

April 1987

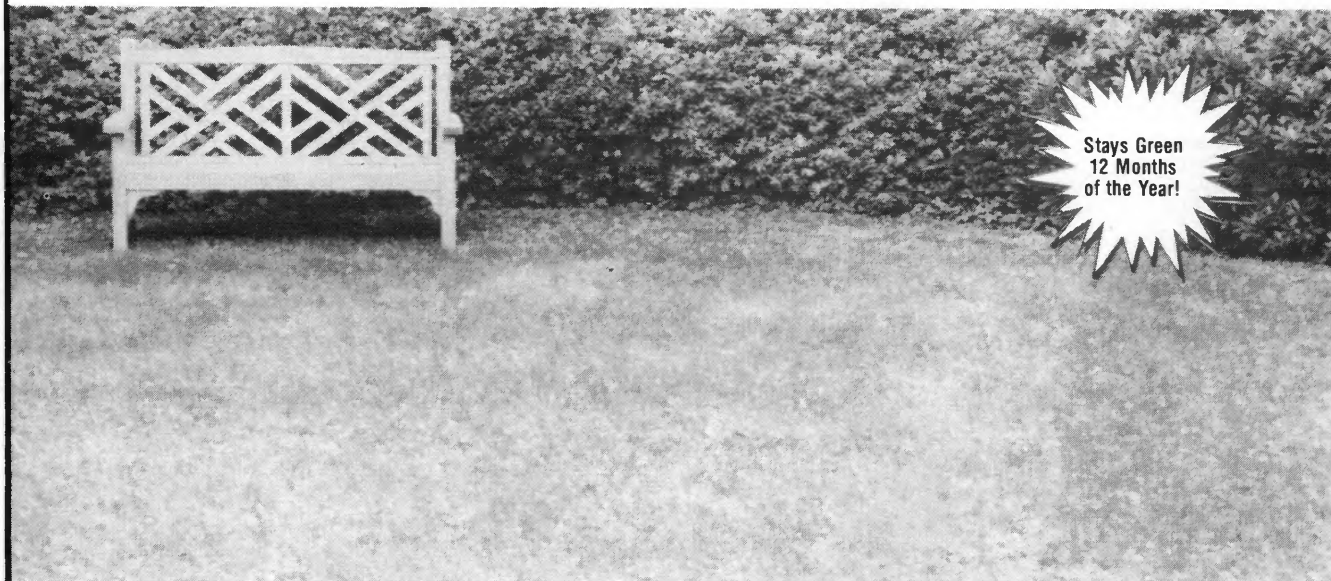
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Illinois Rural Electric News



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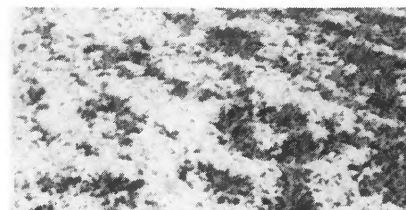
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# Illinois Rural Electric News

## Subcommittee doesn't like REA phase out plan

Rural Electrification Administration chief Harold Hunter made his annual appearance before Rep. Jamie Whitten's Rural Development subcommittee and got his annual thrashing from committee members over the agency's yearly attempt to phase out the rural electric program.

Whitten and several subcommittee members told Hunter, who has been administrator of the rural utility lending agency since President Reagan took office in 1981, that Congress would not approve the agency's proposed budget for fiscal year 1988.

The proposal calls for REA, the Agriculture Department agency that lends money to the nation's rural electric cooperatives, to eliminate its guaranteed loan program. In its place, REA would make guarantees to private sector lenders who make loans to co-ops with "the greatest financial need." "Insured loans" from the REA Revolving Fund would be phased out by 1990.

Each year since Hunter became REA's administrator, he has appeared before this subcommittee to defend the Administration's proposed deep cuts in his program. And every year, committee members chastise Hunter for trying to shut down his own agency. This hearing was more of the same.

"Every Secretary in the government, every cabinet-level department head is fighting for his department except the Department of Agriculture," Whitten said. "You say, 'We don't mind taking cuts'."

