

May 1986

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Illinois Rural Electric News

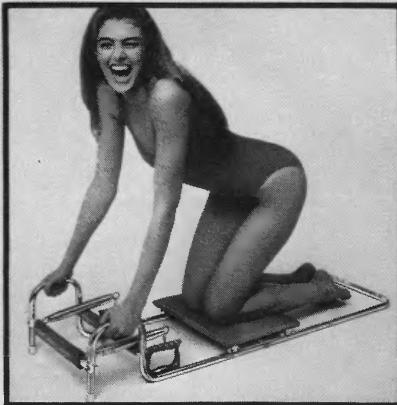


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Illinois Rural Electric News

Cooperative magic: being 'a part of the main'

The individual never adds up to quite so much as when he joins in to become one of the many — to be "a part of the main," as John Donne put it.

This is the "loaves and fishes" marvel of the cooperative, this means of combining individuals so that they add up to much more than simply their numerical total. When they link together in this way, they become a cooperative that puts their strengths together and takes on an impressive nature as an entity of its own. But, in doing so, it preserves for each one an undivided share of personal dignity and sovereignty.

It has been demonstrated many times over many years that when an individual decides to be a truly working part of this collective mechanism, he often takes on an effective dimension that he never had before.

This happens in a very real way, because it is entirely possible for many to set their shoulders to the same wheel in order to unite the total "push" of all, while at the same time none surrender any part of themselves.

That is exactly what the cooperative does. It takes on a commanding new presence and a superior kind of strength simply by welding the many into one. And it does this convincingly without diminishing any individual, even in a small way.

Quite the contrary, many individuals, as they join hands in this cooperative union, finally become significantly more than they ever have been, perhaps more than they ever could be if they insisted on limiting themselves to the narrow confines of their own strengths and abilities.

There is a powerful magic in this formula, proving again and again that a multitude of "soldiers" really can join into an irresistible army for a special purpose, get that purpose accomplished very well, and all the time remain just as completely individual as ever.

The cooperative certainly is not the only means by which we can wrestle problems. But it is one way, and a remarkably good way. It is the proven formula for pooling resources, talents, bargaining power and brain power so that people can get a strong new leverage on life, a leverage that really is beyond any of them individually. In a cooperative, we multiply ourselves by everyone else, and subtract not one thing we started with. It is one of those rare situations in which the more we give, the more we have left.

Can you think of any other way to do that?

—Gene Clifford

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

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Cover: Clay Electric Cooperative is the first to launch the IEC Crime Watch program. Clifford Cammon of rural Louisville, a Clay director, talks with Clay employee Pat McHenry, driving the bright yellow truck bearing the Crime Watch identification sticker. (See pages 4 and 5 for story.)

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COOPERATIVE AND SHERIFF TEAM UP IN CRIME WATCH

Above: The bright yellow vehicles of Clay Electric Cooperative are familiar sights along the roads throughout Clay County. This new program offers rural residents an extra set of "eyes and ears" in their effort to prevent rural crime. Below: Clay employee Douglas Hall illustrates use of written reporting materials that will be used by employees.

An electric cooperative line crew, en route early one morning to a construction site, notices an open gate on a fence surrounding a pasture.

A call on the cooperative's radio back to the headquarters is quickly relayed to the county sheriff's office, which immediately contacts the farmer. The farmer, who keeps a number of beef cattle on that pasture, rushes out to close the gate and counts heads. Nothing is missing.

It could have been an accident that this gate was left open, or it could have been the work of someone planning to steal cattle. In any event, this hypothetical example of the attentiveness of a cooperative line crew helps illustrate why a new program for the Illinois electric cooperatives can be of invaluable benefit to the rural community it

serves. This crew wasn't driving around looking for open gates in particular, but rather keeping its eyes open for any number of indications of possible rural crime. At the same time, as in this example, it probably was a welcome helping hand the crew offered to the farmer, who could have lost a valuable animal had it wandered out the open gate and into the path of an unsuspecting driver.

The program is officially the IEC Crime Watch. One electric cooperative, Clay Electric Cooperative, has already put the program into action.

This crime alertness effort is a program designed to utilize a coordinated, cooperative approach to rural crime by the electric cooperative and the county sheriff's department. In Clay's case, the cooperative service area includes Clay County and only small parts of adjoining counties, and virtually all of the crews' travels are within Clay County. Other cooperatives are expected to develop similar IEC Crime Watch programs in their service areas, but some with multi-county areas must work out the details with several sheriff's departments before implementing the programs.

Clay launched its program in March, working with Clay County





Sheriff Greg Johnson.

All of the cooperative's vehicles will be clearly marked with the IEC Crime Watch sticker and employees have been trained to be alert for those conditions that suggest possible criminal activity in the service area.

"This fits right in with the cooperative's overall purpose," says Clay manager Jim Campbell." Cooperatives have always been able to do more than provide electricity. They have made significant contributions to the economic and social well-being of rural areas and this program helps to address one of the major problems facing rural residents.

"Our employees are up and down most of the roads in this county and are very familiar with homes and farmsteads along the way. They can more quickly spot something out of order than can the person who only infrequently drives those roads.

"We are not only looking out for signs of rural crime, though. The employees can also help local law enforcement agencies and all residents of the area by watching for threatening weather, accidents, fires and other situations that call for emergency action.

