



September 1983

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Illinois Rural Electric News

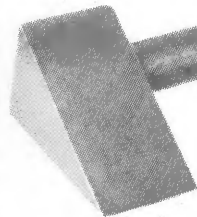
# SOTZ MONSTER MAUL

FAST-N EASY WOOD SPLITTING

12-LB.  
HIGH CARBON  
STEEL HEAD

HIGH STRENGTH STEEL HANDLE

1-YEAR TRIAL OFFER  
AT OUR RISK



HARDENED  
SPLITTING  
EDGE

## \$24.94

DELIVERED (INCLUDES TAX)  
LOWER PRICED THAN IN 1980

OUR 27th YEAR

- Ends broken handles, stuck axes and flying wedges.
- Hardened splitting edge lasts and lasts. Resists deforming.
- Splits most logs in one lick.
- No struggling lifting heavy logs up to high priced power splitters.
- No gasoline, no set-up, no takedown.
- Shape of head prevents sticking.
- Drop 'em, saw 'em, stand 'em up and split 'em.
- No gimmicks, just simple physics.

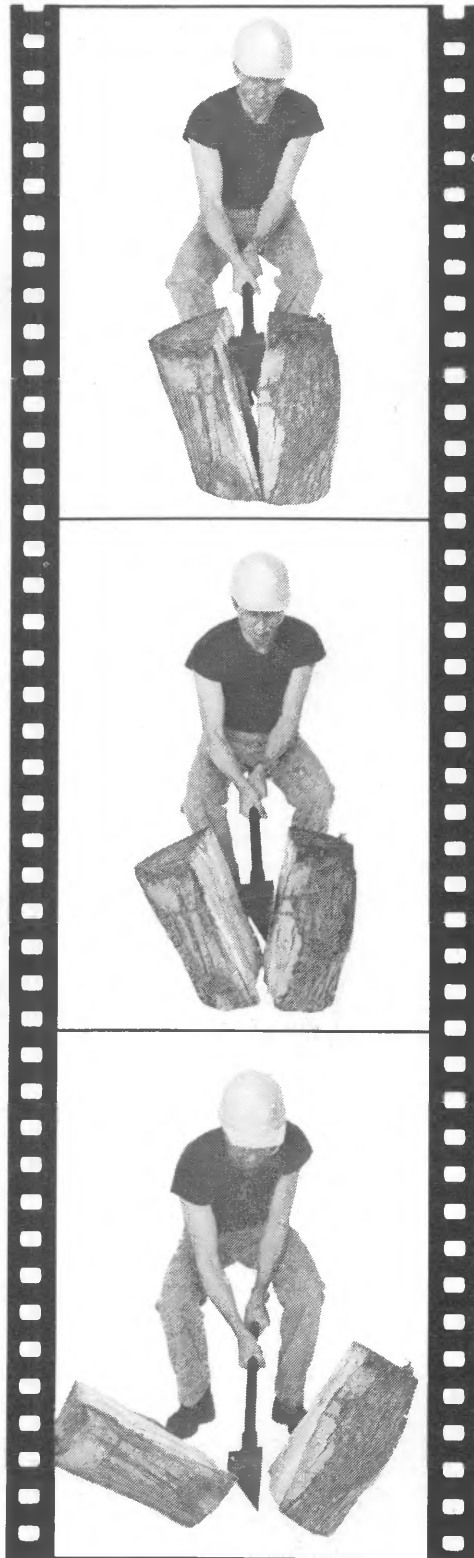
**GUARANTEED 10 YEARS  
AGAINST FAILURE**

For many years, you've seen our ads and read unsolicited letters from folks just like you, saying how unbelievably effective the Monster Maul really is. Try a **MONSTER MAUL AT OUR RISK!** Within one year, if you don't think it's the fastest, least tiring method of splitting firewood, let us know, and we will give you your money back, including shipping . . . plus it's guaranteed against failure for 10 years.

Weight: (Total weight 15 lb.)  
Price: **\$19.94** Factory pickup.  
**\$24.94** Delivered to your door.

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CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-321-9892  
Inside Ohio 1-216-236-5021  
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Sorry No C.O.D.'s

Sotz Inc., 13668 Station Rd., Columbia Station, OH 44028



## GOING STRONG

Good Morning Monster Makers! When the UPS man delivered my maul, he looked at me — I am 5'4" and weigh 140 pounds — and said what are you going to do with it? I don't split wood all day but when I need to, your maul is such an improvement over the equipment that I had. I am so pleased. I will be 90 years old in June.

Lewis B. Plummer, Middletown, R.I.  
**ADD "UMPH"  
TO YOUR SWING!**

Just a few lines to tell you how pleased I am with your Monster Maul. I purchased your 15 lb. about 2 months ago, and have since split at least 5 cords of firewood, mostly red oak and elm. The extra weight (as compared to conventional splitting mauls) handles very easily and adds extra UMPH to your swing! It is very well balanced, durable, and makes wood-splitting almost fun! My father has an 8 lb. splitting maul with a conventional wooden handle and has had to buy at least 3 replacement handles in the last couple years. Your all steel handle makes the occasional over strike much less expensive, and handle replacement a thing of the past. I'm not denying that I've gotten hung up a few times when splitting elm, since elm is such a stringy wood. But the oak splits first swing every time, even the biggest blocks. Thanks again for a fine product in the Monster Maul. P.S. Would you please send me a copy of the "Famous Sotz News" with money and energy saving ideas. Thank You.

William Coolidge, III, Jay, NY  
**JOIN THE CLUB**

If your Lift-N-Saw is just half as good as my Monster Maul I'll be happy. I love my maul! Boy, what a time saver! I've used it now for two seasons and am proud to own one. I also love your Sotz newspaper. Keep it coming. Sure got a hoot out of the article on "How Not to use the Monster Maul." P.S. Do you think we could get a M.M. owners' club started?

Marlo Whitaker, Brigham City, UT  
**DOCTOR REPORTS!**

I recently purchased your "Monster Maul". It is gratifying to find a mail order item that is exactly as advertised. I split knotty, live oak with little difficulty. The most amazing thing to me is that compared to all the other systems, I have ever used, the Monster never gets stuck. Also, the newspaper that accompanies the maul is full of useful information. Being on the receiving end of many work-related injuries, I appreciate the emphasis on safety as well.

Ira B. Fishman, M.D., King City, CA  
**MONSTEROUS!**

This letter is being written to thank you for letting the world in on your wonderful, high quality, and simply fantastic, tools & equipment. Your "Monster Maul" is just the most hard working, beat-taking "Monsteroous" device that has ever come on the market, and needless to say, we are totally happy with it. As we are located in a very wooded area, we have found it necessary to use wood heat in our offices & school in the winter months, and I don't have to tell you that without your "Monster Maul" we would have never made it.

Rabbi Israel Stock, Trumbull, CT

# Illinois Rural Electric News

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## Cooperative sales outpace industry

Rural electricity sales rose 2 percent last year, far outpacing sales for the utility industry as a whole, according to the 1982 Statistical Report, Rural Electric Borrowers, which was published in August by the Rural Electrification Administration.

The annual report known more commonly by its publication number, one-dash-one, shows that rural electric sales increased to 152 billion kilowatt-hours last year, producing revenues of \$8.8 billion. Sales for all electric utilities, meanwhile, actually fell 2.65 percent.

The report reveals rapid increases in the share of electricity that co-ops supply to themselves. In 1982, generation and transmission co-ops supplied distribution co-ops with 71.2 percent of their electricity, 42.2 percent of it from the G&Ts' own generating sources. That's up from 1981 when G&Ts provided 69.1 percent of the power for distribution systems, 40.9 percent generated by the G&Ts. Less than 10 years ago, in 1975, G&Ts supplied about 59 percent of the electricity to rural systems, 26.7 percent of

the total coming from their own power plants.

There were about 390,000 new meter hookups in 1982, according to the report, and 138,000 disconnects for a total gain of 252,000.

Rural electric systems operate 2,036,416 miles of transmission and distribution lines. Twenty-seven thousand miles of that line was energized in 1982.

Rural electric systems reported 55,258 full-time employees at the end of 1982, a decline of two-tenths of 1 percent from 1981. The average residential rural electric consumer used 905 kilowatt-hours a month in 1982 and paid a monthly bill averaging \$55.48.

Residential consumers accounted for about 62 percent of all rural electric sales in 1982; large commercial and industrial, 24.5 percent; small commercial and industrial, 8 percent; irrigation, 3 percent; sales to other utilities, 1.5 percent; and sales to other customers such as community centers and churches, 1 percent.

Rural Electric Newsletter

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## September 1983 Volume 41 Number 5

Published by Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

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Larry F. Elledge  
Editor

Gordon M. Olsen  
Managing Editor

Jack D. Halstead  
Associate Editor

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Cover: Don Skinner, a rural Pawnee farmer, was injured in a farming accident, but he is working his way back with the help of his dad, Leonard, who is pictured here with him, and his family and neighbors. His dismay at the lack of information for handicapped farmers has led to his working to help others. (See story on pages 26, 27 and 28.)

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# Percy, Madigan and Price receive 1983 IEC Public Service Awards

Three members of the Illinois Congressional delegation — one Senator and two Representatives — are recipients of the 1983 Illinois Electric Cooperative Public Service Award.

Senator Charles H. Percy and Representatives Edward R. Madigan and Melvin Price were announced as recipients of the annual awards during the 42nd annual meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield in August.

The three have long, distinguished records of service to and support for rural electrification in Illinois and nationwide.

Percy, a Senator from Illinois since 1967, was cited for his continuing efforts to preserve the insured and guaranteed loan programs administered through the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), co-sponsorship of the Rural Electrification and Telephone Revolving Fund Self-Sufficiency Act of 1983, support in the passage of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 as it relates to the Rural Electrification Act, and for his leadership as chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and member of the Governmental Affairs Committee of Congress in recognizing the importance of agriculture and rural electrification in foreign trade and in maintaining Illinois and the nation at the forefront in agricultural commodity exports.

Madigan, a member of Congress since 1973 and an Illinois legislator from 1967 through 1972, was also cited for his efforts in preserving the REA loan programs, co-sponsorship of the Revolving Fund Self-Sufficiency Act of 1983 and the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 and for his leadership as the ranking minority member of the House Agriculture Committee and as a member of the House Energy and Commerce committees.

Price has been a member of the



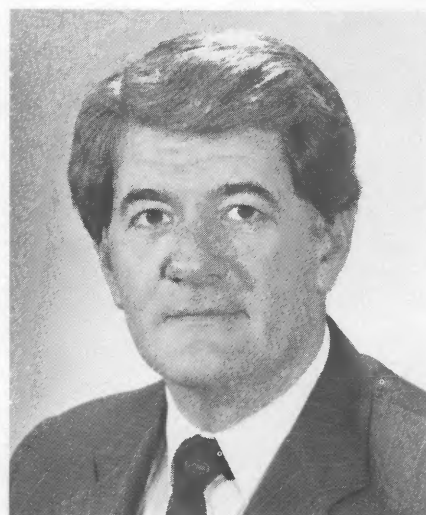
*Senator Charles H. Percy, left, is one of three members of the Illinois Congressional delegation to receive the 1983 Illinois Electric Cooperative Public Service Award. Robert W. Rippelmeyer of Valmeyer, president of the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, made the presentation to Percy at the AIEC headquarters in Springfield.*



*Melvin Price*

House of Representatives since 1945. He too was honored for his efforts in favor of rural electrification loan programs and for his support of the Revolving Fund Self-Sufficiency Act of 1983.

