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December 1985

## Illinois Rural Electric News

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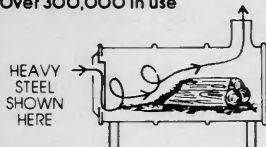
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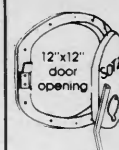
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# Illinois Rural Electric News

## Loss of rural confidence a national crisis

*(Editor's note: The following is a portion of a statement made November 19 by Bob Bergland, general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, to the U.S. House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs subcommittee on economic stabilization.)*

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this committee today to discuss the serious credit crisis ravaging rural America — a crisis of farmers, a crisis of small towns, schools, churches and businesses, and a personal crisis and tragedy for individual men, women and children. The credit crisis, in my judgment, can be overcome. But the loss of confidence connected with the loss of family farms and businesses is much more difficult to overcome.

I have been on the job at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association since April of 1984. As a former member of the House Agriculture Committee and as Secretary of Agriculture, I had numerous opportunities to travel to the far reaches of America to discuss farm policy. But in the 19 months I have held this position, I have had an "on site" seminar of the tremendous problems engulfing rural America.

We have just completed a series of 10 regional meetings with representatives of rural electric systems from all 46 states in which we have members. The news is all the same. The news is very bad. I fear that the farm crisis will get worse before it gets better. Some say prospects of enacting legislation that will save very many of the half-million farmers reportedly in various stages of financial trouble are bleak.

It looks as if farmers will reap a bumper crop and low

prices, the all-too-familiar story. Farmers will bin huge tonnages of soybeans, corn and other grains. But an estimated 214,000 of them won't make enough to cover expenses, family living needs and service the debts they've piled up. Last year net farm income barely paid the interest on the total farm debt.

We have the strongest dollar in the history of the United States, and the highest real interest rates in memory. While some find profit and comfort in that fact, it is a tragedy for our farmers and for our rural small business people. The strong dollar has imposed a 40 percent tax on all exports, causing a sharp drop in farm commodity prices.

Our farm exports increased dramatically in the 1970s from 62 million metric tons in 1970 to a high of 164 million metric tons in 1980, but have now collapsed to an estimated 126 million metric tons in 1985.

The economic answers to the farm problem are not nearly as complex as the politics of trying to get them enacted into a farm program and signed into law.

Is there any gain to us as a nation or society when farm families are forced to leave the land and move to a distant city in search of work? Have we solved the problem or have we merely shifted it to a new locale?

In reality, there is no escape. We pay for it, whether it is through farm programs or through food stamps and welfare payments to those who can't find jobs.

You and I know the farm crisis is not a problem from which we can just walk away. The preservation and strengthening of the nation's rural communities are important to the entire nation. They're our concern.

December 1985

Volume 43

Number 8

Published by Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

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Illinois Rural Electric News

(USPS number 258-420) is published monthly for \$3.00 per year and is the official publication of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, 6460 South Sixth Frontage Road, Springfield, Illinois 62707. Second class postage paid at Springfield, Illinois, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Illinois Rural Electric News, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, Illinois 62708.

Cover: Poinsettias form the focal point of a Christmas greeting from the electric cooperatives of Illinois.

Advertising and editorial inquiries should be directed to the Illinois Rural Electric News, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, Illinois 62708. National advertising representative: The Paper Companies, 400 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Acceptance of advertising by the IREN does not imply

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# TREES! TREES!

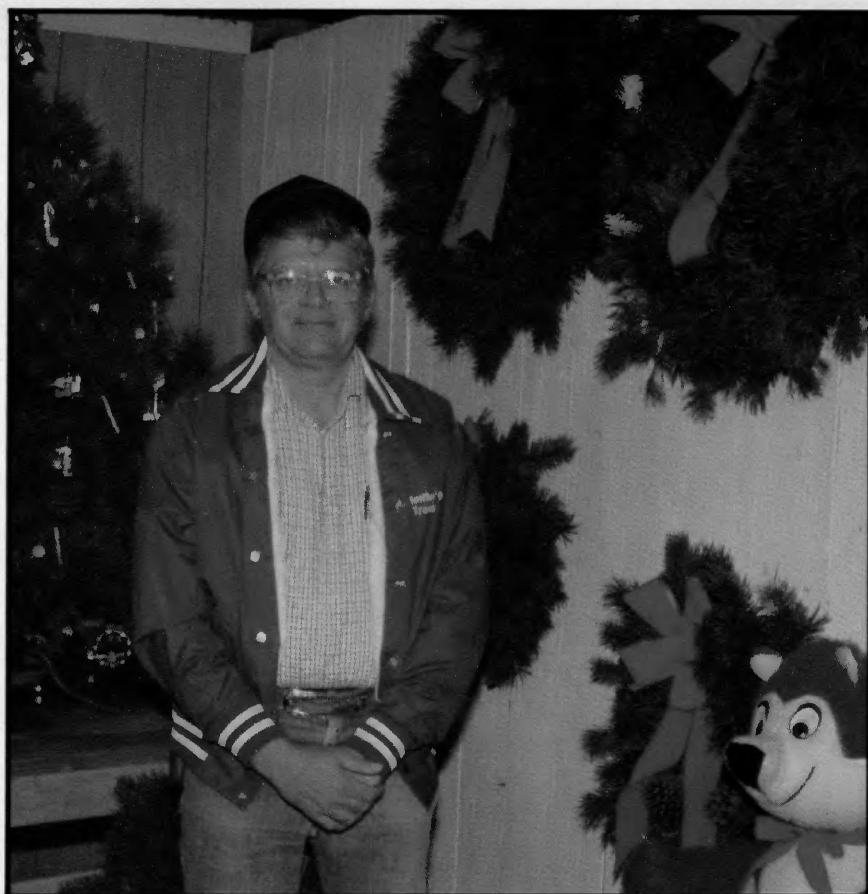
**F**or one family facing the costs of a son's education, a family project started for that purpose has blossomed into a full-fledged family business that is just now hitting its stride — a couple of years after the young man graduated.

In 1979, Larry Pfeiffer of rural Shelbyville set out for college and his parents, Lowell Dean (Bud) and Evie, decided to plant a few Christmas trees to help pay for his education, not fully realizing how long a Christmas tree

takes to grow. Still, the Shelby Electric Cooperative members are making the plan work — to pay off college loans.

"We didn't know how long it would take trees to grow," Bud says, "and we didn't have any idea how much work it'd take to make them grow right, either."

They gradually increased their acreage and added trees until they now have some 30 acres planted in trees ranging from seedlings to mature,



*Above, Bud shows off the display room the Pfeiffers have at their farm. They got into the "greens" business before their trees were market ready. At right, some of the 30 acres of Christmas trees the family has growing.*

## College bills launch business

market-ready Christmas trees.

