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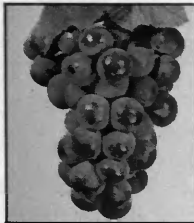
January 1984

Illinois Rural Electric News

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Illinois Rural Electric News

Self-Sufficiency Act based on responsibility

The next three pages of this month's issue include information dealing with proposed federal legislation that is very important to rural electric consumers. Congress reconvenes Jan. 23 and this vital legislation will be before both the House of Representatives and Senate. At last count, 173 representatives and 40 senators are co-sponsors.

The following are some basic questions and answers about the proposal:

Will legislation proposed to amend the Rural Electrification Act remove the requirement of rural electric systems to repay loans to the Rural Electrification Administration?

Despite the continuing, erroneous insinuation of the Administration, there is no part of the legislation and no intent that rural electric systems would be relieved of their responsibility to repay loans. Rural electric borrowers, as they have for nearly 50 years, will continue to repay loans, continuing the best government repayment record in the history of this nation.

Is the proposed legislation a "bailout" for rural electric borrowers, as the present REA Administrator has said?

Absolutely not. The legislation, which NRECA supports, is a responsible proposal which looks to the future. It would keep the Rural Electric and Telephone Revolving Fund in balance. One plank of that legislation proposes that notes amounting to \$7.9 billion due to the Treasury beginning in 1993 be converted to permanent capital and remain in the Revolving Fund. This amounts to a book-keeping adjustment; the government would still own these assets. Another major feature of the bill proposes a

moderate rise in the interest rate on Revolving Fund loans to rural electric borrowers.

How much would the interest rates go up on these loans?

The interest rate would go above the standard 5 percent loan rate, but just enough to keep the Revolving Fund in balance.

Don't rural electric systems already receive a healthy subsidy from the federal government?

Rural electrification receives far less assistance than any other segment of the utility industry. Investor-owned systems received \$51.64 per consumer in federal subsidies in 1981. Public power systems received \$40.45 per consumer. Rural electric systems received \$8.91 per consumer. Rural electric leaders acknowledge that all utilities require some federal assistance, and the proposed legislation seeks fairness and recognition of the difficult job rural electric systems are facing to provide reliable and affordable electric service to rural America.

Can't rural electric distribution systems go to Wall Street to get needed capital?

Despite their enviable payback record, rural electrics simply cannot go to the private money markets for all of their required capital. Already, distribution systems seek about 30 percent of their loan requirements from private sources. Because of low consumer density and low revenue per mile of line, they rarely show excess income at year end. If they do, as nonprofit systems they credit that money to consumers' accounts.

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As Congress reconvenes, support for rural electric legislation grows

Eight Illinois members of Congress among more than 200 who are co-sponsoring proposal

Proposed federal legislation affecting the funding of rural electric and telephone cooperatives continues to gain increasingly widespread support. When Congress reconvenes on Jan. 23, the legislation — The Rural Electrification and Telephone Revolving Fund Self-Sufficiency Act of 1983 — will be one of the most important proposals awaiting action by federal lawmakers.

Introduced last May by Tennessee Rep. Ed Jones (H.R. 3050) and Kentucky Sen. Walter Huddleston (S. 1300), the legislation as of mid-December had 173 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and 40 in the Senate. Included among those are Illinois Senators Alan Dixon and Charles Percy and Representatives Tom Corcoran, Dick Durbin, Lane Evans, Henry Hyde, Ed Madigan and Paul Simon.

In December, the legislation received the strong support of the Illinois Farm Bureau when delegates approved unanimously a policy resolution dealing with electric and telephone cooperatives' funding:

"Rural Electric and Rural Telephone Cooperatives provide service to many Illinois farms and rural communities. We support the continuation of a strong rural electric and telephone program. We believe that a properly designed federal revolving fund can and should be an integral part of the means to provide these cooperatives adequate credit to maintain and strengthen their systems. Such a revolving fund should include an adequate rate of interest to keep the fund solvent and be used in conjunction with private capital to finance the system. In order to assure an adequate capital base, we support making funds available for REA lending prior to 1973 as a permanent capital investment in the Revolving Fund."

(During the Farm Bureau meeting, a member of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, Kendall Cole of Virden in Macoupin County, was elected vice president of the state organization. John White Jr. of Elburn in Kane County was elected president. White had been vice president. Harold Steele, IFB president for 13 years, did not seek reelection.)

The IFB resolution was one in a series of similar policy resolutions adopted by several state farm bureau organiza-

tions across the country. This support is especially important in the wake of the editorial position of the Farm Bureau News, a publication of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The FB News opposed the legislation.

Following the action by the several state farm bureaus, rural electric leaders were invited to address the AFBF Policy Resolutions Committee in December. The Committee approved a resolution supporting rural electric systems and a sound financing program. Resolutions receiving the preliminary approval of the Committee were to have been presented to the AFBF membership during their annual meeting Jan. 8-12.

The purpose of the legislation is basic: Rural electric cooperatives are asking Congress to allow slightly higher interest rates on rural electric loans in order to preserve the independent, self-sustaining nature of the rural electric program. (The standard rate now is 5 percent for loans made from the Revolving Fund.) By allowing the interest rate to be adjusted from the 5 percent, the Revolving Fund will retain its self-sufficiency. Studies have indicated that without the proposal for the rise in interest rates the Revolving Fund, the main funding source for both rural electric and telephone systems, would be depleted.

Signs of concern about the Revolving Fund began to appear several years ago when the growing capital needs of the rural system started to drain the fund faster than expected. Record-high interest rates further threatened the self-perpetuating nature of the Revolving Fund. With most loans from the fund being made at 5 percent and market interest rates topping 15 percent in the early 1980's, more and more of the fund's resources were being used to make up the difference. High market rates affect the Revolving Fund because, despite the simple theory of the fund — which is that loan repayments are used to cover new loans — the actual operation is more complicated.

The Revolving Fund was created in 1973 with \$8 billion worth of assets consisting of all outstanding REA loans plus the cash REA had on hand. A few years later, that cash and the loan repayments were no longer sufficient to finance

“It is a tribute to the rural electric systems of this country that we have this proposal before us now. Too often there is a tendency to wait until the ceiling is caving in before asking for immediate emergency help. Instead, we have a well-thought-out, reasonable plan that has been studied for almost two years.”

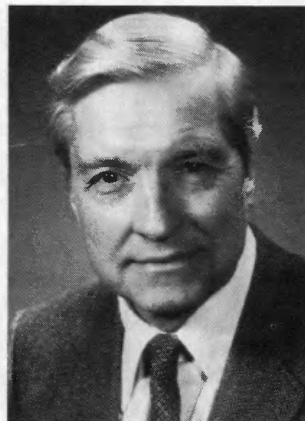
the new loan needs of the rural electric distribution systems. REA then used a provision of RE Act amendments that allowed for borrowing from the Treasury using the fund's assets as collateral. Market interest rates are paid to the Treasury. The difference between the standard 5 percent insured loan rate and the cost of money to the

Treasury gradually reduces the amount the Revolving Fund can disburse in new loans.

A committee of rural electric leaders was organized to address the problem. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Committee on Financing for the Future spent nearly a year preparing the recommendations that led



Dixon



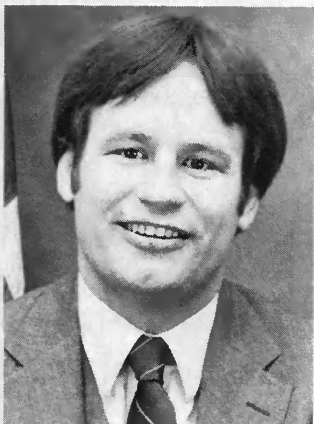
Percy



Corcoran



Durbin



Evans



Hyde



Madigan



Simon

A summary of the proposed legislation

- Balance the Rural Electric and Telephone Revolving Fund through periodic adjustments in the REA interest rate to guarantee that interest expense cannot exceed interest income.
- Convert notes due the U.S. Treasury in 1993-2017 into equity capital of the Revolving Fund.
- Divide the Revolving Fund into separate electric and telephone sub-accounts.
- Authorize special rate loans for borrowers that have experienced financing hardships or that meet other specified criteria.
- Maintain current supplemental financing criteria and ratios when minimum loan levels are under \$1 billion per year.
- Authorize the administrator to refinance Certificates of Beneficial Ownership which have interest rates at least 1 percent above current rates.
- Authorize REA loan guarantee lenders to refinance long-term loans which have interest rates at least 1 percent above current rates.
- Direct the REA Administrator to subordinate or accommodate liens or mortgages at the request of the borrower upon a finding that the borrower has the ability to repay.

“Recent attacks falsely imply that rural electric systems are heavily subsidized and that loans REA has made to them will never be repaid. Both assertions are false and need to be knocked down wherever and whenever they appear. Against the modest assistance rural electric receive for serving the most remote areas of the country, the investor-owned utilities receive many times more in federal help. No mention is ever made of that.”

to the proposals in the new legislation.

The proposed legislation drew quick, positive responses from a bipartisan group of members of Congress. The 213 Senators and Representatives who have co-sponsored the bill represent both political parties and a wide range of political philosophies.

One strong advocate of the proposed legislation is Nebraska Senator Ed Zorinsky, who said on the floor of the Senate in late May:

“It is a tribute to the rural electric systems of this country that we have this proposal before us now. Too often there is a tendency to wait until the ceiling is caving in before asking for immediate emergency help. Instead, we have a well-thought-out, reasonable plan that has been studied for almost two years. It asks for no quick-fixes or crash programs, but a simple, sensible solution to maintaining one of the most successful programs this government has ever created.”

During the fall, the House Agriculture Committee held hearings on the legislation and the committee endorsed the H. R. 3050 by a vote of 38-1. The Senate version, S. 1300, is expected to be scheduled for its first hearings early in the reconvened session before the Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture Credit and Rural Electrification.

The legislation, despite its bipartisan, widespread and growing support, has been a target of opposition by the Reagan Administration. Several persons within the U.S. Department of Agriculture have voiced opposition to the legislation and Agriculture Secretary John Block wrote to Texas Rep. E. (Kika) de la Garza, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, saying that he would recommend that President Reagan veto the legislation if it is approved by Congress.