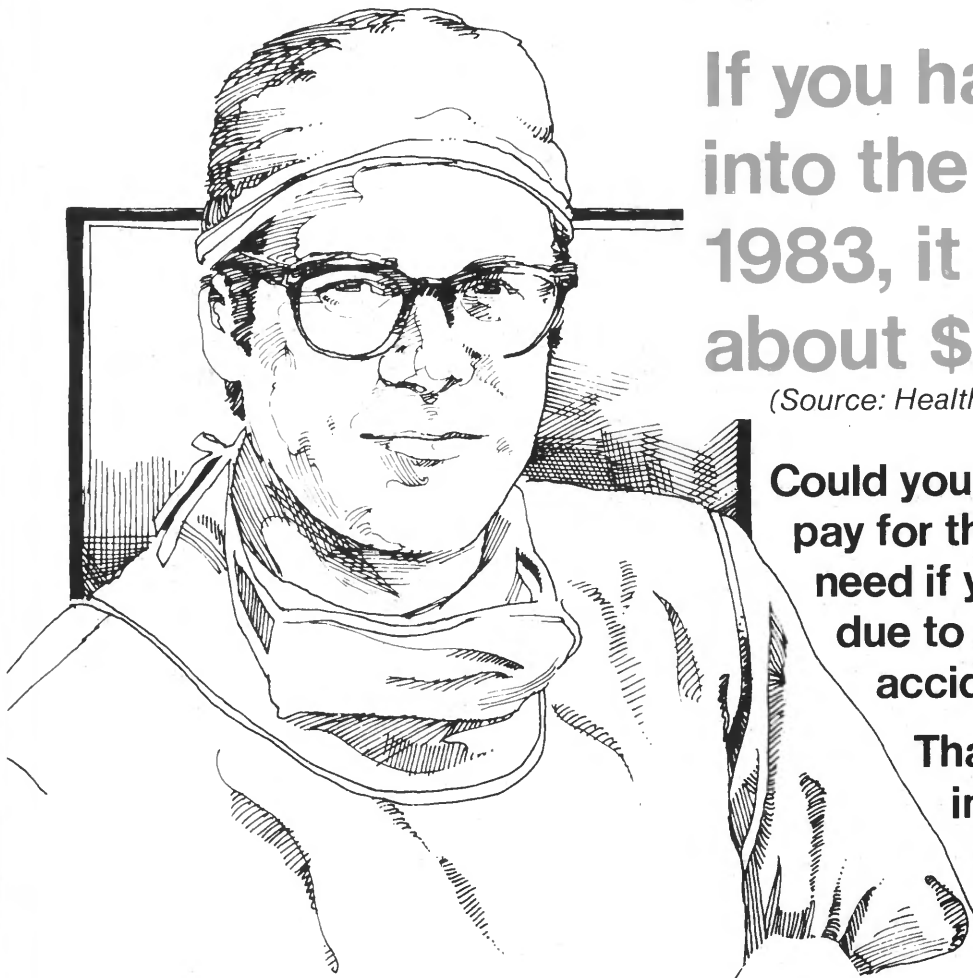
He was also cited for his chairmanship of the former House Joint Committee on Atomic Energy which for more than 25 years after World War II



*Edward R. Madigan*

worked closely with the Atomic Energy Commission to develop nuclear power, and as co-author of the Price-Anderson Act, which, by providing federal insurance for possible nuclear power plant accidents, encouraged the development of nuclear energy.

Madigan represents Illinois' 15th District, and Price represents the 21st District.



If you have to go into the hospital in 1983, it will cost you about \$275 a day.

*(Source: Health Insurance Institute)*

Could you afford to get—and pay for the kind of care you'd need if you were hospitalized due to an illness or accident?

That's why it's so important to be sure you have enough insurance protection.

**For All ILLINOIS Rural Electric Members!**

**GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE — YOU CANNOT BE TURNED DOWN**

**“CO-OP” EXTRA HOSPITAL MONEY PLANS**

**PAYS UP TO**

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Send coupon **TODAY** for **FREE** information on how you can **“CO-OP”** your hospital bills!

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# Legislation and economy topics of rural electric leaders

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## Financing rural electrification and high costs of providing adequate service draw attention

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Legislative and economic issues dominated discussions by Illinois rural electric leaders during the 42nd annual meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives held in Springfield in August.

Representatives of the state's 30 electric cooperatives focused on legislative proposals designed to provide for adequate financing of the program in the years ahead and on the high costs associated with maintaining adequate, reliable electric service in rural areas.

Robert D. Partridge, executive vice president and general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), said legislation to keep the Rural Electrification Administration loan program solvent is critical for the survival of this nation's electric cooperatives.

The legislation, entitled Rural Electrification and Telephone Revolving Fund Self-Sufficiency Act of 1983, is the result of recommendations by an NRECA committee on financing that

have been endorsed by the organization's membership. The act was introduced into the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in May.

One major provision of the legislation would allow interest rates of new REA insured loans to be adjusted periodically to a level just high enough to preserve the financial stability of REA's revolving fund. Money for the revolving fund comes from interest and principal repayments on old REA loans to rural electric systems. No tax funds are involved in REA loans today. The current interest rate on REA loans is fixed by law at five percent.

"There's no escaping the fact that this change would result in an increase in the financing costs borne by the REA borrower," Partridge said. "We believe strongly, however, that this is a price worth paying to assure the long-term viability of REA financing."

Electric cooperatives now receive approximately 70 percent of their loan funds from the REA revolving fund.

The remaining 30 percent comes from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). CFC is an independent, self-help financing institution created by its member rural electric systems to provide supplemental loan funds.

Among the 37 Senate co-sponsors of the bill are Senators Charles Percy and Alan Dixon of Illinois. Congressmen Thomas Corcoran, Richard Durbin, Lane Evans, Edward Madigan, Paul Simon and Henry Hyde of Illinois are among the 150 House sponsors of the bill.

The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit and Rural Development is expected to hold hearings on the bill in early October. No date has yet been set for hearings by the Senate Agriculture Committee, but Partridge said that he expects them to begin in October also.

A difficult situation becoming even more difficult is how Richard H. Stanley described the problems of electric cooperatives during the final



general session of the meeting. Stanley is president of Stanley Consultants, a national utility engineering firm based in Muscatine, Iowa.

The investor-owned public utilities and the member-owned electric cooperatives share many difficulties, especially rising costs, financing and uncertain load growth, but the rural electric cooperatives "have special problems which are even more serious," Stanley said.

Financing is having more of an impact on electric cooperatives than on the investor-owned utilities because of the proportionately greater interest rate increases for the cooperatives, Stanley pointed out.

"While the interest rates for the investor-owned segment of the industry were doubling in the past 10 years,

interest rates paid by distribution cooperatives more than doubled — from two to approximately five percent," Stanley said. "The interest rates paid by generation and transmission cooperatives increased from two to as high as 14 or 15 percent."

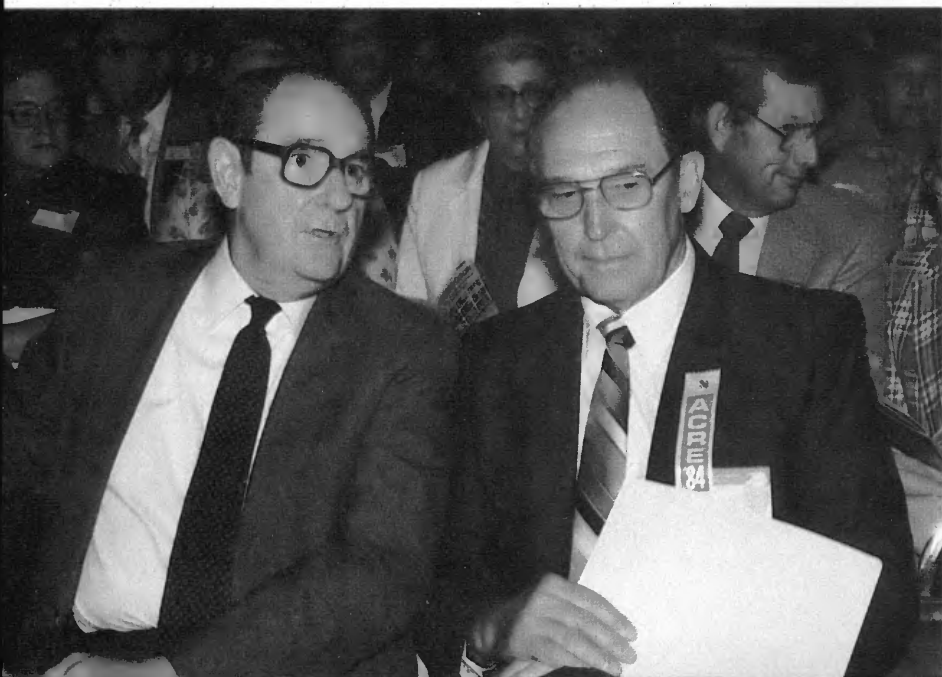
The cooperatives are also facing increasing difficulties in securing adequate, affordable financing, according to Stanley. "There seems to be little assurance that any of the Rural Electrification Administration insured loan programs will continue indefinitely," he said.

Cooperatives would have a difficult time obtaining capital without the REA loan programs or government guarantees of cooperative financing. Private investors accustomed to utility equities from 40 to 60 percent would

find cooperatives unattractive lending prospects because of their low equity, Stanley said. Distribution cooperatives average 31 percent nationwide, while in Illinois that figure is about 35 percent. The national average equity for generation and transmission cooperatives is three percent.

Also contributing to the cooperatives' problems is lower consumer density, Stanley said. The electric utility industry averages 30 to 40 consumers per mile of line, while distribution cooperatives in Illinois average about four per mile. That accounts for the large difference in revenue between investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives.

Robert W. Rippelmeyer of Valmeyer, AIEC board president, expressed in his report concern over



*Clockwise from opposite page: Corn Belt Electric Cooperative directors, from left, John W. H. Tompkins of LeRoy, Thomas Johns of Delavan, Stephen Schertz of El Paso, and Ralph Kahle of Gridley. Richard H. Stanley of Muscatine, Iowa, a featured speaker, talks with Herbert L. Aden, left, of Newman and Dean Starr of Nauvoo; Aden is a director of Illini Electric Cooperative and Starr is on the board of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. Robert D. Partridge, left, NRECA executive vice president and general manager, and Stanley E. Great-house of Johnsonville, Illinois director on the NRECA board.*

the uncertainty of REA financing, warning members that the electric cooperatives' problems had not been solved and the fight for survival was not over. The electric cooperatives have a number of friends in Washington who understand the program and believe it should be funded and continued, he said. He urged members to work at all levels of government to ensure continuation of the REA program.