"The board, management and employees of Clay Electric Cooperative are really pleased that we've been able to work this program up with the Clay County Sheriff's Department to do something about rural crime. We care about our neighbors and our communities, and as cooperative employees we can help solve this increasing crime problem

by working as the 'eyes and ears' for local authorities."

The daily travels throughout the county by cooperative employees and their watchfulness helps not only to provide "eyes and ears." Clay County is much like other Illinois counties; its sheriff's force is relatively small in numbers. Sheriff Johnson, speaking during the activities when the program was announced in Flora, said providing police protection is a difficult job in remote areas.

The job of the Clay employees is not to take on the role of sheriff's deputies. They are involved only to keep a watch, report any suspicious activity or emergency situations to the appropriate authorities and go on about their work.

Coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, the program was developed with and is supported by the Illinois Sheriffs Association.

"This fits right in with the cooperative's overall purpose. Cooperatives have always been able to provide more than electricity."

Clay County Sheriff Greg Johnson and Clay manager Jim Campbell with the sticker that has been applied to all cooperative vehicles.



There are two things you need when times are tough: Good neighbors and the RE Member Group Hospital Plan

Like Your Good Friends And Neighbors, This Plan Will Pitch In To Help
See You Through A Sickness Or Accident — With Direct-To-You
Cash Benefits For Every Day Of Covered Hospital Care

A note from Bob Bergland NRECA Executive Vice President and General Manager

As a boy growing up on my father's farm, I'll never forget the outpouring of concern and assistance whenever a neighbor was "down on his luck."

Without waiting to be asked, we'd all pitch in and do what we could to help. And we knew that if our family were ever in need, our neighbors would do the same for us.

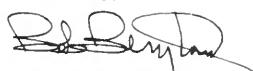
This same spirit of "neighbor helping neighbor" is what the RE Member Group Hospital Plan is all about. It's you and your NRECA joining together for help with today's terribly high cost of hospital care.

The American Hospital Association reports the average cost of a hospital stay is well over \$2,400.00. Your regular health insurance will pay some of this. But even so, you could still leave the hospital owing hundreds if not thousands of dollars.

That's why the RE Member Group Hospital Plan is so important. When you or any insured member of your family is hospitalized, this plan will "pitch in" to help pay the costs your other insurance doesn't cover. And because of the participation of you and other RE members like you, this protection is available at low, group rates.

I truly believe this RE Member plan is one of the best insurance values in America today. And that's why I urge you to give it your very serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Bob Bergland

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\$350.00 a Week

\$50.00 a Day

You will be paid these cash benefits from the very first day you or any insured member of your family is hospitalized for any reason.

50% Increased Benefits For Cancer And Heart Attacks

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\$75.00 a Day

Your benefits will increase 50% when you or any insured member of your family is hospitalized for a heart attack (acute myocardial infarction) or cancer, including leukemia and Hodgkin's disease.

Double Benefits For Husband-Wife Accidents

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\$200.00 a Day

You will receive DOUBLE BENEFITS when you and your insured spouse are both hospitalized at the same time for injuries—even if they occur in separate accidents.

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■ Pays Benefits Direct To You.

Or to anyone you choose. The money is yours to spend as you wish.

■ Limitations.

For confinement due to mental illness, hospital benefits are paid for up to 30 days. Any health problems that were evident or treated before your insurance begins are not covered for the first year, but are fully covered thereafter.

■ You're Covered In Any Hospital.

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ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

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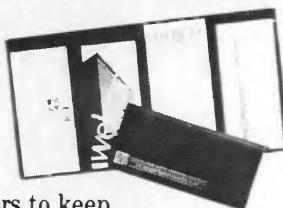
or loss of life, two limbs or both eyes

For You	For Your Spouse	For Each Child
10,000	\$10,000	\$2,000

or loss of one limb or eye

For You	For Your Spouse	For Each Child
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ADDRESS _____ Street _____ Apt. No. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PHONE NO. () _____ (for customer service only) **SEX** (check one) Male Female

DATE OF BIRTH _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ **AGE** _____

Choose the Plan You Want (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Plan 4	<input type="checkbox"/> All-Family Plan 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Husband-Wife Plan 3	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Parent Plan 2

Select Option You Prefer (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION A — Pays \$50 a day from very first day for sickness or accident.	<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION B — Pays \$30 a day from very first day for sickness or accident.
35831-404	35831-403

Information About Your Spouse
(complete if you choose the Husband-Wife or All-Family Plan)

NAME _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____

DATE of BIRTH _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ **SEX** _____

I enclose my first month's premium of \$1.00. I understand the certificate is not in force until issued and benefits will not be paid for old health problems unless confinement begins more than one year after the issue date.

SIGNATURE X _____

Insured's Signature SIGN—DO NOT PRINT

DATE _____

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Designed for the married couple without children, or whose children are grown. Pays full benefits for both of you.



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Offers protection for the whole family—father, mother and all eligible children. Pays full benefits for all.



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Created for the special needs of the single parent. Covers you and all your eligible children with full benefits for all.

