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## Illinois Rural Electric News

June 1985



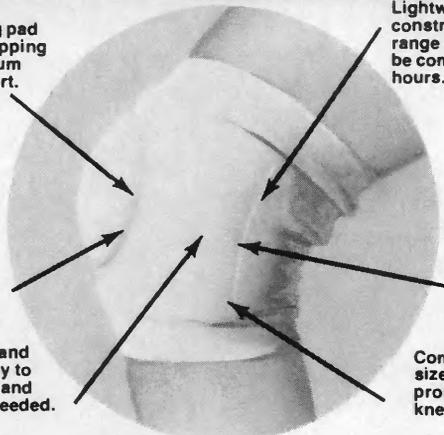
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"This support is a great help to me. I could hardly get around before I got it. Thank you." A.J. Springfield, OR

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# Illinois Rural Electric News

## Much more than lights and water pumps

May was an interesting month for the nation's rural electric systems.

The 50th anniversary of the establishment of Rural Electrification Administration attracted attention not only in the countryside but also in non-rural areas. The U. S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp to note the occasion, the Smithsonian Institution celebrated the birthday with a special program and exhibits, and some 1,500 persons travelled to Warm Springs, Georgia, for a special reenactment of the May 11, 1935, signing of the Rural Electrification Act by President Franklin Roosevelt.

On May 7, the House of Representatives, led by Kika de la Garza of Texas, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and Ed Madigan of Illinois, saluted the accomplishments of rural electrification over the past half-century during a Special Order setting aside part of the day's proceedings for this particular purpose. A similar Special Order tribute in the Senate was led by Dave Durenberger, a Minnesota Senator.

Elsewhere in this issue is an article on the annual Legislative Conference held in early May in Washington, D.C., a meeting that this year left rural electric leaders more confident than in quite some time that the federal partnership with rural electrics will be assured for the future. They have been concerned about critics' misconception that the job of rural electric systems is complete since virtually all of the countryside — essentially unwanted by power companies 50 years ago — is now electrified.

In Senate Resolution 148 commemorating the anniversary,

Senators Jesse Helms of North Carolina and Ed Zorinsky of Nebraska had the following to say:

"Although the challenge of bringing rural electricity and telephone service to rural areas has been successfully met by the Rural Electrification Administration programs, the job of the agency is not done. Like the utility systems in the large cities where utility services have been available for decades, rural electric systems continue to need financing to replace obsolete facilities and equipment, extend service to new customers, and repair damaged equipment.

"Without viable REA programs, for many rural utilities there would be no investment for the future and utility rates would be increased to prohibitively high levels. In addition, without viable REA programs, high quality, affordable electric and telephone service would once again become a luxury not available to our rural citizens."

The responsibilities of the investor-owned and municipal utilities have not ceased because they have electrified urban areas. Neither have the responsibilities of rural electric systems.

In the beginning of the rural electrification movement, utilities offered the chance to reach into the rural areas could visualize little farm use for electric power. Farmers will use it only for lights and maybe pumping water, many critics contended.

They should see today's modern farms — even in these difficult times — with the labor-, time-, and money-saving efficiencies of electrification, thanks in no small way to the rural electrification program.

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June 1985

Volume 43

Number 2

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.

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Cover: "Illinois Rural Youth Day" was a special occasion for more than 100 young people from across the state. See story on pages 4 and 5.

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## Senators: take an interest in



*Above, Senator John Maitland, R-Bloomington, addresses the group. Top photo, the group waits to take the popular tour of Lincoln's home. At right, Thomas H. Moore, right, general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, visits with Senator Vince Demuzio, D-Carlinville.*





## government

**I**llinois young people were urged to take an active role in state government by state senators during "Illinois Rural Youth Day" activities in Springfield April 24.

Senators Vince Demuzio and John Maitland, who spoke to the high school students participating in the day's program during a noon recognition luncheon for the students, encouraged them to develop an interest in the activities of state government and to become active participants in the legislative process.

Demuzio, of Carlinville and senator in the 49th Senate district, outlined for the young people a typical day for a legislator, beginning with an early morning trip from his hometown to arrive in Springfield for a legislative breakfast. "At 9 a.m., committee meetings begin. At one o'clock, the General Assembly goes into session. At two o'clock, the committee sessions begin for the rest of the afternoon. There are several functions such as this this evening and there will be several



of our bills to be heard in committee during the day," Demuzio said, adding that the night before this busy day ended in Carlinville about 11 p.m. following a dinner meeting in Jacksonville. "In some instances, you feel like a 'jack of all trades and master of none,'" he added.

Demuzio said, "There are so many sensitive and complex issues. What we do today, what we have done yesterday, and what we will do in this legislative session affects you, and your families, this year, next year, and into the next decade.

"Perhaps it is you who should help

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*Top, Deborah Battice leads the Wayne-White Counties delegation through the breakfast line. Above, a tour guide tells of the State Capitol's finer points.*

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establish both the short- and long-range goals of government as they affect the issues in the state of Illinois. Perhaps it is you who should help us develop our plans, to establish our objectives, to establish the kind of priorities that we in state government

*(Continued on page 12)*

# Rural electric leaders optimistic about budget agreement

## *Congressional leaders indicate continuation of strong support for rural electric program*

**T**here was renewed optimism about the future of rural electrification evident during the 1985 Legislative Conference held in early May in Washington, D.C.