Other speakers at the annual meeting included Charles B. Gill, governor of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC); Thomas H. Moore, executive vice president and general manager of the AIEC; C. E. Ferguson, manager of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon, and a CFC director; and Stanley E. Greathouse, director of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield, and the NRECA.

After focusing their attention on problems affecting the consumer-owned electric cooperatives in Illinois, the association's board of directors met to reorganize for the coming year and named Rippelmeyer to a third one-year term as president. Other association officers include Wayne A.

Estes of Mt. Vernon, vice president; Donovan Lawyer of Industry, secretary; Kenneth Marlow of Huntsville, treasurer; Moore of Springfield, executive vice president, and Yvonne Rhodes of Springfield, assistant secretary.

During the business session, 15 directors and alternate directors were elected to two-year terms to represent their member-cooperatives on the board of directors. Elected to their first terms are William P. Raber of Saybrook, who will represent Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, and Lawrence Lycan of Marshall, representing Edgar Electric Co-operative. They succeed long-time AIEC directors Clement Ikins of Onarga and Byron G. McCoy of Paris, each of whom chose not to be a candidate for reelection as a director of the AIEC. Ikins, a past president of the AIEC, has represented EIPC on the AIEC board since 1969; McCoy has represented Edgar Electric continuously since 1972.

Ikins and McCoy were honored for their contributions to the AIEC and for their long years of dedicated service on the board of directors. Rippelmeyer presented each a resolu-

tion of appreciation during the first general session of the annual meeting.

Members of the AIEC board are: Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Wayne L. Laning, Mt. Sterling; Clay Electric Co-operative, Carl Barnick, Mason; Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Wilbert H. Rueter, Carlyle; Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, William S. Reedy, Lovington; Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, Thomas Johns, Delavan; Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, William P. Raber, Saybrook; Edgar Electric Co-operative Association, Lawrence Lycan, Marshall; Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, A. C. Hayer, Sparta; Farmers Mutual Electric Company, Darwin Mann, Geneseo; Illini Electric Cooperative, Clarence C. Maddox, Allerton; Illinois Rural Electric Co., Harvey L. Vortman, Bluffs; Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Vincent Fredrickson, Victoria; Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Vernon Law, Savanna; McDonough Power Cooperative, Donovan Lawyer, Industry; M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, Albert W. Schoen, Litchfield; Menard Electric Cooperative, Howard W. Montgomery, Petersburg; Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Robert W. Rippelmeyer, Valmeyer; Norris Electric Cooperative, Frank Seiler, Dundas; Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, Herbert Niemeyer, Auburn; Shelby Electric Cooperative, Kenneth Kensil, Tower Hill; Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Bill Cadle, Marion; Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Raymond C. Snell, Thebes; Southern Illinois Power Co-operative, Milo F. Thurston, Pulaski; Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Charles E. Krejci, Edwardsville; Soyland Power Cooperative, Allen Sisk, Mt. Vernon; Spoon River Electric Co-operative, Kenneth Shelby, Lewistown; Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Wayne A. Estes, Mt. Vernon; Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Stanley E. Greathouse, Johnsonville; Western Illinois Electrical Coop., Donald I. Kerr, Sr., Warsaw; and Western Illinois Power Cooperative, Kenneth Marlow, Huntsville.

The AIEC is the statewide service organization for the 27 electric distribution and three generation and transmission cooperatives in Illinois, which provide electric service to approximately 170,000 member-owners.



*Officers of the AIEC board elected at the close of the meeting include, seated from left, Robert W. Rippelmeyer, Valmeyer, president; Wayne A. Estes, Mt. Vernon, vice president; Donovan Lawyer, Industry, secretary; and, standing from left, Kenneth Marlow, Huntsville, treasurer; and Thomas H. Moore, Springfield, executive vice president.*



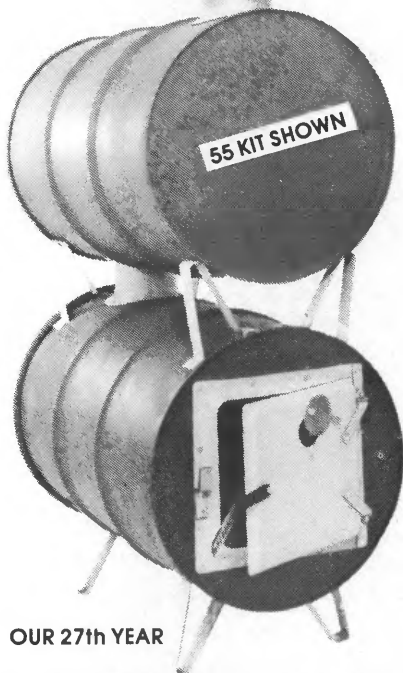
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Burns over 24 hours

**TRY A SOTZ HEATER FOR ONE YEAR AT OUR RISK!**

- Produces more heat than 2 or 3 high priced woodstoves.
- Tremendous radiating surface area gives you more heat with less wood.
- Airtight design and draft control engineered to limit the amount of oxygen entering stove for controlled, safe, efficient heat. Prevents over-firing so drums can't burn up.
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Thousands in use by U.S. Army, Navy, Dept. of Nat. Resources, Agriculture, Federal, state and local government agencies.



OUR 27th YEAR

**\$34.92** 55-Gal. bottom kit factory pick-up

**\$26.94** 30 Gal. bottom kit factory pick-up

Kit converts 55 gal., or 30 to 15 gal., drum (not supplied) into high capacity stoves.

You've seen our ads and read unsolicited testimonials from folks just like you for many years. Before you spend \$400 to \$500 on a wood heater, try a **SOTZ HEATER** kit. If (within one year) you don't agree it outperforms any wood heater money can buy or (within 10 years), if the kit cracks, warps or burns up, your money will be refunded, including shipping charges.

Use of draft control allows you to heat large or small areas. Basement installation heats your entire home. Great for your garage, workshop, or cabin. Top drum squeezes 60% more BTU's from heat normally lost up the chimney. Heavy steel kit bolts together quick and easy.

• ALL MODELS SAFETY TESTED TO UNDERWRITERS LAB. SPECS. BY GEISSER ENGRS.

## THE ONLY KIT SOLD

- With enough nuts and bolts to complete stove.
- Sotz Top Drum Kits include connector pipe, others don't.
- 55 Gal. Stove has king size 15½" diagonal fuel door. Less wood splitting, easier fire tending.
- 30 Gal. Sotz has bigger opening (9¼" rnd.) than other brands' 55 gal. kits.

FREE INFO: Add even more efficiency to the already super efficient Sotz Stove with a genuine Corning Brand® Catalytic Combustor, easily fits existing Sotz 2-Drum Heaters. Learn about heating water, drying wood, fireplace-to-woodstove.

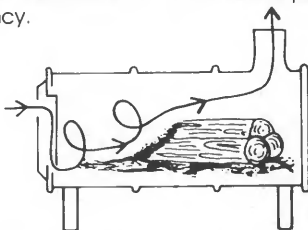
	PRICE: DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR	FACTORY PICK-UP
30-Gal. - Bottom	\$30.94	\$26.94
55-Gal. - Bottom	38.93	34.92
Top Kit fits both	20.93	17.92

(Drums Not Supplied)

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Inside Ohio 1-216-236-5021  
or SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER  
Sorry No C.O.D.'s

**SPECIFICATIONS:** Door, door frame, flue collar, draft control, internal draft channel of 13 ga. steel, legs, 1/8 in. steel; hinges, latch, catch of 3/16 in. steel; nuts and bolts. Top Drum; Connector flanges, pipe assembly, 4 nesting brackets, nuts and bolts.

Patented INTERNAL DRAFT CHANNEL-Air entering top draft control is preheated as it is drawn down inside of door and is sucked into bottom of heater with a turbulent action, mixing with the wood gases. This makes the Sotz stove tops in efficiency.



**SPARK-PROOF DESIGN . . .** Because of our internal draft channel, hot sparks cannot jump out of heater as in others with draft straight open to fire.

Sotz Inc., 13668 Station Rd., Columbia Station, OH 44028

## "THE COMEDIAN"

I knew there was a catch to the stove kit and Monster Maul. For the past 3 years I've read your ads and successfully resisted. Finally I weakened and bought both the maul and kit for the 2 Barrel stove and as I suspected, there had to be a catch. It does heat a basement and upper floor of a 25'x40' building. I'll admit that it does hold the fire for 16-18 hours effortlessly. Sure there are not hot spots or sparks. And maybe the ease of assembly does impress me. Some of my neighbors even agree that the maul is better than a 6-pak of wedges and axes. But: If this whole set-up is so all fired great, efficient, convenient, dependable, clean, and low cost, why won't my wife volunteer to cut the wood?

Dr. Larry Vickrey, Louisiana, MO

## SNAP! CRACKLE! POP!

Please send current prices as I wish to order another 30 HDD kit. So far, it heats

better and uses less wood, so the Ashley is gone and the "Wonderwood" is next to be replaced.

Second Letter

Sotz heaters hold coals thru the night where units with grates will not. Sotz has no grates to warp and disintegrate, nor firebrick to slow heat and crack/crumble. Sotz heaters also give instant heat! They are easy to assemble. They heat the same space hotter with less wood consumption, they are very efficient heat exchangers! **SIMPLE - CHEAP - EFFECTIVE - WONDERFUL!**

Jim Abatiell, Mendon, VT

## BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

How pleased I am with your 55 gallon heater. I turned my thermostat down to 62 degrees last Monday, November 23rd, and have not had to use any of Columbia Gas's high priced gas for heating since. I live in an 80 year old plus home with no insulation and my home temperature has averaged 70-72 degrees. Needless to say,