MONTHLY PREMIUM Under 60 60 & Over (use age of principal insured)

Individual Plan	\$15.35	\$23.35
Husband-Wife Plan	29.75	45.75
All-Family Plan	34.95	50.95
One-Parent Family Plan	20.55	28.55

B \$900.00 a month \$30.00 a day

MONTHLY PREMIUM Under 60 60 & Over (use age of principal insured)

Individual Plan	\$ 9.95	\$14.95
Husband-Wife Plan	18.75	28.75
All-Family Plan	21.95	31.95
One-Parent Family Plan	13.15	18.15

NOTE: Your renewal rate does not increase and your benefits do not decrease as you move from one age group to another.

SAVE OVER 8%. When your certificate arrives, you'll be given the opportunity to save over 8% by paying your premiums once a year instead of every month. That's like getting one month of protection FREE!

Avenue of Flags



A portion of the display

Some who have helped make the flag project a success are, clockwise from left foreground, Stan Feldmann (a Clinton County EC employee), Raymond Schulte, Clarence Boss, Rudy Richter, Dick Lampe, Norb Weiter and Bob Johnson. Unavailable for the photo were Joe Hagen, Bob Rosen, Wilbert Eversgert, Bennie Wolters and Robert and Janet Schulte.

Traffic over the first big summer holiday weekend of the year, Memorial Day, is pretty heavy on U.S. 50 passing through Breese in Clinton County. Lots of people travel from the populated areas near St. Louis for fishing, boating, swimming or picnicking at Carlyle Lake, located 10 to 12 miles east of Breese.

Most of the travelers remember Breese well. It's the place with that yard full of American flags, at last count 169 five-by-eight-foot flags neatly arranged on property of Clinton County Electric Cooperative.

The display is the "Avenue of Flags" of the American Legion Post No. 252 in Breese, honoring deceased veterans of Clinton County.

Displayed at the present site since



the summer of 1983, the "Avenue of Flags" is at its fourth location in Breese since the tribute was originated in 1969.

"It was the idea of Virgil Buller (father of Harry Buller, Clinton County EC's member service advisor)," says Bill Deutsch, who was post commander at the time and continues today as unofficial chairman of the unofficial committee. "The committee, organized in 1969, sent out letters to families of deceased veterans in the county," Deutsch adds.

"We've had other flag ceremonies, but this seemed like a good idea, to honor these men," Deutsch says. "The flags are given to the veterans' families by the government," he notes, "and most of the families thought the idea of a permanent display and tribute was a good one. Some, you can understand, did want to keep their flags."

The Legionnaires aren't sure just how many flags made up that first display, but since then they have watched the number grow by more than 100 over the original total displayed.

"The veterans don't have to be members of the Legion to have their flags included," Deutsch adds, "but they are all Clinton County men." Each flag and flag pole bear the name of the deceased.

Clinton County EC made the grassy corner available to the Legion post after purchasing the property over the years in case it needed more room at its headquarters site, located just to the north and northeast of the flag display ground.

"Bob (Vander Pluym, Clinton manager) has gone out of his way to help us," Deutsch says.

Deutsch says a lot of work goes into getting the flags up for the display and down afterwards. "We have to put all the pipe (to hold the flags) into the ground each time we put the flags up. Then if it rains, we have to get the flags down as quickly as possible and put them where they will dry before we can put them away. You can't put them away wet." In addition to Memorial Day, the Legion puts the flags on display Independence Day, Veterans Day and Labor Day.

Legislators to agriculture leaders: we're working to help

Much of the Illinois agriculture economy is on shaky ground, but the Illinois Legislature is working to change that, those attending the Illinois Agriculture Legislative Breakfast were told.

The gathering, held April 5 in Springfield, is an annual event that provides an opportunity for members of the state's agriculture commodity groups to visit with their lawmakers. Some 60 farm-related organizations, including the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, sponsored the event.

With the farm economy in the doldrums, many legislators had a chance to hear from the people back home, and the speakers, each of whom spoke briefly, told their audience that they are aware of the problems on the farm and are working diligently to help solve them.

Governor James R. Thompson noted that his administration is continuing its efforts on behalf of the state's premier industry, pointing out that foreign compe-

tition is rough and getting worse.

"Illinois farmers face the latest technology from across the seas. Some of the competition we face now is a result of aid we've sent to other countries, or it comes from countries we used to export to. They now have the advantage of cheap land, cheap labor and shorter distances to transport their goods.

"While the deck seems stacked against Illinois agriculture — and other American farmers — we cannot just give up.

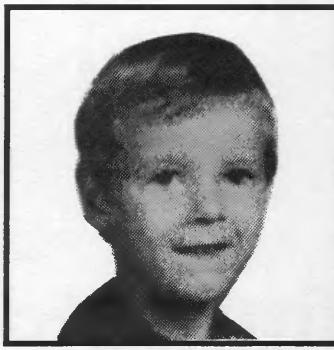
"We can't just abandon our efforts. We need to keep our Food for Century III efforts going, to find new ways to add value to our products, through processing, before we ship them. And we need to develop better seed and new crops. If we can't do anything to raise prices, maybe we can do something to lower costs. When you visit with your legislators, be sure to thank them for their support — they really deserve it," the governor concluded.