Leaders of some 1,000 rural electric systems across the country were able to meet with their Senators and Representatives and tell them they agreed with a compromise on the rural electrification portion of the proposed Reagan Administration Budget. That approach contrasted with the message they have taken to Congress in some recent years, when they were com-

pelled to counter anti-Rural Electrification Administration (REA) proposals forwarded by some Reagan Administration officials.

The Conference is an annual event, a gathering of the rural electric leaders for legislative updating and concerted visits with the elected officials and their staffs.

In the past two years' Conferences, rural leaders worked for the consideration and passage of legislation to stabilize the REA Revolving Fund, distribution cooperatives' primary source of loans. That legislation passed

the House of Representatives by a large margin (283-111) and had considerable support in the Senate (47 of the 100 Senators were sponsors). However, the bill died without coming up for a vote during adjournment shuffling in the Senate last October.

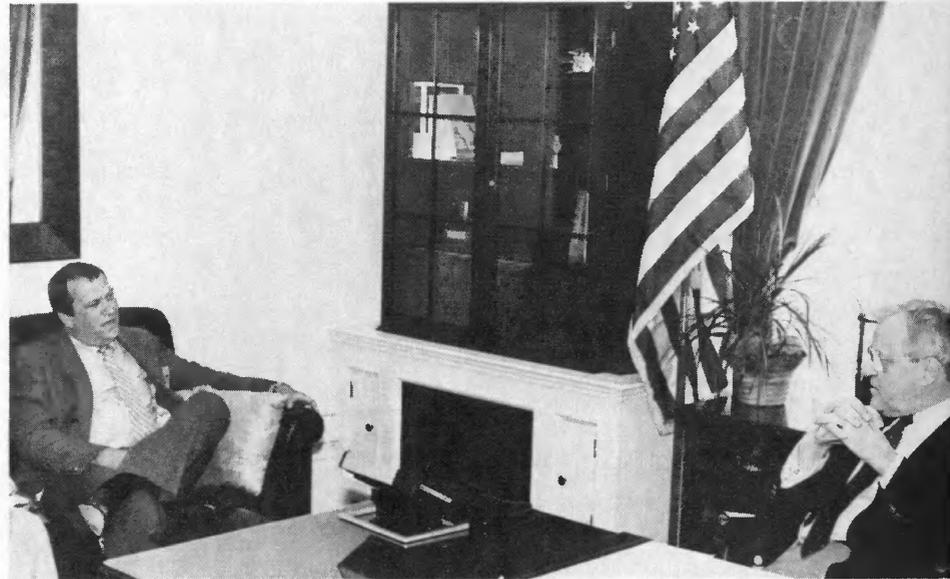
Rural electric leaders chose not to seek approval of a similar bill in this session of Congress, despite the widespread support the rural electrification program has in the Senate and House. Early this spring, though, White House and Senate leaders announced agreement on federal budget provisions that



*Senator Alan Dixon discusses legislation concerning rural electrification.*



Left: Representative Mel Price, right, talks with leaders from Clinton County and Southwestern electric cooperatives. Below: Representative Charles Hayes, left, greets Jim Campbell of Clay Electric.



Above: Representative William Lipinski, left, sits with electric cooperative delegates. Right: Representative John Grotberg, right, talks with Iris Christensen of Illinois Valley Electric cooperative.



Left: Dave Fricke, standing, of Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, gives information about rural electrification to Representative George O'Brien. Above: Representative Richard Durbin, gesturing, talks with representatives of Soyland Power Cooperative, Western Illinois Electrical Coop., and Illinois Rural Electric Co.

would severely affect rural electrification.

In that agreement, announced April 4, it was proposed that there would be an immediate increase (amounting to a doubling) in interest rates charged to rural electric borrowers and that the government rural electric program would gradually be phased out by the early part of the next decade. The first proposal would cause serious financial damage to electric cooperatives and phase out would cast a cloud of uncertainty as to the long-term quality and cost of electric service to many rural areas.

Rural electrics responded quickly to this devastating proposal and, in late April, Republican Senators James Abdnor of South Dakota and Mark Andrews of North Dakota, working with Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, Senate majority leader, and Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, announced an agreement with the White House and the Office of Management and Budget.

In addition to the Senators directly

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## Senate and House action in May follows agreement with White House on REA program

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involved in the new agreement, Senators of both political parties expressed strong support for REA and offered help to ensure a strong REA program.

The Senate-White House accord would do the following: (1) REA interest rates would remain at 5 percent, (2) the REA program would not be phased out, (3) REA lending authority for the current fiscal year would be reduced by approximately 25 percent, and (4) lending levels for fiscal year 1986 recommended by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) would be

included in the budget agreement.

Rural electric leaders accepted the provisions of the budget agreement with the understanding that REA officials will not be permitted to restrict access to loan funds by issuing administrative changes until Congressional committees have been able to fully review and comment on them.

The Senate approved the budget two days after Illinoisans and other rural electric leaders from across the nation left Washington.

On May 16, the House Budget Committee approved its version of the budget, which contained the REA language identical to the Senate measure.

NRECA executive vice president Bob Bergland, a former U.S. Representative and Secretary of Agriculture in the late 1970s, said the electric cooperatives agreed to the reduced loan levels because of a "temporary downturn" in demand for rural electric building projects as a result of the depressed rural economy. "The time will come," he said, "when we're back in the building program."