Whitten added that military spending continues to increase and that any cut in REA's budget would not

reduce the federal deficit, as the Administration claims, but would be transferred over to the Defense Department's budget.

"We show the government's giving everybody a new chance except for farmers. (At USDA) We have given you the personnel but you haven't employed them." Whitten added, "If you cut loose REA, some private group can make money, but what about the people you're cutting out?"

Echoing the theme of the speech he made at the annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Hunter responded, "Yes, the farmer is hurting, but our REA borrowers are doing remarkably well."

But Whitten said he "can't see the value of depriving" 26 million rural electric co-op consumers so the money can go "to some other program." He added, "Just because something's prosperous doesn't mean we should turn it over for somebody to make money off of it."

Rep. Vin Weber (R-Minn.) said REA's budget proposal, coupled with the two-year-old proposal to sell off the power marketing administrations, would have "much more than a marginal impact" on rural consumers: "It would be a very substantial impact."

Weber said that neither the subcommittee nor the full Appropriations Committee would approve the budget proposals for REA.

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Cover: It took a lot of time and paperwork for Soyland Power Cooperative to refinance its high-interest debt. From left are Joseph J. Fellin of Waterloo, Soyland board president; Charles B. Gill, CEO of the cooperatives' self-help banking institution, and E. H. Williams, Soyland general manager. See story on pages 4 and 5.

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Among those attending ceremonies marking the refinancing of Soyland's debt are, from left, E. H. Williams, Soyland general manager; Harold Hunter, REA administrator (behind speaker's stand); Kathleen W. Lawrence, under secretary of agriculture for small community and rural development; Rep. Robert H. Michel; Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Lyng; Rep. Edward R. Madigan, and Joseph J. Fellin, Soyland board president.

## *\$9 million annual savings*

# Soyland refinances high-cost debt

It took 15 months to get there, but Soyland Power Cooperative has become the nation's first generation and transmission cooperative to refinance part of its debt to the Federal Financing Bank (FFB) and lower its future wholesale power costs. E. H. Williams, Soyland general manager, had lost count of the number of meetings he attended in Washington, D.C., to negotiate a refinancing agreement, and sometimes it was difficult to keep track of all the government agencies involved.

But, on March 19, the effort bore fruit. Soyland prepaid to the FFB, an agency of the U.S. Treasury, \$282 million with funds borrowed in the private money markets. The prepayment will lower Soyland's interest rate on that debt from an average of 11 percent to just over 6 percent and yield an annual savings of

approximately \$9 million to Soyland's members.

Soyland refinanced its Federal Financing Bank loans as a result of legislation passed by Congress in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986. Previously, prepayment to the FFB involved penalties that offset any potential interest savings. Soyland has borrowed approximately \$478 million through the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) and the FFB to finance its ownership participation in the nuclear Clinton Power Station. The interest rate for FFB long-term financing has been as high as 16 percent.

Williams said the \$9 million annual savings resulting from refinancing will allow Soyland's rates to stabilize even when the Clinton plant begins commercial operation later this year. "The rural

member-consumers of Soyland's 15 distribution cooperatives will not experience the traditional rate shock associated with new nuclear plants," Williams said. Normally, when a new power plant goes into commercial operation, electric rates rise significantly to reflect the cost of the new plant. "Due to this refinancing, Soyland's rates will now stabilize, matching or perhaps even lagging the estimated annual inflation rate of 3 percent per year."

Soyland's refinancing was announced in Washington at ceremonies at the USDA headquarters. "What makes this so significant is that today we transfer from the federal government to the private sector the opportunity to provide the financing for rural utilities," Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Lyng said.

Congressman Robert H. Michel (R-18th District), congratulated Soyland for being first to refinance debt under the new legislation. "Today's agreement will allow families who are served by Soyland to shave almost \$90 a year from their bills," Michel said.

Rep. Edward R. Madigan (R-15th District) praised Williams for his diligence while working with his office, Rep. Michel, Rep. Richard Durbin (D-20th District) and federal agencies to take advantage of the new legislation to allow refinancing of FFB debt. "If we are to have the rebuilding that is necessary in rural America and rural Illinois," Madigan said, "refinancing was necessary to help ensure that Soyland's electric rates will be competitive."