When the Pfeiffers plant, about Easter weekend, they rent a machine that is pulled at a fairly brisk pace behind a tractor. It opens a small trench in the ground and a large wheel, calibrated to ring a chime every five feet, turns. A worker, sitting on a small platform at the back of a machine, pushes a seedling into the ground. A blade at the very back of the machine backfills the trench. Trees are planted in rows six feet apart.

Even after planting, there are many things that have to be done before a tall, straight, aromatic tree stands in a family's living room. The Pfeiffers spray their trees at least three times a year, and mow between the rows once a month during the summer.

"When the new growth is at least three-fourths complete," Bud says, "we trim the trees to give them the traditional Christmas tree shape. We use a long, straight knife, a bit like a machete, and we can trim most trees with four or five quick swipes. The bigger ones take a couple more."

While the Pfeiffers were learning all that, though, they were getting a business off the ground. They opened a showroom at their farm in 1982 and stocked it with holiday decorations and tree trimming accessories. They also got into the wreath business, buying greens for that purpose from other area tree farmers. "There are some trees," Bud says, "that just won't grow into a good shape, no matter what you do with them. Those are the ones we use for wreaths, grave blan-

kets and pillows."

They also sold trees, but not from their crop. The year before last was the first time they put their own trees out into the showroom, and sales were brisk. Last year they wholesaled out some 200 trees, and sold nearly 1,000 retail. They hope to keep that pace going, or a little better, in the future.

The Pfeiffers all share in the work. Larry, who teaches agriculture and welding classes in Carlinville, and his wife, Jan, who works in a Carlinville bank, spend a good part of their vacation time taking care of trees, making wreaths and "minding the store," and Bud, who is a seed salesman when he is not growing Christmas trees, uses vacation to keep the business going.

While the operation is run as a business, there is more to it than that, the Pfeiffers note. "From the time evergreens were brought into homes at yuletide," they say, "they've been a symbol of hope and faith eternal. We enjoy knowing that our efforts bring the scents and lights of Christmas into many homes."

# New AG division is farm-oriented

**A**n advisory council of more than 40 Illinois leaders is helping the newly organized Agricultural Law Division of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General to concentrate on the special problems facing the state's farmers.

Farmers and representatives of the General Assembly, agricultural organizations, law enforcement, education, Farm Bureau, agricultural associations and related groups, state's attorneys and agri-businesses make up the advisory council, according to Raymond J. Watson, Jr., assistant attorney general responsible for the new division.

"The council is designed to bring the top minds and talent in Illinois agriculture together so we can address agriculture's concerns and to do something about some of the problems facing Illinois' rural community and farming economy," Watson said.

"There are 43 members on the council now, although the number may vary from time to time. This

group will meet three to four times a year," he added. Thomas H. Moore, executive vice president and manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, represents the state's electric cooperatives.

"The Agricultural Law Division is only the second of its kind in the nation," Watson said. "Attorney General Neil Hartigan formed the unit because of the importance of agriculture to the state. At least 22 percent of Illinois' work force is employed by industries that are directly related to agriculture and certainly the entire state benefits by a healthy agriculture economy."

A brochure outlining the activities of the Division explains further about why it came into being:

"Farming is the single most important business in our state. Almost 80 percent of the state's total land — some 28 million acres — is farmland, and agriculture generates approximately \$10 billion annually for the Illinois economy.

"In recent years, farm problems in

Illinois have not become fewer or smaller, but more complex and more intense. The Agricultural Law Division of the Office exists to concentrate on those problems and aggressively seek solutions for the state's single most important business."

Watson said the Division's main thrust is in three primary areas of concern to the rural community: (1) consumer fraud targeted toward farmers, (2) various legal problems facing farmers, and (3) growing rural crime. In addition, Watson said, the Attorney General's Office is the legal representative for the State Department of Agriculture, making it important for the Office to have close contact with all segments of agriculture.

He cited the Illinois Grain Insurance Fund as an example of how state government can help farmers. "Prior to the act, if a grain elevator went out of business, farmers were treated as if they were no different than creditors. They very often received only a few cents on the dollar for grain either stored or sold to the elevator," Watson said. Many farm families suffered severe financial losses and lawsuits were of little value, Watson went on. "Now, farmers have protection in the event of an elevator failure," he said.

The poor economic conditions that plague the rural areas make farmers susceptible to a number of problems, Watson added. Many farmers have been victimized, he said, by persons posing as loan brokers, who for a fee offer to get financially strapped farmers a loan they might not otherwise be able to obtain. Watson said one farmer lost a \$28,000 up-front fee in one such scam. Machinery and livestock thefts, too, continue to increase, Watson went on.

He said the new Division offers the Attorney General Office an opportunity to develop public education programs on the nature and frequency of rural crime and how rural residents can prevent it.



*Raymond J. Watson, Jr., (left) and Thomas H. Moore look over material dealing with the new Agriculture Law Division of the Illinois Office of the Attorney General. Watson is an assistant attorney general who directs the division while Moore is one of some 40-plus Illinoisans on the division's advisory council. Moore is executive vice president and general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, the statewide service organization for the state's electric cooperatives.*

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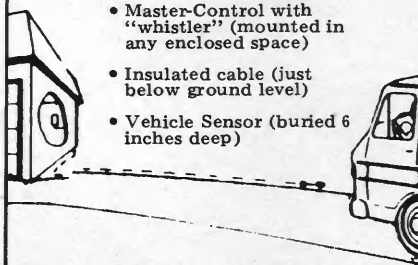
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## ***Be careful!*** **CHAINSAWS**

**N**ow's the time many homeowners turn their attention to replenishing their woodpile. While firewood harvesting is challenging, enjoyable and recreational, it can be dangerous too, says Mike Bolin, University of Illinois Extension forester.

"The part-time woodcutter who is unfamiliar with safe harvesting practices and the operation of a chain saw is particularly at risk," Bolin says. "These weekend 'wood warriors' have emerged as the prime users of chain saws. Sources indicate that approximately two million chain saws are purchased annually by non-professional wood cutters."

According to a recent Consumer Product Safety Commission report, reported chain saw injuries rose from 35,000 in 1976 to 63,000 annually from 1978 to 1982, and fell slightly to 58,000 in 1983. The reduction in injuries has been attributed to

improved safety devices installed by chain saw manufacturers and increased operator safety education materials and programs. But regardless of how "safety conscious" the consumer is, Bolin says, there's always the potential for a serious accident to occur, especially when the operator becomes fatigued or hurried. To better understand the safe operation of a chain saw, consider the following items.

### **Match The Size Of The Saw To The Job**

Chain saws fall into three general size and weight categories:

(1) Mini or light-weight saws that weigh less than 15 pounds with a guide bar length of 8 to 12 inches that receive occasional, but light, use for limbing and cutting small logs, and felling very small trees.

(2) Middleweight or general-pur-

pose saws that weigh 15 to 20 pounds with a guide bar length of 14 to 20 inches that are used frequently for log cutting and felling small- to medium-sized trees.

