

November 1965

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Illinois Rural Electric News

Pour this safe, non-corrosive powder into your commode once a month...and

# END SEPTIC TANK SMELL, CLOGGING AND BACKUP!

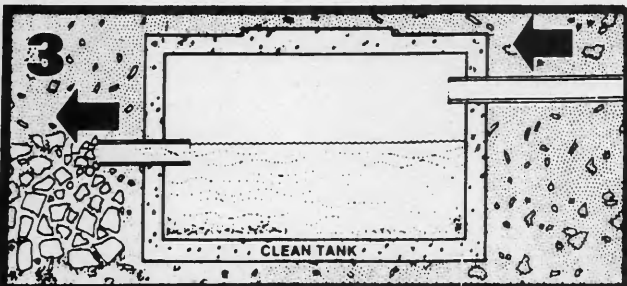
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John Muller, Howell, N.J.

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SZ-14

# Power supply shortage risks

(Editor's note: Following is the opening statement of Sen. James A. McClure (R-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources at hearings held in Washington recently.)

There are two issues that, in my judgment, merit the particular attention of this committee. One involves demand for electricity and the other relates to supply.

First, if we ask what the demand for electricity will be five years from now, we find that there is wide disagreement among the experts who make the forecasts. Some bluntly say that the potential for future electric power shortages is a mirage, because the growth in demand will be very low. What if they are wrong? What price will electric consumers pay?

These questions point to the basic issue of whether utilities and consumers can afford to assume the risk of underestimating future demand.

The second issue involves the ability of electric utility companies to supply the amount of new generating capacity needed to meet future demand, at whatever level it may be. Electric utilities today seem to be confronted by a long line of barriers that have the effect of inhibiting construction of new generating plants.

In recent years, these barriers have grown in number and size. They are placed at every stage of the planning and construction process and they affect every type of generating plant. The barriers consist of regulatory constraints at all levels of government, environmental restrictions, a variety of financial limitations and the over-riding risk of abrupt and unanticipated changes in government policies in all of these areas at any time.

Taken together, these barriers may have grown to the point that the added costs and risks of building new generating capacity are simply unacceptable.

In some states, where utilities have recently completed

construction of large generating plants, the added capacity turned out to be too much, because system demand had not grown at the rate forecast years earlier when the decisions to build the plants were made.

The public utility commissions in a number of these states have concluded that, if a portion of the capacity of a new plant is not needed, then the ratepayers should not have to pay for it.

The result, according to some financial analysts, has been a form of severe economic penalty imposed on electric utilities when they overestimate demand. The argument is that the risk of miscalculating demand has been shifted from the ratepayers to the stockholders. This is an important issue, because it has a direct bearing on the question of whether the supply of baseload generating capacity will be adequate during the next decade.

Finally, I would suggest that we need to look carefully at the options available to utilities if they find that their generating capacity will not meet the demand on their systems. Will they be able to use gas-fired combustion turbines? That will depend, in part, on whether adequate supplies of gas will be available. Will they be able to purchase the extra power from other companies? That will depend, of course, on whether other utilities have excess power available for sale and whether the transmission facilities are adequate.

Assuming a utility can obtain additional supplies, what will be the added cost to the ratepayers and how will it compare to the cost that would have been incurred if new, baseload capacity had been constructed and brought on line when it was needed?

There are no definitive answers to these questions, but that should not prevent us from attempting to make the best possible judgments.

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Cover: Most people see line work from the ground, watching linemen framed against the sky. This photo, shot during the Hot Line School, is from straight above. (See story on pages 4, 5, and 6.)

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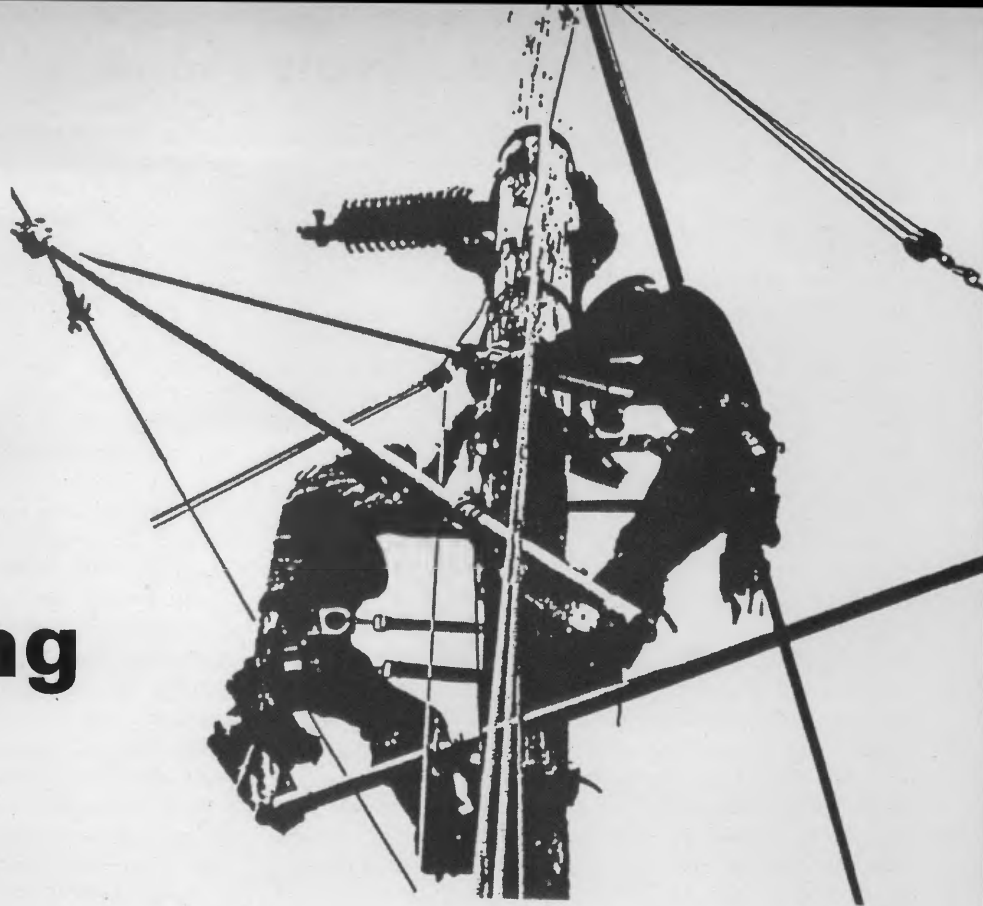
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# Hot Line School: continuing safety training