"We are extremely grateful to all members of the Illinois congressional delegation for their help in this refinancing," Williams said.

Western Illinois Power Cooperative and Southern Illinois Power Cooperative and other generation and transmission cooperatives across the country will be trying to repeat Soyland's FFB refinancing. Bob Bergland, executive vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, said cooperatives have about \$10 billion in long-term debt locked in at rates above 8.5 percent, some as high as 15.5 percent. "Our estimate is that approximately \$200 million in savings could be realized annually by refinancing this \$10 billion," Bergland said.

Soyland's refinancing of its FFB debt will be in two phases. Soyland is obtaining the \$282 million in short-term financing from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. The second phase will involve approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission so that Soyland can make a public offering of debt for permanent financing. After SEC approval, estimated to take 60-90 days, Williams said Soyland will sell debt securities through four well-known investment banking firms: Shearson Lehman Brothers, Inc.; Soloman Brothers, Inc.; Goldman, Sachs & Co.; and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.

"Soyland's debt refinancing is sensible and fair," Williams said. "It will extend the benefits of today's lower interest rates to rural electric generation and transmission cooperatives which had previously been denied this opportunity. This advantage has proven to be a tremendous benefit to urban consumers as investor-owned electric utilities refinanced more than \$10.9 billion in high-interest debt during 1986."

Williams said refinancing with lower interest rates was particularly critical to rural electric consumers. "Besides helping today's consumers through electric rate stability, refinancing is vital to Soyland's economic development efforts. Soyland is actively working toward the revitalization of its economically depressed rural service areas in Illinois," Williams said.

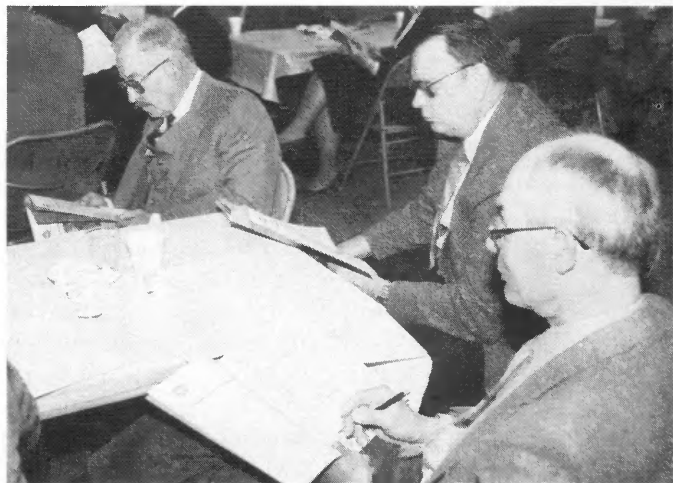
The 15 electric distribution cooperatives that make up the Soyland federation are: Clay Electric Cooperative, Flora; Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Breese; Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon; Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, Bloomington; Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, Paxton; Edgar Electric Cooperative Association, Paris; Farmers Mutual Electric Company, Geneseo; Illini Electric Cooperative, Champaign; Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Princeton; McDonough Power Cooperative, Macomb; Monroe County Electric Cooperative, Waterloo; Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelbyville; Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Greenville; Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Mt. Vernon, and Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield.

**"Besides helping today's consumers through electric rate stability, refinancing is vital to Soyland's economic development efforts. Soyland is actively working toward the revitalization of its economically depressed rural service areas in Illinois."**

**“Successful negotiations should ensure stable wholesale power assessments for a number of years.”**

Restructuring debt associated with the nuclear Clinton Power Station continues as a primary objective for officials of Western Illinois Power Cooperative (WIPCO). Reporting to delegates representing the seven member-cooperatives at WIPCO's 27th annual meeting March 11 in Jacksonville, board president Robert E. Gant of Winchester said, "A good deal of time and effort was spent during the year negotiating an agreement with the Rural Electrification Administration to restructure the debt incurred for the Clinton plant construction. Various plans of restructuring this debt were proposed and debated, and only after meetings with the Department of Justice, Office of Management and Budget, and the Secretary of Agriculture has a possible solution been agreed upon in principle."