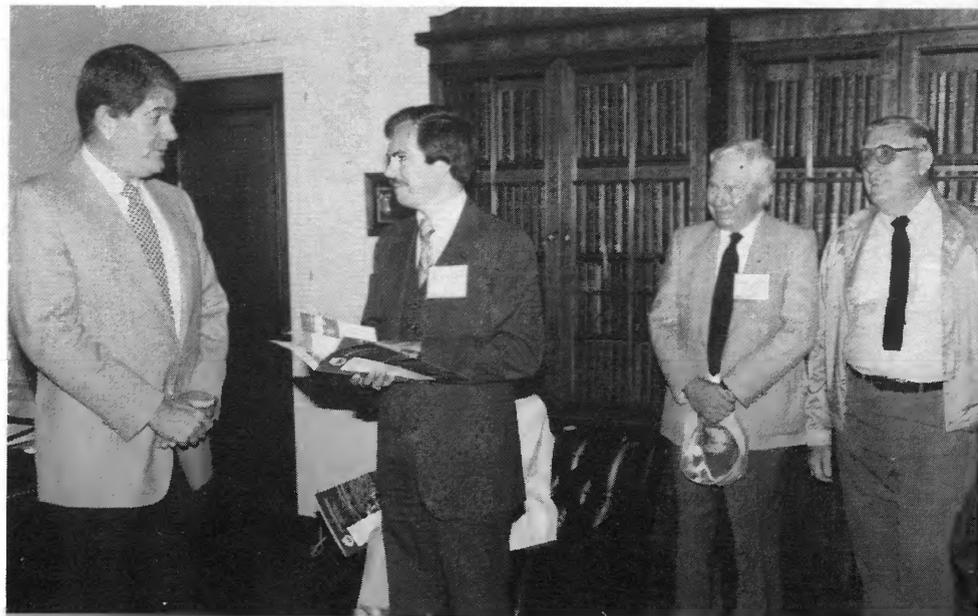
*Senator Paul Simon talks with electric cooperative leaders.*



Left: Representative Lane Evans, left, talks with visitors from McDonough Power Cooperative. Below: Clinton County leaders listen to Representative Ken Gray, left.



Above: Representative Terry Bruce meets with leaders from several electric cooperatives in his district. Right: Representative Ed Madigan with Illini and Corn Belt electric cooperative representatives.



Left: Representative Harris Fawell with delegates from Illini and Corn Belt electric cooperatives. Above: Representative Robert Michel with leaders of Spoon River and McDonough electric cooperatives.

# Kitchen a good place to save money in summer

**S**aving money in the kitchen is something to think about, no matter what the time of year. As hot as kitchens get about now, you may want to take several steps to keep your kitchen more comfortable and put a dent in your energy bill, too.

You can save money in the kitchen, sometimes, by staying out of it. Since cooking produces heat and removing heat costs money, you may want to set up several outdoor cookouts during the summer to keep your house comfortable and save money. And home economists suggest that an occasional cold meal can provide a change of pace and shave cooling costs, too.

On those days when you absolutely must cook inside and cold cuts and salad just hold no great appeal, a microwave oven can be a help. Not only do they use far less energy and take less time to cook food, they do not add heat to the kitchen for your fan or air conditioner to remove.

Short cooking times and a minimal heat buildup are both real advantages, but microwaves have some disadvantages. Most have a "high energy spot" where energy is concentrated, so you may need to turn or rearrange food items occasionally to ensure even cooking, and additional items will require additional cooking time.

Crockery slow cookers also offer some advantages. You can assemble the ingredients in the morning, plug in the cooker and set its high-low switch to the desired setting and leave for hours without worrying about food burning. The average slow cooker uses about as much electricity as a 150-watt bulb, or about 15-20 cents for a day's work.

While you can save money by changing your cooking habits, there are other things you can do in your kitchen to keep your energy bill within reason.

The average medium-sized refrigerator uses about 1,000-1,500 kilowatt-hours a year, and the larger ones use even more. Frost-free models use more yet. Here are some suggestions to help you make more efficient use of your refrigeration dollar:

- Check the gasket or seal around the refrigerator door to see if cold air is escaping. Close the door on a piece of

paper and try to pull the paper out. If it comes out easily, your refrigerator probably needs a new gasket.

- Check the temperature in your refrigerator, too. Place an outdoor thermometer in the fresh food section and leave it there for about 15 minutes. The temperature should be about 38-42 degrees F. If it is not, adjust the temperature control. Check the freezing compartment's temperature, too. It should be around 5 degrees F.

- Colder-than-necessary temperatures waste energy.

- Check the frost buildup on the freezer compartment. It should not exceed one-fourth of an inch. As a general rule, manual defrost refrigerators take less energy to operate than automatic defrost units, but not if frost is allowed to build up excessively.