**F**or the better part of three weeks in late September and early October, cooperative and municipal utility line personnel climbed and dug their way through the 1985 Hot Line Maintenance School at Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield.

The school, in which linemen work

on lines exactly like they would encounter in the field, minus the high voltage, was well-attended. Ninety-two linemen from 16 electric cooperatives and 14 municipals turned out to hone their skills under the watchful eyes of 16 instructors and 16 supply representatives, who watched carefully so their

students would not learn any unsafe habits. Nine cooperatives provided instructors for the school, which was coordinated by David A. Diederich, director of the AIEC Job Training and Safety Department, and James E. Nevel, JT&S instructor.

*(Continued on page 6)*



*Under careful supervision, a Hot Line School student prepares to convert a three-phase line to single-phase.*



*Much of the work is still done with muscle power. Here work is under way to lift up a pole arm.*



*Preparing to take the line out of a suspension insulator, this worker will splice in a section of line.*



*More and more electrical work will involve underground systems, and these men are discussing the workings of the three-phase feed-through, or switch cabinet.*



*Gary Kroepel of Electrorep demonstrates the Cadwell welding connection system to an attentive crowd. The system uses a carefully measured incendiary charge to fuse conductor joints.*

(Continued from page 4)

The work, a careful blend of classroom lectures and "hands-on" experience, dealt with virtually every aspect of electricity, from the smaller overhead lines familiar to nearly all rural Illinoisans, to the large transmission lines. One week of the school was given over to underground rural distribution, or URD, which is a rapidly growing field.

While it costs more to install underground lines, and faults in them are more difficult to locate and repair, they are virtually immune to the wind, ice and snow storms that occasionally play havoc with overhead lines. Many communities and subdivisions are converting to underground because of aesthetic reasons, too, and employees need to know the special techniques involved in trouble shooting and repairing faults in buried lines.

The old standbys, "coverup" and "rubber gloving," were taught in depth, too. "Coverup" involves the use of non-conductive covers to go over lines that are still live, and heavy rubber gloves worn by the linemen pro-

vide enough protection that they can work on them without the troublesome, inconvenient outages that rural people had to put up with for so many years.

"Hotsticks" were also a feature of the school. They are long, non-conductive sticks that are fitted with tools and, when carefully used, offer linemen another way to work on live lines. With all the procedures, there is heavy


and persistent emphasis on careful use of available tools and techniques to maximize safety and minimize the risks that are always present when dealing with electricity.

Cooperatives sending instructors to one or more of the week-long sessions were: Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, Richard Hillgoss and Larry Niccum; Coles-Moultrie Electric Coop-

(Continued on page 18)

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# Aid program deadline extended until December

**W**eather-prompted delays in harvesting the 1985 Illinois grain crop and continued public interest have prompted extension of the deadline for accepting donations for the Illinois Agriculture for Africa program. December 31 will now be the official end of the program, as officials had originally set November 1 as a cutoff date.

"Recent wet weather has slowed harvest in many portions of Illinois. Many farmers, including myself, are busy trying to complete the harvest and have not been able to deliver grain donations to the program, because of time constraints." Illinois Director of Agriculture Larry Werries said. "Many

farmers have personally told me that they intend to make a donation of corn or soybeans, however they have been so busy that their intentions have not been fulfilled. Also because grain storage is expected to be scarce this fall, many farmers will be ready to make donations when their bins are filled and their crops are safely stored from the elements. For this reason, I have approved the deadline extension."

Every grain elevator in the state has been provided with the forms and instructions for converting the grain donations to cash and forwarding the proceeds to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, which along with the Office of Governor Jim Thompson is sponsoring the program.