Interim manager Dean Searls described the negotiations between WIPCO and REA as the "first and most important"



**Menard Electric Cooperative directors study WIPCO annual reports. From left are: James Graff of Middletown, Morris Bell of Chandlerville and Dale Lepper of Ashland.**

## WIPCO goal

project. "Successful negotiations should ensure stable wholesale power assessments for a number of years. Many future developments such as a merger with Soyland Power Cooperative, continuation of economic development measures and load building activities are dependent on the restructuring of our Federal Financing Bank debt," Searls said.

Gant said WIPCO continues to operate under a power pooling agreement with Soyland and Illinois Power Company. "This arrangement has worked out very satisfactorily and has stabilized the cost of power within the generation pool," Gant added. Searls said the pooling agreement has enabled WIPCO to utilize its own generation plant at Pearl in Pike County in combination with long-term contracts to purchase power on an "as if owned" basis for greatest economic advantage

to meet the energy requirements of the member systems.

The report of secretary-treasurer Roger C. Mohrman of Camp Point showed a drop during 1986 in kilowatt-hour sales to the seven member-cooperatives and an increase in peak demand. The load

factor, an indicator of how efficiently the cooperatives utilize generating capacity, was 47.6 percent, down more than 4 percent from 1985. Searls attributed the downturn in sales to weather, the poor economy and increased power costs.

Fourteen representatives of the seven member-systems were elected to the board of directors for one-year terms. They are: Roger C. Mohrman of Camp Point and Robert D. Smith of Barry, Adams Electrical Co-Operative; Gant and Harvey L. Vortman of Bluffs, Illinois Rural Electric Co.; Dorland W. Smith of Petersburg and Robert F. Zook of Athens, Menard Electric Cooperative; Dennis A. Keiser of Carlinville and Eldon E. Moore of Jerseyville, M.J.M. Electric Cooperative; Gary Skaggs of Pawnee and Gregory D. Wilson of Glenarm, Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative; Wayne Bollinger of Browning and Gregory A. Campbell of Canton, Spoon River Electric Co-operative, and Sharon S. Roberts of Carthage and Haven Vaughn of Lomax, Western Illinois Electric Coop.

Following the annual meeting, the board met in reorganizational session and elected officers: Gant, president; Zook, vice president; Mohrman, secretary-treasurer; Bollinger, assistant secretary-treasurer, and Searls, executive vice president.

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**“Sometimes you have to expand your product line to meet the buyers’ needs.”**

Sunflower seed packers rubbed elbows with computer consultants, dog groomers chatted with rug weavers, property managers visited with seamstresses, spice saleswomen talked with novelty producers and swimming pool sales people swapped ideas with gourmet coffee producers. Some were young, barely out of their teens. Others had grey hair — or none.

If this seems like an unlikely mix of people, it may be, but they all had at least one thing in common — a solid interest in operating a money-making business from their homes.

In all, some 80 hopeful homegrown entrepreneurs from throughout Southern Illinois braved cold and snow to attend the “Business at Home — Opportunities ‘87” conference in February in Mt. Vernon. Many could thank their local electric cooperative for helping. A number of those attending said they had learned about the conference in their local cooperative edi-

tions of the Illinois Rural Electric News, and one had a copy of the magazine in his folder, having brought it along so he could follow the directions to the right hotel.

Tax laws as they apply to “shade-tree” businesses were a topic of interest and first on the agenda. Evelyn Allen, a tax expert who operates her own business, covered the basics. A session entitled “What Your Banker Wants to Know” was well received and Jerry Furby, executive vice president of the United Illinois Bank of Benton, noted that shoestring businesses often fail to secure bank loans because of a woeful lack of preparation on the part of the prospective borrowers. “Many people come in and say, ‘I just know I’ll succeed, because I like to do this so much.’ It takes a lot more than that — it’s great if you enjoy making a product or performing a service, but if there’s no paying market for it, you’ll still fail.”