Robert D. Partridge, executive vice president and general manager of NRECA, the rural electric systems' national service organization, has challenged the Administration attacks:

“Recent attacks falsely imply that rural electric systems are heavily subsidized and that loans REA has made to them will never be repaid. Both assertions are false and need to be knocked down wherever and whenever they appear. Against the modest assistance rural electric receive for serving the most remote areas of the country, the investor-owned utilities receive many times more in federal help. No mention is ever made of that.

“All rural electric ask for is fairness — fairness and recognition of the job we're trying to do without stacking the odds against us any more than they already are.”

Let your elected representatives know of your support

If you have not done so already, write to your two United States Senators and your United States Representative to urge them to support the Rural Electrification and Telephone Revolving Fund Self-Sufficiency Act of 1983. Ask the senators to support S. 1300 and ask your representative to support H.R. 3050.

Here are some points you might like to make in your letters:

- Thank your senators and representative if they have co-sponsored this legislation.
- This legislation will help keep your electric bill under control.
- This legislation will have absolutely no impact on the federal budget or federal deficit.
- This legislation recognizes the special and costly problems faced by rural electric cooperatives.
- This legislation recognizes that federal assistance is provided to the other forms of electric utility ownership. By doing so, it provides fair and equitable treatment to the consumers of rural electric cooperatives.

Member-owners of Illinois electric cooperatives can voice your support for this important legislation by contacting your elected representatives and administration officials in Washington, D.C. Below are addresses for your elected representatives, President Reagan and Secretary Block.

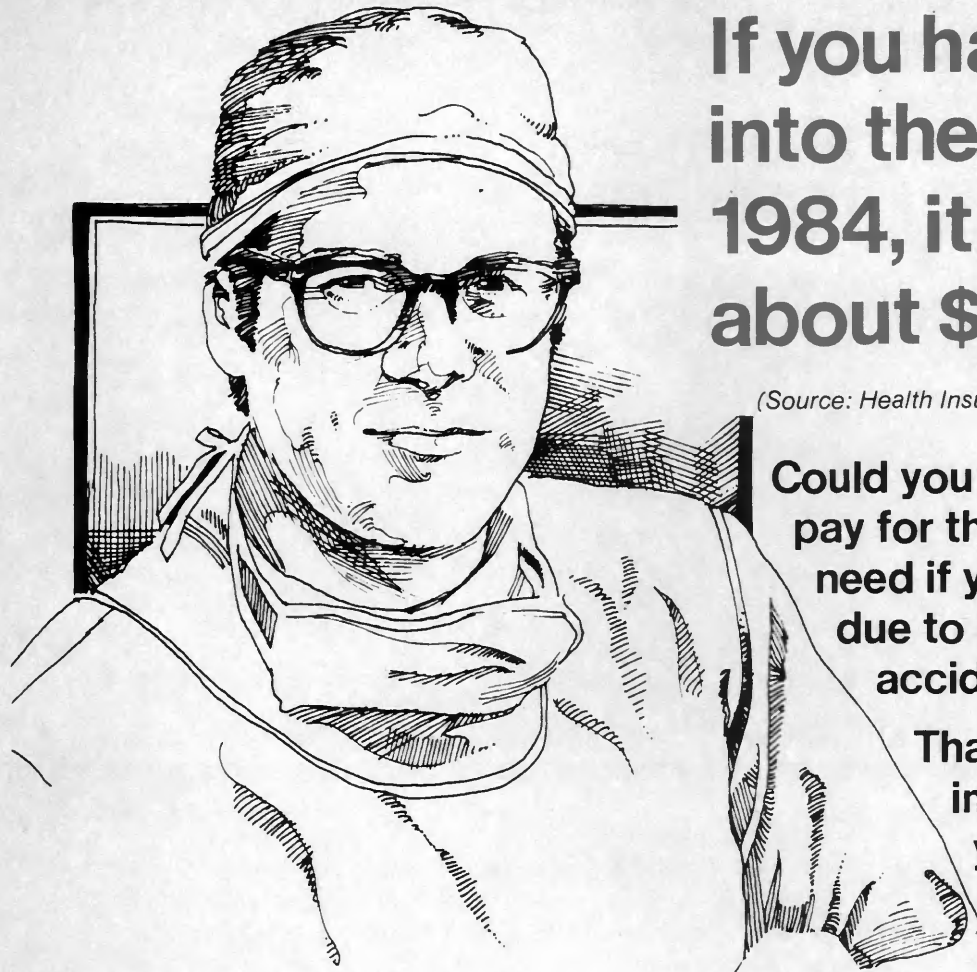
United States Senators
The Hon. Charles H. Percy
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Dear Senator Percy:

The Hon. Alan J. Dixon
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Dear Senator Dixon:

Your Congressman:
The Hon.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Dear Congressman:

President of the United States
President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500
Dear Mr. President:

Secretary of Agriculture
The Hon. John R. Block
Secretary of Agriculture
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Washington, D.C. 20250
Dear Secretary Block:



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(Source: Health Insurance Association of America)

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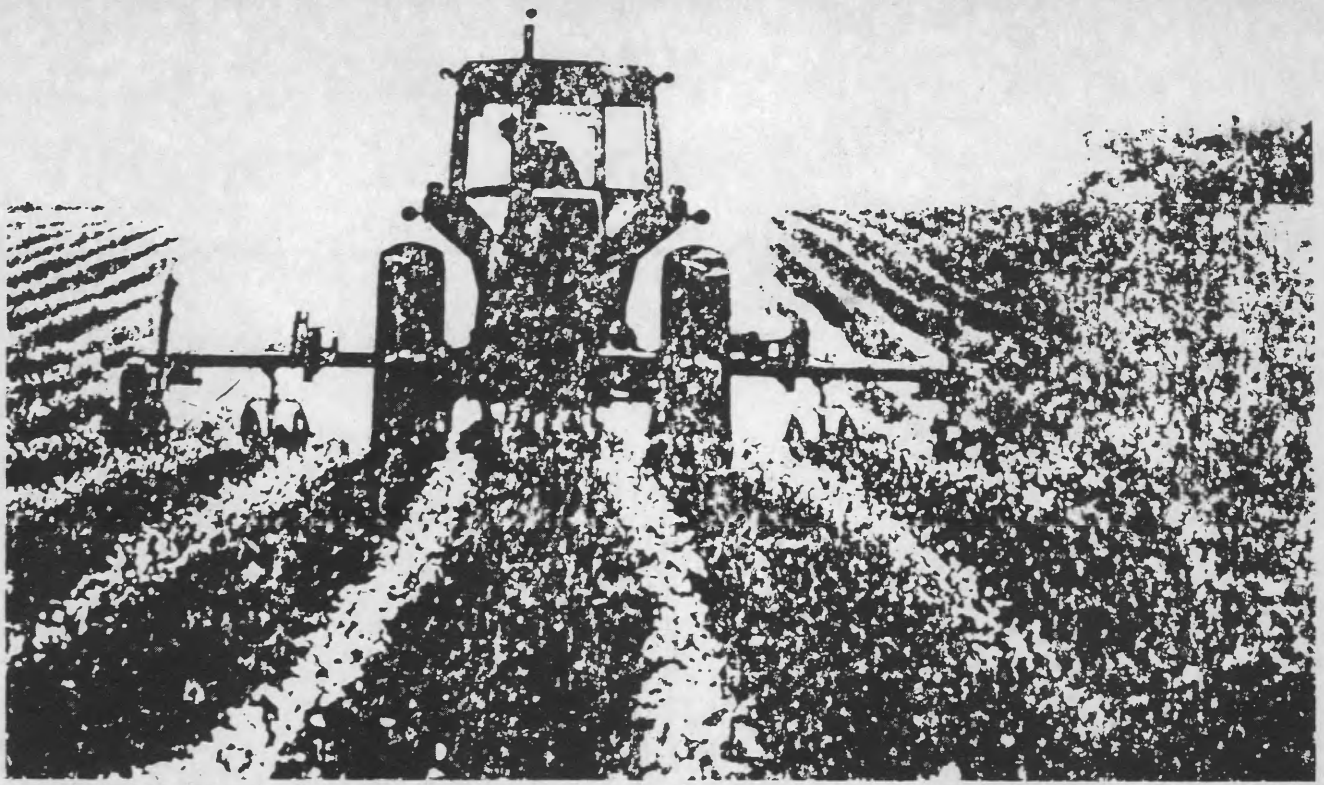
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FARM OUTLOOK: Anything is possible

Food prices will be higher this year and farmers' incomes could increase slightly as a result of last summer's drought, an improving world economy and the government's payment-in-kind crop reduction program, according to analysts who spoke at the Agriculture Department's annual Outlook Conference in Washington, D.C.

But department officials acknowledged that the rosy forecast depends on a fragile balance that could be easily upset if the economic recovery falters. And after one of the strangest years in agriculture, anything seems possible.

"The impact of reduced production on the farm sector is very uneven," said James Donald, chairman of the Agriculture Department's World Agricultural Outlook Board. "U.S. crop farmers participating in acreage reduction programs and achieving good yields are doing well. But others are facing severe financial losses because of the drought."

There was no joy in agriculture as 1983 began. Prices for farm products seemed fated to stay at low levels as record crops helped swell world grain stocks to the largest supply in more than 10 years — enough to feed everyone on the earth for two months.

A sluggish world economy and an expensive dollar kept many countries from buying U.S. farm products. Farm income had tumbled from \$32 billion just three years earlier down to \$22 billion in 1982, and little change was foreseen.

The Agriculture Department scrambled for a solution to the problems caused by the food glut, and came up with the payment-in-kind program under which the government would give farmers surplus crops in return for keeping land out of production PIK and other farm programs were phenomenally successful, idling 80 percent of the eligible crop land. Federal outlays for farm price support programs jumped from \$4 billion in 1981 to \$12 billion in 1982 and \$22 billion in 1983.

A severe drought over much of the nation further reduced the crop. Grain production fell almost 40 percent, but due to increased foreign production, world grain supplies decreased only 3 percent. Because of good weather worldwide, the world wheat surplus will rise despite a smaller U.S. crop.