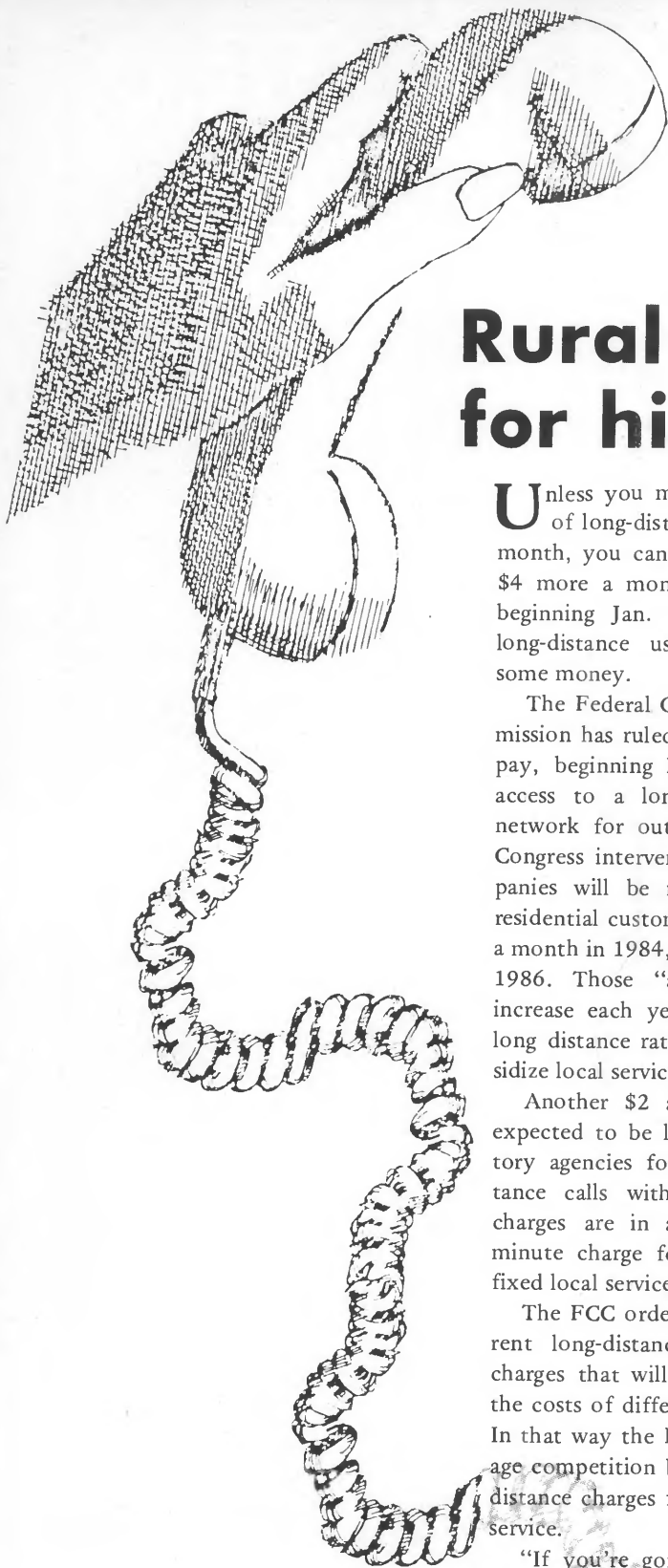
your kit is the greatest heating item going! Thank you for this great heating system, and my only regret is that I didn't discover it sooner!

Michael P. Roob, Fremont, OH

## "DISREGARD THE DIEHARDS"

I have used the Sotz double drum stove for 8 years now. It completely heats 3000 sq. ft. of my residence. My Sotz kit has cut wood consumption in half and requires much less attention feeding the stove. After seeing my stove and the results it gives, several friends have ordered one like it. Of course, there are those diehards who aren't satisfied unless they can spend \$600-\$800 for a heating unit. We Sotz users just smile and mentally count our blessings! My son is 13 years old now, and I believe the two of us can make a few extra bucks by selling our surplus wood.

Russell McGuire, Glasgow, KY



## Rural areas brace for higher phone costs

Unless you make about \$25 worth of long-distance telephone calls a month, you can expect to pay \$2 to \$4 more a month for phone service beginning Jan. 1. If you're a heavy long-distance user, you could save some money.

The Federal Communications Commission has ruled that customers must pay, beginning New Year's Day, for access to a long-distance telephone network for out-of-state calls. Unless Congress intervenes, local phone companies will be required to bill each residential customer a maximum of \$2 a month in 1984, \$3 in 1985 and \$4 in 1986. Those "access charges" will increase each year until 1990, when long distance rates will no longer subsidize local service.

Another \$2 a month or more is expected to be levied by state regulatory agencies for access to long distance calls within the state. Those charges are in addition to the per-minute charge for each toll call and fixed local service fees.

The FCC order will break your current long-distance bill into various charges that will more closely reflect the costs of different types of service. In that way the FCC hopes to encourage competition by disentangling long-distance charges from subsidized, local service.

"If you're going to have competition in long-distance ... then you must have access charges. There's no way around it," says Karl Korsmo, manager for Ernst & Whinney's telecommunications consulting group in Tacoma, Wash.

Access charges are a response to the pending antitrust settlement between the U.S. Department of Justice and AT&T. The settlement will break up

the telephone giant, spinning its 22 local operating companies off into a separate corporation, allowing the parent company to expand its telecommunications operations. Along with that action, deregulation of the long distance and equipment segments of the industry is intended to bring heavy competition, significantly reducing per-minute charges for toll calls.

The industry's reorganization, however, already has resulted in phone company requests for rate hikes. Especially in areas served by Bell companies, local rates are inching upward in anticipation of the Jan. 1 changes.

And not everyone agrees that the expected drop in toll charges will benefit consumers.

Rural telephone customers who never place long-distance calls, for example, must pay the access charges anyway, raising their bills in January by \$2-\$4 but saving them no money from lower per-minute charges for long-distance calls.

Rural telephone subscribers can expect to pay more than their urban neighbors after Jan. 1 because of sparse populations that do not lure competitors. That gap is expected to widen in future years as the access charges increase.

The goal of the new rule is to make different kinds of phone service pay their own way. Currently, subscribers pay more than cost for long-distance calls and less than cost for local service. This was intended to keep down rates so local service could be available to all Americans. Similarly, inexpensive toll calls between large cities are overpriced in order to subsidize the very expensive service of connecting rural towns.

A rural subscriber who makes fre-

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

quent long-distance calls will see a monthly telephone bill decrease because of lower per-minute charges. But because access charges are not optional, those who rarely dial long-distance numbers will be paying about \$4 more a month in 1984, and up to \$23 more in 1990, according to an Ernst & Whinney study.

The new system will probably benefit businesses and residential customers who make heavy use of long-distance service. But for people on fixed or low incomes, especially in rural areas, who limit use of their telephones to save on toll charges, the new bills could be prohibitive.

Other rural residents will be further disadvantaged.

In some rural areas, per-minute charges for toll calls may not drop at all because competition will not force them down as it will in big cities. And many rural telephone cooperatives may not be able to supply access to

long-distance networks for \$2 a month. One very rural co-op in Texas may have to charge consumers as much as \$27 a month for interstate access alone by 1990, compared with the estimated 1990 national average of \$7 to \$8.

The FCC has anticipated the worst of such problems by establishing a pool of money which will be funded by long-distance carriers and used by rural phone companies to subsidize access charges that skyrocket to more than double the national average.

"FCC is banking on everything happening so gradually that people won't be upset about it," says Andrew Brown, legislative counsel for the National Telephone Cooperative Association, a Washington, D.C.-based trade organization that represents 400 co-ops. "But people won't get used to it."

Brown's organization is working with several congressmen on legislation

to lower rural access charges. His group suggests that the access charges be paid by the long-distance companies or be built back into long-distance rates so people who don't make toll calls won't have to pay for access to a long-distance network they don't choose to use.

But he concedes, "It's going to take some time to evolve. It isn't a problem yet." He said Congress won't act until constituents apply pressure. And that won't happen, Brown says, until after the access charges begin to hike phone bills Jan. 1.

"As this decision affects consumer bills directly in early 1984, public reactions may be incredulous," says Richardson. "Perhaps as many as 2 percent of the customers who will be affected have heard about it. Just wait for the other 98 percent."

By Sharon O'Malley  
Rural Electric News Service

## Illinois telephone cooperatives evaluating FCC order's impact

The Federal Communications Commission's order on telephone access charges, its effects, and administration were the major topics of the 19th annual meeting of the six members of the Illinois Telephone Cooperative Association in July in Springfield.

The original decree provided for monthly charges of \$4 per subscriber in the first stage of the phase out of subsidies to local telephone service by long distance toll revenues. An additional \$2 could be recovered through a secondary charge, either flat rate or usage sensitive.

However, just before the ITCA meeting, the FCC handed down a modified ruling on interstate access charges that limited residential charges the first year to \$2, established a six-year transition schedule and eliminated the end user usage fee. It also set an initial flat \$6 per line charge for business subscribers.

In addition, both the original decree and its modification provide for establishment of intrastate toll access charges, leaving to the individual states responsibility for setting fees and pro-

cedures for distribution of the revenues.

John F. Tharp, executive vice president of the Illinois Telephone Association (ITA), told member-cooperative directors and managers that efforts to set up the intrastate exchange carrier association to administer in-state toll distributions was a "horrendous task" and although hearings were under way before the Illinois Commerce Commission, nothing had been settled. He predicted Illinois charges would mirror the interstate charges since the state lacks the means of monitoring compliance if it deviates from the FCC-mandated system.

He said there was likely to be little uniformity of charges among the intrastate carriers and stressed repeatedly that there remained much work to be done before the Jan. 1 changeover.

The ITA, he reported, had been ordered by the ICC to work up plans for the state Exchange Carrier Association (ECA) to handle rate filings and to contract for the bill processing for its member telecommunication utilities.

Tharp said it was possible that the

ECA could become an entity separate from the Illinois Telephone Association and could include a state level fund to preserve some sort of subsidy to aid carriers in the higher cost, lower density rural service areas.

Five of the incumbent directors were reelected to the ITCA board of directors. Glen Morton of Paloma, representing Adams Telephone, chose not to run. Dennis Cornwell of Quincy, also from Adams, was elected to succeed him. Reelected were Leland Luthy of Marissa, Egyptian Telephone Cooperative Association; John Gholson of Broughton, Hamilton County Telephone Co-Op; Wilson Barclay of Macomb, McDonough Telephone Cooperative; Sheldon Orwig of Smithfield, Mid Century Telephone Cooperative; and Charles Atteberry of Cisne, Wabash. In their reorganization meeting the ITCA directors elected Orwig president, Cornwell vice president and Barclay secretary-treasurer.

Formed in the 1950's, the association provides its member-cooperatives a means of sharing knowledge and experience affecting efficient operations and welfare of the member-subscribers. The six cooperatives provide dependable modern telecommunication services to more than 21,000 subscribers in all or parts of 24 Illinois counties.