(3) Heavyweight or professional saws that weigh 20 to 30 pounds with a guide bar length of over 20 inches that are used by professional lumberjacks and tree removal experts and not recommended for consumer use.

Bolin says the guide bar should not be much longer than the diameter of the log to be cut. Obviously, this is impractical when the saw is used to delimb a log or cut smaller branches or logs into shorter sections, but for the majority of the cutting work, you don't want the saw to be over- or under-sized. A saw that is too large or too small for the job increases the operator's chances of "kickback" injury. A guide bar that's too long may contact twigs, branches, or other small trees nearby causing the blade to kick backwards at the operator often with inescapable speed. A guide bar that's too short will cause the tip of the saw to bury itself in the cut (only on older models without a safety-tip), also could increase chances of rapid kickback.

### **Check The Saw For Good Balance And Manageable Weight**

Hold the saw in the proper operating position. Check to see that the saw does not tip to the side or the guide bar rock back toward you. Your hands should feel comfortable and not restricted. Some saws have limited hand space between the handles. Many woodcutters feel more comfortable with the mini-saw and feel that it's far less dangerous. Not true! According to Bolin, they operate just as fast as the bigger saws so you must give them all the respect they deserve. A light grip on a light-weight saw will increase the chances of kickback. A good choice for the nonprofessional user would be a saw with a 2.0 to 3.5 cubic inch engine.

### **Consider The Saw's Safety Features**

Many manufacturers now equip their saws with front handguards, safety-tips for the guide bar, chain brakes, throttle locks, spark arrester, low-kickback chains, a chain catcher

and an antivibration system. Handguards are important to keep the hands from slipping onto the chain. A safety-tip covers the end of the guide bar and chain and reduces the chances of kickback. The chain brake is designed to instantly stop the chain if kickback occurs. The chain brake also can serve as the front handguard. The throttle lockout acts as a guard against unplanned chain motion. A spark arrester (gas models only) keeps the carbon that builds up in the manifold from being ejected as sparks in the exhaust. This reduces the chance of fire in the woods. Special chains are designed to reduce the risk of kickback. The chain catcher helps reduce the risk of injury in the event a chain breaks during operation. Some saws are equipped with an antivibration system which makes operation of the saw easier and helps reduce operator fatigue and stress.

#### Consider Other Useful Features

A chain saw with a thumb-operated kill button, a compression release button and an automatic chain oiler also may make your wood cutting experience more enjoyable and safer. The kill button immediately shuts the engine off. It enhances the saw's safety features. The compression release button makes the saw's starter cord easier to pull. The auto-oiler lubricates the chain each time you pull the throttle trigger.

Most saws are built for right-handed operators, Bolin points out. If you're left-handed, a right-handed saw puts you into an awkward operating position and may increase the risk of injury. Check to see if there is a left-handed model available.

Be sure you are well acquainted with the saw's features and how it should be properly operated. Learn how to shut off the saw instinctively without looking for the kill switch. If you don't understand something, take it back to the dealer and ask him to explain it to you.

"Don't assume the saw's in tip-top condition," Bolin stresses. "Check to see that all the parts are in good repair. Tighten any loose nuts or screws. The chain needs constant attention. Periodically check its tension on the guide bar and sharpness of the chain teeth.

With a little experience, you will be able to tell when the chain needs sharpening. A dull chain just increases your risk of injury."

#### Always Wear Protective Clothing

Your saw can be in great shape, but if you're inappropriately dressed for the job at hand, your chances for injury increase, Bolin warns. Before you ever pull the starter cord make sure you're equipped with a hard hat, safety goggles, sure-grip gloves, ear protectors, safety shoes and trim-fitting clothes.

"Eye, ear and head protection are musts," he stresses. "The saw is very noisy and could damage your hearing over a period of time without hearing protection. Wood chips, bark and sawdust fly when the saw's in operation. Eye protectors minimize the chance of vision loss or obstruction. You never know when a rotten limb may come crashing down on your head. A hard hat will help provide impact protection.

To maintain control, you need a good grip on the saw. Leather gloves are recommended. Heavy logs can take a toll on toes. Safety-toed shoes with non-slip soles are recommended. Baggy clothing can easily become tangled in the brush and cause you to fall. Loose-fitting clothes can be caught by the moving chain as well, Bolin adds.

#### Observe Safe Operating Procedures

- Never carry a saw with the motor operating. Always carry the saw so that the guide bar and chain point behind you, and the muffler is away

from your body. The guide bar sheath should be used when the saw's not operating.

- Never work alone. Have someone assist you.

- Make sure that the work area is free of any debris or vegetation that might interfere with the chain and cause kickback.

- Make provisions for a refueling site that is at least 10 feet from where the saw will be started and operated.

- Never refuel a hot saw. Let it cool down at least 10 minutes before adding gasoline. This will also give you a chance to relax for a few moments.

- Always put the saw on the ground and hold it down firmly when starting. Never attempt to start your saw on your leg or knee.

- When the saw starts make sure the chain does not rotate when it is idling.

- Always hold a running saw firmly with two hands using the proper grip described in the operating manual.

- Use the proper stance. Never lean forward or sideways to cut.

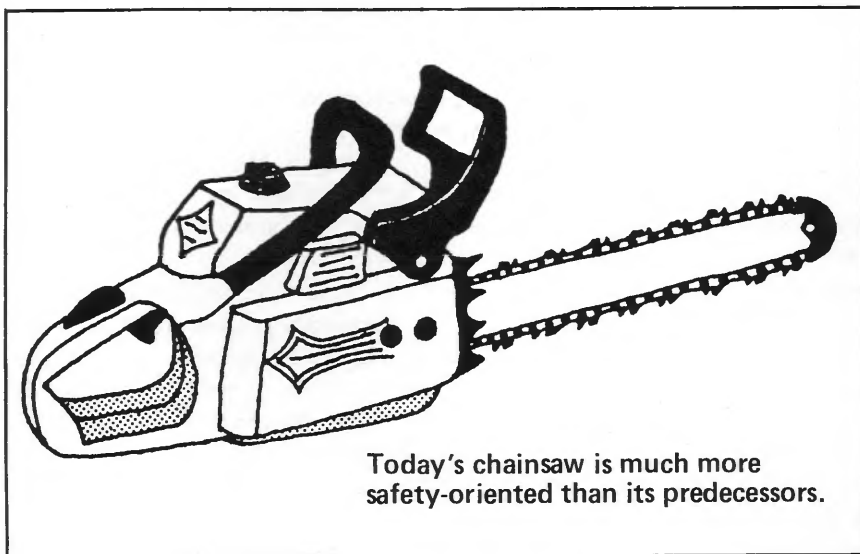
- Make sure your body and legs are clear of the path the saw will follow after the cut is complete.

- Begin all cuts at top saw speed and maintain top speed throughout the cut.