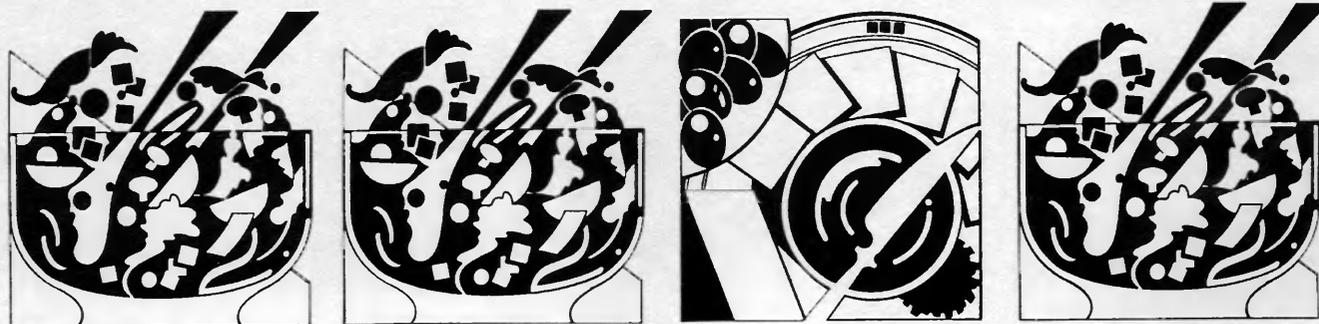
Your refrigerator should be located away from sources of heat, such as ranges. The motor housing and condenser coil should be kept clean and, unless your refrigerator is designed to be built in, it should be away from the wall an inch or two to allow air to circulate around the compressor.

Once those things are taken care of, instruct your family on good habits in using the refrigerator. Let hot foods cool a bit before placing them in the refrigerator. Reduce the number of times the refrigerator is opened and never leave the door open longer than a few seconds. To thaw frozen foods, first place them in the fresh food section so that, as they thaw, they can help cool the refrigerator.

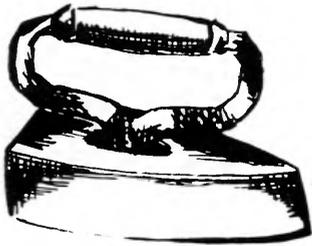
If you are planning to buy a new refrigerator, it is energy economical to buy one with a power-saver switch. Some refrigerators have heating elements in their walls or doors to prevent "sweating" on the outside. In most climates, the heating element does not need to be working all the time. The power-saver switch turns off the heating element, saving up to 16 percent on refrigerator operating costs.

Weigh the benefits of a frost-free refrigerator against those requiring manual defrosting. Although you will need to defrost them regularly, the manual-defrost models will cost less to buy and operate than automatic defrost units.

If you choose the manual-defrost model, remember that frost buildup increases the amount of energy needed to keep your food cold.



# When the 'good old days' got better

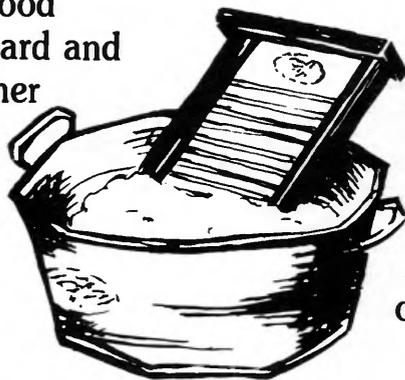


To the women who wrestled with it, the "sad iron"

was appropriately named.

It was a seven-pound wedge of iron that was heated on a wood-burning stove and used to press clothes. Ironing with it sometimes meant painful burns, soot-blackened clothes that had to be washed again, and a hot, stifling kitchen on a summer day.

Small wonder that many rural women had their eyes on electric irons as well as light bulbs when electric cooperatives began stringing lines in their direction during the late 1930s. At that time, most rural women were tied to the wood range and washboard and to a number of other chores that were done by hand as they had been done since colonial times.



Without electricity, they didn't have the benefit of lights or a wide range of electric appliances . . . sewing and washing machines, ranges, toasters, refrigerators, and fans . . . that their city cousins had been using for 10, 20, 30 or even 40 years and more.



Electricity brought more than efficiency, comfort and convenience to rural homes once beset by the endless drudgery of household chores. It helped move a darkened countryside into the light of the 20th century . . . improving significantly the lives of rural women and their families. That's why the electric cooperatives were organized. That's the reason they continue to serve their member-owners today.



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## *Electric Cooperatives of Illinois*

### Good for ALL Illinois

## Senators

(Continued from page 5)

need to be involved with."

Also addressing the luncheon, which was a midway point in a day of activity in the capital, was Senator John Maitland, of Bloomington and senator in the 44th Senate district.

Maitland said, "The two-party system is alive and well and functioning correctly and properly. Senator Demuzio and I are of opposite political parties, and yet we work for the common good of the entire 11½

million people in the state of Illinois.

"When I introduced legislation in the spring, I knew very well that all of that legislation would not be passed. But we do know for sure that when the General Assembly adjourns here on June 30, or July 1, 2 or 3 or whenever, the legislation that might happen to arrive on the Governor's desk reflects the attitude of the 11½ million people in Illinois. It's a beautiful system; it works well.

"Senator Demuzio and I both challenge you to work hard because

you are the new generation that will assure that the two party-system continues to work."

Demuzio described the legislative process as "demanding," pointing out that 1,642 pieces of legislation had been introduced in the Senate this session. "That means that, with the 16 legislative committees that we have in the Senate and under our rules, by May 3 those bills must be subjected to scrutiny by our members and have some affirmative action if they are to proceed in the Illinois Senate this year. That means that in the next seven legislative days that we are here in session, committees will have in excess of 100 bills to consider."

The two senators also noted that several former participants in the rural electric youth program have gone into careers in state government and in the General Assembly.