Cash donations are also being accepted at the grain elevators along with the county Cooperative Extension and ASCS offices. Monetary donations may also be forwarded directly to the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

The program, which was announced last July, is unique since it is the only

statewide effort coordinated to date to assist with African famine relief. The Illinois program is able to make what money it does raise go further because of the generosity of many organizations and agribusinesses involved with the project. Each dollar donated to the program is worth nearly \$3 in the CSM (corn-soya-milk) processed food product, which will be sent to the African continent. The donation of USDA donated non-fat dry milk from Commodity Credit Corporation stocks, and no-cost transportation and distribution by the World Vision Relief Organization make the donated dollars go a long way.

"Without the cooperation of these organizations each 100 pounds of food would cost nearly three times what we are paying for it," Don Norton, program chairman, said.

Anyone wishing to help coordinate fund raising efforts locally or to receive more information on the program should contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture at P.O. Box 3597, State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Illinois 62708, 217/782-6675.

# Cooperative and AIEC team with motel chain to cut energy waste



*Jack Dotts, one of Affordable Inns' financial planners, looks over one of the slides from the presentation the company asked the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives to work up in an effort to cut energy waste and trim costs. Dotts notes that the show has worked out very well. Two different styles of construction (inset) reflect different construction times. The lower floor, built during times of low energy costs, is inefficient. When the upper floor was rebuilt, more efficient units were built in, with smaller windows and more insulation in the walls.*

**W**hen officials of a 19-state motel chain started looking for help with their concern over wasted energy, they did not have far to go. The company, Affordable Inns, Inc., based in Mt. Vernon, is about a mile from the office of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, which supplies electric service to the headquarters building. It seemed logical to look to an energy supplier for help to increase efficiency

at the firm's Regal 8 Inns.

After discussing the problem with Tri-County personnel, the cooperative and motel chain decided to contact the Member Services Department of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The company, officials said, was kicking off a cost-cutting campaign and offering incentives for motelkeepers and their employees who did the best job of conservation. What



they needed, they said, was a presentation to show them how to avoid wasting energy.

While a video presentation initially seemed like a good idea to the AIEC staff, Regal 8 people said they preferred slides because their training setup is based on the use of filmstrip projectors, and it is fairly simple to transfer a set of slides onto a filmstrip.

In Regal 8 Inns' training program, new employees view several filmstrips that explain the best way to perform certain tasks, and employees go through an occasional "refresher" to keep the good habits they have learned.

The motels are not involved in food service and large convention business, so the task became a matter of treating each room almost like a single residence and going from there, with the main difference being that the motels have pools.

From a simple slide show, the job soon branched into two distinctly different shows for Regal 8, and a third, "generic" motel presentation has also been spun off the series, for other motels interested in keeping energy costs low.

One presentation was directed toward management to provide an overview of potential energy improvements to their buildings. The other was aimed at providing guidance to maintenance and housekeeping people on low-cost or no-cost energy improvements they could take advantage of in their daily activities.

The "management" slides go over possible changes to the buildings to make them more energy-efficient, such as caulking, weatherstripping and lighting, also suggesting wall, window and door changes in the event the motels get involved in renovation in the future. The present motel units, many built before the severity of the energy crunch became apparent, generally have considerable window space, limited insulation and are relatively prone to air leakage.

The "employee" slides deal with changes in routine that are important in keeping costs down. As an example, the AIEC learned that, as the motels start filling up at about 5 p.m. employees would go down each hallway turning on heaters or air

conditioners, depending on the season. That creates considerable demand, which is metered separately in the motels, as it is with most large loads, and high demand makes for high costs. Starting units a few at a time over a longer period can help hold down demand.

Other employee chores, while not geared to large, one-time energy savings, receive attention, too. Housekeeping personnel are urged to shut off dripping faucets and to make a note of those that will not shut off completely, so maintenance workers can follow up immediately. Laundry workers are encouraged to use high-energy machines on a staggered basis, instead of all at once.

Controlling energy use related to the swimming pools is more difficult. Decreasing the pool water temperature could produce some savings, but is not considered a practical thing, management determined. Some of the motels in the chain have indoor pools and it was suggested that the firm might want to shut them down in the winter, that depending on management's idea of how important their pools are in attracting cold-weather customers.

Whether pool savings are realized or not, the company is pleased with the slide shows and the results of their energy-efficiency drive. Jack Dotts, one of the company's financial planners, notes that the presentation was enthusiastically received at a regional meeting last spring in Orlando, Florida, and that the program has saved money.

"We used the 1983-84 fiscal year as a jumping-off point," he says, "and we took degree-day figures into account, as well as some costs our innkeepers couldn't control, to set up the program."

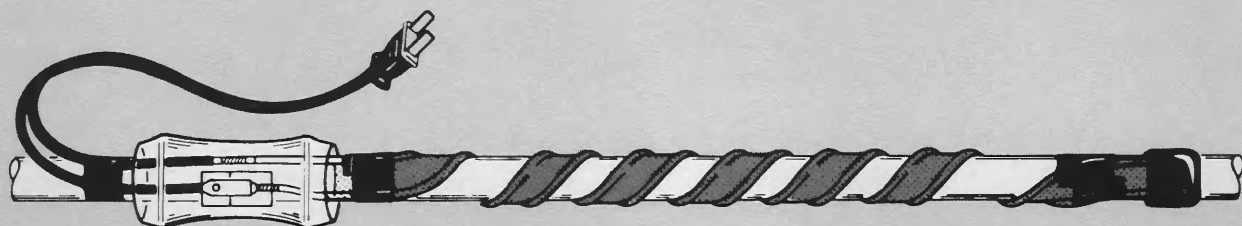
He figures the chain has saved just over \$20,000, and has paid out almost \$4,000 in bonuses to managers and employees.