PIK and the drought seem to have overcome some of the effects of the huge harvests in other countries, however. Last fall the farm price of

corn had risen 50 percent from a year earlier, soybeans were up more than 60 percent and cotton rose 15 percent. Net farm income is expected to increase from 1983's estimated range of between \$24 billion and \$26 billion.

But higher crop prices will undoubtedly encourage much more planting next year, possibly adding to surpluses and lowering farm prices again. Officials are hoping that will be avoided as the economic recovery progresses, and other countries can afford to buy more U.S. food.

The department projects that while the sales volume of U.S. farm exports will fall about 3 percent next year, higher prices will push the value of exports up 12 percent, to about \$39 billion.

Raising those exports further will be hindered by the higher U.S. farm prices that were caused in part by the drought and by the high value of the dollar, which raises prices for U.S. products in comparison with other currencies.

"We may, in effect, be a relatively high-priced island in the international sea in some commodity sectors," said Daniel Amstutz, agriculture under secretary for international affairs, referring to the rise in U.S. commodity prices. He added, "We will also feel a double whammy from the continued

strength of the U.S. dollar. As a result, many of our traditional customers will not only be buying less because of economic conditions, but their reduced purchase levels are apt to contain more of our competitors' products."

Amstutz put a high priority on reducing the federal deficit, now projected to approach \$200 billion a year for the next several years. He said that level of federal borrowing creates a demand for credit that drives up interest rates, which in turn attracts foreign investment, driving up the value of the dollar.

Amstutz also sparked a debate during the four-day conference when he seemed to threaten an agricultural trade war over what he termed "unfair trading practices on the part of other nations that tend to price us out of world markets."

He criticized Japan for restricting imports and attacked Europe for subsidizing farm goods. Amstutz said, "We have no desire to engage in a trade war with the (European Community) — but we will not cede world markets to those who would attempt to buy them via export subsidizing practices."

But Henry Wallich, a governor of the Federal Reserve System, warned that if Congress were to pass protectionist legislation, "We can be sure the

farm sector will be one of the victims of retaliation, and believe me, the other countries do know where to move back on us."

Derwent Renshaw, agriculture representative for the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities, disputed charges that Europe was unfairly competing with U.S. trade. He called Europe "the United States farmers' best customer," and said that a list of recent proposals to the commission would reduce spending on EC farm programs.

"These (proposals) will hit the European farmers and will require sacrifices from them," said Renshaw. "U.S. farmers should stand to benefit in the future from the cutbacks envisaged."

American consumers will see the price of food rise between 4 percent and 7 percent in 1984, compared with 2 percent in 1983. Between 1 percent and 1.5 percent of that increase will be attributable to the drought. Food prices, especially meat, will rise slowly early in the year as animals are sent to market in response to the higher feed costs resulting from the drought. Meat will then lead sharper price increases in the summer and fall as supplies decline. Red meat prices in the third quarter of 1984 could be a tenth above current prices.

— Rural Electric News Service

1984 AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

	1983	1984
Net farm income	\$24-\$26 billion	could exceed 1983
Farm production expenses	3 percent decline	likely to rise substantially
U.S. farm export volume	145 million tons	140 million tons
U.S. farm export value	\$34.8 billion	\$39 billion
Farm price of food	4.5 percent decline	4-7 percent increase
Retail price of food	1.1 percent increase	3-6 percent increase

U.S. Department of Agriculture figures.
1983 figures are preliminary. 1984 figures are projections.
—Rural Electric News Service

'Comfort center' calls for planning, safety

As energy costs increase, home heating costs go right up with them, and more and more families are returning to an old concept — that of the



energy
efficiency

“comfort center.” There is nothing new about the comfort center but the name. It is built around the idea of isolating one fairly small area of your home and keeping it comfortably warm with a portable heater. This would be the area, or room where most family activities occur.

The rest of the home remains cool and economical. The idea makes a lot of sense, especially in the dead of winter. The length of time you keep your comfort center in operation would be determined by how well you can adjust to higher heating costs. Since most families tend to congregate in a family room anyway, it could be a winter-long thing.

There are many portable space heaters on the market, and electric and kerosene units are by far the most common. There are several things you need to know before you pick out a space heater. While price is always important, it should not be the only reason you choose a unit. Reputable testing agencies have tested many of the models available and you should look for their label when shopping.

USE CAUTION

- | | |
|---|--|
| DO choose a certified heater | DON'T use or store flammable liquids near any portable space heater |
| DO make sure it is properly connected | DON'T put clothes on or over the heater to dry |
| DO read labels and follow all warnings and instructions | DON'T use a heater as a “foot warmer,” as the surface may be hot enough to cause burns |
| DO keep clear space around the heater | DON'T stand close to a heater while wearing long robes, nightgowns or other clothing that may catch fire |
| DO keep heater clean and in good repair | DON'T let children play around the heater |
| DO keep a window or door partially open at all times when you use an unvented fossil fuel heater | DON'T put the heater in locations where people can bump into them or trip |
| DO contact your electric cooperative if you need help determining the size of portable heater you will need | DON'T let dirt build up inside heater |
| | DON'T use a portable electric heater in a bathroom |
| | DON'T forget regular inspections |

Most portable electric heaters are 110-120 volts and range in capacity from about 500 to 1,500 watts, so you will need to be sure your wiring is adequate. If you are in doubt, you may want to buy two small heaters and connect them to different circuits. They generally cost from \$25 to \$40, depending on their features.

The most common electric heaters available today are fan-forced radiant heaters. You can buy them in several different sizes, capacities and shapes (low profile, upright, etc.) Generally, most electric heaters will have a circulating fan, an automatic thermostat with an “off” setting, and an automatic shutoff feature in case there is excessive heat buildup or if the unit tips over. A good heater should also include a high temperature cord and plug and a carrying handle. The fan should be fairly quiet.

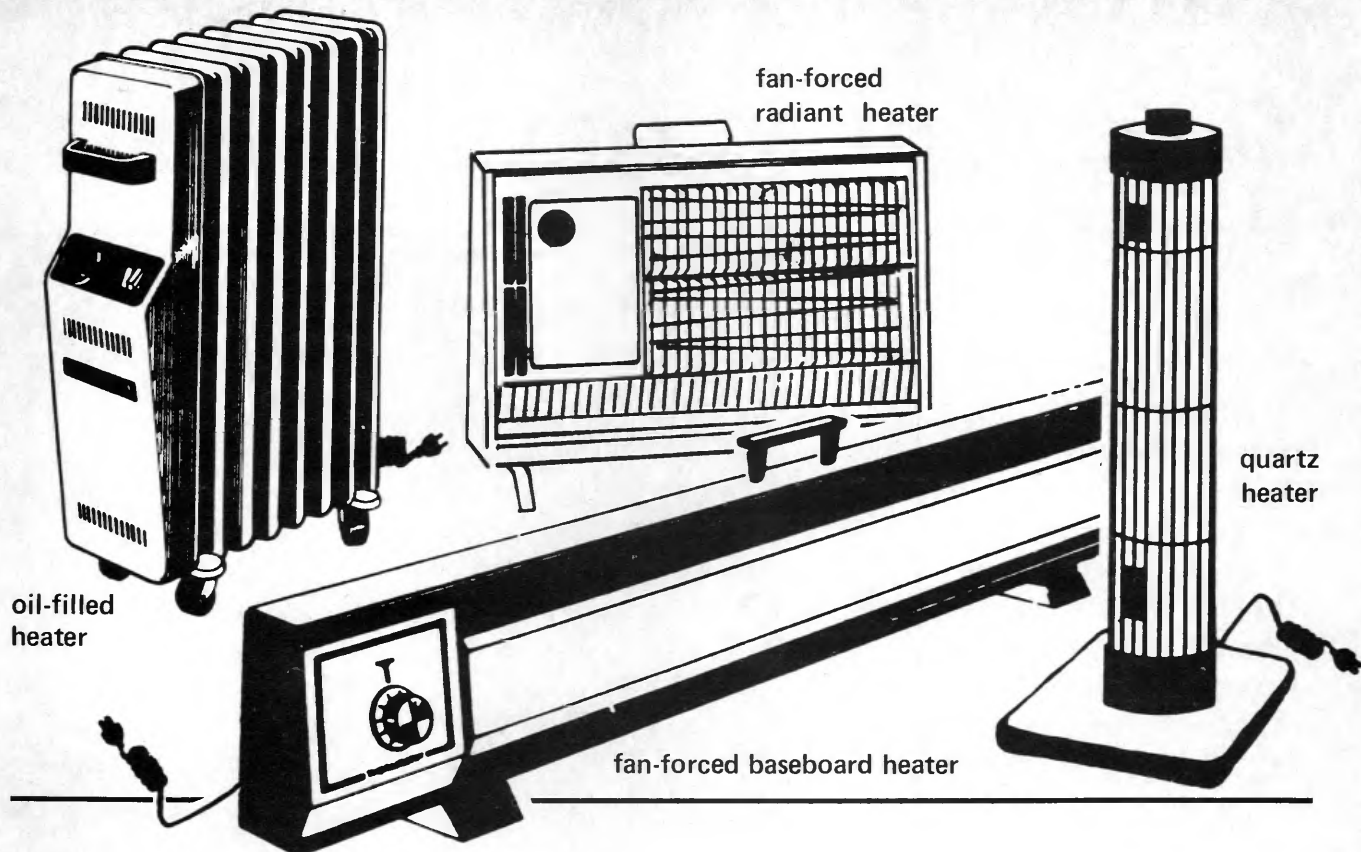
You will also want to check to see if the unit has the safer concealed heating elements, and make sure it has adequate air flow to distribute the heat it produces into the area you want warmed.

To estimate the cost of using a portable electric heater, you may want to assume that you expect to use a 1,500-watt unit ten hours a day. Based on costs of six cents per kilowatt-hour (check with your cooperative for the actual cost), with the unit's thermostat calling for heat 50 percent of the time, the cost of operating the heater would amount to about \$13.50 per month.

Kerosene heaters on the market now are a big improvement over the ones made years ago, but they all must be used with some ventilation, which means cracking a window or vent, and wasting some of the heat they generate.

There are two kinds of kerosene heaters, radiant and convective. In the radiants, a reflector beams heat from the burner to warm an object — such as a person. Convective models heat the air around them. None of the kerosene heaters on the market today has a thermostat to regulate their heat output. You have to turn the heater on and off.