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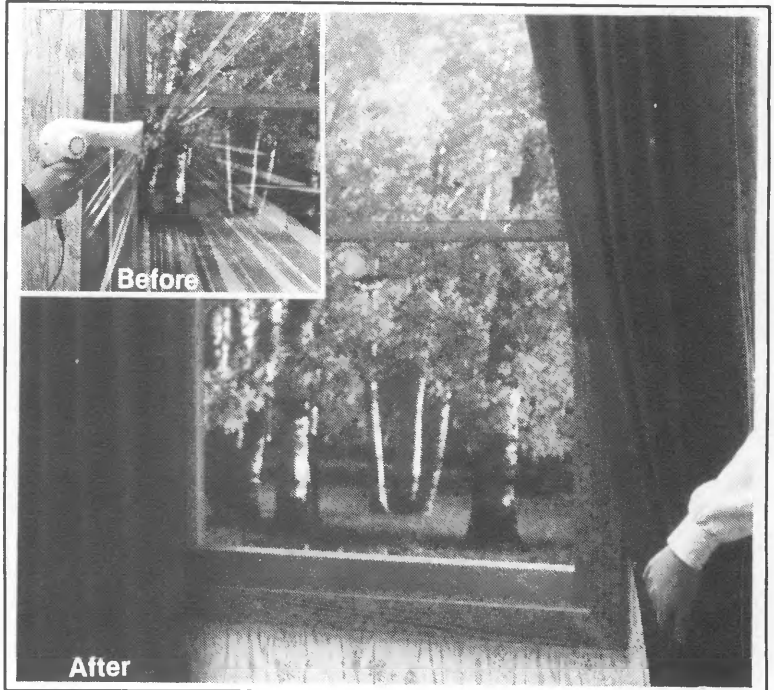
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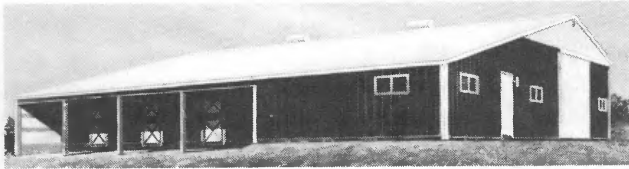
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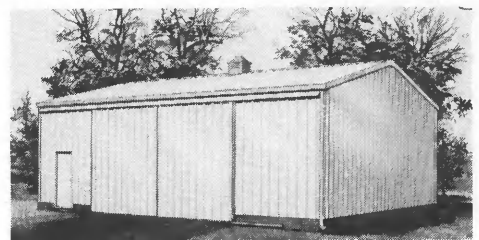


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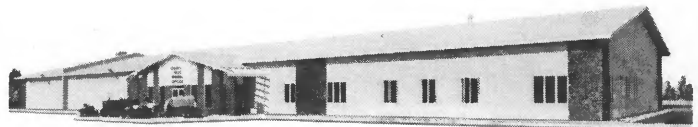
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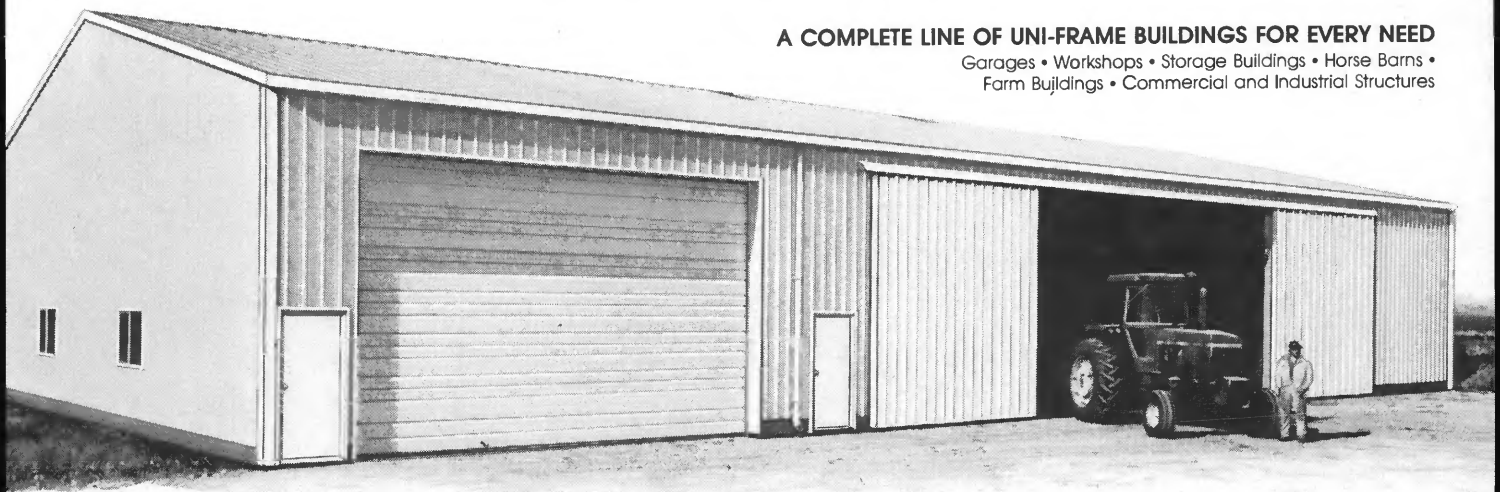


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# Watch hazards while cutting wood

**W**hile you're cutting wood, keep a watchful eye out for the "widow maker," says Michael Bolin, University of Illinois Extension forester.

This aptly named nemesis is an overhanging dead or dying limb that snaps and falls from saw vibration, Bolin explains. At times they're hard to spot. Widow makers don't have to be hanging by the proverbial thread to be threatening. What looks like a solid limb can change dramatically when the 1,000 pounds of thrust most chain saws harness is unleashed against the trunk. Keep an eye out for potential widow makers, keep out from under them, always wear a hard hat, have a helper watch the upper parts of the tree and have a planned escape route available before you cut.

"You don't cut wood as easily as you cut butter," Bolin says. "The saw will encounter surprises in wood density and perhaps metal objects such as nails or barbed wire."

Knots, stresses in a bent limb and cutting limbs or trunks you didn't know were hollow are situations that demand a change of speed or posture immediately. Two means of dealing with these surprises are your own alertness and a chain brake, which stops the motion of the chain during a kickback of the saw.

Other safety problems are present right after a tree is felled. Assuming the tree is not hung up, it can surprise a cutter once it's down. Backlash from the butt of a log as it falls can be every bit as swift, powerful and stunning as the swat of an alligator's tail. To remedy this, Bolin suggests leaving a hinge in your felling cut so you can control the direction of the fall. This allows you the chance to stay clear from the backlash zone of the butt.

Rolling logs are another problem when a tree falls but won't stay put. By making sure that the cutter, bystanders, animals and property are clear of the felling zone you neutralize this threat, Bolin says.

To avoid surprises with the chain saw itself, have the proper attitude

when you use one, Bolin continues. Avoid fatigue; pay attention to the task at hand. You can avoid kickback by cutting with the end of the bar closest to the engine. By all means, he stresses, don't walk around with a running saw. And use such safety items as chain guards, goggles, ear plugs, hard hats and gloves. They'll enable you to work better, longer and more productively.

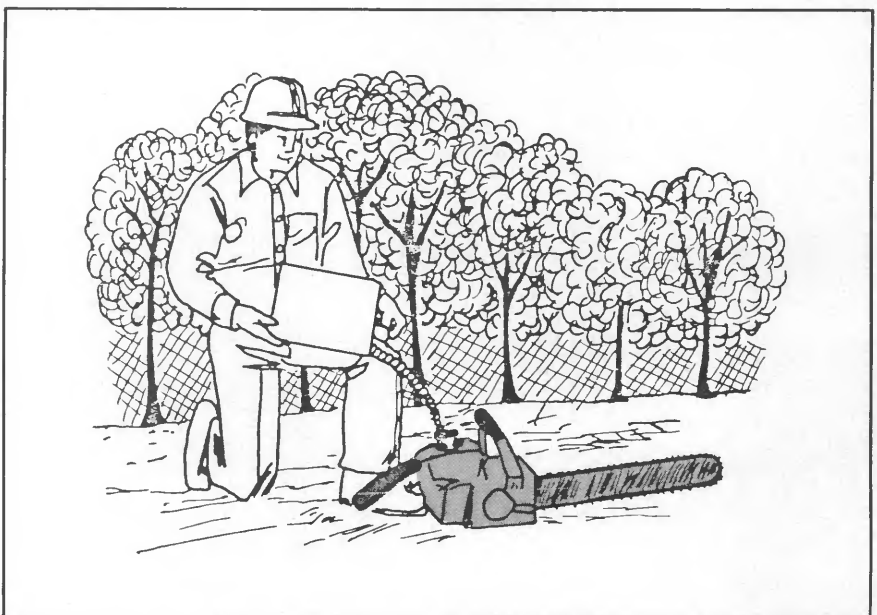
Check your immediate environment out before you cut a tree. For instance, never saw on a windy day because wind can cause the tree to snap unexpectedly or fall the wrong way while you're sawing. Always fuel the saw when it is cool and in an area away from the cutting, thus minimizing the fire hazard. Always start your saw on the ground. Never run a saw indoors. While the exhaust may not asphyxiate you, it can still make you dizzy enough to make normal sawing dangerous.

Bolin offers the following safety checklist for using chain saws:

- Follow steps in the instruction manual for operation and maintenance of your saw.

- Have a first-aid kit handy.
  - Remove nails, wire, etc., from the trunk.
  - Determine where the tree will fall — be sure that no buildings, power lines or other trees will be hit.
  - Select a safe place to stand when the tree falls.
  - Clear debris around the tree.
  - Notch the tree on the side in the direction of the fall, then make corner cuts and back cut.
  - Yell "Timber!" as the tree falls.
- For electric-powered chain saws:
- Read the manual supplied with the saw.
  - Use a heavy-duty, three-wire, outdoor extension cord for power tools.
  - Be careful not to trip on the cord. Disconnect it while going from one tree to the next.
  - Do not cut through the cord.
  - Do not use while standing in a wet area.

Follow these tips and you'll avoid such surprises and avoid being one of the approximately 60,000 people who may be injured cutting wood this year, Bolin says.



*Refuel chain saw on bare ground to reduce fire hazard. Do not refuel a hot saw. Never smoke when refueling. Avoid spilling fuel. If fuel is spilled, wipe off immediately. Move to clean area before starting saw. Always place saw on ground when starting.*

# Modern farming requires modern farm safety

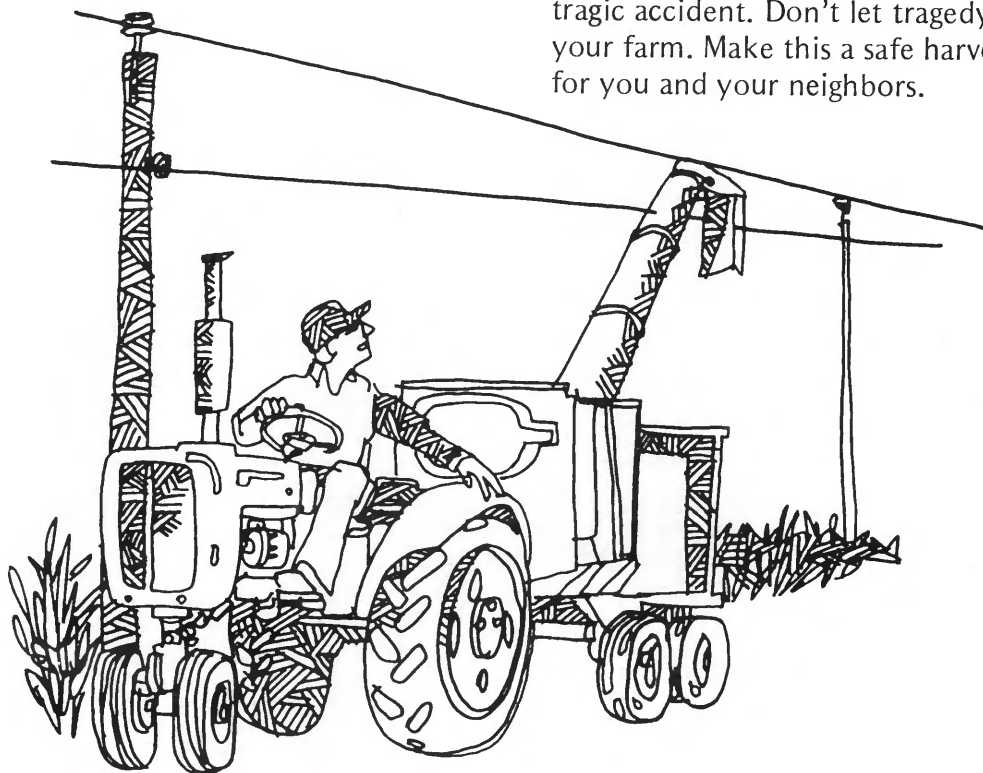
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Watch out for overhead power lines when you are driving or towing farm equipment. If you have young farm hands who are responsible enough to operate

farm equipment, impress upon them the importance of carefully surveying a work area or travel route to ensure that power lines are well out of the reach of any equipment.