Others, he pointed out, come in for

# Homework, anyone?



Wilma Clopton of Foresee, Inc., a conference planning firm, left, Irene Carlton, director of the Small Business Development Center, SIU-Carbondale and Craig Roper, project manager, Small Business Development Center, Kaskaskia College, work the registration table.

a bank loan but aren’t convinced enough of their chances for success that they’re willing to put up their own money.

Barbara Shelby, president of New Horizons Planning Group, Inc., discussed her business and how she started it after wishing and talking about taking the plunge. After much talk, she finally set a date and stuck with it. Shortly before that date, she broke her leg — and got married. “That created a whole set of problems,” she quipped. Still, she went ahead with her business, which involves creating and maintaining images for her clients.

When it comes to setting prices for her services, she told her audience that she insists on chatting over coffee with a prospective client. “Often,” she said, “you’ll find out how much they have budgeted, and it may be more than you’d expected to charge!”

Janice E. King, who sells handmade appliqued towels through dealers in New York, Dallas and San Francisco,



said that her business had grown and prospered through the use of top-quality products and careful workmanship. "I put every stitch in every product," she emphasized, adding, "I burned out the motor in a home model sewing machine in just a little while."

She bought a heavy-duty machine — which stitches about 50 percent faster — and got both increased speed and reliability.



**Valerie Ross, business development officer, U.S. Small Business Administration, talks with a meeting participant.**

"Sometimes you have to expand your product line to meet the buyers' needs," she said. Initially a bath towel operation, her line now includes fancy washclothes, face towels and beach towels, too.

She and her husband — who is an engineer and helps with an occasional drawing — design and copyright the appliques they use.

Most of the speakers who operate one-person shops noted that there are problems involved in working at home. Some missed the camaraderie at the office, others had trouble "getting started" on some days, others were "too close to the fridge" and all had problems with friends who called and wanted to chat at length, convinced that they weren't serious about the business. Some marked a bedroom (converted) door "Office," and posted the hours on it to prevent interruption, mostly by children.

But if an individual who works at home has a problem, couples working together face a whole set of challenges. A panel entitled "Working With Your Spouse" went over well. Panelists Bob and Joni Neff, who have a computer consulting business, and Jim and Joyce Price, who make and sell wood novelty products, stressed the importance of "liking each other." Neff noted that it's

not enough "just to be married, or in love." You have to like each other — enjoy each other's company — and they're not the same," he stressed.

He added that it's difficult to avoid "burnout" when you work and live together because there's always the tendency to talk shop. "We try to act like we're good friends who are both employed by the same company," he said. "We try to avoid talking about the business too much after hours, although we still do," Joni said, "and we try to have little dates with each other — an afternoon or evening out by ourselves — once in a while."

The Prices' business started in 1967, when Jim was an engineer and Joyce was making and selling Barbie Doll dresses and doing quite well, since Barbie Dolls were "the rage at that time," Jim says. After a couple of moves and business changes to keep up with the times, the Prices settled on a line of wood products. They virtually echoed the sentiments the Neffs had voiced and added that, unlike the Neffs, whose children are not old enough to get involved in the business, they employ their children, having them punch a time clock just like the other employees do. Unlike most "cottage industries," the Price operation involves several employees. In fact, Joyce noted, there are 10 on the payroll now.

Marty Cropper, who weaves contemporary "rag rugs" on antique rug looms, and Marilyn Miller, who grows and sells herbs, talked about the frustrations and satisfactions of their businesses.

Norma Turok, area advisor for business management, Region 10, University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, took her audience on a step-by-step review of an Extension publication to enable a prospective businessperson to conduct a market survey, check out the competition and generally "test the water" before committing themselves to a business.