The newer units are built on a heavy base that minimizes the tipping hazard that was a real problem years ago. Tipping should not be much of a



problem, but look for one that shuts off automatically if it does tip over. Kerosene heaters have a wick that must be carefully adjusted to get the proper "burn" and if that adjustment is incorrect, carbon monoxide and unburned hydrocarbons will result, with odor and soot buildup increasing. You should always use K1, or low-sulfur, kerosene in your heater. It is much lower in sulfur than K2, and burns much cleaner. You should never use any kind of gasoline in a heater designed to burn kerosene.

Kerosene heaters cost about two to three times as much as a modern electric space heater, but they generally cost somewhat less to operate, depending on the cost of electricity and K1 kerosene in your area. They have a wick that should be changed each season, adding another expense. Kerosene heaters require care in filling, and should be permitted to cool before refilling. While they boast removable fuel tanks that can be taken outdoors for refilling — as many manufacturers recommend — many people are unlikely to take such a precaution during the bitterly cold weather when portable heaters are likely to be used. Safe storage of kerosene is another

problem. As with any fossil fuel heating device, proper ventilation is absolutely mandatory.

In summary, all portable heaters have their advantages and disadvantages, and you will need to give some thought to your circumstances. While electric heaters are inexpensive to buy, they are somewhat more expensive to operate. They do not consume room air, nor do they give off pollutants. It is not necessary to "crack open" a door or window when using electric heaters. A modern one should shut off automatically if it tips over. Electric heaters are simple to move from room to room. The advantage to kerosene heaters is that they may be less

expensive to operate, but you must be careful in their use.

All portable space heaters present some danger. Since they give off heat, parts of them will be hot and will burn someone touching them. All may ignite nearby flammable materials. All require some special care when being used in the presence of children. Special care should be taken with electric heaters to keep them away from water because water and electricity make a lethal combination.

Whatever kind of heat you choose, you may want to give the "comfort center" idea a try — it can save you money with a minimum of inconvenience.

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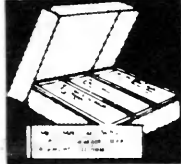
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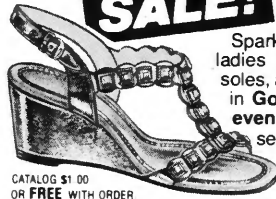
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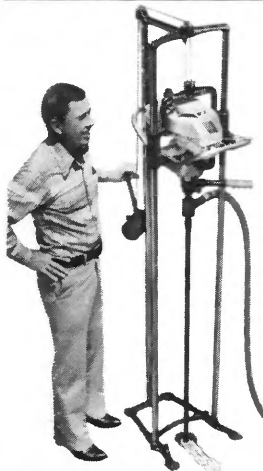
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Because lifestyles differ

Comparing electricity bills with neighbors no way to determine meter accuracy

While chatting with your neighbor, who lives in a house about the same size as yours, you discover that your electricity bill is higher than his. After comparing past bills, you realize that his bills are consistently lower than yours. As you try to determine why, you finally decide there is something wrong with your meter. It is running too fast, right?

Chances are that is not the right answer. Your meter is a carefully calibrated, highly accurate device. In fact, very few commodities are as accurately measured as the electricity you use.

Only a small percentage of the bill-related questions your electric cooperative receives involve bills that were the result of meter problems. Most high bill complaints are the result of the fact that people use more electricity than they think they do.

One reason members may be surprised at the usage listed on their bills is that electricity is one of the few things they use before paying for it. People pay for groceries at the check-out counter, and they buy clothes before wearing them. While they often make installment payments on items while using them, they always know how much the payments will be and how long they will continue.

Electricity is different. When the bill arrives, the electricity has already been used. The coal, oil or nuclear fuel needed to generate it has already been burned. If a member bought more than he intended to, it is too late for the member — or the cooperative — to

do anything about it. Electricity is one commodity that cannot be returned.

Many members use more electricity than they want to, perhaps because it is so convenient and so automatic. Electric heating and cooling systems maintain our homes in comfort; electric water heaters provide hot water for cleaning and sanitation; refrigerators and freezers preserve our foods. Ranges, microwave ovens and toasters help prepare our meals; electric alarm systems and security lights provide safety; radio, television and stereo systems inform and entertain us. The list goes on.

Back before the days of the OPEC oil embargo and sharply escalating oil and energy prices, the ease of using electricity was not a problem. People could flip a switch and have electricity do a job for them at very little cost. They forgot all the kilowatts required to power the numerous devices in their homes that provided comfort, saved work, entertained them or provided so many other services. Electricity was so cheap that using prodigious quantities of it caused no great concern.

While electricity still does many jobs for us at very little cost, it is not as inexpensive as it once was, and perhaps we should remember that each time we flip a switch, we are making a buying decision. When we turn on a light, we are deciding to buy the electricity that does the job. When we feel cool and dial up the furnace thermostat, we are deciding — whether we think of it or not — to buy the electricity. Throwing that switch is as much

a buying decision as picking a can of food off a supermarket shelf or filling the gas tank at the corner gas station. It is also a commitment to pay for the electricity.

Sometimes, members buy more electricity than they want to because there is something wrong with their electrical system. If you think you are paying more than you should be, you may want to follow these suggestions:

Check the two elements in the water heater! Is one burned out? If so, the other one is working full time to heat your water, causing a tremendous increase in your electric usage. A new element costs about \$20.

You might also check the water temperature setting. It should normally be at 120 degrees. If you have a dishwasher, 140 degrees is the recommended setting.

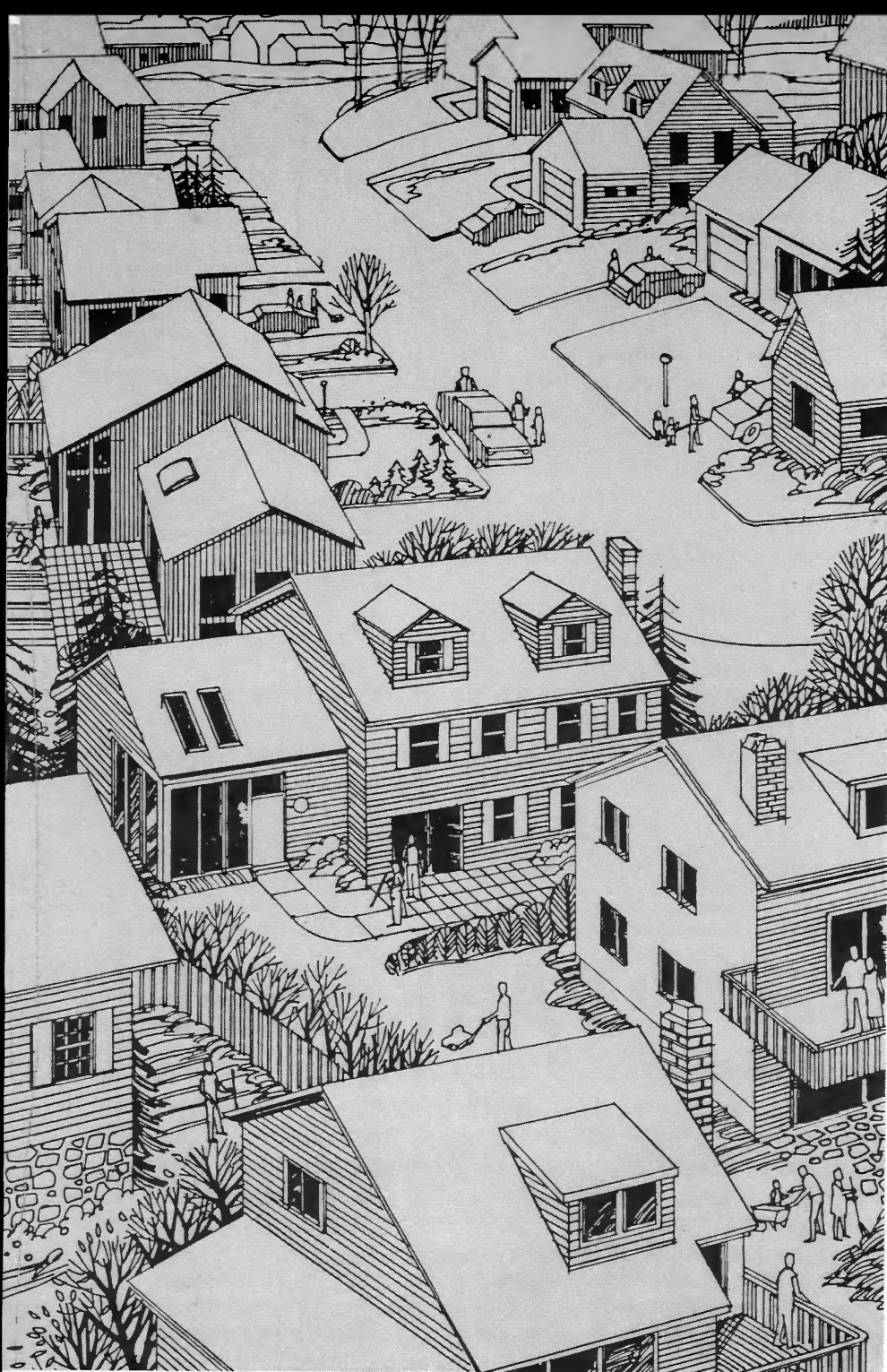
Is your well pump running all the time? It shouldn't be. Remember, your pump should only run once in awhile, not every time you turn on a faucet or flush a toilet.

If your well pump is running constantly, have an electrician examine it. It's consuming electricity unnecessarily.

If you suspect your meter, pull your main circuit breaker. Wait 10 minutes and then check the meter. It should be stopped.

Daily meter readings for one month will help you understand how and when you use electricity.

Take a few minutes each day, preferably at the same time, and write down the reading on your electric



meter. Then, by subtracting the previous day's reading from the current reading each day, you get the number of kilowatt-hours used during that 24-hour period.

You should also note along with the usage the jobs that were performed during that period. This will help you pinpoint activities that cause higher electrical consumption, such as washing and drying larger amounts of laundry or even running the air conditioning longer than normal.

By identifying such activities, you

may be able to reduce your usage through more efficient measures.