The students involved in the day of touring Springfield historic and government sites and visiting with senators and representatives from their home districts were finalists in various electric cooperative "Youth to Washington" essay competitions. A number of the students on the Springfield tour, as winners of their local contests, will travel to Washington, D.C., June 7-14.

The day's agenda for the students included tours of the Governor's mansion, Lincoln Home, Old State Capitol, Illinois State Museum and the State Capitol, including both the Senate and House chambers. Several of the groups remained in Springfield after the day of touring and attended a legislative dinner visited by a number of their area senators and representatives. At the dinner were Senators Demuzio, Laura Kent Donahue of Quincy, Ralph Dunn of DuQuoin and Kenneth Hall of East St. Louis and Representatives Gary Hannig of Mt. Olive, Jeffrey Mays of Quincy, Tom Ryder of Jerseyville, Ron Stephens of Collinsville and Harry (Babe) Woodyard of Chrisman.

As has been the custom in past years, Governor Jim Thompson declared the day "Illinois Rural Electric Day" throughout the state. Thirteen electric cooperatives participated and about 120 students attended the Springfield activities.

# Healthy, Wealthy and Wise!

It makes good sense to protect your assets, and your health is one of your most valuable assets of all. Your good health enables you to work and provide all the things you and your family need.

Now, while you're healthy, is the time to make sure that you're properly insured.

By planning ahead, you can help provide a financially secure future for your family, even when serious illness or injury strikes.

Illinois Rural Electric Cooperatives and Telephone Cooperatives recommend that you take advantage of these plans:

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# FREEZER JAMS

Play matchmaker with different fruits to produce a delectable marriage of flavors and textures. Our five tasty recipes are all "freezer" jams which can be whipped up in no time at all. Each recipe will be outstanding served at breakfast, a coffee or at tea.

## STRAWBERRY BUTTER

- 2 cups prepared fruit (about 1 qt. fully ripe strawberries)
- 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 4 cups (1 3/4 lb.) sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 pouch fruit pectin

First prepare the fruit. Steam about 1 quart strawberries and place a few pieces at a time in electric blender container so blades are just covered. Cover container, and turn control from off to low several times until fruit is chopped. (Do not puree.) Measure 2 cups into large bowl or pan. Add lemon rind and nutmeg. Then make the butter. Thoroughly mix sugar into fruit; let stand 10 minutes. Add lemon juice to fruit pectin in a small bowl. Stir into fruit. Continue stirring 3 minutes. (A few sugar crystals will remain.) Quickly ladle into scalded containers. Cover at once with tight lids. Let stand at room temperature 24 hours; then store in freezer. Small amounts may be covered and stored in refrigerator up to 3 weeks. Makes 4 cups or about 5 (8 fl. oz.) containers.

## STRAWBERRY RHUBARB JELLY

- 2 cups prepared juice (about 1 qt. fully ripe strawberries and 1/2 lb. rhubarb)
- 4 1/2 cups (2 lbs.) sugar
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 pouch fruit pectin

First prepare the fruit. Thoroughly crush, one layer at a time, about 1 quart strawberries. Place in jelly cloth or bag and let drip. When dripping has almost ceased, press gently. Measure 1/2 cups into large bowl or pan. Finely grind (do not peel) about 1/2 pound rhubarb. Place in jelly cloth or bag and let drip. When dripping has almost ceased, press gently. Measure 1/2 cup and add to strawberry juice. Then make the jelly. Thoroughly mix sugar into juice; let stand 10 minutes. Mix lemon juice and fruit pectin in small bowl; stir into juice. Continue stirring 3 minutes. (A few sugar crystals will remain.) Pour quickly into scalded containers. Cover at once with tight lids. Let stand at room temperature 24 hours; then store in freezer. Small amounts may be covered and stored in refrigerator up to 3 weeks. Makes about 5 1/2 cups or about 6 (8 fl. oz.) containers.

## STRAWBERRY PEACH JAM

- 1 3/4 cups prepared fruit (about 1 pt. fully ripe strawberries and 3/4 lb. fully ripe peaches)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 4 cups (1 3/4 lb.) sugar
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 box fruit pectin

First prepare the fruit. Stem and thoroughly crush, one layer at a time, about 1 pint strawberries. Measure 1 cup into large bowl or pan. Peel, pit and grind or finely chop about 3/4 pound peaches. Measure 3/4 cup and add to strawberries; add lemon juice. Then make the jam. Thoroughly mix sugar into fruit; let stand 10 minutes. Mix water and fruit pectin in small saucepan. Bring to a full boil and boil 1 minute, stirring constantly. Stir into fruit. Ladle quickly into scalded containers. Cover at once with tight lids. Let stand at room temperature 24 hours; then store in freezer. Small amounts may be covered and stored in refrigerator up to 3 weeks. Makes about 4 3/4 cups or about 6 (8 fl. oz.) containers.

## PEACH BLUEBERRY JAM

- 1 3/4 cups prepared fruit (about 1/2 pt. fully ripe blueberries and 1 lb. fully ripe peaches)
- 4 cups (1 3/4 lb.) sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 pouch fruit pectin

First prepare the fruit. Finely chop or grind about 1/2 pint blueberries. Measure 1/2 cup into large bowl or pan. Peel, pit and finely chop grind about 1 pound peaches. Measure 1 1/4 cups and add to blueberries. Then prepare the jam. Thoroughly mix sugar into fruit; let stand 10 minutes. Add lemon juice to fruit pectin in small bowl. Stir into fruit. Continue stirring 3 minutes. (A few sugar crystals will remain.) Ladle quickly into scalded containers. Cover at once with tight lids. Let stand at room temperature 24 hours; then store in freezer. Small amounts may be covered and stored in refrigerator up to 3 weeks. Makes about 5 cups or about 6 (8 fl. oz.) containers.