"It has taught our people to pay attention to their meters, to document their kilowatt-hour usage and to keep an eye on the little common sense details we may have overlooked in the past.

"It has worked well for us," Dotts concludes, "and we're using the slide shows and the incentive program as an ongoing cost-cutting program."

**"It has worked well for us and we're using the slide shows and incentive program as an ongoing cost-cutting program."**

- Install only as instructed.
- Heat tape must not overlap or touch itself.
- Replace if electrical insulation has deteriorated.



## Proper heat tape use reduces fire hazard

**H**omeowners and mobile home residents who use electric heat tapes to prevent exposed water pipes from freezing are being cautioned by government safety experts to inspect the tapes for possible fire hazards.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, over 500 house fires in the last seven years are believed to have been caused by electric heat tapes. Also known as pipe heating cables, heat tapes consist of two wires enclosed in molded plastic insulation which emit heat due to electrical current passing through the wires when the cable is plugged into an outlet. The tapes are commonly used in crawl spaces and in the substructure of homes and mobile homes, and are usually energized after the first freezing temperatures. Some heat tapes are plugged in year-round, and a thermostat located in the power supply cord of the heat tape turns on the tape whenever the outdoor temperature approaches freezing.

CPSC reports that improper installation by consumers is a frequent cause of home fires. In one study of 35 fires, agency investigators learned that 40 percent of the heat tapes were "overwrapped," that is, the tape was lapped over itself when the consumer installed the tape around the pipe.

The safety agency offered the following suggestions for consumers:

- Inspect all heat tapes now or have a

licensed electrician check for proper installation or deteriorated electrical insulation. Refer to any installation instructions that accompanied the heat tape when you bought it.

- If you are purchasing new heat tapes or cables, know the diameter of the pipe you are protecting as well as the total length of pipe to be protected. Manufacturers normally suggest specific lengths of tape for certain pipe lengths and the diameter of the pipe. Match your specific needs to the heat tape you are buying.

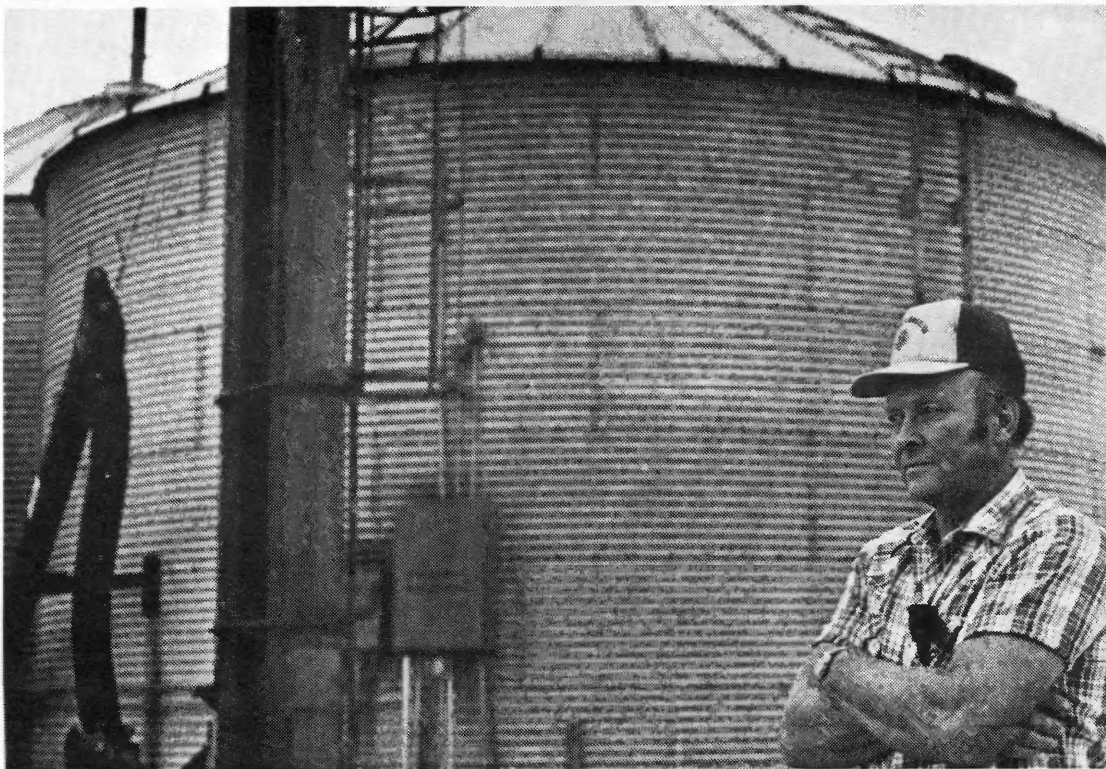
- Older heat tapes should be checked for cracks in the plastic insulation or bare wires; in such cases, replace the heat tape immediately.