MISSING



CHRISTI DIANNE PROCTOR

LAST SEEN: 2/15/86 EYES: Blue
FROM: Dallas, TX HEIGHT: 4'10"
DOB: 2/29/76 WEIGHT: 75
WHITE FEMALE HAIR: Brown



JEREMY JAMES GRICE

LAST SEEN: 11/22/85 EYES: Blue
FROM: Bath, SC HEIGHT: 3'8"
DOB: 5/12/81 WEIGHT: 40
WHITE MALE HAIR: Blonde

If you can identify these or any other missing children, call The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at:

1-800-843-5678

(sightings only)

This message is brought to you as a public service by Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, in cooperation with National Child Safety Council.

-Safety Tip of the Month-

Be sure your child knows what to do if you become separated. If separated while shopping, your child should not look for you, but go immediately to the nearest clerk and ask for assistance.

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Tornado weather returns to Illinois

A tornado watch means weather conditions are good for tornadoes to develop, but does not mean a tornado has been sighted. A warning is issued when a tornado has actually been sighted or indicated by radar.

The weather is hot and humid, with southerly winds and thunderclouds collecting. The clouds are greenish-black, and the lowest clouds have begun a rotational movement.

These are some of the warning signs of tornado weather, says Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Extension safety specialist. If a tornado warning is issued, he says to seek shelter immediately, stay away from windows and protect your head.

The best place to find shelter depends on where you are when the warning is issued, Aherin says. He suggests that you follow these guidelines:

In homes, go to a storm cellar, cave, underground excavation or the interior of your basement. Get under sturdy furniture, if possible, or under the stairs.

If you do not have a basement, choose an inside wall away from windows and lie flat against it. Central halls, closets and interior bathrooms

on the ground floor are good choices. Again, get under heavy furniture, if possible, to protect yourself from flying glass and debris. Stay away from windows.

In office buildings, go to a designated area or else an interior hallway on a lower floor, preferably in the basement.

In mobile homes, leave and head for the nearest community shelter. Mobile homes are especially dangerous during high winds and may be overturned, even if they are tied down.

In schools, go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor or other designated tornado shelter area. Avoid gymnasiums and other structures with large, free-span roofs.

In shopping centers, go to a designated area or lie flat outside in a ditch or on low protected ground. Do not stay in your car because it is an unsafe place during a tornado.

In open country, try to drive away from the tornado's path at right angles. If you have no time to escape, lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine, culvert or under a bridge.

In factories, go to the section of the greatest protection. Someone should be responsible for disconnecting fuel lines and electric circuits. Keep a lookout posted.

According to Aherin, it is also critical to understand the difference between a tornado warning and a tornado watch.

A watch means weather conditions are good for tornadoes to develop, but it does not mean a tornado has been sighted. During a tornado watch, Aherin says you do not need to seek shelter or disrupt your normal routine; but you should tune in to radio or television and be alert for threatening weather.

A tornado warning, Aherin continues, is issued by local National Weather Service offices when a tornado has actually been sighted or indicated by radar. The warning will indicate where the tornado was detected and the area through which it is expected to move.

A tornado warning means that persons in the expected path of the storm should take shelter immediately.

Be aware of electric 'peaks'

You can help control rising power costs!

Do you ever stop to think about what you're paying for when you write out the check for your monthly electric bill? Did you know that a good percentage of that bill goes to meet the "peak" energy demand of your electric cooperative?

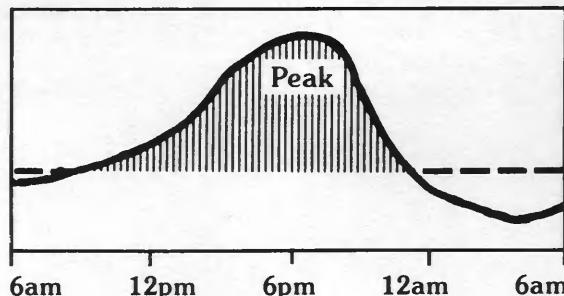


The energy "peak" periods are the one or two times per day when consumers' use of electricity is the highest. The highest peak comes early in the evening on the hottest or coldest day of the year when electric cooperative members across the state come into the house, prepare dinner, turn up the air conditioning or the heat, depending upon the season, and use electric appliances, lights and hot water . . . all at about the same time.

Your cooperative needs enough generating capacity to meet the demands of members during these annual peaks. Your cooperative must pay for the fixed costs of this power generation system designed to meet peak loads, even though electric demands are lower during much of the year. For some cooperatives, over half of the cost of wholesale power is demand-related. So by reducing peak demands, your cooperative can reduce its fixed costs paid for wholesale power supplies.

In other words, if all cooperative members do their part to "hold down" the peak, the price of electricity can be controlled.

What can you do to help?



4/86 ©NRECA

Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

Good for ALL Illinois



Above: Representatives of the three member-systems of SIPC follow in the annual report as treasurer Harold I. Dycus makes his report. Below: David Ramsey (left) of Omaha talks with Brandon Jackson, REA general field representative.

Another good year for SIPC

Use of electricity throughout the three member-systems of Southern Illinois Power Co-operative (SIPC) was up by 4.1 percent in 1985, the greatest year-to-year increase since 1978.