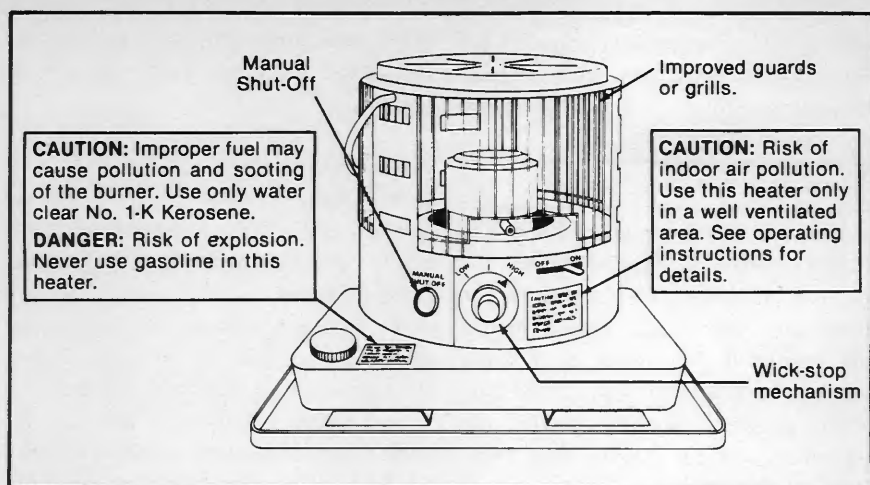
- Never operate the saw above waist level.

- Turn the saw off and make sure the chain stops before any adjustments are made.

- Avoid fatigue. Take frequent breaks to rest.



Today's chainsaw is much more safety-oriented than its predecessors.



# Safety rules for kerosene heaters

**C**onsumers who are planning to buy a kerosene heater for the coming winter should first check state and local building codes and fire ordinances to determine if kerosene heaters are permitted to be used, cautions the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. In some communities it may be illegal to sell or use kerosene heaters.

New voluntary standards requirements for kerosene heaters became effective in March and December 1984. They provide for additional safety features not necessarily present on heaters manufactured earlier. When purchasing a kerosene heater, look for these added safety features:

- improved guards or grills that reduce the risk of accidental contact burns;
- a manual shut-off device which allows for a quick shut-off during emergency situations such as high flaming in the wick/burner area of the heater;
- cautionary labels that stress the use of water-clear 1-K kerosene as the only fuel for the heaters, and never gasoline;
- a positive wick-stop mechanism which prevents the wick from being retracted to a dangerously low setting.

Be sure the heater has been tested and approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and is correctly sized for the area you wish to heat.

There are a number of safe practices you should follow when using a kerosene heater. The Commission urges you to follow these safety rules:

1. Use only water-clear 1-K kerosene as fuel for your heater. When purchasing kerosene from a service station, be sure the attendant fills your container with kerosene and not gasoline.
2. Always place the heater at least three feet from combustible materials.
3. Use the heater only in rooms open to the remainder of the house.
4. Do not use the heater in areas where flammable vapors are present, such as around gasoline and some paints and solvents.
5. Set the wick height according to manufacturer's directions. Never turn the wick below the manufacturer's recommended setting because it may produce very high internal heater temperatures which may pose a fire hazard.
2. Inspect the operation of the wick mechanism and emergency shut-off device to assure that both operate correctly.
3. Inspect the wick for tar deposits. If the wick has hard crusty deposits, it needs to be cleaned or replaced to ensure proper operation of the wick control knob, and on some heaters, of the emergency manual shut off. (Follow the manufacturer's instructions for wick cleaning and replacement.)
4. Replace the ignition glow plug

if the filament is broken or badly deformed. Replace batteries if necessary.

5. Check the burner chimney for any carbon deposits and carefully remove any deposits with a rag or brush. Replace damaged or broken chimney components such as wire coils, wire domes, or glass collars.

6. When repairs or replacements are made, follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully for proper installation and reassembly of the heater.

7. Any other problems with your kerosene heater should be corrected by trained personnel. Check with your dealer for the location of the nearest authorized service center.

6. Always make sure the chimney is seated properly on the wick assembly after heater ignition to avoid sooting and fire hazards.

7. Do not let children operate or refuel heater.

8. Do not leave an operating heater unattended. Never have the heater turned on when you sleep.

9. Do not move, service, or refuel your heater while it is operating or still hot.

10. Refuel the heater outdoors away from flammable materials.

11. Store kerosene away from your living area, preferably outdoors, in a well-marked container, and out of the reach of children.

12. If you have breathing or heart problems, consult a physician before you use a kerosene heater.

13. In case flare-up or uncontrolled flaming occurs, do not attempt to move or carry the heater. If the heater is equipped with a manual shut-off switch, activate the switch to turn off the heater. If the emergency shut-off device does not extinguish the fire, leave the house immediately and call the fire department.

If you already own a kerosene heater and plan to use it again this heating season, you should follow not only the above safety rules, but also these additional ones:

1. Rinse the tank and reservoir with water-clear K-1 kerosene only, especially if the heater is dirty or was stored with fuel in it. Never rinse with water! Do not use old kerosene! Return the kerosene used to rinse the the heater and any old kerosene to a service station for disposal.



***At  
the  
holiday season...***

*... as we see the glow of colorful lights dotting the Illinois countryside, we extend our best wishes and sincere gratitude to the more than 170,000 member-owners of electric cooperatives throughout downstate Illinois. Their spirit of cooperation and support have enabled rural electrification to develop and progress for the benefit of all Illinois. We wish them everything bright and beautiful during the holiday season and always.*



**Electric Cooperatives of Illinois**

---

**Good for ALL Illinois**

### DEVILED SPARERIBS

- 4-5 lbs. back spareribs
- 2 teaspoons butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup onion finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced or pressed
- 3/4 cup chili sauce or catsup
- 3/4 cup tomato juice
- 1-8 oz. can crushed pineapple
- 2 tablespoons dejon mustard
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 cup green chilies drained

Cut spareribs into serving pieces, trim excess fat. Place ribs (single layers) in a large shallow roasting pan. Bake uncovered at 350° for 1 hour. Melt butter in 2 quart pan over medium heat. Add onion and garlic, cook until onion is limp. Stir in remaining ingredients. Simmer uncovered 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. After 1 hour discard fat from roast pan, pour sauce over ribs. Bake uncovered for 1 hour longer, turning ribs and basting until meat is fork tender. Place on serving platter, skim off remaining fat. Put sauce in bowl and pass with meat.

### PORK ROAST MEXICANA

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon chili powder
- 1-4 lb. boneless pork roast
- 1/2 cup apple jelly
- 1/2 cup catsup
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 cup crushed corn chips

Combine garlic powder, salt and 1/2 teaspoon chili powder, rub into roast. Place meat on rack in shallow roasting pan. Insert meat thermometer, roast uncovered in 325 degree oven for 2 1/2 hours or until meat thermometer registers 165 degrees. In a saucepan combine jelly, catsup, vinegar and 1/2 teaspoon chili powder. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, simmer uncovered for 2 minutes. Brush roast with glaze, sprinkle top with chips. Continue roasting 10-15 minutes more or until thermometer registers 170 degrees. Let roast stand 10 minutes outside oven. To gravy left in roasting pan including chips, add enough water to make 1 cup. Heat to boiling. Serve with meat.