One thing of little help to members with high usage is to compare bills with your neighbors. Life-styles, the number and kinds of appliances and size of the family will cause a difference in usage. For example:

One refrigerator door may be opened twice as often. Each time the door opens, cold air rushes out and the unit must run more to replace it. Even the amount of food stored in a freezer may cause a variation. An empty

freezer runs more than a full one. Freezing food requires more electricity than storing it.

Some families use 40, 60 or 75-watt bulbs in their light fixtures while others use 100 or 150-watt bulbs in every socket. One family may retire at 9 o'clock while members of the other family watch television past midnight.

No two families have the same amount of laundry nor do they wash it the same way.

Electric ranges and microwaves consume electricity according to the number and types of meals prepared. That will certainly vary with the family.

One family may have inadequate wiring in their home while the other has a good electrical system. Voltage drop in poor wiring reduces the efficiency of appliances and wastes electricity.

These are only a few of the human elements that enter into comparing electric bills. No two families live alike or have the same habits, so it's no wonder the usage will be different.

In the many routine and requested meter tests conducted by your electric cooperative, it is rare, indeed, to find a meter that is outside the established tolerance level.

And the great majority of those that are outside operating standards run slow. In other words, the meter isn't recording enough usage. That's because it's like any other electric motor. It gets slower with time as dirt, moisture and insects take their toll.

Champion replaces Smith as manager of Illini

Wm. David Champion Jr., an employee of Illini Electric Cooperative since 1973, has been named manager of the cooperative by the board of directors. He replaces the retiring Walter R. Smith.

Champion, a native of rural Gays (Moultrie County), began work part time for Illini while he was a senior at the University of Illinois. After receiving a B.S. degree in accountancy in 1974, he became office manager. He was named assistant manager in 1979. Champion has completed a special management training program at the University of Nebraska, is a participant in an advanced management course at the same university and has studied budgeting and financial planning at the University of Wisconsin. He has also completed the Dale Carnegie course.

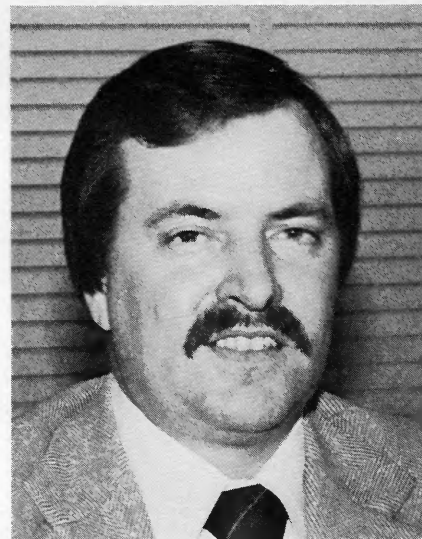
The new manager, his wife, Deborah, and daughters Becky (7)

and Teri (5) live near Ogden. Among their activities are the raising, training, breeding, selling and showing of quarterhorses.

A 1965 graduate of Windsor High School (Shelby County), Champion spent four years in the Air Force. During his service, he received two Air Force Commendation Medals, one during duty in Thailand and another while stationed in Guam. He served as an electronic warfare technician during the Vietnam conflict.

Smith is a 1947 graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in electrical engineering and he began his career with Illini that year as system engineer. From 1952 until 1958 he was operating superintendent, became assistant manager in 1958 and was appointed manager in 1960.

A native of New Canton (Pike County), Smith served in the Army

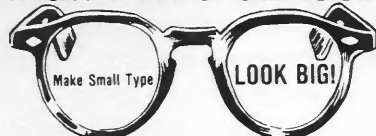


Wm. David Champion

during World War II, including service in the South Pacific.

Smith was prominent in numerous activities involving electric cooperatives, including being an original incorporator of Soyland Power Cooperative. He served as president of that 15-cooperative federation for nearly 20 years.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

PORK CHOPS, COUNTRY STYLE

- 6 pork chops
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 green pepper, diced
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 2 cups tomato chunks and juice
- 2 cups fresh cut corn, or canned
- Rice to serve separately

Lightly brown chops in pork fat. Place browned chops in buttered baking pan or dish. Add onions, pepper and celery to drippings in pan. Stir for a few minutes before adding fresh or canned corn and tomatoes. Simmer for a few minutes more, and add seasonings to your taste. Spread vegetables over the chops. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. At the same time, bake one cup of raw rice in 3 cups warm water in a separate buttered baking dish to serve along with Country Chops.

HAM AND RICE SALAD

- 1 carton sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 pkg. Hidden Valley Original Ranch Mix
- 2 cups cooked and cubed ham
- 2 cups parboiled rice, cooked and cooled
- 2 raw carrots, grated
- 1 cup cooked English peas, drained
- 1/2 cup finely chopped celery
- 1/2 cup finely chopped green pepper
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/4 cup finely chopped cucumber
- 1/4 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
- Salt and pepper to taste

Mix sour cream, mayonnaise and Ranch Mix. Combine remaining ingredients in large bowl and fold in sour cream dressing. Chill. Serves 8 to 10.

GOOD SALAD

- 2 (10 oz.) boxes of frozen chopped broccoli, thawed and well drained
- 1 head cauliflower, cut up
- 1 small can of little peas, drained
- Several stalks of celery, chopped fine
- 1 pkg. of Hidden Valley Creamy Italian Dressing powder
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup sour cream

Mix last 3 ingredients and pour over raw vegetables and toss well. Keeps for a week in the refrigerator.

THELMA'S WHITE SALAD

- 1 lb. marshmallows
- 1/2 cup milk
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 pint cottage cheese
- 1 (No. 2) can crushed pineapple
- 1 pint Cool Whip

Heat marshmallows in milk over medium heat. Remove and add cream cheese softened at room temperature. Cool and add remaining ingredients. Add candied cherries or other fruit for decoration.

CREAMY AVOCADO SCRAMBLED EGGS

- 12 eggs
- 1 cup (1/2 pint) light cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped fresh or frozen chives
- 1/4 cup margarine
- 2 medium avocados, peeled and cubed
- Brown and serve sausages, bacon, ham, etc. as desired. Combine eggs, cream, salt and pepper, beating until well blended. Stir in chives. Melt margarine in large skillet. Add eggs and stir over medium heat until eggs are creamy and almost set. Fold in avocado. Spoon eggs into chafing dish set over hot water or serve on individual plates immediately. Sprinkle with chopped chives if desired and surround with sausage, etc. Serves 12.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PIE

- 2 eggs
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 cup Bourbon
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and mix well. Add flour, stir. Mix remaining ingredients. Put mixture into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 375 degrees for 40 minutes.

CORNED BEEF CASSEROLE

- 1 pkg. (6-oz.) macaroni
- 1 can (12-oz.) corned beef
- 1/4 lb. sharp cheddar cheese, cubed
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 3/4 cup buttered crumbs
- Cook macaroni according to directions, drain. Add other ingredients, save crumbs for top. Pour into a casserole, top with crumbs. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees. Serves 8.

DILLY BREAD

- 1 cake dry yeast
- 1/4 cup warm water
- 1 cup creamed cottage cheese
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon instant onions
- 1 tablespoon dill seed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- 1/4 teaspoon soda
- 1 egg
- 2 1/4 cups flour

Soften yeast in warm water. Mix cottage cheese, sugar, onion, dill seed and salt. Heat until warm. Beat well and add butter, soda and egg. Beat well and add yeast mixture. Add flour half at the time. Put in a warm place until doubled in bulk. Push down (it will be sticky). Put in two small greased pans. Let rise until double. Bake 35 minutes at 350 degrees. Brush top with butter and sprinkle with salt. This freezes well, can be sliced, spread with butter, put in foil and heated.



ORIENTAL VEGETABLE MEDLEY

- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce
- 3 to 4 tablespoons cooking oil
- 1/2 cup cubed cabbage
- 2 carrots, cut in julienne strips and blanched 5 minutes in boiling water
- 1 can (8 oz.) bamboo shoots, rinsed and cut in half lengthwise
- 1 cucumber, peeled, seeded and cut in julienne strips
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) frozen Chinese pea pods, thawed

Combine broth, salt, sugar and soy sauce; set aside. Heat oil in wok or large skillet. Add cabbage and cook, stirring constantly, three minutes. Add remaining vegetables; cook and stir two minutes more. Add stock mixture and cook, covered, 3 to 4 minutes over medium heat. Serve immediately.

CHINESE LAMB WITH GREEN ONIONS

- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon water
- 3 lbs. lean lamb, cut in very thin strips
- 1 bunch green onions, sliced, cut into 1 1/2-inch lengths
- 1 1/2 tablespoons dry sherry
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- dash of pepper
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon Chinese oyster sauce or Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch dissolved in 1/4 cup cold water
- 1/2 cup dried European mushrooms cooking oil
- 3 slices fresh ginger, shredded
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and shredded
- 1 can (8 oz.) water chestnuts, drained and cut in half
- 1 can (8 oz.) bamboo shoots, drained and cut in half lengthwise
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Combine baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons cornstarch and 1 tablespoon water, blending well. Pour over lamb and let stand 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Blanch green onions in boiling water for 10 minutes. Drain and rinse in cold water to halt cooking. Drain again and set aside. In small bowl combine sherry, soy sauce, pepper, sugar, oyster or Worcestershire sauce and the cornstarch-water mixture. Set aside. Pour boiling water over dried mushrooms; let stand 30 minutes. Drain and shred. Saute three minutes in 1 tablespoon hot oil. Add 1 quart cooking oil to wok or deep fryer; heat to 375 degrees. Add lamb; cook and stir until lamb is lightly browned. Remove and drain lamb; reserve oil for another use. Heat two tablespoons oil in wok or skillet. Add ginger and garlic, cooking and stirring until it is browned. Add drained green onions, water chestnuts, bamboo shoots, mushrooms and 1/2 teaspoon salt, cooking and stirring three minutes. Add lamb and cook and stir one minute more. Stir in sherry-soy sauce mixture and cook and stir until sauce has thickened. Serve immediately. (6-8 servings.)