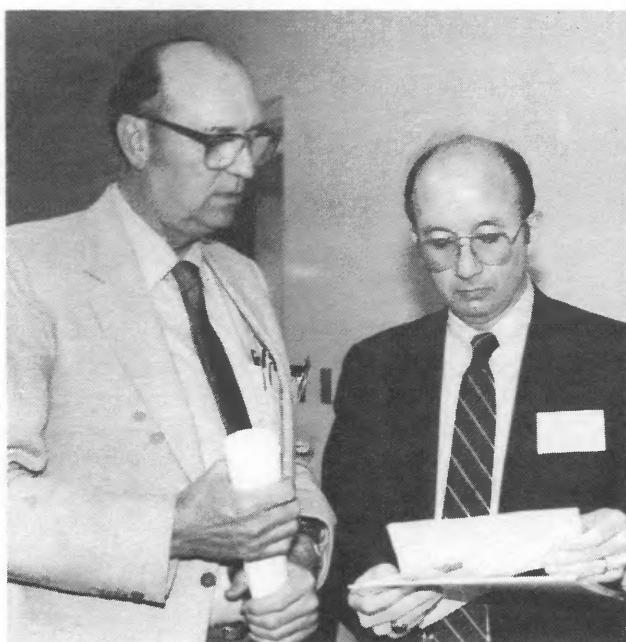
Reporting to representatives of the member-cooperatives during SIPC's annual meeting March 27 at SIPC's Lake of Egypt headquarters

near Marion, officers and management said the total sales to member-cooperatives exceeded 700,000 megawatt-hours (mwh) for only the second time in the cooperative's history. Board president Guy Casper of Cypress and executive vice president and general manager Jim Chapman said in their combined report that 1985 sales totalled 701,264 mwh compared to 1980's record of 702,178.

"The year 1985 was another good year for Southern Illinois Power Co-operative," they said, noting that 1985 marked the third consecutive year in which purchases by the three member-cooperatives had increased, following slight decreases for two years.

The three member-systems of SIPC are Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Steeleville; Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado, and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola. They serve about 37,000 meters in a block of 19 Southern Illinois counties.

In 1985, the cooperative continued to purchase coal at a price



below that of a previous long-term contract that has been replaced. That price advantage will continue through 1987, they said, and the cooperative is reviewing fuel requirements to seek to retain the cost level beyond 1987.

The long-term power supply outlook for SIPC indicates that SIPC has the necessary generating facilities to provide adequate and dependable power to the member-systems through the early 1990s, Casper and Chapman added.

The cooperative continues to reduce its outstanding debt. Since 1983, Casper and Chapman said, SIPC has made advance payments of more than \$8 million and plans to continue this year. In 1985, interest costs decreased \$367,758, they reported.

"SIPC shall continue to plan for the future and remain in the position we are today, with a financially strong and reliable system. Today's successes are the fruits of past planning, construction, maintenance and the ability to adjust to changing times," Casper said.

Treasurer Harold I. Dycus of Carbondale said the reduced interest expense for SIPC during 1985 was attributable to two key factors: the increase in principal payments and the general decline in interest rates. "If interest rates remain stable in 1986, we expect interest expense to decline further," Dycus added.

During the meeting, representatives of the member-systems reelected 11 members to the board of directors and chose another to

replace a retiring member. Reelected to represent Egyptian Electric were: Dycus, Archie Hamilton of Ava and Harry Kuhn of Steeleville; Raymond C. Mulholland of Marissa was chosen to replace Dale A. Smith of Cutler, who did not seek reelection. Bill Cadle of Marion, Robert Tiberend of Benton, Walter V. Truitt, Jr. of Marion and Kenneth R. Webb of Tunnel Hill were reelected to represent Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, while Casper, George R. Inman of Grand Chain, Timothy W. Reeves of Dongola and Lawrence Wilke of Karnak were reelected to serve Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.

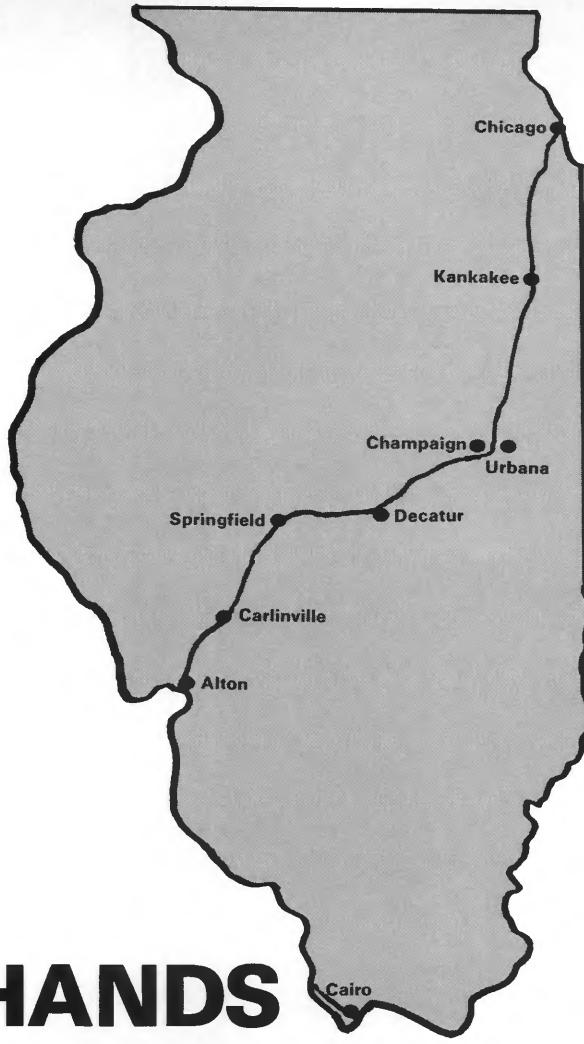
Following the meeting, the board met to reorganize and elected Casper as president; Tiberend, vice president, and Dycus, secretary-treasurer.