### CORN CASSEROLE

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 green pepper, minced
- 1 small onion, minced
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 pimento, chopped
- 2 cups cream style corn
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 2 well beaten eggs
- Bread crumbs

Melt butter, add pepper and onion. Cover, cook 5 minutes. Add flour, mix well. Add milk, cook until thick. Add corn, pimento and seasonings. Remove from heat, stir in beaten eggs. Pour into a well greased 1 1/2 quart casserole dish. Cover with bread crumbs. Bake until thick at 350 degrees for 60 minutes.

### CRANBERRY SALAD

- 1 can whole cranberries
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 pkg. black cherry jello (small)
- 1/2 cup chopped oranges

Mix jello by directions on box. Add cranberries. Let partly chill. Add remaining ingredients, mix well. Return to refrigerator and jell.

### MACARONI AND CHEESE

- 8 oz. elbow macaroni
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 4 tablespoons flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 lb. yellow American cheese

Cook macaroni until tender. Drain and rinse. Make white sauce by melting butter, blend flour and salt. Stir until smooth. Add milk slowly, cooking until sauce is thick. Combine grated cheese and macaroni with white sauce. Pour into casserole and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

### CHICKEN MACARONI CASSEROLE

- 1 1/2 to 2 cups cooked elbow macaroni
- 1 cup grated cheese
- 1 1/2 cups cooked chicken, cubed
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup diced onion
- 1/2 to 1 cup diced celery
- pimiento for color
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups milk

Mix first 6 ingredients in large mixing bowl. Set aside. For sauce, melt butter or margarine and blend in salt, flour, and pepper. Gradually add milk stirring constantly until thick. Place chicken mixture into long casserole dish. Pour sauce over top and bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes.

### HONEY SWEET POTATOES

- 2 1/2 cups mashed (cooked or canned) sweet potatoes
- 1/2 cup mini marshmallows
- Dash of pepper
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/3 cup honey
- 4 tablespoons oleo or butter, melted
- 3/4 teaspoon salt

Combine potatoes, pepper, salt and 2 tablespoons butter. Stir in marshmallows. Pour in casserole dish. In heavy skillet heat 1 tablespoon butter with honey. Pour over sweet potato mixture. Sprinkle nuts over potato mixture. Drizzle with remaining butter. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes.

### FRUIT SALAD

- 1 large can pineapple chunks
- 2 oranges
- 1 cup nuts
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup sugar

Drain pineapple, place juice in double boiler. Mix sugar, flour, salt and add eggs. Pour this mixture into juice and cook until thickened. Stir constantly. Cool and cut oranges in small pieces. Add pineapple chunks, nuts and marshmallows. Add this to cooled sauce. Before serving, add whipped cream and a little coconut if desired.

### JOSEPH COAT SALAD

- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup water
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons prepared mustard
- 2-16 oz. pkgs. frozen mixed vegetables
- 1/2 cup diced onions
- 1/2 cup celery, diced
- 1 cup diced green pepper
- 1 small jar pimento

Cook vegetables according to package directions, set aside. Mix vinegar and water together. Mix thoroughly the sugar, flour and prepared mustard. Add to vinegar and water, cook until thick, then beat with wire whisk or perforated spoon. Drain vegetables, pour hot sauce over vegetables and combine. Add remaining ingredients, mix well. Let stand 24 hours in refrigerator before serving.

### BROWN SUGAR DROP COOKIES

- 1/2 cup soft margarine
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 beaten egg
- 1/2 cup Milnot plus 1 tablespoon vinegar or lemon juice
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Mix together margarine, sugar, egg and Milnot plus vinegar or lemon juice. Add remaining ingredients and bake at 400 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

### DANISH SUGAR COOKIES

- 1/2 cup soft margarine
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- Pinch of salt

Combine first five ingredients together and mix well. Add remaining ingredients and roll in small balls, then roll in sugar. Mash down with glass and bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

### PEPPERMINT PINWHEELS

- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter, cut-up
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Red food coloring
- Green food coloring

In small bowl of mixer, beat butter until creamy. Gradually add sugar and peppermint extract; beat until fluffy. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture, mixing well. Remove half of dough to another bowl (about 1 cup) stir in a few drops red food coloring. Tint dough remaining in mixer bowl with a few drops green food coloring, stirring until color is even. Roll green dough between sheets of waxed paper to form a 16 x 6-inch rectangle. Repeat with red dough. Invert red dough on green dough and peel off paper. Press gently with rolling pin. Roll dough up as for jelly roll from long side. Wrap in waxed paper and chill overnight. Slice 1/4-inch thick and place on buttered baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees 10 to 12 minutes. Cool on wire racks. Store in airtight containers. Makes 64 cookies.

### PECAN PIE

- 1 1/2 cups light corn syrup
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- Dash salt
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup pecan halves
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine corn syrup, sugar and butter or margarine in saucepan, bring to boiling. Boil gently uncovered 5 minutes, stir occasionally, cool slightly. Combine eggs, vanilla and salt, pour cooled syrup mixture into eggs, beat well. In a 9-inch pie plate that has been lined with pastry, place pecans in bottom. Pour mixture over pecans, bake for 30-35 minutes in 375 degree oven or until knife inserted near center comes out clean.

### SINGLE PIE CRUST PASTRY

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup shortening
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3-4 tablespoons cold water

Mix together flour and salt. Cut in shortening until pieces are very small. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon water over part of the mixture. Toss with a fork, push to side of bowl. Repeat procedure until all is moistened. Form dough into ball on slightly floured surface. Flatten ball with hand and roll.

### BUTTER CAKE

- 1 pound oleo or butter
- 3 cups sugar
- 6 eggs
- 4 cups sifted cake flour
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 teaspoons rum flavoring

Cream sugar and butter, add eggs one at a time, beating 1 minute after each egg. Add milk and flour alternately. Add flavorings. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour and forty minutes. Use an angel food cake pan.

### OLD FASHIONED TEA CAKES

- 1 cup butter
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups sugar
- 3/3 cup buttermilk
- 2 teaspoons baking powder

Mix all ingredients, adding enough flour to make a stiff dough. Roll out on floured surface about 1/4 inch thick, cut into desired shape.

### COCONUT COOKIES

- 2 cups crushed cornflakes
- 2 egg whites, beaten very stiff
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- Pinch of salt

Mix all ingredients together, drop by spoonfuls on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees until brown.