- Not all heat tapes may be used on plastic pipes; check to make certain the heat tape you are using is recommended specifically for the plastic pipe in question.

- Finally, manufacturers emphasize that heat tapes should never be used over the thermal insulation on a pipe or near flammable objects. Inspect previously installed tapes to make certain these fire hazards do not exist in your home.

For more information consumers may call the Consumer Product Safety Commission's toll-free number, 800-638-CPSC. A teletypewriter number for the hearing impaired is 800-638-8270 (Maryland only, 800-492-8104).

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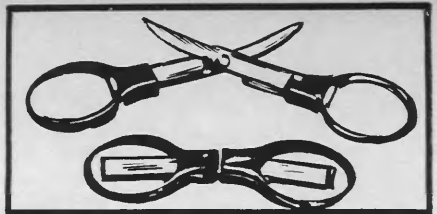
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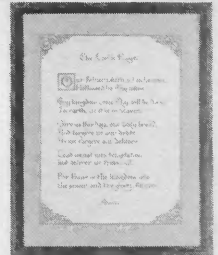
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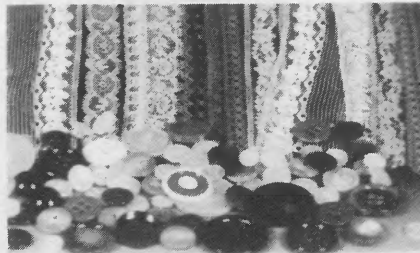
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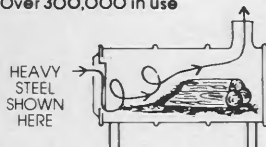
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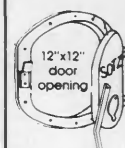
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### MARSHMALLOW PINEAPPLE PIE

1 tablespoon flour  
1 tablespoon sugar  
8 oz. pkg. marshmallows

1 small can crushed pineapple  
1 small can evaporated milk, chilled  
vanilla wafers

Line pie pan with vanilla wafers (bottom and sides). Mix flour and sugar. Add pineapple and cook. Stir constantly until mixture is clear. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Whip evaporated milk until it will stand in peaks. Fold into cooled pineapple mixture. Add to pie shell and chill in refrigerator.

### CRUNCHY APRICOT BARS

1 stick margarine, melted  
1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs  
1 pkg. (6 oz.) dried apricots (chopped)

1 can sweetened condensed milk  
3 oz. can coconut  
1/2 cup chopped nuts

Layer in order given above. Mix margarine in 13 x 9 x 2" pan. Sprinkle crumbs evenly over margarine. Tap sides of pan to distribute crumbs. Next sprinkle on chopped apricots. Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over top. Add layer of coconut and then sprinkle the nuts. Press lightly into pan. Bake in moderate oven, 350 degrees, for 30 minutes. Cool in pan and cut into bars.

### COCONUT PUMPKIN CHIFFON PIE

1 envelope unflavored gelatin  
1/4 cup cold water  
1/4 cups mashed pumpkin  
3/4 cup evaporated milk  
1/2 cup water  
2 egg yolks, slightly beaten  
3/4 cup brown sugar, firmly packed  
1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon ginger  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
2 egg whites  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup shredded coconut, toasted  
1 baked 9-inch pie shell  
1/2 cup cream, whipped and sweetened

Soften gelatin in cold water. Combine pumpkin, milk, 1/2 cup water, egg yolks, 1/2 cup of the sugar, salt and spices in top of double boiler. Cook over boiling water for 10 minutes, stirring constantly. Add gelatin and stir until dissolved. Remove from boiling water. Chill until slightly thickened. Beat egg whites until foamy. Add remaining sugar gradually and continue beating until stiff. Fold in pumpkin mixture, vanilla and 3/4 of the toasted coconut. Turn into cold pie shell. Chill until firm. Before serving, top with whipped cream and remaining toasted coconut. To toast coconut, spread thinly in shallow pan. Place in moderate oven, about 350 degrees, and toast about 10 minutes or until delicately browned. Stir occasionally to toast evenly.

# Have a Happy Holiday~

### ROAST TURKEY AND MILK GRAVY

10 to 12 lb. turkey  
melted butter

3 cups milk  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon salt

#### GRAVY:

1/2 cup pan drippings

Roast turkey according to package directions basting generously and frequently with melted butter. For gravy, combine drippings and milk in a large heavy saucepan; heat over medium heat. Meanwhile, combine flour, salt and pepper in bowl. Gradually stir in 1 cup of milk until smooth. Gradually stir flour mixture into hot milk mixture. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thickened. Cook 2 additional minutes. Serve over turkey and stuffing balls.

### STUFFING BALLS

1 cup butter (2 sticks)  
2 cups chopped onion  
1 cup chopped celery  
1/2 cup chopped parsley  
1 tablespoon poultry seasoning  
1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper  
12 cups dried bread cubes  
1 cup milk  
2 eggs, slightly beaten  
1/2 cup turkey or chicken broth

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Sauté onions and celery in butter until tender, about 10 minutes. Stir in parsley, poultry seasoning, salt and pepper. Cook 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in bread cubes; mix well. Combine milk and eggs. Stir into stuffing mixture. Shape stuffing into balls about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Place in well buttered 13 x 9" baking pan. Pour broth over balls; bake until golden brown, about 20 minutes. Stuffing balls may be prepared up to 6 hours in advance and refrigerated. Increase baking time by about 10 minutes.