"Today's successes are the fruits of past planning, construction, maintenance and the ability to adjust to changing times."



Left: Manager Jim Chapman (left) and board president Guy Casper go over the agenda prior to the meeting. Below: Southeastern directors, from left, Jack Wise, W. B. Pulliam, Kenneth Webb and Neil Soward during a break in the meeting.





HANDS ACROSS ILLINOIS

At exactly 2 p.m. local time on Sunday, May 25, if things go according to plans, millions of people across America will join hands and form an ocean-to-ocean human chain more than 4,000 miles long, and stretching from New York to Los Angeles. It will take the cooperative effort of at least 5,280,000 people, and the event's sponsors hope for 10-million. Several electric cooperatives of Illinois are taking part in the effort to varying degrees.

The participants will form a human chain in an effort to break chains of hunger and poverty in America. Participants will hold hands for 10-15 minutes and sing "Hands Across America," a song composed especially for the event.

Sponsors hope to raise money by having members of the chain contribute from \$10 to \$35, and corporations all over the country

are being asked to chip in to provide for the incredible logistics involved, so all the money given by caring individuals can be used in the fight against hunger. That way, the event's sponsors say, they hope people will benefit from being able to link up and to feel that they, individually, can make a difference.

There will be two separate segments of the singing chain in Illinois, and they will total 301 miles. One link will extend from Kentucky to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, passing through Cairo, a distance of about 32 miles. Much of the route will be through Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's service area. Some 42,400 people will be needed to forge that link.

The chain will follow the east edge of Missouri, and reenter Illinois at Alton, into an area served by M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, and will follow Illinois Highways 111, 16 and 4 into Carlinville. It will move into territory served by Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. and Menard Electric Cooperative, and on into Springfield.

From the state's capital, the chain will take old U.S. 36, Illinois 48 and Illinois 10 through Decatur to Champaign-Urbana, crossing Shelby Electric Cooperative and Corn Belt Electric Cooperative along the way. U.S. 45 will take it north to Kankakee and into Chicago, wending its way through Illini Electric Cooperative and Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative.

Nearly 400,000 people will be needed to complete the Illinois section of the chain of compassion. Nationwide, it will be the largest interactive event in the history of mankind. It is expected to generate virtually its own chapter in the Guiness Book of World Records: the largest number of people ever to participate in an event, the largest number of entertainers and celebrities as part of a single event, the largest number of voices joined in song or raised in prayer ever in history, the largest private fund ever established for the hungry and homeless and the greatest moment of shared concern and hope ever.

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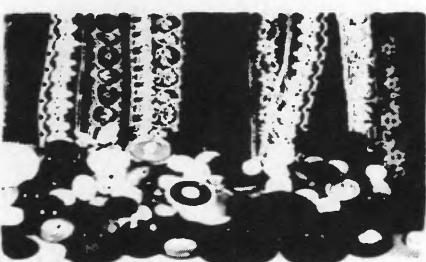
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A sampling of the variety of fish he has mounted.

Promise to father spawns avocation

"You're a good taxidermist, Charlie Brown," might seem to be a curious greeting, but it would fit a rural Argenta man just fine.

The Corn Belt Electric Cooperative member, a meat cutter in a Decatur restaurant, got into his hobby largely as a result of a promise he had made to his father and partly because of a vague childhood interest.

"When Dad retired," Charlie says, "he didn't have anything to do on a regular basis, and it nearly drove him crazy. He kept after me for years, insisting that I promise to find a hobby that would occupy my time and pay for itself, too."

For years, he says, he had seen advertisements in outdoor magazines from a taxidermy school. Tapping his temple with a forefinger, he says, "Even when I was a kid, from about 10 years on up, up here, I wanted to get into taxidermy. Back then, though, I couldn't afford it."

It was only after he had established himself as a meat cutter, with 30 years of experience, that he

decided to take the correspondence course he had first seen as a child. "I was almost 50 years old when I sent off for it," he smiles, "and the literature that came with the course said they'd sold 600,000 of them."

The school, he says, provided lessons and a complete project for the novice. It worked out fine for him. "Anybody who finishes it is likely to find that it really just whets the appetite," he says.

"I joined a club in Decatur," he related, "and the people there are really helpful. We all exchange ideas and techniques, and we have shows and contests to improve our work and exhibit it."

Charlie mounts birds and animals, but fish are where his heart is, and he says he has worked on fish that ranged from a five-inch bluegill to a five-foot shark.

He has a special touch. "I have a service I perform for fishermen," he notes, "I use sterile instruments to skin the fish, and I'll save the meat, and keep it frozen 'til the fisherman comes back for it, in case he wants

to eat the fish he catches."

There is a little more of a challenge to mounting a fish, Charlie says, because ready-made forms, which are available to make the job of mounting animals easier, are not available for fish.