Keep in mind other basic safety measures as well during harvesting operations: Check out your equipment before you use it. . . . Make sure your helpers are familiar with the equipment they use. . . . Shut off power before unclogging or fixing a machine. . . . Wear appropriate protective equipment.

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## *Electric Cooperatives of Illinois*



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# Tasty fare for a crisp autumn day

## PORK CHOPS WITH MUSHROOM GRAVY

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 4 pork chops, 1-inch thick                               | 1/2 cup chicken broth           |
| 2 tablespoons cooking oil                                | 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour |
| 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms<br>(or drained canned ones) | or 1 tablespoon corn starch     |
| 1/2 cup chopped onion                                    | 1/4 teaspoon salt               |
| 3/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce                        | 1/4 cup cold water              |
| 1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon, crushed                     | 1 tablespoon snipped chives     |
| Salt and pepper  |                                 |

In 12-inch skillet, brown chops on one side in hot oil. Turn; add mushrooms, and onion and brown on other side. Season with salt and pepper. Add chicken broth, Worcestershire sauce, tarragon, and the 1/4 teaspoon salt. Cover and simmer 35 to 40 minutes. Remove chops to serving platter. Keep warm. Spoon fat from juices. Measure vegetable juice mixture, reserving 1/4 cups. Combine cold water and flour. Stir into juices in skillet; add chives. Cook and stir until thick and bubbly. Cook 2 minutes more. Spoon over chops. Garnish platter with cherry tomatoes. Makes 4 servings.

## CHICKEN RAVIOLI

- |                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 pkg. noodles                | 1 medium onion, chopped             |
| 3 cans cream of mushroom soup | 2 tablespoons chicken fat (or oleo) |
| 1 hen or 2 fryers             | 1/2 lb. grated cheese               |
| 1 green pepper, chopped       | 1 small can pimento                 |

Cook hen, remove meat from bone and cut into bite size pieces. Saute onion and pimento in chicken fat. Cook noodles in chicken broth, add a little water if needed. Combine all ingredients, place in large casserole and cover with grated cheese. Bake at 400 degrees until mixture is hot through and cheese is melted.

## RED HOT SQUASH CASSEROLE

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 6 to 8 medium yellow squash, sliced | 1/4 lb. Velveeta cheese                       |
| 1 large onion, chopped              | 2 tablespoons milk                            |
| 1 teaspoon salt                     | 1 or 2 Jalapeno peppers, seeded and<br>minced |
| 1 teaspoon sugar                    |   |
| Paprika                             |   |

Boil squash and onion in water with salt and sugar until done. Drain well in a colander and pour into a 1-quart casserole dish. Make a sauce of cheese and milk; pour over squash; add peppers; mix well. Garnish with paprika. Heat in 350-degree oven uncovered for 20 to 30 minutes, or until thoroughly hot.

## CHEESE-STUFFED PEPPERS

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 pkg. (3 oz.) cream cheese (softened) | 1/4 cup shredded carrot          |
| 2 tablespoons oleo (softened)          | 1 medium green pepper            |
| 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese        | 4 large slices rye bread, halved |
| 1/4 cup diced celery                   |                                  |

In small bowl, cream cheese with oleo until blended. Stir in cheddar, celery and carrots; mix well. Cut stem end from pepper; remove seeds. Pack with cheese mixture. Chill overnight. Slice thin and arrange on bread halves. Cut each half in two. Makes 16 pieces.

## TOMATO RELISH

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 20 cups ripe tomatoes, peeled and cored | 1/2 cup hot peppers chopped |
| 8 onions chopped                        | 3 cups sugar                |
| 8 bell peppers chopped                  | 3 cups vinegar              |
| 6 tablespoons salt                      | 1/2 box pickling spices     |

Chop, mix and cook slow after reaching boiling point, for two hours. Stir often, place in jars and seal.

## CHICKEN LIVERS PEKING

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 lb. chicken livers, cut up                                      | 1/2 cup chicken broth                 |
| 2 tablespoons oleo  | 2 tablespoons soy sauce               |
| 2 tablespoons chopped onion                                       | 1 tablespoon cornstarch               |
| 1 (3 oz.) can sliced mushrooms                                    | 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger (optional) |
| 2 (10 oz.) pkgs. frozen Chinese<br>vegetables with seasoned sauce |                                       |

In large skillet, cook livers in oleo till just brown; remove from pan. In same skillet, cook onions until tender. Add Chinese vegetables with sauce, **undrained** mushrooms, and 1/4 cup of broth. Cover and simmer until vegetables are thawed, about 3 minutes. Stir to break up sauce cubes. Simmer, covered about 5 minutes or till tender. Stir together remaining broth, soy, cornstarch and ginger. Add to vegetables, cook and stir until bubbly. Add livers; heat through. Serve over hot cooked rice. Makes 6 servings.

## SWEET POTATO PIE

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 2 1/2 cups cooked mashed sweet potatoes                     | 1 teaspoon vanilla    |
| 4 eggs slightly beaten                                      | Dash of salt          |
| 2 1/2 cups sugar  | 1 can Dime Brand milk |
| 1 teaspoon nutmeg (optional or other<br>spices if you wish) | 1 stick oleo, melted  |

Mix and pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees until filling sets. Chill and serve. May be frozen for later use if only baked half brown.

## ORANGE SHERBET

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 64 oz. bottle orange drink                             | 2 cans Eagle Brand milk |
| 1 small can (8 1/2 oz.) crushed<br>pineapple (drained) | 1/4 cup sugar           |

Mix all the above ingredients together and pour into freezer and freeze.

## COCONUT MOUNDS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 3/4 cup mashed potatoes, prepared<br>from instant potatoes | 1 (12 oz.) pkg. semi-sweet chocolate<br>pieces |
| 1 lb. confectioners sugar                                  | 2 (1 oz.) squares semi-sweet choco late        |
| 1 lb. pkg. unsweetened coconut                             | 1 oz. square paraffin wax                      |
| 1 teaspoon almond extract                                  |  |

Combine potatoes, sugar, coconut, almond extract in a large bowl. Mixture will be stiff and needs to be worked with hands. Form mixture into 3/4-inch balls and place on cookie sheet. Chill about 6 hours. Place chocolate pieces and squares and paraffin in top of double boiler over hot (not boiling) water stirring until melted. Remove from heat and with toothpick dip each ball in chocolate until coated. Place on cookie sheet and chill again until hard. Place or pack on or between wax paper and store in cool dry place. Makes 3 pounds.

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### CAMPFIRE "POT-A-STEW"

- 1 can (46-oz.) chicken broth
- 3 cans (10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-oz.) cream of shrimp soup
- 2 lb. frozen cod, pollock, perch or sole fillets
- 1 onion sliced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon summer savory
- 4 ears corn cut in thirds or 1 can (12-oz.) corn
- 1 can (15-oz.) baby carrots
- 1 can (1 lb.) tomato wedges or 2 fresh tomatoes cut in wedges
- 2 large green peppers cut in 1" pieces

Combine chicken broth and cream of shrimp soup in 5 qt. Dutch Oven or large camp cook-kettle. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and add frozen fish, sliced onion, salt and savory. Cook, covered, over low heat until fish defrosts (approx. 4-6 minutes). Separate fillets with a fork and break into large pieces. Add remaining vegetables, cover and cook another 6 to 8 minutes or until corn is tender. To serve, remove vegetables from broth with slotted spoon and ladle broth into individual cups. Or serve fish, vegetables and soup together in large soup bowls. 8 servings.

### RAVE REVIEWS COCONUT CAKE

- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix
- 1 pkg. vanilla instant pudding and pie filling
- 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cups water
- 4 eggs
- 1/4 cup oil
- 2 cups angel flake coconut
- 1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Blend cake mix, pudding mix, water, eggs and oil in large mixer bowl. Beat at medium speed of electric mixer 4 minutes. Stir in coconut and walnuts. Pour into 3 greased and floured 9-inch layer pans. Beat at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Cool in pans 15 minutes, remove and cool on rack. Fill and frost with Coconut-Cream Cheest Frosting.

#### Frosting:

- 4 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 cups coconut
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese
- 2 teaspoons milk
- 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cups sifted confectioners sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Melt 2 tablespoons butter in skillet. Add coconut, stir constantly over low heat until golden brown. Spread coconut on absorbent paper to cool. Cream 2 tablespoons

butter with cream cheese. Add milk and sugar alternately beating well. Add vanilla, stir in 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cups of the coconut. Spread on tops and sides of cake layers. Sprinkle with remaining coconut.

### CRUNCH PUNCH

- 3 pkgs. gelatin (color determines color punch)
- 4 cups sugar
- 2 46-oz. cans pineapple juice
- 16 oz. bottle lemon juice
- 4 1/2 gallon milk cartons
- 4 quarts ginger ale or 7-up

Dissolve gelatin in 9 cups of boiling water. Combine 4 cups sugar in 4 cups of water and bring to a boil. Add to gelatin mixture and set aside to cool. When cool, add lemon juice and pineapple juice. Mix well and freeze in milk cartons sealed with freezer tape. Freeze at least 36 hours, and when ready to serve let set for hour or place in bucket of hot water to loosen carton. Put in punch bowl and add 1 qt. ginger ale for each carton. Poking full of holes and pouring ginger ale over mixture helps speed thawing.