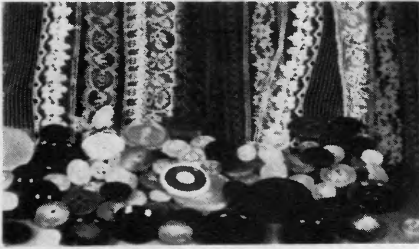


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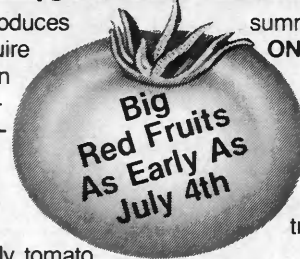
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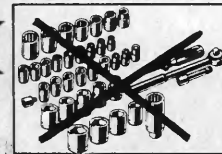
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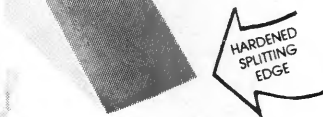
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HIGH CARBON
STEEL HEAD

HIGH STRENGTH STEEL HANDLE

1-YEAR TRIAL OFFER
AT OUR RISK

\$24.94

DELIVERED (INCLUDES TAX)
LOWER PRICED THAN IN 1980



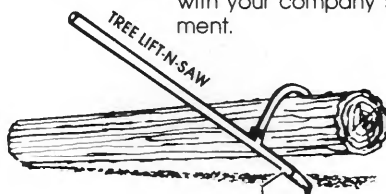
- ENDS BROKEN HANDLES, STUCK AXES AND FLYING WEDGES.
- HARDENED SPLITTING EDGE LASTS AND LASTS. RESISTS DEFORMING.
- SPLITS MOST LOGS IN ONE LICK.
- NO STRUGGLING LIFTING HEAVY LOGS UP TO HIGH PRICED POWER SPLITTERS.
- NO GASOLINE, NO SET-UP, NO TAKEDOWN.
- SHAPE OF HEAD PREVENTS STICKING.
- DROP'EM, SAW'EM, STAND'EM UP AND SPLIT'EM.
- NO GIMMICKS, JUST SIMPLE PHYSICS.



WISE INVESTMENT!

I have used your heater kit for seven years and never had a problem. The drum is still like new, as well as your parts. The Monster Maul made me feel like a Giant! The Lift-N-Saw is as valuable to me as my chain saw. I haven't had to sharpen my chains since using the Lift-N-Saw. I always used to hit rocks and dirt. I recently introduced my sister to your Barrel Stove, Lift-N-Saw, and Monster Maul. As she has a dog kennel business, which is now heated by the barrel stove, (compared to her past propane heater), she is "saving" \$600 a year to heat that building and \$700 a year to heat her house using your products. It shows by the picture, you don't have to be a burly lumber-jack to use your products...At the end of a winter's day, there is nothing like a warm house, and a stew that has been cooking all day on the barrel stove. From both of us. Thank you for saving us over \$1,300 this past winter. At the time of writing this letter it is 33° outside and 74° in the house. Using one small log, the furnace never comes on. P.S. I figure the \$250 I spent with your company saved me over \$5,000. What an investment.

Robert E. Greiner, Windham, N.Y.



GUARANTEE

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There's really no mystery about what causes foot problems

Very simply stated, when you're born, each of your feet has 26 different bones held in balance and position by tendons, muscles and ligaments.

Once something happens to destroy this balance, (no matter what your age) it's irreversible unless you do something about it.

There's really no mystery about finding relief

Since 1948, over 3,000,000 people are enjoying blessed relief they never thought possible... thanks to flexible Featherspring® Foot Supports.

How do Feathersprings bring relief? Well, unlike costly special shoes, mass-produced arch preserves, or ready-made drug store remedies. Custom-formed flexible Feathersprings actually restore and maintain the elastic support your feet had when you were a youth.

No matter how long you've had foot problems—be it 3 months or 30 years—the instant you slip a pair of Feathersprings in your shoes (one pair is all you'll ever need)—you'll be able to stand all day, walk, dance, even jog or run in total comfort.

What people say in unsolicited testimonials, about Feathersprings:

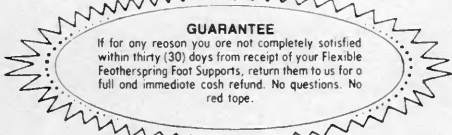
"... I have thoroughly enjoyed the comfort Feathersprings have provided me. You would not believe the difference they have made my feet feel—before I had such pain when walking because I have severe callus' on both of my feet."



M.W.R./Richmond, VA

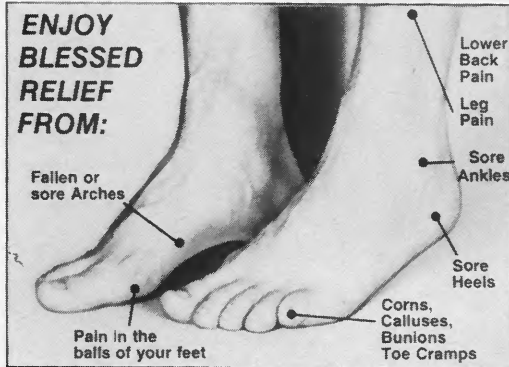
"Received my wife's Feathersprings two days ago. They are super... neither of us can believe the results. She has had terrible feet for years; already no pain. Incidentally, her sore knee is much better... As a retired physician, this result is amazing."

Dr. C.O.C./Tucson, Arizona



* Actual photo of a customer who sent us this letter.

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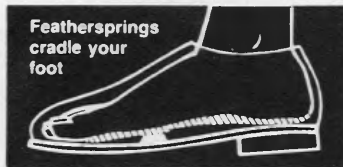
There's really no risk involved in finding out whether Feathersprings can relieve your foot problems

We're so certain that Feather-spring Foot Supports will end your foot problems that if you're not completely satisfied... we'll refund your money in full... with no questions asked.

Write us for full information, there's no obligation and no salesman will call. Just fill out and mail the coupon below.

Featherspring's unique, 3-point flexible suspension system:

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9348
SIZES
10½-26½



9141
SIZES
10½-24½



9443
SIZES
8-20



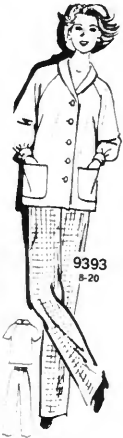
9009
SIZES
8-18



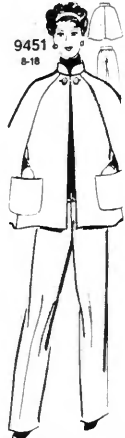
4593
SIZES 8-20



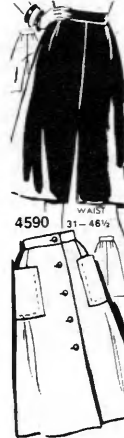
4725
34-48



9393
8-20



9451
8-18



4590
WAIST
31-46½



9253
SIZES
10½-26½



4728
6-20



9421
SIZES
10½-20½

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- No. 9348 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, 24½, 26½. Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 3-3/8 yards 45-inch.
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- No. 9009 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 3½ yards 60-inch fabric.
- No. 4593 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) jacket, slim skirt 2½ yards 60-inch.
- No. 4725 is cut in Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48. Yardages given in pattern.
- No. 9393 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) jacket 1-3/4 yards 60-inch; pants 1-3/8.
- No. 9451 is cut in sizes (8, 10, 12), (14, 16, 18). Order your regular size.
- No. 4590 is cut in Women's Waist Sizes (31, 33, 35, 37), (39, 41½, 44, 46½). Order regular size.
- No. 9253 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, 24½, 26½. Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 2-7/8 yards 45-inch; 3/8 yard contrast.
- No. 4728 is cut in sizes (6, 8, 10, 12), (14, 16, 18, 20). Order your regular size.
- No. 9421 is cut ins sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½. Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 2-7/8 yards 45-inch.

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 (please allow four weeks for delivery):

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

Print Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Suzanne Smith makes new clothes with an old wrinkle. She is into smocking, the art of fabric gathering and decorating that goes back at least 600 years.

Smocking, the vivacious Corn Belt Electric Cooperative member says, is the method of gathering any width of material into regular folds and securing them with stitchery. The folds provide "give" to the material, much like accordian pleats, and offer ready-made decoration, too.

While simple folds offer some ornamentation, they also offer a starting place for the more creative, who want to add some embellishment of their own in the form of decorative stitches, Suzanne suggests.

While smocking is an uncommon pastime in most of the country, it is fairly popular in the South, and it follows that Suzanne, who is a native of Lebanon, Tennessee, would be interested, especially given her creative nature and homemaking skills; she recently took grand prize honors in a

Bloomington area cooking contest.

"My mother used to belong to a demonstration club," Suzanne laughs, "but I didn't learn smocking from her. She did some smocking for me when I was little, but I finally learned from my mother-in-law, who enjoys it.

These days, smocks are not the most commonplace item of apparel in the average person's wardrobe, but that has not always been the case. Time was, everybody who could afford to had a smock for everyday wear and another for dress-up. "Some of the early smocks consisted simply of two rectangles joined together with openings for the head and arms," Suzanne says.

"Smocks were worn by farmers, shepherds and traveling men in the fourteenth century," she adds, "and most other segments of society wore them, too. The main difference was in the cut and decoration. The land worker's protective smock was worn throughout Western Europe," she notes, "and the working garment was

supplemented by a 'best smock,' which would be a lot like what people used to call their 'Sunday go to meeting' suit."

The best smock, she continues, would be highly decorated, and white was by far the most common color. It was saved for special occasions such as weddings and funerals, and would be worn to church, too. They were often fine examples of the smock maker's art, and might cost one or two weeks' pay. Naturally, many smocks were made at home and passed down from one generation to another, with minor alterations made as needed for fit.

"Land workers throughout Western Europe wore protective smocks, which varied in decorative detail from country to country, but the cut and style bore a close resemblance to what the English came to call the 'smock-frock'," Suzanne continues, adding, "while smocks varied with area, occupation and occasion, they were almost universally worn by both men and women."

That changed fairly abruptly with the coming of the machine age, she notes, because smocks were prone to snag on machinery. Also, young people, lured to the towns by higher-paying industrial jobs, were hassled by their urban counterparts, and were all too willing to shed the "old-fashioned" ways of their parents and grandparents. The loosely fitting smocks were quickly replaced with

Suzanne's Smocking



Photos from left: Suzanne. Some of Suzanne's work. An heirloom steamer trunk holds a good sampling of her work, including a smocked Christmas tree ornament. A small machine has taken a lot of the drudgery out of the art.



clothing that was more in tune with the machine age, and more fashionable too.