### SWISS CREAMED PEAS

6 cups frozen peas  
1/3 cup all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel  
1 teaspoon savory

1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 cups light cream OR half-and-half  
1 cup shredded Swiss cheese  
1/3 cup chopped pimiento, well drained

Cook peas according to package directions; drain. Meanwhile, sauté onion in butter until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in flour, lemon peel, savory and salt until smooth. Remove from heat. Gradually stir in cream. Bring to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil and stir 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in cheese until melted. Add peas and pimiento. Heat thoroughly but do not boil.

### RED AND GREEN MOLDED SALAD

GREEN LAYER:  
1 pkg. lime flavor gelatin  
1 cup boiling water  
1 carton vanilla flavor yogurt

RED LAYER:  
2 pkgs. raspberry flavor gelatin  
2 cups boiling water  
1/2 cup cold water  
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
1 can whole berry cranberry sauce

For green layer, dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Refrigerate until slightly thickened. Place in small mixing bowl; stir in yogurt. Beat on high speed of mixer until light and fluffy. Pour into oiled 7-cup mold. Refrigerate until almost firm. Meanwhile, for red layer, dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Stir in cold water and lemon juice. Stir in cranberry sauce until well blended. Pour over lime layer. Chill several hours or overnight. To serve, unmold onto chilled lettuce-lined plate.

### BUTTERMILK SCONES

2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon baking soda

6 tablespoons butter  
1/2 cup buttermilk  
1 egg, slightly beaten

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Combine flour, baking powder, salt and soda. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Combine buttermilk and egg. Stir into dry ingredients, stirring just until dough forms a ball. Turn out on lightly floured surface and gently knead 6 times. Roll to 1/2-inch thickness. Cut with

floured 2-inch round cutter. Place 1-inch apart on unbuttered cookie sheet. Bake until golden brown, about 10 to 12 minutes. Serve warm with butter. Buttermilk scones may be prepared in advance and frozen up to 1 month. Thaw at room temperature. To reheat, wrap in foil; place in a preheated oven at 375 degrees for about 10 minutes.

### PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE

CRUST:  
6 tablespoons butter, melted  
1 1/4 cups zwieback crumbs  
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar  
1/4 cup finely chopped pecans

FILLING:  
2 pkgs. cream cheese, softened (8 oz. each)  
3/4 cup sugar  
1 carton (16 oz.) creamed cottage cheese

TOPPING:  
1 cup dairy sour cream  
1/4 cup sweet orange marmalade  
1 orange, if desired

2 tablespoons flour  
1 tablespoon grated orange peel  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 cups canned pumpkin

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. For crust, combine all ingredients. Press onto bottom and partway up the sides of a 9-inch springform pan. Bake 10 minutes, cool while preparing filling. For filling, beat cream cheese and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat cottage cheese in small mixing bowl at high speed of mixer until almost smooth, about 5 minutes. Beat cottage cheese into creamed cheese mixture along with flour, orange peel, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Fold in pumpkin. Pour into crust. Bake 1 1/2 hours. Turn oven off, let cool in oven with door ajar 1 hour. Remove from oven. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Combine sour cream and marmalade. Spread over top of cake. Bake 10 minutes. Cool slightly and then refrigerate several hours or overnight. To serve, place springform pan on serving plate; remove sides of pan. To decorate, cut orange in thin slices. Remove pulp, cut peel into semi-circles. Decorate cake as desired with peel.



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## Hot Line

(Continued from page 6)

erative, Wendell Letner and Meredith Chrisman; Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, Bruce Hill and Charles West; Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Lloyd Price and Dennis Wurster, and Illinois Rural Electric Co., Steven Wisdom and Don Long. George Claus, formerly of

Illinois Rural, came out of retirement to teach at the school, too.

Other cooperatives sending instructors were: Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Gary Chesney; Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Willis Hand; Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Roy Wise, and Illini Electric Cooperative, Larry Carter.

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9040 SIZES 10 1/2 - 25 1/2

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- No. 7332 - Clever Holder - is clothespin bag 13" long.
- No. 9040 is cut in sizes 10 1/2, 12 1/2, 14 1/2, 16 1/2, 18 1/2, 20 1/2, 22 1/2, 24 1/2, 26 1/2.

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**Novel Fold-overs!**



7085



9307 SIZES 34-50



4816 SIZES 10 1/2 - 24 1/2

- No. 7085 - Novel Fold-overs - is pattern pieces for 3, directions.
- No. 9307 is cut in Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50.
- No. 4816 is cut in half sizes 10 1/2, 12 1/2, 14 1/2, 16 1/2, 18 1/2, 20 1/2, 22 1/2, 24 1/2.

