was begun by Hunter when he obtained a small commercial registered herd from his father, V. J. Hunter, in 1935.

Beginning in 1962, Hunter was

elected to four successive two-year terms in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. After that first election, he was returned by Garfield County voters to Oklahoma City in 1964, 1966 and 1968, each time without opposition. He served as assistant floor minority leader and gained a reputation as an effective legislative leader able to work well with both his own party and majority legislators. In a statewide poll of news media editors, Hunter was ranked among the "Ten Most Effective" members of the House of Representatives by the United Press International news wire service.

The Hunter farm and ranch was without electricity until Harold Hunter was in high school. He recalls doing homework by kerosene lamp until Oklahoma Gas & Electric built lines to the farmstead. "I remember visiting our neighbors who had electric lights, and nobody envied more the people who had electricity and phones than I did. But my real dream for electricity was that we could finally have running water," Hunter says.

Hunter's nomination has an Illinois connection. He served as State

Executive Director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCA) in Oklahoma for nearly eight years, beginning in 1969. During the time Hunter headed the Oklahoma ASCS, Ray Lett was Illinois ASCS director. Their common activities brought them in close professional contact, and Lett, now executive assistant to John Block, the Illinoisan who is U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, says he recommended Hunter for REA Administrator, basing his recommendation on his observation of Hunter's service as Oklahoma ASCS director.

Harry Birdwell, manager of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, says Hunter was "generally well thought of and knowledgeable about agriculture and agricultural finance." Birdwell says he was hopeful that Hunter would "listen to different points of view and advise the Administration on ways to make the electric cooperatives stronger." The former manager of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, Czar Langston, worked with Hunter in the legislature and terms Hunter a strong supporter of rural electrification.



**A**mong the supplemental energy sources continuing to attract greatest consumer interest is solar. The question is just how to harness the sun's energy hinges on whether the best method is passive or active.

John Turrel, a rural Mount Vernon resident and a member of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, is editor and publisher of *The Electric Letter*, a trade publication. He has gone with passive, and he is happy with it.

His unit is attached to the south side of his house and is 16 feet long and eight feet, eight inches wide. The solar panes are made from dual-pane patio doors, and the knee and end walls are heavily insulated to prevent the escape of heat that comes in. The knee wall is made up of a two-inch-thick closed-cell foam sandwiched between concrete blocks and bricks. Half a foot of mineral wool and an inch of double-faced foam insulate the ceiling.

Turrel used a relatively new material to glaze the ends. It is a sheet of plastic one-fourth of an inch thick, with an air space built into the middle. It has the same properties as two near-spaced panes and is much



## Passive solar adds to comfort level

easier to cut and work with than glass.

Once collected, the heat is stored in the collector, which helps warm the Turrel home. There are 85 one-gallon jugs, each filled with black water, to soak up heat to be radiated into the home after the sun sets. "We had an awful time getting the water as dark as we wanted it," laughs Mrs. Turrel, whose job it was to overcome that particular hurdle. "I'd heard that one of the dyes used for clothing would work, but it wasn't as dark as

we wanted.

"We tried various mixtures of dyes and food colors, and what we eventually wound up with was a mixture of India ink and water."

Further heat absorption is provided by 500 pounds of sand, 3,500 pounds of gravel and 325 paving bricks in the floor. "We also have 48 black-painted concrete blocks to support work benches," Turrel notes, "and we expect to add some more, and we'll add water jugs, too. At this point

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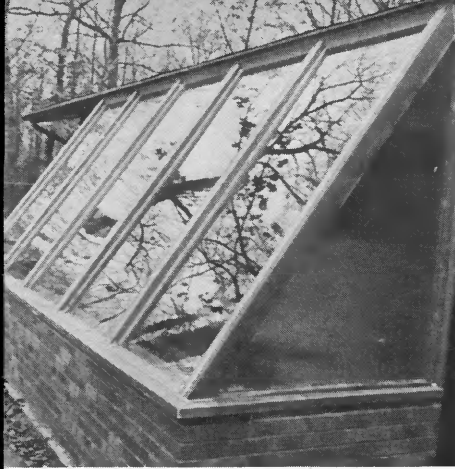
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At left: Turrell nails insulation in his passive solar unit. Above, the unit is attached to the south side of the Turrell home.

we're kind of experimenting with the placement of the jugs for the best efficiency."