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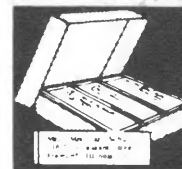
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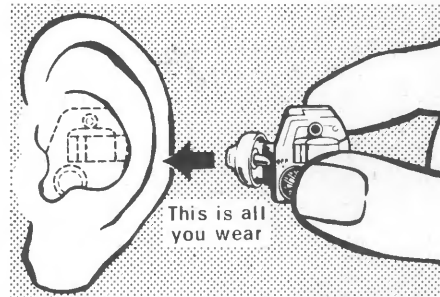


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SIZES 8-20



4696  
SIZES 10½-20½



4827  
SIZES 34-48



9285  
SIZES 8-18



9058  
SIZES 8-18



9241  
SIZES 8-20



4825  
SIZES 10½-20½ 34-48



4849 SIZES 6-20



9259  
SIZES 2-8



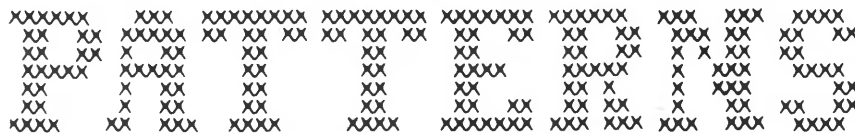
4886  
10½-26½



4773  
10½-26½



9359  
SIZES 10½-26½



- No. 4629 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) cape and skirt 2½ yards 60-inch fabric.
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- No. 4827 is cut in Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48. See pattern for yardages.
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- No. 9241 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) dress 2-3/4 yards 60-inch; sash 3/8 yd. 45-inch.
- No. 4825 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½; Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48.
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TO: PATTERNS  
Illinois Rural Electric News  
P.O. Box 3787  
Springfield, IL 62708

I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$2.25 per pattern — cash, check or money order accepted) for the following patterns:

Pattern No.	Size	Pattern No.	Size
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_____	_____	_____	_____

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**TABLE 5. CAULKING COMPOUNDS**

**Base Material**  
Oil or Resin

**Durability**  
1-7 years

**Adhesion**  
Fair to Good

**Recommended Uses**  
Seals exterior seams & joints on building materials.

**Remarks**  
Readily available. Rope & tube form. Will bond to most surfaces. Oils dry out, material hardens. Low Cost.

Latex, Butyl Rubber  
Polyvinyl

2-10 years

Good to Excellent

Butyl seals most dissimilar materials (glass, metal, plastic, wood) and around windows & flashing. Latex seals points around tub and shower, cracks in tile, plaster, etc.

Butyl allows joint movement, doesn't become brittle. Less resilient than silicones. Latex is easy to dry. Both can be painted. Intermediate Cost.

Silicones,  
Polysulfides &  
Polyurethanes

20 years

Excellent

Seals most dissimilar building materials (wood & stone, etc.). Seals joints between bath & kitchen fixtures & tile, adhesive for tiles & metal fixtures.

Remains flexible for life after curing. Readily available. Permits joints to stretch or compress. Will adhere to painted surfaces. High Cost.

# Caulking a good way to start preparing for winter

**B**efore we know it, winter will be here. Unfortunately, we cannot count on it being as mild as last winter was. It is about time to give some thought to doing some winterizing around the house. Caulking and weatherstripping are two inexpensive ways to begin.

Caulking is a fairly simple chore that can pay considerable dividends compared to the amount of time, effort and money invested.

Over half the heat that is lost from a house in the winter goes out through cracks and poorly fitting windows and doors. Obviously, if you can keep most of that heat in, you can save money on your winter energy bills. Experts note that a gap one-twelfth of an inch wide around an average door will let in as much cold air as a four-by-five-inch hole would, and closing that gap would prevent that infiltration.

Caulking compounds are used to

seal joints between different materials in a house. For example, you would put a good bead where the sill plate and foundation join, or where a pipe goes through a wall. Where chimney and siding meet is a good place to run a bead, and you should carefully apply one round each door and window, too.

No matter how carefully a house is built, there will be little nooks and crannies, especially around window and door trim, where air can get in. As the house ages, woods warp and foundations settle, and the crannies get bigger. Caulking compounds are intended to fill such spaces. They should bond to both surfaces and expand and contract to make up for the fact that different building materials behave differently as temperatures change.

There are three main kinds of caulking compounds: oil- or resin-based; latex, butyl rubber or polyvinyl; and silicones, polysulfides and polyurethanes. Oil- or resin-based compounds last from one to seven years, then become rigid and brittle and should be scraped away and replaced. Their big advantage is that they are inexpensive. Latex, butyl rubber or polyvinyl are more expensive, adhere to different surfaces a little better, and you can paint over them. They do the job longer — 2-10 years — and will also adhere to painted surfaces. While silicones, polysulfides and polyurethanes are the best caulking com-

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energy  
efficiency



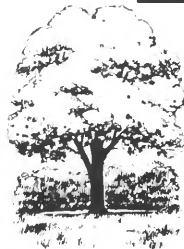
pounds money can buy, it costs a lot more money to buy them, too. If you want to get the job over with and forget about it, these kinds of compounds are for you. They last 20 years or so, adhere very well and retain good flexibility.

While caulking will help a lot, you need to do something about air infiltration around windows and doors. Foam rubber strips, rolled vinyl and thin spring metal strips are all designed to stop heat loss. The foam is often backed with an adhesive. You simply pull off the paper that protects the glue and put the foam at the tops and bottoms of the windows or inside the door jamb. As with most inexpensive quick fixes, though, the foam has its disadvantages. You will probably have to redo the job in a year or two. Vinyl and metal, while more expensive and more difficult to install, will last indefinitely.

You will need to assess your handyman's skills fairly carefully before tackling some weatherstripping chores. It may be a good idea to ask your friendly home building supply salesman about the difficulties involved. Generally, the easy-to-install and inexpensive weatherstripping is not very durable and is often visible when installed.

In the October issue we will go into more detail on weatherstripping and how it can help improve your home's energy-saving capability.

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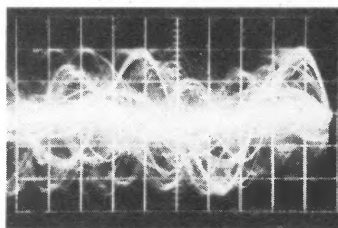
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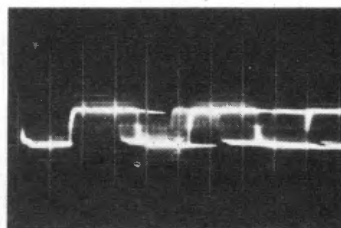
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## NOT HELPLESS

*Above, Don slips out of his wheelchair and into a lift that he designed and built to get him into the tractor cab. His dad, Leonard, steadies his wheelchair. In the above right photo, Don pulls himself out of the lift and into the cab. The fairly simple rig runs off the tractor battery.*

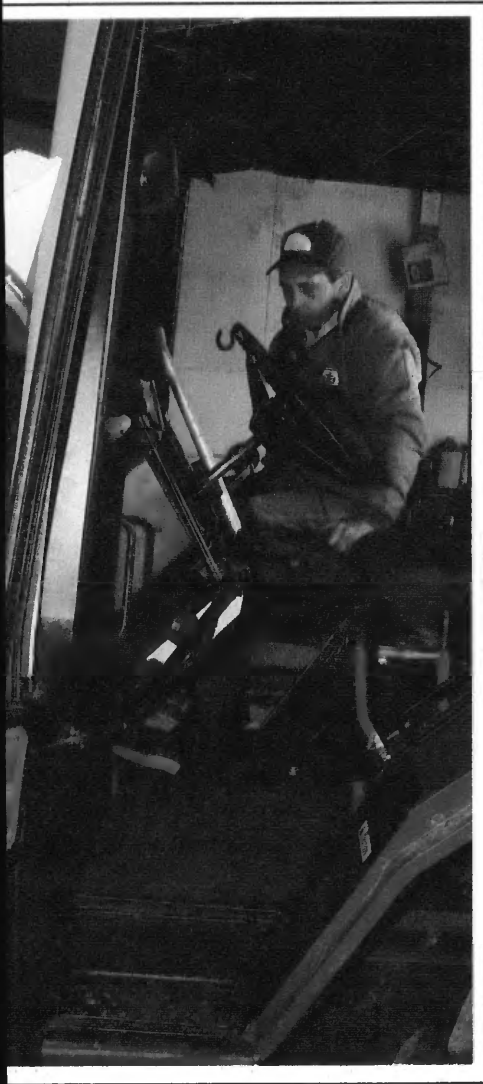
**D**on Skinner is a handicapped farmer, and he is the first to admit it. Handicapped is not the same as helpless, and Don personifies that fact. He has come back so well from a farm injury that he was named winner of the 1983 Achievement Award of Memorial Medical Center in Springfield for his efforts "during and beyond rehabilitation."

Paralyzed from the midsection down, Don still puts in a fair day's work on the family's 1,000-acre plus farm near Pawnee, in Christian County.

It was harvest time, and Don, a member of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., was up on a ladder, helping install an alarm in a neighbor's grain bin. The ladder toppled, and the

next thing Don knew, he was in Memorial. He was to spend the next 14 weeks there, using a two-way radio a friend installed to keep a finger on the farm's pulse. He was to return many times after his release for physical and occupational therapy.

While his physical therapist praises him as her "star pupil," and Don has a remarkable ability to get around, he notes that his road back was not especially a smooth one. "There were a lot of times when I'd get depressed, and I'd have bad days. You can't give up, that's all. You have to keep going. I talked to some guys who've been handicapped longer than I have, and I guess you always have that day once in a while when you get to feeling really down. They say you



never really get completely over it.”

He has returned to Memorial several times since, but not for his own rehabilitation. He goes now to help other disabled farmers recover, convincing them that they can master the wheelchair, and that there are a lot of farming operations they can do. He urges them to keep a positive attitude and set new and attainable goals on a fairly regular basis. And he shows them that recovery is possible.

His accident happened on September 11, 1980, and he got home a couple of days before Christmas. His dad, Leonard, and some neighbors had installed a lift that enabled him to get into his house from the garage, and he resumed radio contact with the field. He has since had lifts installed in a van and another car.

Leonard, Don's wife, Lynda, their son, David, and employee Brian McKinney kept things going. Daughter Kimberly, who had just started college

when Don was hurt, was away at Western Illinois University.

Don is a participant, not an onlooker, and remote-control farming was not what he liked. He wanted to get back into farming actively. When he had recovered some of his strength, he had himself lifted into a combine — with a boom hoist — and he was on his way.

Still, having to have help to get into and out of equipment cramped his style, and Don wanted to be more independent. Obviously, some lifts were in order. Since he could not find any on the market, he decided to build his own. Like most farmers, Don was a good welder — and still is, for that matter — so what he needed was a design. He came up with one.

Tractor lifts proved to be no big problem. He put together a rail that inclines up over the rear wheels, and attached a chair to it. A truck-type bumper winch provides the lift, drawing its power from the tractor's battery. Don set the unit up so the chair lowers to the height of his wheelchair seat, and the side rail detaches so he can slide from his wheelchair into the seat. For safety's sake, he replaces the side rail, flips a switch on the chair lift, and rides up to a level with the tractor's seat. Then, he unfastens a catch on the other side rail and it folds down to make a sliding platform, and Don pulls and lifts himself into the tractor cab.

Getting there is only half the struggle, though. The average farm tractor is designed with the fully capable farmer in mind, and the floor boards fairly bristle with pedals.

Don built extensions to enable him to work brakes with his hands, and where clutching is needed, a more complex device permits that. One brake lever extension also doubles as a door opener and closer.

While the tractor conversion was not too much of a problem, the combine was another matter. The lift was a lot more complicated, and Don brought in outside help. “John Vincent came over from Jerseyville,” he says, “and I gave him the basic idea. He's really good, and he needed to be. I had to have a seat that would go right up where the ladder goes, then swivel to get me into the cab. Then, it

had to swivel so if one of the other guys is driving the combine it wouldn't be in his way.”