The conference was co-sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration, University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, Foresee, Inc., Graham-Pierce Printers, and the Small Business Development Centers of Illinois Eastern Community College, Kaskaskia College, Rend Lake College, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

## **"Always promote yourself and your business"**



**Janice King**

# An interview with George Will

## *Illinois native talks about rural America's place in today's economy, society and politics*

**“ . . . America's  
economic  
growth  
in this century  
has been made  
possible by the  
stupifying  
productivity of  
the American  
farmer.”**

*Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist George Will, a native of Champaign and a speaker during the recent annual meeting of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, discussed issues affecting rural America with Rural Electric News Service Washington correspondent Paul Wesslund. Excerpts from the interview follow.*

**RENS: What does the rural part of the country mean to the nation as a whole?**

Will: It has a practical meaning and a symbolic meaning. The practical meaning is that America's economic growth in this century has been made possible by the stupifying productivity of the American farmer. The only way to have a great industrial society is to have most people freed from working the land and go into the cities. That means they have to be fed by a smaller and smaller portion of the population. Not only has the American farmer done that, the surplus left over is saving us from a really calamitous trade situation. Agricultural exports are not a luxury. They're an absolute necessity to the welfare of this country. There's also a symbolic function. It isn't that long ago that most American were still on the farm. And it's still part of the American myth that the backbone of the country is rural America. Among the founding fathers Jefferson was the most optimistic about the prospects for democracy. But Jefferson said democracy will work only if you don't have people piled up in cities; that the strength of the country

has to be the rural, yeoman republic. A kind of leavening element in this country, far more important than its numbers, is this contact we have with our past.

**RENS: Aren't people piled up in cities now?**

Will: Well yes, but American cities by and large are not quite the high-density cities of Europe. And an awful lot of Americans are moving not just toward suburbs but toward more rural areas. One of the nice things about a computer is you can locate almost anywhere. You could have the stock market in Wichita. There are all kinds of ways of dispersing industry now because of technology.

**RENS: Should there be any kind of strategy to help with that?**

Will: A strategy implies kind of national planning and government allocating resources and it doesn't work. So we're going to have to trust the market to discipline us.

**RENS: Should we be headed in the direction of becoming more dispersed, less dispersed, or is it all OK anyway?**

Will: Well it's not OK. One way you can affect this is make sure the hard economic value of America's agricultural assets is appreciated. Everyone says, "Oh how lucky Saudi Arabia is, God put all that oil underneath it." I wouldn't trade all the oil in Saudi Arabia for the topsoil in central Illinois. That's there. And

properly cared for it's a renewable resource. It ought to be cherished and protected from wind erosion and water erosion, expansion of metropolitan areas and all the rest.

**RENS: Will the decrease in the number of farmers hurt them politically?**

Will: Very important that the first event in the presidential selection process is in Iowa. Because it does give a kind of interesting twist. Second, not all states are farm states but every state has farmers in it, which means that there are 100 senators to whom the farm constituency is not negligible. In politics, the way we do it in this country, you don't just count noses. It's intensity. And the farmers are organized, attentive and intense.

**RENS: Some of our power-generating cooperatives face severe financial problems as a result of beginning power plants 15 years ago, then watching construction costs go up and the demand for energy go down. Is that anybody's fault? Could the co-ops have been more foresighted?**

Will: Look at the price of oil in 1972. And look what it's gone up to, and come down from. No one predicted 15 years ago that OPEC was going to become the power it did and no one predicted the Yom Kippur war that started it all. No

one predicted the collapse of OPEC. No one predicted the Iran-Iraq war. You have one of the major wars of modern times occurring as we talk because some lunatic in Iraq decided to take a bite out of Iran. So it's hard for me to blame people who had to make very difficult, very important decisions involving huge assets based on energy use projections. I do think one huge, clear blame attaches to the antinuclear lobby. They have used the courts, and Congress has passed laws enabling them to use the courts, not just to restrict nuclear growth, not just to insist on safety, but really to confiscate property. That's what they've done with some of these plants. They've just said we'll seize the investment and make it meaningless. And I think it's an outrage.