He makes the forms from foam boards. "I'll start by measuring the fish in several different places and making a tracing of it onto a piece of paper. Then I work up the inch-thick planks of foam 'til I get the thickness I need, then shape it according to the tracing and measurements."

While all this is going on, the fish is losing its color. Part of the art of a taxidermist's job is to put it back, with all the subtle natural shades blended and feathered correctly. Charlie is still working on that skill, and he has a wall full of practice fish to show that he has about paid his dues. He uses two airbrushes to get his paints on just so.

The building of "habitats" is part of the art, too, and it is one he enjoys. "A habitat is the surroundings you might expect to find a fish in," he says, "and may include snags, a simulated sandy bottom or a mud bank, depending on the kind of fish."

He uses homemade water-smoothed stones (foam), and ground corn cobs make a good sandy bottom.

"You could use real stones and sand," he says, "but it'd be a lot heavier. I like to keep the weight down, and I enjoy the challenge of making everything just right, too."

While Charlie prefers fish, there is only so much of a fishing season, and deer are most in evidence about this time of year, even though the anglers are really getting out now. His shop, at the moment, resembles a small deer herd, with various-sized heads everywhere. He notes that most years he has more. "This past hunting season wasn't a particularly good one for central Illinois deer hunters," he laments.

Various hollow plastic forms are available for deer, he says, and they bear a very close resemblance to what a living deer would look like if it had shed its skin. The carefully tanned hide is stretched over the form, lifelike eyes are added, the

antlers attached, much fine detail work is done, and the deer is ready for the wall.

"Even some of the small blood vessels along the jaw are molded in," he says, adding, "the forms are much, much better than they were just a few years ago."

While forms are good, they are a little like shoes — some deer are just naturally hard to fit. "The deer right around here, just in central Illinois," he says with a sweeping gesture, "have noses that just slightly longer than those in other areas, and they're a little difficult to work with."

He shows one specimen that bothers him. The hunter, it seems, had "caped out" the deer and cut the hide just a tad bit shorter than the form. "I had to use a smaller form than I normally would have and I shortened it a couple of inches, too. But with a long-nosed deer hide on a smaller form, that left it a little loose." Fussily smoothing out a

Below left: This fish is mounted using a "habitat" technique. Right: Charlie Brown seems surrounded by his work on this deer.



bulge that is completely invisible to the unknowing, he says, "I hate to let it go like that, but there wasn't anything else to do. It'll be okay, though."

With such an eye for detail and a bent for excellence, it is a pretty good bet that Charlie will have something to keep him busy in his retirement, and that "something" will pay for itself, too.

May specials

WESTERNER HASH

1 lb. ground beef	1/2 cup uncooked rice
1/2 cup chopped bell pepper	1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup chopped onion	Dash pepper
1/2 teaspoon basil	American cheese slices

3 1/2 cups canned tomatoes

Brown onions, bell pepper and beef in skillet. Add tomatoes, basil, rice, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Put in casserole dish and top with cheese slices. Heat until cheese melted and serve hot. A great man pleaser. Serves 6.

TACO CASSEROLE

1 1/2 lbs. ground beef (brown)	1 can mild enchilada sauce
1 can chili beans	Chopped onion (optional)

Heat thoroughly and pour into an oblong baking dish. Crush 1 bag of Taco tortilla chips and sprinkle on top. Grate 2 cups of mild cheddar cheese on top. Bake at 375 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes.

CRAZY CRUST PIZZA

BATTER:

1 cup self-rising flour	1/8 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning or leaf oregano	2 eggs
	2/3 cup milk

TOPPING:

1 1/2 lbs. ground beef or sausage (season to taste)	1 can drained mushrooms, stems and pieces
1/4 cup chopped onion	1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
	1 cup tomato sauce

Brown beef or sausage in skillet. Drain well and set aside. Lightly grease and dust a 12-inch pizza pan or 15x10-inch jelly roll pan. Combine flour, Italian seasoning, pepper, eggs, and milk until smooth. No need to sift flour. Pour into pan and tilt pan until pan is lightly coated with batter. Top with ground beef, onion, mushrooms, tomato sauce and cheese. Bake at 425 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes until pizza is deep golden brown. This recipe is great to do your own thing for your family likes and dislikes.

ENGLISH PEA CASSEROLE

1 cup chopped asparagus	1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 small can English peas	6 to 8 Ritz crackers (crumbled)
4 hard-cooked eggs (diced)	1/2 cup grated cheese

Place asparagus, peas, eggs, cheese in alternate layers in medium sized casserole. Pour cream of mushroom soup over layers. Sprinkle cracker crumbs followed by cheese on top. Place in oven at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

SPINACH SALAD

1 10-oz. bag spinach, stemmed and broken into bite size pieces	desired
8 slices bacon fried crisp and crumbled	1 8-oz. can water chestnuts, drained and sliced
4 hard boiled eggs, sliced	1 small onion (or less, to taste), thinly sliced
sliced mushrooms, as many as desired	

Mix all together. Toss with dressing just before serving.

SWEET AND SOUR DRESSING

1 cup oil	1/3 cup catsup
1/2 cup sugar	2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1/4 cup vinegar (apple cider)	

Mix all together. Does better if mixed in blender. Makes enough for double recipe of spinach salad.