## PEACH ORANGE CONSERVE

- 1 orange
- 1 1/2 cups prepared peaches (1 1/4 lb. fully ripe peaches)
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped nuts
- 3 tablespoons chopped maraschino cherries
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 3/4 cups (1 lb. 14 oz.) sugar
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 box fruit pectin

First prepare the fruit. Grate 2 teaspoons rind from 1 orange. Section orange, dice the sections and measure 1/4 cup. Peel, pit and grind or finely chop about 1 1/4 pounds peaches. Measure 1 1/2 cups into large bowl or pan. Add orange rind and sections, nuts, cherries and lemon juice. Then make the conserve. Thoroughly mix sugar into fruit mixture; let stand 10 minutes. Mix water and fruit pectin in small saucepan. Bring to a full boil and boil 1 minute, stirring constantly. Stir into fruit. Continue stirring 3 minutes. (A few sugar crystals will remain.) Ladle quickly into scalded containers. Cover at once with tight lids. Let stand at room temperature 24 hours; then store in freezer. Small amounts may be covered and stored in refrigerator up to 3 weeks. Makes about 5 1/2 cups or about 6 (8 fl. oz.) containers.

## REPEAT FROM APRIL RECIPES WITH DIRECTIONS:

### GROUND BEEF CASSEROLE

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 3/4 can milk
- 1 can mushroom soup
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1 1/2 cups whole kernel corn
- 1/4 cup chopped pimentos
- 8 oz. pkg. noodles, cooked
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- Dash pepper

Brown meat, add onions and cook until tender. Stir in milk, soup, and cheese until well blended. Add remaining ingredients. Pour into casserole dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until bubbly.

### SAUERBRATEN STEAKS

- 4 round or chuck beef steaks, tenderized (1 lb.)
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1/2 cup gingersnap crumbs
- 1/3 cup raisins
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 3 cups hot cooked rice

Sprinkle steaks with salt and pepper. Lightly dredge with flour. In a 10-inch skillet brown meat on both sides in oil. Add remaining ingredients except rice. Cover and cook 20 to 25 minutes or until meat is tender. Serve over beds of fluffy rice. Makes 4 servings.

# Herds of birds



**V**erus Wright is in a quail hunter's dream world. He has a 400-acre hunting preserve just outside Bridgeport, in Lawrence County. And, he has the quail to go with it. He has been raising about 1,000 birds a year for the last 10 years.

He used to buy eggs and hatch them in an incubator, but he wasn't satisfied with the uniformity of the

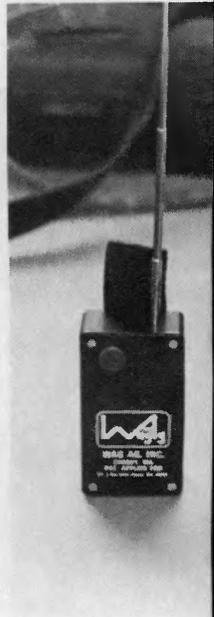
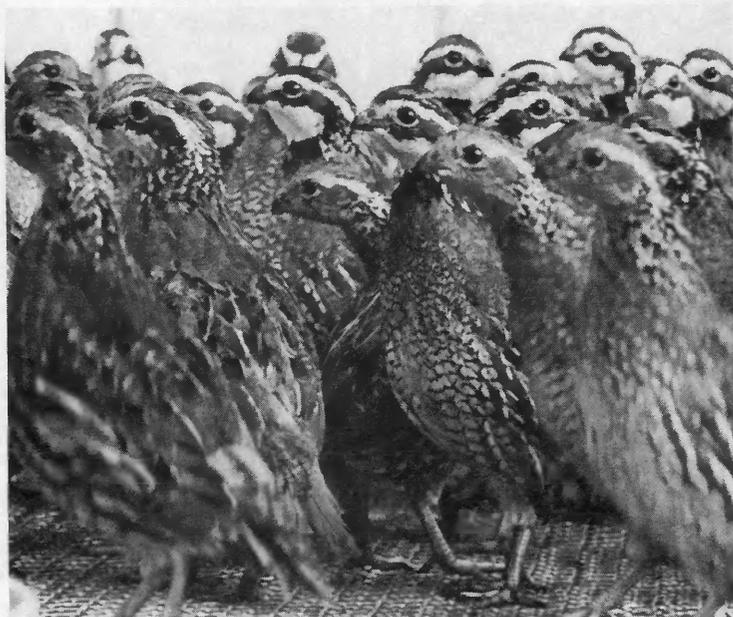
size of the birds, so he decided to start buying young birds and raising them. "Quail are peculiar birds," he says, "and you can't mix them up. If you start them all out as babies at the same time they'll get along. If you don't, they'll fight all the time."

Mr. Wright, who is 75, also knows a thing or two about bird dogs, having trained a couple a year "as a sideline"

since the early 1930's. The Wright bird and dog operation is located on the farm Verus and his wife, Ruby, moved onto as a young couple in 1931. "I started farming with 160 acres and a \$17 team of horses," he says.