# Christmas party fare

*'Twas some time before Christmas and all through the kitchen,  
All the children were busy, cookies a-mixin'.  
The cookies were decorated and put out to eat,  
In hopes that the children would find them a treat.  
The Santa cups brimmed to their tops with the punch,  
Enough for a party, invite the whole bunch.  
And you'll hear them exclaim as they leave for the night,  
"Merry Christmas to you, thank you, good night!"*

## CRANBERRY SPARKLER

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2 env. (2-qt. size) strawberry, cherry, raspberry or orange flavor sugar-sweetened soft drink mix* | 2 cups water                            |
| 2 bottles (16 oz. each) cranberry juice cocktail or cranberry-apple drink                          | 2 quarts lemon-lime carbonated beverage |

\*Or use 2 envelopes strawberry, cherry, raspberry or orange flavor unsweetened soft drink mix and add 1 cup sugar. Combine all ingredients in non-metal punch bowl or large pitcher, stirring until soft drink mix is dissolved. Chill and add ice cubes, if desired. Makes about 4 quarts or 32 servings.

## JUMBO CHOCOLATE CHIP CEREAL COOKIES

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 cups unsifted all-purpose flour         | 1/2 cup granulated sugar                  |
| 1 teaspoon baking soda                    | 2 eggs                                    |
| 1 teaspoon salt                           | 1 teaspoon vanilla                        |
| 1 cup softened butter or other shortening | 1 1/2 cups crunchy nutlike cereal nuggets |
| 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar         | 4 sqs. semi-sweet chocolate, chopped*     |

\*Or use 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate flavored baking chips. Mix flour with baking soda and salt. Cream butter; gradually beat in sugars. Add eggs and vanilla; blend well. Add flour mixture. Stir in cereal and chocolate. Using 1/4 cup dough for each cookie, drop 3 inches apart onto greased baking sheets and press with fork into 3-inch rounds. Bake at 375 degrees for 13 to 15 minutes, or until lightly browned. Cool 1 minute before removing from baking sheets. Makes about 16. NOTE: Cookies may be wrapped and frozen.

## GIANT SUGAR COOKIES

- |                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3/4 cups all-purpose flour         | 1 1/2 cups sugar        |
| 2 teaspoons baking powder          | 2 eggs                  |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt                  | 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla |
| 3/4 cup butter or other shortening | 1 tablespoon milk       |

Mix flour with baking powder and salt. Cream shortening. Gradually beat in sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating thoroughly after each. Stir in vanilla. Add flour mixture alternately with milk, mixing well after each addition. Chill 3 or 4 hours or overnight. Roll dough 1/8" thick on lightly floured board. Cut 6-inch cardboard patterns (angel, tree, star, bell); place on rolled dough and cut with sharp knife. Transfer with wide spatula to ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Makes 15. **Confectioners Sugar Glaze:** Gradually add 1 1/2 tablespoons (about) hot milk or water to 1 1/4 cups confectioners sugar in a bowl; blend well. Makes 2/3 cup.

**Colorful Butter Frosting:** Sift 1 teaspoon unsweetened soft drink mix, any flavor, with 4 1/2 cups unsifted confectioners sugar. Cream 1/2 cup butter or margarine. Add sugar mixture, alternately with 6 tablespoons (about) hot water; blend until smooth. Makes 2 1/2 cups. (Recipe may be halved; prepare twice with 2 different soft drink mix flavors, if desired.)

## EASY LEMON BARS

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 pkg. lemon cake mix (without pudding mix) | 1 pkg. lemon frosting mix    |
| 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted         | 8 oz. cream cheese, softened |
| 1 egg                                       | 2 eggs                       |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 13 x 9" pan on bottom only. Combine in large bowl first three ingredients until well mixed. Press into prepared pan. Blend in large bowl frosting mix and cream cheese. Reserve 1/2 cup for frosting. Add 2 eggs to remaining frosting mixture. Beat 3 to 5 minutes. Spread over base. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes. Cool and frost. Makes about 3 dozen bars.



## GOOEY BUTTER CAKE

- |                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>1st layer:</b>                   | <b>2nd layer:</b>             |
| 1 box Deluxe yellow cake mix        | 8 oz. cream cheese, very soft |
| 2 eggs                              | 2 eggs                        |
| 1 stick butter or margarine, melted | 1 box powdered sugar          |

Blend together ingredients for first layer and beat according to directions of cake mix. Pour into oblong pan, greased and floured, and spread over bottom of pan. Batter is very stiff. Combine ingredients for 2nd layer and beat until well mixed. Pour this over the first mixture in pan and bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes. Can be used as coffee cake.

## DOUBLE DECKER FUDGE

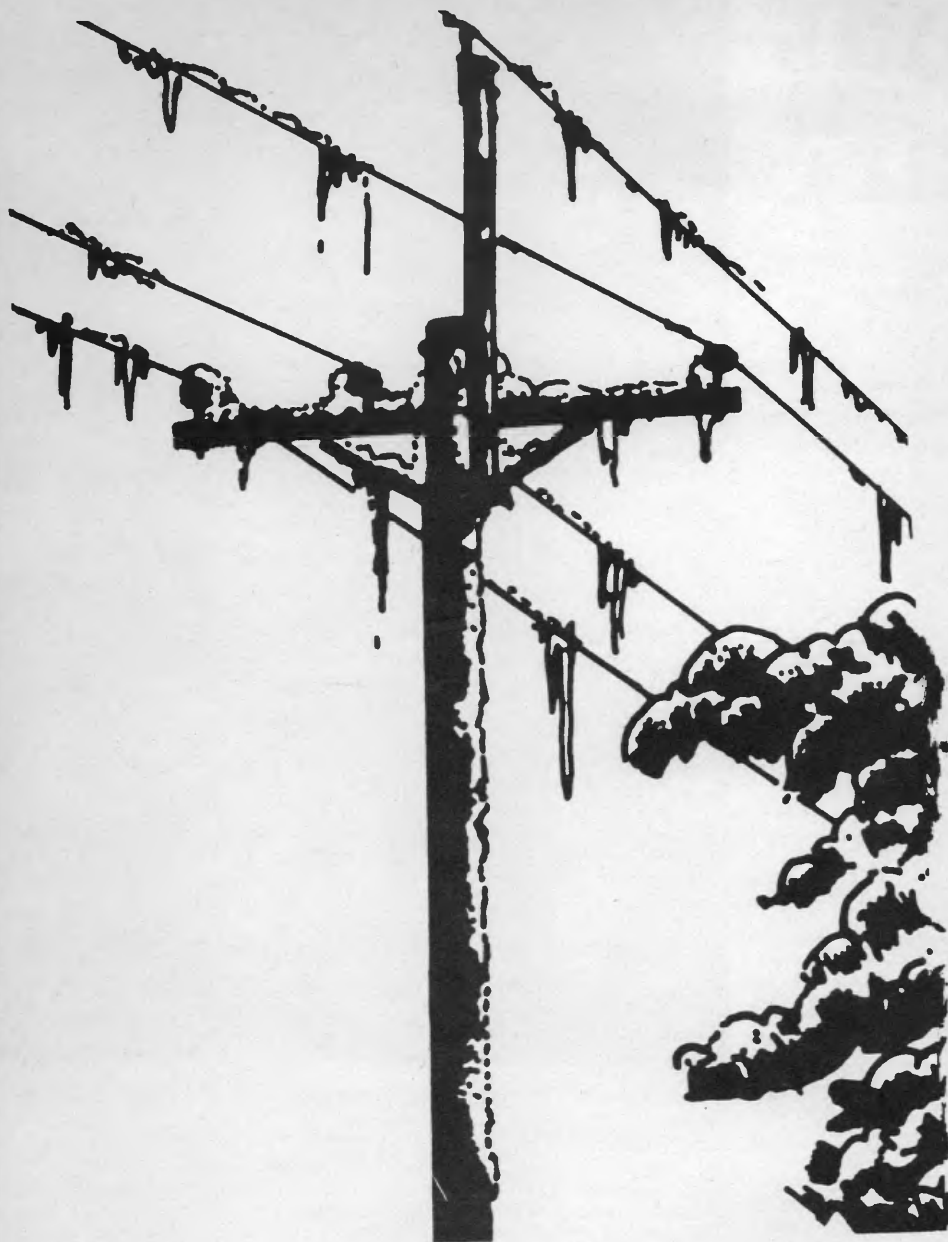
- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 4 1/2 cups sugar                    | dash of salt                              |
| 1 jar marshmallow cream (7 oz.)     | 1 pkg. semisweet chocolate pieces (6 oz.) |
| 2 cans evaporated milk (6 oz. cans) | 1 pkg. butterscotch pieces (6 oz.)        |
| 1/2 cup butter or margarine         |   |