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7341



9196 W 31" - 46 1/2"

**Easy-Sew Quartet!**



4834 SIZES 10 1/2 - 24 1/2

- No. 7341 - Happy Clowns - is tissue transfer for 24 motifs.
- No. 9196 is cut in Waist Sizes 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41 1/2, 44, 46 1/2 inches.
- No. 4834 is cut in half sizes 10 1/2, 12 1/2, 14 1/2, 16 1/2, 18 1/2, 20 1/2, 22 1/2, 24 1/2. Size 14 1/2 (bust 37) vest, skirt 1-5/8 yds. 60"; blouse 2-1/8 yds. 45".

# PATTERNS

TO: PATTERNS  
Illinois Rural Electric News  
P.O. Box 3787  
Springfield, Ill. 62708

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_____	_____	_____	_____

# 'Free spirit' pilots Electric Burro to fete 50th



**N**ot too many years ago, Scott Hudson would climb into a Douglas DC-3 and settle himself into the pilot's seat. Snuggling up his seat belt, he would give a tug on the visor of his cap and begin the startup procedure to coax the plane's engines into life.

Now, he climbs into the seat of The Electric Burro. Scanning the instrument panel (a compass, watch and thermometer), he gives a tug on the visor of his cap and picks up the reins to coax his horse into life.

The Electric Burro is actually a misnomer and is, in fact, a fancily painted Amish buggy pulled by a Belgian draft horse named Carter. Scott, 36, a former air freight pilot,

Peace Corps volunteer and air traffic controller, and present-day free spirit, drives the Electric Burro on its will-o-the-wisp travels. He parks Carter and the buggy once a month to return to Grawn, Michigan, to serve on the board of directors of Cherryland Rural Electric Cooperative, where he has just been elected to a second term.

Many motorists tooling down the western edge of Illinois in October were treated to an unusual sight as The Electric Burro wended its way from its May 11 starting point in Lansing, Michigan, to Memphis, Tennessee.

Scott notes that his adventure "is still evolving," and that it had started out — in the dreaming stages — in a much different form than it has taken.

"A friend had gotten a couple of young burros from the 'Save the Burro' program, in which the animals are taken out of the western deserts, where they've overpopulated, and given to people who promise to give them a good home," he says. "I saw one of them and thought it might be kind of fun to have a jiny burro to carry my backpack on a trip, so I started planning. It seemed to me that the 50th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration, or REA, deserved more than just a tip of the cap and a birthday party that would be forgotten the next day. I thought a commemorative trip might be a good idea."

Gradually, Scott says, the idea of a



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*At far left, Scott refuels "The Electric Burro's" propulsion unit. In the background behind him is a span of the "commonplace, unimpressive little electric lines" whose presence his trip celebrates, and a house lighted and powered by those lines. At near left is the scandalously brightly painted Amish buggy that makes up part of The Electric Burro. Note the maroon shafts, wheels and frame, and the cream colored pin striping around the front of the buggy. The solar collectors on the roof provide power for Scott's word processor that he uses to send stories to subscribing media.*

---

wagon or buggy took form, and he envisioned himself sitting on the seat of a wagon with a mule doing the pulling. "I looked all over and couldn't find a mule," he says, "and the more I looked and heard about mules, the less I wanted one anyway. They have a reputation for stubbornness that just won't quit."

So, with no firm plans for a means of locomotion, he ordered a buggy from an Amish buggy maker.

"I kind of shocked the Amish," he chuckles, "by ordering the buggy with a flashy maroon paint job. It stunned them even more when I said I wanted pin striping, but they did that for me, too."

Incidentally, while the rig might

seem shockingly gaudy to Amish eyes, more modern folk will generally agree that it is still fairly austere. Scott turned loose of about \$3,000 in Canadian currency — the buggy's an import — to take the fancy wagon home, then added a few touches of his own. The aforementioned instrument panel was first — the digital watch being used to monitor the "engine," which, when in fine fettle, will tick over at 60 paces per minute.

He stuck a couple of solar collectors on the roof to generate electric current to power his on-board computer, a coffee maker and a crockery slow-cooker.

"The solar collectors didn't work out all that well," Scott says, "and I

took the coffee maker and slow-cooker back home. On a good day, the setup provided just enough current to work the coffee pot and nothing else. On a cloudy day, it does a lot less. I was a lot more of a solar fan when I started out than I am now," he adds with an expressive shrug.

For safety's sake, he added a couple of flashing lights to warn traffic that there is a (very) slow-moving vehicle ahead. A bright orange pennant on a long rod emphasizes that fact like an upside-down exclamation mark.

Scott built a couple of plywood boxes under the buggy to hold a tent and a few other items and was virtually ready to start — except for go-power. A few days before he was



ready to set out, he met Carter and his half-brother, Reagan. "I didn't name either of the horses," Scott avers, "but I figured that at four years old, it was a bit late for a name change, so I left it at that. He was so thin and worn out when I got him that you could count his ribs. The trip has been good for him. I carry a bale or two of hay,

50-100 pounds of oats and 11 gallons of water for Carter, and he drinks about 15 gallons a day. He's in good shape now."

With horse and buggy finally connected, Scott, who admits that he has only just now gotten over his lifelong fear of horses, was ready to go. After a couple of mishaps involving a half-trained horse and a greenhorn driver, the "REA Speedwagon" got its act together — after a fashion — and hit the trail, to the tune of two to three miles an hour.