The quarter section farm has increased in size to about 2,000 acres, and the team of horses has been replaced by a team of John Deere

*Top photo, Verus with one of his many dogs. At right, growing young quail in their spacious pen. The device at far right is a radio-controlled gadget designed to toss a bird a few feet into the air at the press of a transmitter button, to help train dogs.*



equipment and, Verus chuckles, indicating a combine, "You sure can't buy one of those for \$17."

As time went by, the Wrights raised their children, Fred and Myra, and Fred began taking over more and more of the farming operation. "He runs it now," Verus says, "and I help him just to keep myself busy."

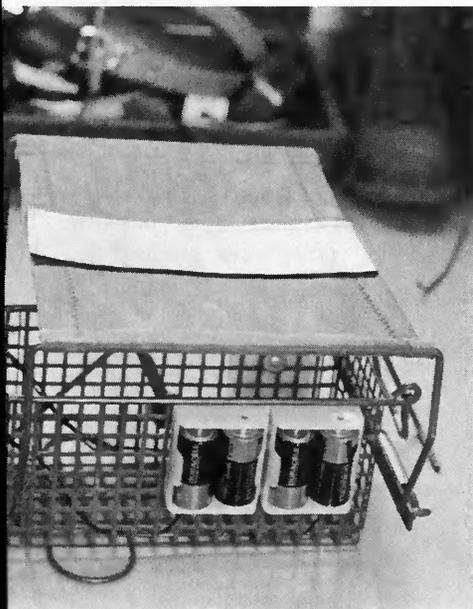
A few years ago Verus bought a special dog at a rock-bottom price. "Hadley had a beautiful bloodline," he says, "and the man who owned him couldn't break him. He figured Had to be a worthless dog, so I really got a good price on him. It didn't take me long to turn him into a first-class bird dog. I wouldn't part with him for anything, now."

Wright believes a dog should be rewarded for performing well and punished — but not abused — for misbehaving. "I punish a dog by lightly pinching his ear," he explains, "or by swatting him with the cardboard tube from a roll of paper towels." Patience, he adds, is a necessary trait in a person who would like to train good bird dogs.

His efforts have paid off not only in the nearby hunting preserve, where shooters come from miles around to test their skills, and those of their dogs, but at contests, too.

"Another of my better dogs, Bud, has won in shoot-to-retrieve trials," he says, "and I'm really pleased with him."

Wright is a member of Norris Electric Cooperative.



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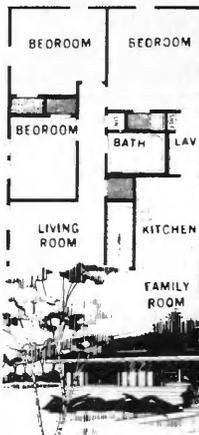
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## Step into Drake's store — enjoy a visit to the past

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*Above, Don Toland, left, and Cab Drake visit around the old wood stove. At right, Mert visits with Rick King. Opposite page, the store looks much as it did when the Drakes took it over in 1947.*



Step through the door of the Drake store in Huntsville (Schuyler County), and you are transported back in time. Hardwood floors, once firm and varnished, give underfoot now, and the varnish is long since gone, worn away by the tread of thousands of footsteps over the decades.

The back of the store boasts a fixture that used to grace the back of many a rural mercantile — a pot-bellied stove. A couple of benches — one of them an old bus seat — are arranged around the stove to encourage customers to “sit a spell.” If things get a little dim in the building, it is a simple matter to brighten things up a bit. You just pull the string that hangs from one of several overhead light fixtures. Adams Electrical Co-Operative provides electricity to the town of Huntsville and the store.

Glen (Cab) and Alice (Mert) Drake have owned the store since they moved from Augusta, about five miles to the northwest, some 38 years ago.

“We really enjoy living in Huntsville and we consider it a privilege to be a part of the community,” Mert says. The Drakes are long-time Adams members and can even remember when their cooperative brought electricity to their town.

Life at Drake’s store is, in many ways, like it was back in the 1940s and long before. Their community pride shows in a small row of graduation photos on the shelves behind the counter, and Cab or Mert will point out each youth to anyone who is interested.

Early in the morning, folks gather around the stove and talk about the news, crops and, of course, the weather, and the “discussion benches” are a popular place to linger over a soda or cup of coffee.

“The discussion benches are an important part of our store,” Mert says, adding, “we want people to have a place to meet, visit and, hopefully, trade. Our customers wanted a store that was interested in more than just their money. Cab and I have always tried to let our customers know we care.”

When the Drakes started in the general merchandise business, they did not have electricity. Since those long-ago days, they have modernized,

adding a refrigerator, a hand meat slicer, a set of scales and a number of other appliances. In the past, the Drake store sold ice, bought cream and sold feed. They even bought eggs to sell until the price of a state license increased to \$30 and egg production fell off, during the 1970s.

Today, the walls of the store are covered with a mixture of articles including shoes, clothes, groceries and hardware. There is even a gas pump out front. Regular, popular in farm pickups, is the only gas they sell. “We try to stock at least one or two of the main items our customers may need in groceries, hardware and household items,” Cab says.