In 3-quart saucepan, combine sugar, marshmallow cream, evaporated milk, butter or margarine, and salt. Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture boils. Boil gently, stirring frequently, for 5 minutes. Divide mixture in half. To one half (about 3 cups) add chocolate pieces; stir until melted and blended. Pour into buttered 13 x 9 x 2" pan. To remaining half of marshmallow mixture, add the butterscotch pieces, beating until smooth. If necessary, beat butterscotch mixture with rotary beater until pieces are melted and mixture is smooth. Pour over chocolate layer. Cool. Cut in pieces.

## COCONUT OATMEAL COOKIES

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 cup sifted all-purpose flour | 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar |
| 1/2 teaspoon baking powder     | 1 egg                             |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt              | 1 teaspoon vanilla                |
| 1/2 teaspoon baking soda       | 1/2 cup quick cooking rolled oats |
| 1/2 cup butter or shortening   | 1 cup angel flake coconut         |
| 1/2 cup granulated sugar       |                                   |

Sift flour with baking powder, salt and soda. Cream butter or shortening. Gradually add sugars; cream until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla; beat well. Add flour mixture in 4 parts, beating until just smooth after each addition. Mix in rolled oats and coconut. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets. Sprinkle with additional coconut and bake at 375 degrees for 9 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Makes 4 dozen.



# Winter storms bring threat of outages

**D**espite the effect adverse weather can have on the relatively unprotected rural electric lines, electric cooperatives continue to improve on their already outstanding system reliability. Outages haven't been eliminated, but they have been reduced significantly through employee training and equipment improvements. No electric system, urban or rural, is free from the threat of outages.

Winter outages, with ice, snow and high winds to go along with the cold,

can bring discomfort and even damage, such as frozen water pipes, to the unprepared.

During a severe blizzard, people inside a home affected during an outage may even face a danger from a rapid drop in body temperature known as hypothermia.

"Have a plan ready so there is no panic when a sudden outage occurs," says Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Extension safety specialist. "It's easy for people in a panic to overlook sup-

plemental heat sources such as gas stoves and kerosene heaters that are right in front of them."

The key to avoiding temperature-related problems is retaining the heat inside the house. Doors and windows can be covered with blankets, cardboard or newspapers.

Rooms that do not have plumbing in the wall should be shut off from the rest of the house. Rolled towels can be used to seal the bottom of the doors to these rooms and to the outside.

"Holding in the heat is what's important," Aherin says. "Adding extra insulation can increase the heat-holding time for a house. Besides saving on heat bills, it is one of the best ways to prepare for a winter power failure."

Supplemental heat sources can help alleviate the problem. Their use, however, requires extra precautions.

Kerosene heaters and many kinds of gas stoves are unventilated. Windows should be kept open about one inch for each 10,000 Btu generated by supplemental heaters. These heaters should not be used in a closed room where someone is sleeping.

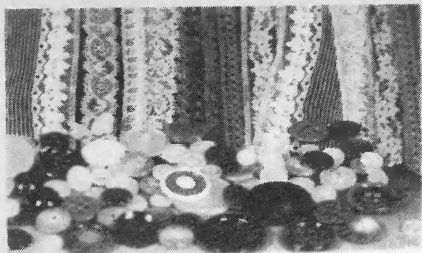
Open hearth fireplaces can help heat the area immediately surrounding them. But, they also can speed cooling in outlying rooms. Fireplaces can help prevent hypothermia but will do almost nothing to protect the plumbing from freezing.

Retaining heat and using supplemental heat sources may be enough to prevent the pipes from freezing. But, if the inside temperature threatens to go below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, the house should be closed down.

The fresh water and hot water heating systems must be turned off. Pipes, hoses and tanks should all be drained to prevent them from bursting.

But, such early-season precautions as adding insulation, stocking up on non-perishable foods and having a supplemental heat source on hand can go a long way toward preventing the worst consequences of a cold-weather outage.

"Take the time and effort now to plan for winter power failures," Aherin says. "That way a potential dire emergency may be no more than an inconvenience."



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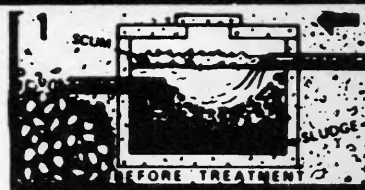
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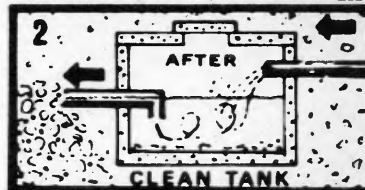
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*At right, Mary and Sharon's creations add beauty to a tree during the Christmas season. Next page, from left: A tiny angel. A work surface with several ornaments in various stages of completion. Smearing body putty into a cookie cutter.*



*Twass a month before Christmas and all  
through the doublewide,  
Two women were working, making  
goodies for yuletide.  
No ornaments were hung on the tree  
with great care,  
They were just being made by the  
resourceful pair.  
Their scheme was quite clever — nay,  
just a bit foxy,  
As they filled cookie cutters with  
smelly epoxy.*

With apologies to Charles Dickens



Mary Gard

with the child's name on the front," Mary says, "because it makes a nice keepsake. Some teachers have their names and the grade engraved on the back, for the same reason," she adds.