Scott wanted people to know about rural electrification, so he placed a copy of the REA 50th anniversary logo on the upper right corner of his buggy, a slow-moving vehicle emblem on the top left and a musical note about in the middle. "That's to emphasize the need for balance," he explains, "and the trip is too, partly. I believe life is better if you have a healthy mix of seriousness and enjoyment, instead of a steady diet of one or the other." Then, as a twinkle creeps into his eyes and a small grin crinkles the corners of his mouth he adds, "I believe if you're going to overdo it, it should be toward the fun side, though."

Everywhere he goes, people stop to talk to him, primarily to ask why a grown man would do such a thing, and what relationship there is between horse and buggy and electricity. He explains that he wants to reemphasize that as commonplace and unimpressive as the little electric lines alongside the road are now, there was a time, not all that long ago, when they were just a longed-for dream in the minds of men of vision.

The horse, the buggy and the logo are all simply reminders of that fact. "And they draw some media attention to it, too," he adds. And the ride, although boring at times, clears the mind and provides a lot of uncomplicated time to think. "This is not like being an air traffic controller, where everything is by the book," Scott says, "and there's no room at all for creativity. Flying freight's the same way. I guess a good part of the reason I'm doing this is to get the creative juices flowing. I plan to write a book about my experiences when I've finished the trip, and I hope to get

into a more creative line of work, too.

"The trip has been very enjoyable," he says enthusiastically, "because it's a little like my Peace Corps days in Nepal. There, most travel is on foot and there are no hotels or motels. A traveler, nearing the end of the day, will walk up to the next house he comes to and ask the people there if they know where he might be able to find a place to spend the night.

"They don't know each other, but they recognize that they're brothers and sisters and that's just the way it is. The traveler is usually invited in to stay. No need to be neurotic — it's beautiful.

"Here, as we tire along the way, I simply stop and ask someone where I might tie my horse and pitch my tent. Just like in the olden days, nine times out of ten, we have found a place to stay. Sometimes we're offered a back yard, sometimes a pasture and, once in a while, I'm even offered a bed. It's kind of like a cooperative — people helping people," he says.

After Tennessee, Scott plans to leave Carter at home and "go international," to observe cooperatives and rural people overseas.

"I plan to stop in Rochdale, England, which is recognized as the home of the cooperative movement," he says, "then I'll go on to India and Nepal, where the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has international development programs. By next February, we'll be back on the road in the Southern United States, then we'll head west," he says.

For now, though, The Electric Burro is still in the U.S. Shortly after entering Illinois last month, Scott stopped at the Nauvoo home of Dean Starr, a former Western Illinois Electrical Coop. director. After a short visit, Starr gave him a couple of bales of hay and some oats. Later on, he got into Adams Electrical Co-Operative's area, where he received another quick shot of Illinois hospitality before heading to Missouri. After a brief tour of the eastern part of that state, he reentered Illinois and is now in Kentucky, still enjoying "life in the slow lane."

We wish him, and the cooperative movement he is boosting, good fortune.

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# Copper-Bottom Cookware \$2 Per Piece

(Atlanta, GA)

**F**C&A, a nearby Peachtree City, Georgia, company is "giving" away 10,000 sets of famous copper-bottom cookware in an advertising campaign to increase its mailing list for the amazing price of only \$2 per piece. These sets are guaranteed to be available only to the first 10,000 people who write to the following address before midnight, December 31, 1985.

**To be eligible for your set, you must cut out and mail this notice with your order. Copies will not be accepted!**

The 10-piece copper-bottom cookware sets being offered are the same as those sets sold elsewhere at much higher prices. All pieces are stainless steel with copper-bottoms and heat resistant handles. The copper bottoms help to spread heat evenly so that there are no hot spots which cause food to stick. The brilliant, scratch resistant stainless steel interiors are easy to clean.

**Each 10-piece set contains:**

5-1/2 quart dutch oven with lid

2 quart sauce pan with lid  
1 quart sauce pan with lid  
5/8 quart sauce pan with lid  
10" skillet (uses oven lid)  
8" skillet

Most cooks would love to own copper-bottom cookware, but not everyone can afford sets like this. Similar sets sell for over \$100. Don't wait to send in your order. You could miss this bargain of a lifetime!

#### **Lifetime Guarantee**

Each 10-piece copper-bottom cookware set weighs 9 lbs. Its construction is so heavy and durable that FC&A offers an unconditional lifetime money-back guarantee. If for any reason you are ever dissatisfied with the set, simply return it for a full refund with no questions asked.

#### **Sorry, Only 1 Set Per Customer**

Because of the limited availability in this nationwide publicity campaign and our desire to obtain additional names for our mailing list, only 1 set may be purchased by each customer. Absolutely no exceptions will be permitted. Checks for more than

1 set will be returned to customers.

#### **Not Sold In Stores**

This widely advertised famous copper-bottom cookware set will not be sold by FC&A in stores. Order now! Tear out this ad, and mail it to the address below before midnight, December 31, 1985.

#### **Free With Your Order**

We will give you a 5-piece wooden spoon set (\$5.00 value) free with your order, as a further inducement to get you to order and to be able to make use of your name for our mailing list. It's yours to keep even if you return the cookware set.

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Remember, satisfaction is guaranteed or your money back!