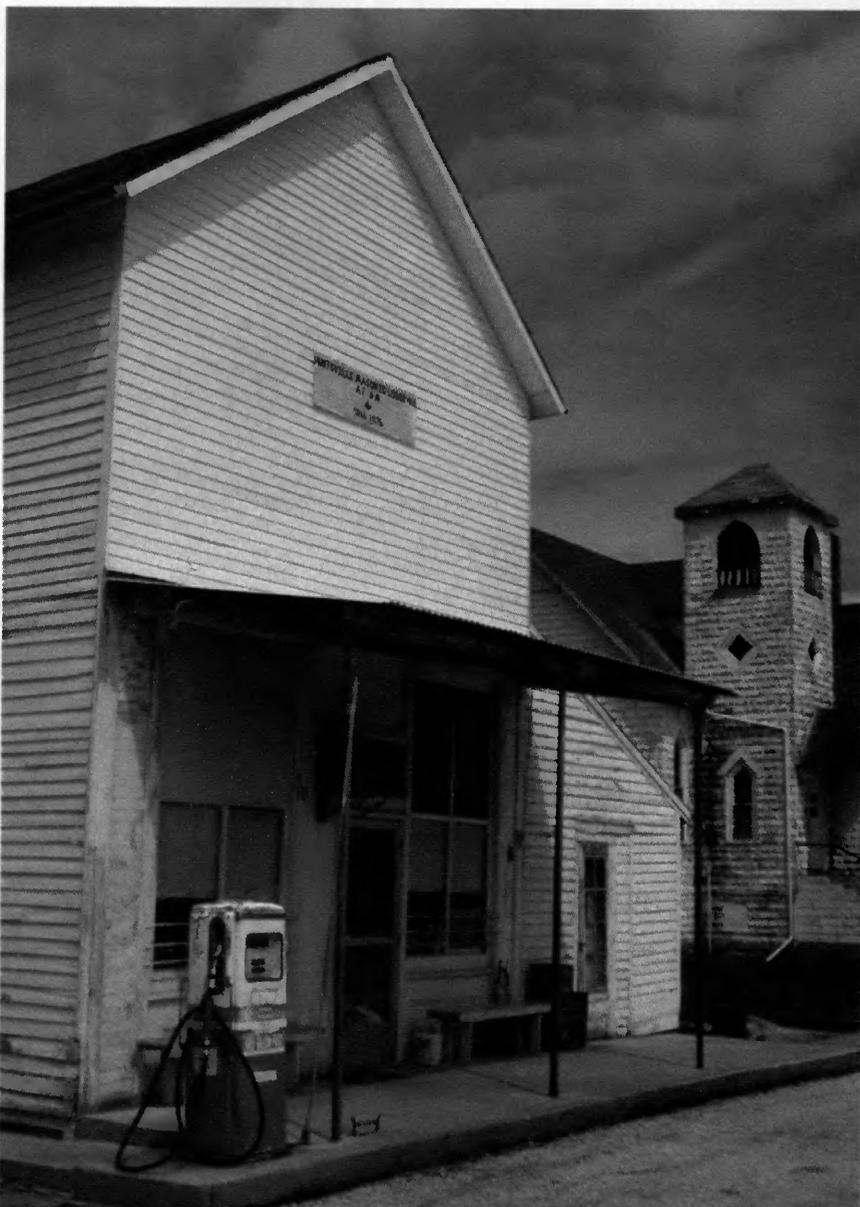
A few years ago, WGEM-TV, a Quincy station, featured the Drake store on its two evening news spots. The interview was picked up nationally and the Drakes received letters from friends who saw them on TV in

Missouri, Iowa, Florida, Mississippi and throughout Illinois.

Besides helping Mert in the store, Cab sold seed corn for 28 years and has been a school bus driver for 30 years. The Drakes have one son, Mike, who is a cooperative member and lives east of Augusta. Mike and his wife, Judy, have two daughters, Shanna and Danielle. Cab is currently the bus driver for his granddaughters, who really like having “Grandpa” take them to school every day. The Drakes are also active in the Huntsville Methodist Church.

“No two days are alike at the store and there is always something going on,” Mert says. “We’ve always liked it here — the people are really friendly and they help each other out when they need it. This is our home.”

Cab adds, “We’re interested in our customers’ needs and, of course, service is always our first concern.”



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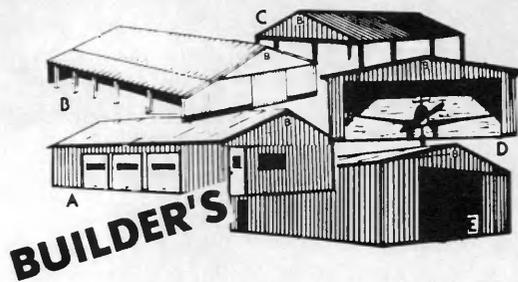
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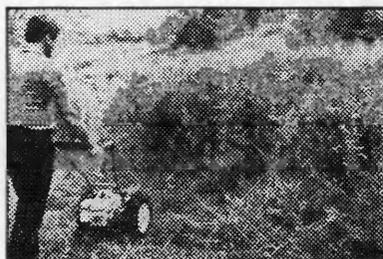
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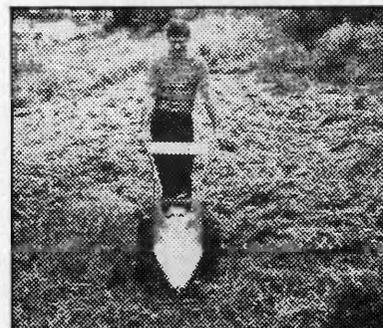
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