And her engraved ornaments may rekindle an old tradition. "Lots of people are getting back into the custom of having a Christmas tree ornament for each child every year, like they did a long time ago."

For those who want to try their hand at making their own "traditional" ornament, Mary notes that there is a trick or two to making them.

"You need the flexible kind of cookie cutter," she says, "because the ornament is easier to get out if you can bend the cutter a little bit. The rigid plastic ones don't work well at all."

She notes that the body filler she uses comes in two parts that must be mixed together before they will harden. "How fast it sets up depends on how much hardener you mix in. The temperature and humidity are factors, too. We try to mix ours so we can take an ornament out and trim it after 10 minutes in the mold," she adds.

Mary and Sharon are working to make Christmas a pleasure for many people — their ornaments will add a touch of zest to many a tree this year and, no doubt, many a grade school student will look back in the future with fond Christmas memories.

**W**hile the above takeoff on Charles Dickens' "The Night Before Christmas" lacks the smoothness and polish the great author put into his literary creation, it does accurately reflect how Mary Gard and Sharon Williams team up to make Christmas tree ornaments to sell at local craft fairs.

But there is a little more to the story than that. Mary, a Norris Electric Cooperative member, was watching as her husband did some body work in his shop. "Richard is part-owner of The Body Works, an auto body shop in Casey," she says, "and once in a while there was an odd lump of body filler lying around. It's a lot like modeling clay, but light and strong, and he got an idea."

At his suggestion, she started putting the putty in Christmas cookie cutters and turning it out as it firmed up. Then she trimmed them with a

pocket knife and sanded away any rough spots.

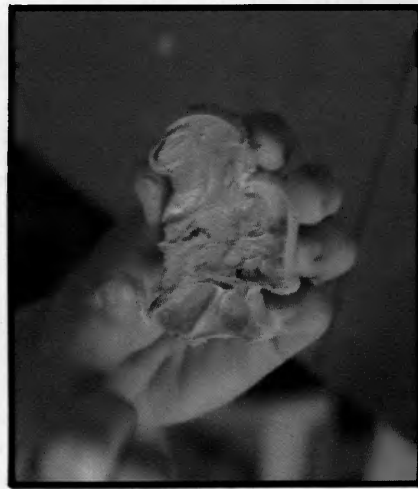
Breaking out an airbrush, which is essentially a tiny paint sprayer, she added the finishing touches to a spiffy new Christmas tree ornament.

"Richard uses an airbrush at the shop," she says, "and I didn't know anything about them, but he helped and encouraged me, and I finally learned the difference between lacquer thinner and enamel reducer!"

Now, as Mary and Sharon knock out a batch for a craft show, you can tell by looking at the ornaments that her novice airbrushing days are behind her. The pair recently sold a couple of hundred items at craft shows in Casey and Robinson, and some school teachers where Sharon works have ordered a personalized ornament for each member of their class.

"They like to have them engraved

## Women use odd medium to make ornaments



# Dennis Keiser succeeds Witt as M.J.M. manager

**D**ennis A. Keiser is the new manager of M.J.M. Electric Cooperative. Wayne Harms of Carlinville, president of the M.J.M. board of directors, announced November 14 that Keiser, of Chatham, had been hired to succeed Charles W. Witt, who retired November 1 after 40 years with the Carlinville-based cooperative.

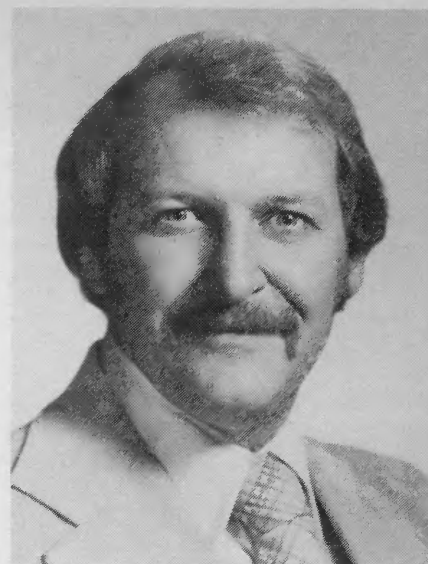
Witt served as general manager since May 24, 1963. He worked for M.J.M. from 1945-1960 as a lineman and was a line foreman from 1960 until his promotion to general manager.

Keiser joined M.J.M. from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield, where he served since 1981 as director of the Association's Member Services Department. His responsibilities at the statewide electric cooperative service organization included supervision of physical facilities and vehicles, group purchasing, and evaluation and dissemination

of programs for electric cooperative power use and member services personnel. He also coordinated six statewide task forces working to develop an electric cooperative marketing program.

Before his promotion to member services director at the Association, Keiser served as energy utilization specialist from 1978 to 1981, helping prepare cost-of-service and retail rate studies and a regional power requirements study. Prior to 1978, Keiser served for nine years as an energy advisor for Illinois Power Company, where he was responsible for residential, farm, commercial and industrial sales programs.

Harms said the board of directors had received applications for the manager position from throughout the United States. "We were extremely pleased with the quality of applicants who wanted to head our management



Keiser

team. We believe Dennis Keiser's 16 years of service in the electric utility industry in Illinois will be a real asset to M.J.M. Electric Cooperative members."

Keiser is a native of Mt. Olive. He was graduated in 1967 from the University of Missouri at Columbia with a bachelor of science degree in business administration.



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* Tree Lift-N-Saw		\$26.94	\$29.97

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4517 SIZES 8-20

#### Baby Quilt



436

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4964 10 1/2-24 1/2, 34-52

- No. 4517 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20.
- No. 436 - Baby Quilt - Embroider 9 pets about 10"x12" for pictures or crib cover about 35"x46".
- No. 4964 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; Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52.

#### Butterfly Quilt



980

Flight of butterflies on a quilt that's a future heirloom. Applique in brilliant prints. Pattern 980. Pattern pieces, directions for single size 70"x102", double 86"x102".



4906 34-48



4628 SIZES 12 1/2-24 1/2

- No. 980 - Butterfly Quilt - is directions for single size 70"x102"; double 86"x102".
- No. 4906 is cut in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48.
- No. 4628 is cut in sizes 12 1/2, 14 1/2, 16 1/2, 18 1/2, 20 1/2, 22 1/2, 24 1/2.



9103 SIZES 6-20



4896 SIZES 8-18



4659 SIZES 8-20

- No. 9103 is cut in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20.
- No. 4896 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18.
- No. 4659 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20.

#### Embroidery



749

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9246 SIZES 10 1/2-24 1/2



4566 SIZES 10 1/2-26 1/2

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- No. 9246 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. Size 14 1/2 (bust 37) takes 3-3/8 yards 45-inch.
- No. 4566 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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