Ironically, Suzanne remarks, smocks became more popular with the well-to-do after peasants quit wearing them, and they enjoyed several more years of popularity, much the way blue jeans have made the transition from simple laborer's clothing to designer fashionwear.

As deeply involved in smocking as she is, Suzanne was trained in an entirely different field: She majored in education at the University of Tennessee and taught before becoming a smocking enthusiast.

"I always had the ambition to teach high school," she says, "but I never got the chance. After five years of teaching junior high, I landed a spot at the Middle Tennessee State University, then I met Bob who works for State Farm Insurance. We married and he was transferred here shortly after that, and I looked around Bloomington for teaching jobs for a while. That didn't pan out, so I started looking for some other kind of work.

"I got a job at a local ad agency as a receptionist and girl Friday, and it was a real career change. I love it! I've learned a lot about art, photography, layout and graphics, and it's been wonderful."

As the old saying goes, teaching's loss is art's gain, for Suzanne has definitely taken a turn for the better,

careerwise. She sells some of her creations through "The Rocking Horse," a children's wear store in Normal. She takes special orders, too, and sells self-teaching kits by mail. As if that were not enough to keep her busy, she teaches classes, too, and has found a ready market for her classroom skills. During September, she says, she was teaching three different classes, "and that got to be a little too much," she exclaims.

Ironically, her first offer to teach a class drew no takers. "I went to the night school office," she relates, "and offered to teach a class. They told me

that if there weren't enough applicants, there wouldn't be any class. Nobody signed up. They told me they'd try once more and if nobody enrolled, that would be it. Well, 12 people signed up on the second try, and that was the maximum number the class was supposed to have. I teach classes at my home, too."

Pattern companies are offering a few smocking designs, Suzanne notes, and a small machine has been devised to take some of the more painstaking and laborious work out of the craft, so smocking should be gaining in popularity soon.



Participants line up for a tour of the Washington Monument during last year's tour. This year's trip will also feature a tour of the imposing spire, as well as many other traditional Washington sites.

1984 YOUTH TOUR

A tradition celebrates its silver anniversary

This year marks the silver anniversary of an Illinois electric cooperative tradition that has improved steadily with the years. In the last 24 years the Illinois Rural Electric "Youth to Washington" tour has been on the road, hundreds of Illinois high school youths have taken the week-long trip to Gettysburg, Pa. and Washington, D.C. It is June 8-15 this year.

While there, they toured historic sites, met with Illinois legislators and made friends with young people from other cooperatives and many states.

Most of the youths on the tour win a seat on one of the two tour buses by excelling in essay contests sponsored by their local electric cooperative. Others, many of whom are ineligible to compete because they are related to a cooperative director or employee, travel at their own expense. These



"Willie Wiredhand" students receive the same treatment during the tour as the essay winners.

Last year's tour group followed the general format the trips have been based on for several years. The youths boarded their air-conditioned buses at Springfield and left at about noon on Friday. After a long fun-filled trip punctuated only briefly by meal stops, they arrived at Gettysburg mid-morning Saturday, for a tour of the historic battleground.

From there the students and their chaperones went on into Washington,

D.C., in preparation for a round of tours that very few people receive.

But one of the first activities upon arrival was a mock annual meeting, where they elected one of their number to represent them on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Consulting Board. YCB representatives will attend the NRECA annual meeting this month in San Francisco and work as informational guides during the meeting.

Students on this year's tour will follow that format too, having meals with their legislators and taking advan-

tage of an opportunity to meet with them in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

The group will tour Arlington National Cemetery, where they will watch the changing of the guard at the tomb of the unknown soldier, and a parade and pageant at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial. A fairly new addition to the tour is a stop at the Vietnam War Memorial, and another at the recently completed National Aquarium in Baltimore.

However, any trip to Washington should include plenty of the old standbys, and this year's tour does. The Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress, Mt. Vernon, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial and the National Zoo are all on the agenda.

While the students benefit greatly from the tour, it not only widens their horizons, but also offers other opportunities as well. Past tour members have become national officers on the YCB, and two from Illinois have been president. These offices open up chances to travel — and leadership opportunities too — that can mean a real career head start.

The Louisan E. Mamer Scholarship Fund, recently established at the University of Illinois and administered by the U. of I. Foundation, is a good possibility for a tour winner. It is to be awarded annually to undergraduate students of at least junior standing who are enrolled in a curriculum of the School of Human Resources and Family Studies. As part of the scholarship selection criteria, special interest is given to those students who have participated in the activities of the AIEC "Youth to Washington" tour.

The U. of I. Department of Agricultural Communications also watches the trip winners with interest. They feel that the kind of talent expressed by the essay winners is a necessary ingredient for a successful agricultural communicator. As a matter of tradition, each year the Office of Agricultural communications writes to the winners of the essay contests to congratulate them on their success and inform them of the opportunities available in agricultural communications.

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relieves backache, headache, even pain of tennis elbow, arthritis & bursitis!

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Why infrared? With ordinary methods such as heating pads and hot water bottles, much of the heat is dissipated on the skin's surface. There's no lasting effect.

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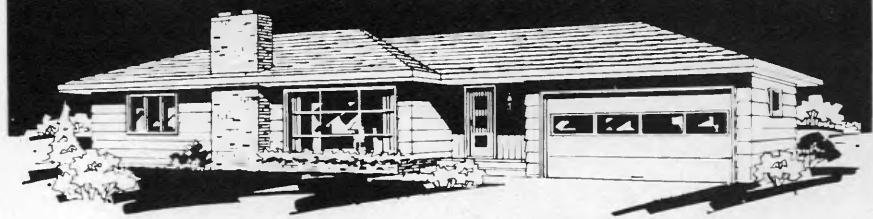
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PAULOWNIA — Unique Forest Tree for Japanese Export Market; high value wood, fast growth (Central/Southern Illinois). Information, seedlings, AC Enterprises, R.R. 1, Box 190, Hillsboro, IL 62049.

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BABY Chicks. Over 40 varieties of rare and fancy breeds, old-time favorites, Bantams, plus nation's best popular laying breeds. Chicks for every requirement, large poultryman, small raiser, hobbyist and 4-H boy and girl. Poultry show winners from coast-to-coast. 100% live arrival guaranteed. Send for Free Colorful Catalog. Marti Poultry Farm, Box 27-7, Windsor, Missouri 65360.

Craftsmanship that Endures



Build higher quality into your farm home investment

95% of the homes we build are for farm and ranch families. We know the quality successful farmers expect in a home and we deliver it, very competitively. For example, we use nothing but kiln-dried Western Fir for framing. Every board is straight, square, and true. Our

experienced crews build on your site the old-fashioned way... no pre-fab or pre-cut. Our insulated windows are the finest made in the U.S. today, and our cabinets are custom-crafted. For a quality home we'll both be proud of, send this coupon today.

North Country Homes

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Model Home open daily, Sundays 1-5

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Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
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I plan to build: 6 Mos. 1 Yr. More than 1 yr.
 Please have your representative contact me.



SOTZ AIRTIGHT WOODSTOVE

OUR 27th YEAR

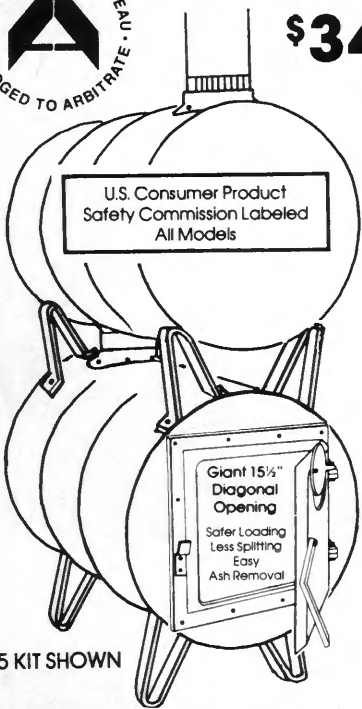
\$34.92

55-Gal. bottom kit factory pick-up

Kits convert 15 to 55 gal. drums (not supplied) into high capacity stoves.

\$26.94

30-Gal. bottom kit factory pick-up



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Labeled All Models

Giant 15 1/2" Diagonal Opening
Safer Loading Less Spilling
Easy Ash Removal

55 KIT SHOWN

55 Gal. 15 1/2" Diagonal Opening (140 Sq. In.)
15-30 Gal. 9 1/2" Rd. Door Opening (70 Sq. In.)

SIZE KIT	ORDER MODEL #	FACTORY PICK-UP	DEL.
30 Gal. Bottom	30H	\$26.94	\$30.94
55 Gal. Bottom	55H	\$34.92	\$38.93
Top Kit Fits Both	DD	\$17.92	\$20.93

(Drums Not Supplied)

*TESTED TO U.L. SPECIFICATIONS BY GEISSER ENGRS.

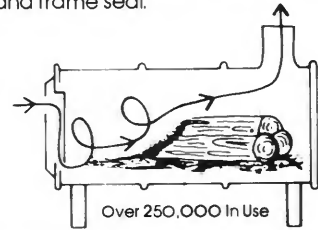
- * Airtight design and draft control engineered to limit the amount of oxygen entering stove for controlled, safe, efficient heat. Prevents overfiring so drums can't burn up.
- * Use of Draft Control allows you to heat large or small areas. Basement installation heats your entire home. Great for your garage, workshop, or cabin. Top drum squeezes 60% more BTU's from heat normally lost up the chimney. Bolts together quick and easy.
- * Legs bolt to drum in 8 places strong, stable, safe. Won't wobble.
- * Top drum kit includes heavy duty connector pipe, others don't.
- * 10" long safety door handle. Keeps hands away from hot stoves. Adds leverage.
- * Jamb nuts on latch, draft control and hinges for precise adjustment. Won't come loose.
- * Original 2 bolt camlock door catch won't bend or break off.

Burns over 24 hours

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

Air entering top draft control is PRE-heated 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. Lifetime heavy steel tapered formed, self-adjusting door and frame seal.