While solar heat collection is needed in the winter, it can become excessive in the summer, and Turrell has taken that factor into consideration. His house is situated in a large grove of deciduous trees and their leaves will shade the collector during the summer. There is also a thermostatically controlled vent that will open a set of louvers to vent excess heat.

"We've gone in for other supplemental energy sources, too," Turrell notes, "in that we've made our fireplace more efficient by bringing in outside air for combustion and putting on tight-fitting glass doors."

Bringing in outside air proved to be something of a chore, he says, because the fireplace is about ten feet in from any outside wall. "We used about 15 feet of insulated duct to get the air where we wanted it," he relates, "because we brought the duct in through the top of a closet and then down to the firebox.

"We're not using nearly as much wood as we used to," he continues, "and we don't have floor drafts by the fireplace, either. Another benefit is that we don't have air drafts near the doors like we had in the past, when the air was fighting to get in to supply the fireplace's combustion air needs."

While Turrell's solar collector and fireplace improvements will not enable him to be energy independent, they do help. Not only do they save precious energy, they also improve the home's comfort level.

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I made this remarkable discovery when my son went on his first fishing trip with me. We hired this old Indian guide in a small town in Wisconsin.

When our guide showed Mark how to bait his hook, I noticed that he rubbed something on the bait just before Mark put the line in the lake. Within minutes Mark had himself a beautiful bass. You can imagine how pleased I was and Mark, of course, wanted more.

So the whole thing was repeated—the guide put on the bait, rubbed it again, and up popped another beauty. Meanwhile, I sat there patiently waiting for my first fish.

This went on all morning. Mark caught 30 bass and I got eight.

When I pulled the boat in at noon and paid off our Indian guide, I noticed that a small, unusual seed had apparently fallen from the guide's pocket into the bottom of our boat. The odor from the seed was quite strong and certainly different from anything I had ever smelled before. This was what he had rubbed on Mark's bait!

When we returned home the next day, I gave the seed to a chemist friend of mine. He analyzed it and duplicated it into a spray for me.

I could hardly wait for my next fishing trip. What I discovered on that

trip was absolutely unbelievable. I have never before caught fish like that. Every time I baited my hook, I sprayed it and up popped another fish.

I tested some more. I put spray on one bait and nothing on another. The sprayed bait got the fish almost immediately. The unsprayed bait got some nibbles, but nothing more.

I gave some of my friends samples of the spray to try and the results were the same—they caught fish like never before.

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*Below, Bud Reschke exhibits one of his art welding pieces: behind him is a candle holder, the piece that started the hobby. Near right, "Gandy Dancers" is a whimsical piece. Far right, "Friday at 3:15," a religious work, is popular with Bud's friends, who often ask for copies. While he does not like to do duplicates, he has made some 40 of these.*

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## European

**A** trip to Europe a dozen years ago resulted in an unusual hobby for a rural Geneseo man. Oddly enough, he did not make the trip.

Elwin "Bud" Reschke, a member of Farmers Mutual Electric Company, tells how his interest in art welding came about: "Our ancestors came here for Europe around the turn of the century, and my brother, Jim, and his wife, Dolores, went back to see relatives. We have aunts in Germany and Switzerland, and they went to see them both."

It was in Austria, between Germany and Switzerland, that the spark was struck, he notes. Browsing through a curio shop, Dolores saw a four-foot, welded chain-link candle holder that struck her fancy.

"She invited Jim to look at it," Bud says, "and, like most men, he wasn't very interested. Anyway, she prevailed and he looked. There were three things wrong. First, it cost too much. Second, they were touring the continent in a Volkswagen and didn't have room for it and, third, they had





## our sparks welding binge

flown over and the candle holder was heavy enough that they'd have had to pay extra to get it back."

Jim scratched his head a few minutes, Bud relates, and allowed as how he could build one every bit as good at home for a lot less. Dolores relented temporarily, but not without making a careful sketch, and they continued on their way.