Lynda adds, “John came over and they all got started working on it. I went out and asked them if they wanted me to fix supper for them and they said no. I think they expected to get the job done in just a couple of hours. As time went on, it began to look like they were going to be a while, so I just took some hamburgers out to them!”

While Lynda was cooking hamburgers, the menfolk were cooking up a fairly complex mixture of sprockets, gears, chains and another battery powered motor, and it does the job nicely.

While he is not particularly given to self-importance, Don is pleased with the devices he has rigged that enable him to do some of the farming activities he did before he was injured.

Don was dismayed at the scarcity of information available to disabled farmers, and is eager to let other handicapped farmers know they can still do plenty of things around their farms.

“If there are other devices out there,” he says, “there aren't many people talking about them. A lot of guys don't like to admit they're crippled, so they just rig something up for their own use and don't say anything about it. I'd like to help others, and I'm glad to let people know what I'm doing.” With that in mind, Don has been working with Bill Field at Purdue University, trying to get an information hotline going to distribute helpful ideas and encouragement to handicapped farmers.

“One thing I'm proud of is the newsletter Bill came out with,” Don says. “A reporter and photographer came out from the newspaper and did a story and headlined it ‘Breaking New Ground.’ Well, they were looking for a name for the newsletter, and we'd kicked around a lot of ideas like ‘The Handicapped Farmer,’ or ‘The Disabled Farmer.’ None of them sounded very good, and when the story came out, the name seemed to fit, and that's what they called the newsletter.”

The newsletter and several other contacts have enabled Don to spread the word. “About a dozen people have

come to the farm to see my lifts," he says, "and I've talked to others on the phone. We're getting the word out, so handicapped farmers will know there are others who have the same problems and what they've done about them." Don also had one of his tractors on display at the St. Louis Farm Machinery Show last December.

While Don has worked hard to make the best of his situation and is able to get back into tractors and combines, the entire family has had to make adjustment, he says, and it has not been easy. For one thing, as well as he has done, there are a lot of things he cannot do as well as he could before, and some he cannot do at all.

"It depends on how you look at it," he says. "I can say I planted corn today, and I did, but it isn't like it was before. I used to fill up the planter, set it up and hook it to the tractor and make the connections. Then I'd get out of the tractor once in a while as I was planting to make sure everything was going right.

"Now, somebody else does all that. What I do now is drive the tractor with the planter attached. I don't want it to sound like I'm doing everything I did before I got hurt, because I'm not. I used to do planting from start to finish. Now I don't."

While these comments sound negative coming from a man who received

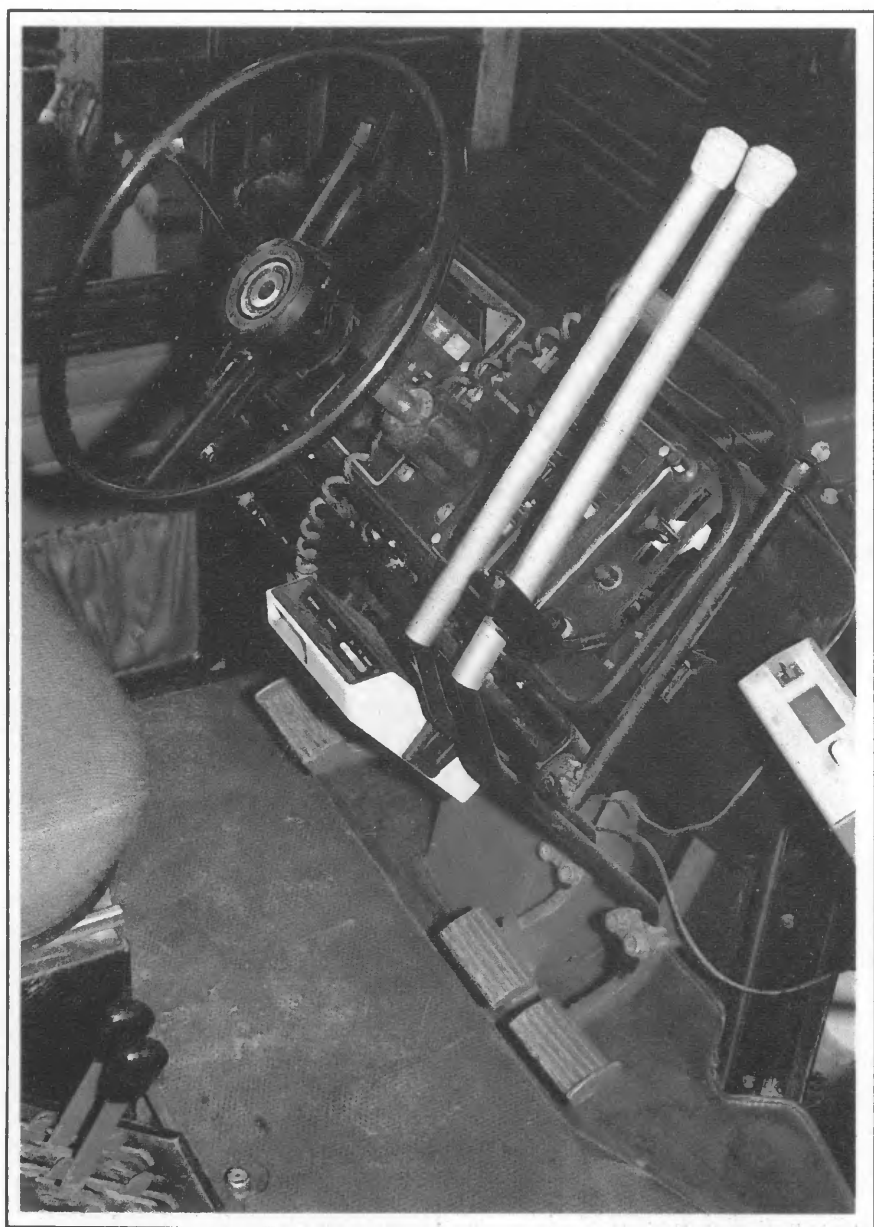
a certificate for his rehab efforts, they are really not. He speaks matter-of-factly and without bitterness, simply pointing out that his injury and recovery have not been easy, and others feeling discouraged should be aware that he is not immune to such feelings, too.

The Skinners note that some of the difficulties were minimized by the support they have received. Don waves a hand, indicating a wide sweep of countryside. "Everybody helped. A lot of friends and all the neighbors. They've all been great." And, he adds, the neighbors were not just helpful for the first few months after he came home. "They're still a big help," he emphasizes, "and that makes a big difference. When we'd go out, people used to look at me as if to say, 'What're you doing here?' but I get around real well. Now when we go out and I'm having a little trouble with my wheelchair, there's always somebody there to help, and nobody thinks anything of it."

Don notes that the peculiar looks are becoming more and more infrequent, and that handicapped people are venturing out more and more. Before his accident, he was active in the Morrisonville Masonic Lodge, and was one of the originators of Rural Electric's Young Couples Committee, and served as president in 1973.

"I'm still active," he says, "and I'm proud of my membership in those organizations. I try to do as many of the things I did before as possible, and the people around here know that now. It doesn't surprise them any more when I show up for a meeting or go out to dinner, and that's the way it should be."

One thing he does as well as he did before his accident is a sideline business he had. Don builds land levelers, just like he did before. A big welding jig is set up about two feet off the shop floor and Don welds the units together with every bit as much skill as he did before. The big difference now is that he welds sitting down, and needs more help with the big chunks of channel iron that go into his levelers, but the dedication and determination that went into winning Don the recognition he has had are still reflected in the work he does.



*The tractor, like most others, was built for the average farmer and had to be modified for Don. The extensions from the brake pedals enable him to work the brakes with his hands. The tractor's automatic transmission helps.*



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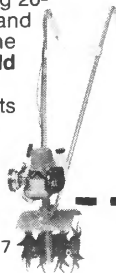
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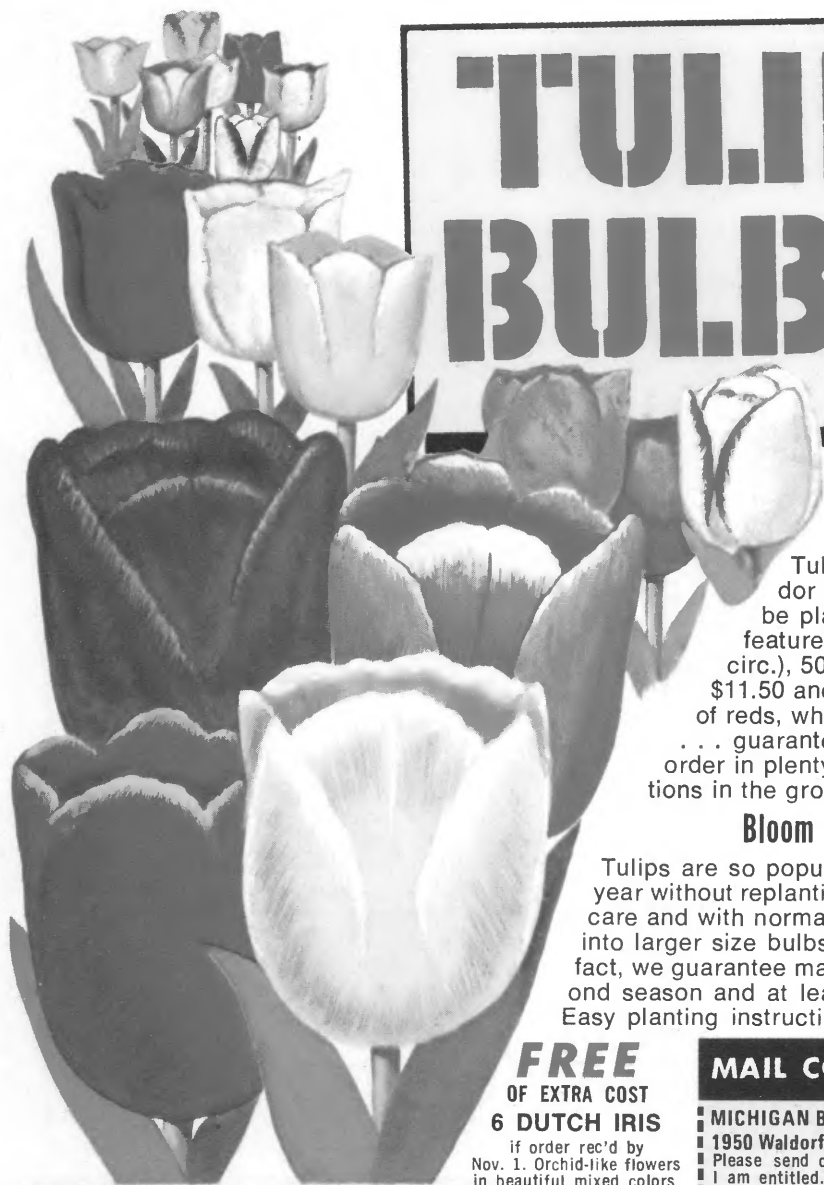
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