Over 250,000 In Use

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 CHALLENGE

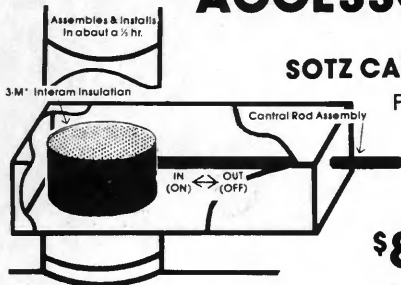
Use a HEAVY STEEL Sotz 2-Drum Stove Kit (with Internal Draft Channel), a Corning® Combustor and Auto Draft for one year. If you find a more efficient, longer burning, higher capacity Woodstove, we will give you all your money back + shipping both ways. That's how sure we are Sotz is the best! All Kits guaranteed for life against cracking, warping and burn-up.

ACCESSORIES FOR ALL WOODSTOVES

YOU CAN HEAT MORE EFFICIENTLY

SOTZ CATALYTIC COMBUSTOR KIT

Fits woodstoves with 6" and 8" fluepipe



\$89.95

Factory Pick-up



WHY NOT HAVE THE BEST FOR LESS?

NO RISK GUARANTEE

TRY A CORNING® ON YOUR WOODSTOVE FOR UP TO ONE YEAR AND IF YOU DON'T AGREE IT PAYS FOR ITSELF IN:

- * FIREWOOD SAVINGS
 - * REDUCED CHIMNEY CLEANING BILLS
 - * LONGER BURNS BETWEEN LOADINGS
 - * MORE HEAT
 - * LESS SMOKE
 - * LESS CHANCE OF CHIMNEY FIRE
- YOUR MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED.

SOTZ WOODSMOKE BURNER

- * Uses Corning® Brand 3" thick catalytic combustor - others use inferior 1 1/2" thick off brands. Check before you buy.
- * 6" or 8" Models - Hooks right to pipe or elbow. No expensive adaptors to buy.
- * Chemically changes smoke so it returns. Increase heat output 20%. Reduce creosote 90%. Reduce smoke pollution 75%.



	FACTORY PICK-UP	DEL. TO YOUR DOOR
SOTZ COMBUSTOR KIT		
1CCC-FITS 6" FLUEPIPE	\$89.95	\$95.95
3CCC-FITS 8" FLUEPIPE	\$93.95	\$99.95
2CCC-FITS SOTZ 2-DRUM	\$89.95	\$95.95

SOTZ WOODSTOVE TOOLS



*SOTZ long handle woodstove tools, over 40". Keeps hands away from hot stove. Safe. **\$12.81** FACTORY PICK-UP

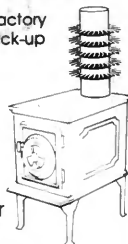
* Special rake uncovers charcoal from ash. Results: Charcoal burns, increasing heat output, efficiency, and length of burn. Decreases ash buildup.

	FACTORY PICK-UP	DEL. TO YOUR DOOR
WOODSTOVE TOOLS	\$12.81	\$15.95

SOTZ STOVEPIPE FINS

5 Fins for **\$4.95** Factory Pick-up

- * Recover that heat going up your chimney.
- * For wood/coal stoves, furnace, water heaters.
- * One size fits all diameter pipes from 3" to 8".
- * 5 fins on 8" pipe recovers 2,000 BTU's. Double BTU's by using 10 fins.
- * Works great with the combustor.

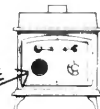


	FACTORY PICK-UP	DEL. TO YOUR DOOR
STOVE PIPE HEAT FINS (Set of Five)	\$4.95	\$5.95

SOTZ AUTOMATIC DRAFT CONTROL

\$21.95 Factory Pick-up

FITS HERE



AUTO DRAFT FOR Spin Draft Stoves Sotz Heaters Only

FOR AIRTIGHT WOODBURNERS

- * Maintain steady, comfortable temperature for hrs., without adjusting.
- * 20% avg. fuel savings.
- * Replaces spin draft control.
- * Easy 1 bolt installation.
- * Fits spin draft control stoves with 2-7/8" max. die hole, controls 6" rd.

	FACTORY PICK-UP	DEL. TO YOUR DOOR
	\$21.95	\$23.95
	\$18.95	\$20.95

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

VISA or MASTERCARD RUSH ORDERS
MINIMUM \$15.00
CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-321-9892
Inside Ohio 1-216-236-5021
OR SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER.
Sorry, No C.O.D.'s

FOR THIS YEAR'S PRIZE ROSE GARDEN

*the world's
highest rated*

ALL 12 FOR \$21.95
ANY 6 FOR \$11.50—ANY 3 FOR \$5.85

Already Selected and Tried . . .
These are The Best Roses You Can
Buy . . . Now at Low, Low Prices.

Only the rose has such great beauty of form, pleasing color range, delightful fragrance and is so adaptable to almost every flower garden. However, since there are thousands of different varieties of roses, you can only be sure of beautiful blooms by selecting varieties that have withstood the test of time and remained popular year after year with amateur and expert alike. Each rose offered in this spring planting sale is a formerly patented variety that has been tested and proven for ease of growth, beauty and abundance of bloom, and hardiness in all parts of the country. These are strong, healthy, vigorous rose bushes. And only \$1.98 each!

FAMOUS "NO-FAULT" GUARANTEE

These hardy, healthy rose bushes are two years old and branched . . . tagged with name and variety, well packed for arrival in good condition. If not satisfied on arrival you may return within 15 days for full refund. Any rose that doesn't grow and develop, we will replace it free (3 year limit).

ROSES

only \$1.98 each

FREE OF EXTRA COST
GIANT HIBISCUS

Bonus for orders mailed before April 25. Nursery grown from seed, 1-2 years old. Large blooms on 6 ft. stems



PEACE
Most nearly perfect rose of all. Past "ALL AMERICAN" winner. Produces dozens of blooms up to 8" across almost all summer and fall. Red tinged in ivory, cream, sunshine yellow.



BLANCHE MALLERIN
Pure white Hybrid Tea features large, high centered blooms the whitest of them all. Vigorous grower, glossy foliage.



CRIMSON GLORY
Large, well formed, deep velvety blooms are finest red of all . . . and most fragrant, too. Blooms in profusion all summer long.



MISTER LINCOLN
Tall and stately, this bold patriotic red was indeed All American Rose of the Year. Very fragrant and vigorous, well deserving of its proud name.



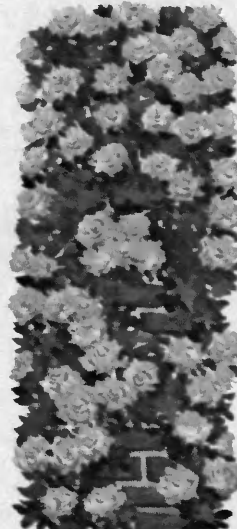
TIFFANY
Large long buds unfold into lush double blooms of beautiful warm pink. "ALL AMERICAN" winner, considered one of the most beautiful of all roses. Intensely fragrant.



ECLIPSE
Profuse and remarkably long pointed buds open to deep-cupped, long-lasting double golden yellow blooms that come in waves far into fall.



FORTY-NINER
Blooms all summer long with brilliantly contrasting petals, vivid oriental red inside and chrome yellow outside. Former "ALL AMERICAN ROSE SELECTION".



CLIMBING PEACE
Easy growing, flowers generously all summer long with dozens of vivid golden blooms tinged in red or pink. Quickly clambers over fence, arbor or trellis in a rolling blanket of large, gorgeous golden blooms.



QUEEN ELIZABETH
Truly one of the most breathtaking roses, its lovely pink flowers bloom early June to frost. Former "ALL AMERICAN ROSE SELECTION" winner. Finest of the pinks.



CHRYSLER IMPERIAL
Perfectly shaped tapering buds open into large, velvety, dark red blooms with up to 40-50 petals each! Former "ALL AMERICAN ROSE." Richly fragrant.



MIRANDY
Strong, vigorous grower produces many surprisingly large well-formed blooms, as befits a past "ALL AMERICAN ROSE SELECTION" winner. Purplish-red maroon color.



CLIMBING BLAZE
This champion climber produces a vivid blanket of big, 2 to 3 inch scarlet-red double blooms on many branched canes. Blooms again and again, summer into fall, covering trellis, walls, fence with a sheet of vivid, flaming color.

**Send No Money — Your Order
Will Be Promptly Acknowledged,
Carefully Processed And Shipped!**

In all our 41 years of serving flower lovers and home gardeners, we feel this is the best combination of rose bush varieties we have ever offered. These are hardy vigorous plants, not allowed to lie around on display and dry out. When shipped, they are carefully packed, protected and tagged with name of variety. While not expected, in event of shortage of any variety, we will substitute with one of equal or greater value. Easy planting instructions included.

Order now to reserve your rose shipment for spring planting. You may order on your credit card if you wish. Or send remittance now (plus \$1.50 towards postage and handling) — either way, we ship postpaid. Mail order before April 25 and receive free bonus of Giant Hibiscus.

MICHIGAN BULB CO.
1950 Waldorf
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49550

SEND TODAY FOR YOUR PRIZE ROSE COLLECTION

Michigan Bulb Co., Dept. EB-144, 1950 Waldorf, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49550
Please send Prize Winning Roses as checked below plus Giant Hibiscus bonus if order mailed before April 25. Every rose is guaranteed.

- (412) Prize Winning Rose Collection — 12 Roses, one of each variety. \$21.95
 Any 24 for \$39.95 Any 12 for \$21.95 Any 6 for \$11.50
 Any 3 for \$5.85 Any One for \$1.98

Cat. No. INDICATE HOW MANY OF EACH VARIETY:

- (400) ___ Peace (409) ___ Eclipse (411) ___ Chrysler Imperial
(401) ___ Blanche Mallerin (410) ___ Forty Niner (408) ___ Queen Elizabeth
(407) ___ Mirandy (405) ___ Tiffany (417) ___ Mr. Lincoln
(402) ___ Crimson Glory (406) ___ Climbing Blaze (404) ___ Climbing Peace

- Remittance enclosed plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Ship postpaid.
 Bill on my credit card, plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Ship postpaid.
(Check one). MasterCard Visa American Express

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

PRINT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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