"After they got home," Bud continued, "Dolores kept after Jim to build the candle holder. I was living with them and it looked like he'd never get around to it, so I decided to build it for her. I'd worked in construction, and in farming after that, and I'd had some welding experience. I didn't expect any trouble."

That was the beginning of a long series of religious and whimsical works of art built mostly from farm scraps, horseshoe nails and railroad spikes.

Bud, an outgoing farmer who is as quick to quip about his receding hairline as he is to joke about the poor showing his hogs make at fairs, says, "I'll use just about anything I can get

my hands on, as long as it can be welded or brazed. We had an old farm wagon on the place once, and most of the wood had rotted away. We shoved it into a pile and burned it, and I welded all the remaining stuff together. Turned out pretty good, too!"

Since he built the candle holder several years ago, Bud has cut, heated, bent, welded and brazed some 300 statues ranging from "Friday at 3:15," a railroad-spike creation that depicts Christ on the cross, to "Gandy Dancers," a piece showing three men pounding spikes in a section of railroad track.

"Friday at 3:15" is the most popular one I've done," Bud says, "and many people have asked me for copies of it. I don't really like to do duplicates, but I've made about 40 of them to give to friends and relatives.

"Another popular piece," Bud continues, "is one I did for my sister and brother-in-law for their 50th wedding anniversary. It shows a farmer and his wife standing side by side with the

number '50' in front of them. I had a lot of fun making it, and they enjoyed it, too."

And it is for the fun of making and the pleasure of giving that Bud sculpts his works. He does not sell them, but has given away dozens as gifts.

"I show them at County Extension exhibits," he says, "and I won a blue ribbon at the local level, and that entitled me to go to a regional meeting. I won the right there to display at the state exhibit, and I won a blue ribbon there, too. All in all, I have a state ribbon, three or four regional ones and eight or ten county ribbons, all blue," he says.

"Probably the greatest satisfaction," notes Bud, who married Dolores after Jim's death, "is that it has evolved into an opportunity for me to speak to various groups, I've spoke at mother-daughter and father-son banquets, scout groups and all kinds of meetings. I've found a great deal of delight in sharing my hobby with others. I guess that's really the best part of any hobby."

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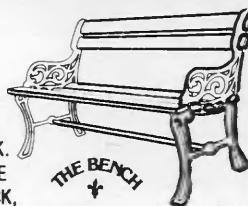
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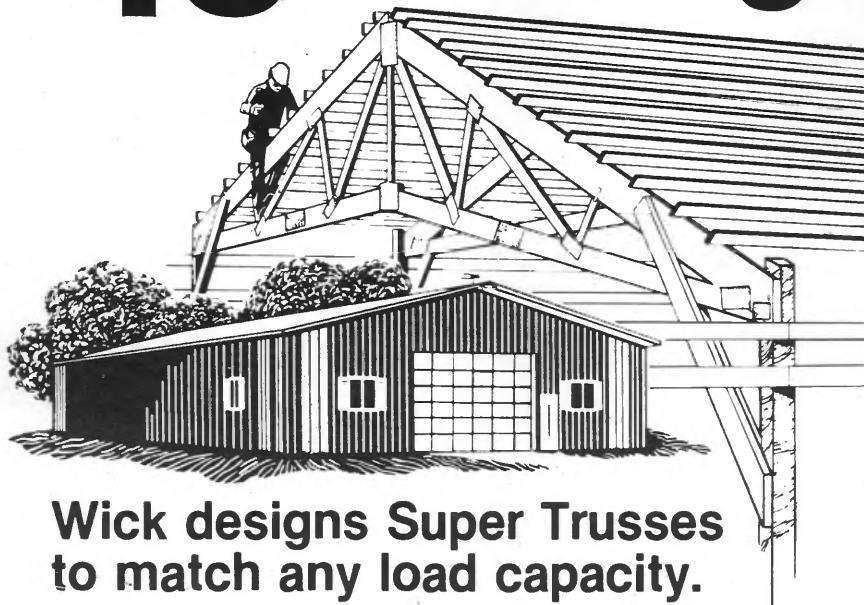
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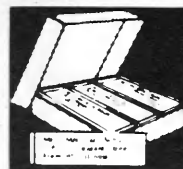
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