BROCCOLI CASSEROLE FOR A CROWD

4 small pkgs. chopped broccoli	1 can water chestnuts, sliced
1/2 cup chopped onion	1 can pimento, drained
1 cup chopped celery	1/2 cup almonds, chopped
1 can cream of mushroom soup (or cream of celery soup and omit celery)	1 pkg. garlic cheese roll or a small pkg. Velveeta with garlic powder added
1 small can mushrooms, sliced	1 teaspoon salt

Cook broccoli. Saute onion and celery. Add together the remaining ingredients. Mix all ingredients and place in large greased baking dish. Top with buttered bread crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees until heated well. Good to divide and freeze.

DINNER ROLLS

5-6 cups unsifted flour	1 1/2 teaspoons salt
2 pkgs. Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast	1/2 cup sugar
1 cup milk	1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter
2 1/2 cup water	2 eggs (room temperature)

Add yeast to 2 cups of the flour. Heat milk, water, salt, sugar and butter until sugar dissolves, add eggs. Cool to lukewarm, add to flour mixture. Beat in mixer until well blended. Start adding flour. You can beat with mixer until about 4 cups have been added. Work in rest of flour. Let rise until double in bulk. Knead about 10-12 times. Make into rolls, let rise. Bake at 400 degrees.

PERFECT PIE CRUST

1 cup shortening	1 tablespoon vinegar
2 1/2 cups flour	1 teaspoon salt
5 tablespoons water	1 egg

Mix shortening and flour with blender. Combine water, vinegar and salt. Add flour and shortening. Add egg, slightly beaten. Mix well. Roll out on floured board and bake 10 minutes at 450 degrees.



MEAT BALLS WITH SAUCE VERTE

1 lb. lean ground beef	1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 cup finely chopped onions	1/4 cup snipped fresh parsley
1/2 cup soft bread crumbs	1 tablespoon fresh basil leaves
3/4 teaspoon salt	1 clove garlic, minced
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper	1 cup hot beef broth
2 tablespoons vegetable oil	1 teaspoon cornstarch
1 pkg. (3 oz.) cream cheese, softened	2 cups hot cooked rice

Combine meat, onions, bread crumbs, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and pepper; mix thoroughly. Form into 8 balls 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Brown all sides in oil. Drain off fat. Combine remaining ingredients except cornstarch and rice; blend until smooth. Pour over meat balls, cover and simmer 15 minutes. Stir 2 tablespoons water into cornstarch. Pour into sauce; cook, stirring constantly, about 1 minute or until thickened. Serve over beds of fluffy rice. Makes 4 servings.

CHERRY TORTE

1 1/4 cups sugar	2 cups drained pie cherries
1 cup flour	3/4 cup pecans
1 teaspoon soda	1 beaten egg
1 teaspoon cinnamon	1 tablespoon melted butter

Mix together sugar, flour, soda and cinnamon and add a dash of salt. Add cherries, pecans, beaten egg and butter. Pour into 9" x 13" greased pan. Bake at 350 degrees about 30 minutes. Cut cake into squares, top with whipped cream, then pour sauce on top.

Sauce:

1 cup cherry juice (add water if not enough)	pinch of salt
1 tablespoon cornstarch	1/2 cup sugar

Cook until slightly thick.

ORANGE BREAD

1 whole orange	2 cups sifted flour
2/3 cup pitted dates	1/4 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons butter or oleo	1/2 teaspoon soda
1/2 cup walnuts or pecans	1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup hot water or orange juice	3/4 cup sugar
1 egg	

Cut whole orange (peel and pulp) into six to eight sections. Put orange sections, dates, and nuts through food chopper. Add to hot water and butter. Pour in well beaten egg. Sift flour, salt, baking powder, soda and sugar. Add to fruit mixture. Bake in greased loaf pan in 350 degree oven for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Cool thoroughly before slicing.

GRETCHEN'S CARROT CAKE

2 1/2 cups flour	2 teaspoons vanilla
2 1/2 cups sugar	1 cup chopped pecans
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 1/2 cups oil
1 teaspoon soda	3 cups grated carrots
2 teaspoons cinnamon	5 eggs
1 teaspoon salt	

Cream Cheese Frosting:

8 ozs. cream cheese	1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup margarine	1 box powdered sugar

Sift and mix dry ingredients in a large bowl, add liquid and nuts, mix well, stir in carrots. Beat in eggs last. Bake in three 9" layers at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, or in one large loaf pan for 1 hour. Frost with Cream Cheese Frosting. In mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, butter and vanilla. Beat at low speed on electric mixer till light. Gradually add sugar, beating till fluffy. If necessary, add milk to make of spreading consistency. Frost a three-layer cake.

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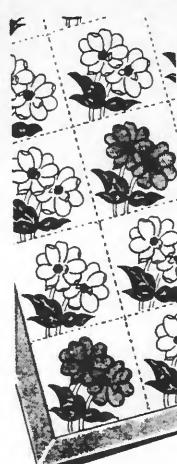
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- No. 9064 is cut in sizes 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, 24½; Misses sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20.

9327
SIZES
34-50

4018-



4010-

- No. 9327 is cut in Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50.
- No. 4018 is cut in sizes 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, 24½.
- No. 4010 is cut in sizes 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½.

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