**RENS: Where are we now in terms of programs such as the Rural Electrification Administration and other New Deal programs?**

Will: Ronald Reagan for six years now has proposed the elimination of many programs. I'm not sure he's killed any. They have survived the wave of conservatism and they're ready to grow again when an Administration comes in more sympathetic to their growth. If you kill a programs it's hard to start it up again. But if you leave it there it's easy to increase the funding. And that's why the so-called Reagan revolution is not all it's cracked up to be.

**RENS: How do you personally react to that?**

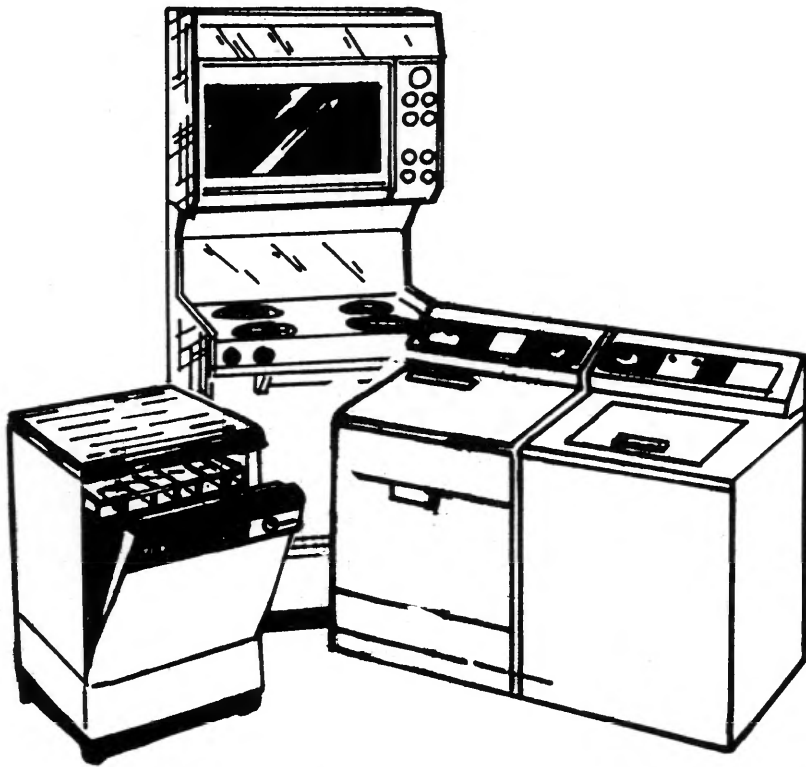
Will: It doesn't bother me. I'm a strong government conservative. The American people want the post-New Deal style of government. They want a welfare state. Second, the welfare state was invented in Europe by conservatives: Bismarck in Germany and Disraeli in Britain, for impeccable conservative reasons. They said, if you're going to make people tolerate the uncertainties of a free market, of a dynamic enterprise economy, with all that implies about uncertainty of outcome, you'd better have a safety net. You'd better understand you've got to take the sting out of freedom. And that's what the welfare state tries to do and I don't find it morally objectionable or politically dangerous — within reason.

**“So it's hard for me to blame people who had to make very difficult, very important decisions involving huge assets based on energy use projections.”**



Will

— Rural Electric News Service



## Appliance standards legislation approved

The electric appliances used in most homes will use less energy in the coming years as a result of legislation passed by Congress in March and signed by President Reagan. The bill establishes minimum energy efficiency standards for 12 major home appliances.

Reagan vetoed a nearly identical bill last year after both houses of Congress approved the legislation, which calls for appliance manufacturers to improve the efficiency of their products by an average of 15 percent to 25 percent. But this year's version, which contains some slight changes, won approval by the President because Congress removed last year's provision that the Energy Department review and revise the standards, if necessary, every five years.

The new law will supersede existing state laws regulating appliance efficiency. It prohibits manufacturers from selling appliances that do not pass the standards. The measure covers refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, heat pumps, water heaters, dishwashers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, gas room heaters, kitchen ranges, ovens and furnaces (electric, gas and oil).

Supporters of the legislation say con-

sumers will save on their energy bills by buying appliances that use energy more efficiently. Utilities are expected to save money because the cutback in energy use through home appliances will prevent them from having to build new, expensive power plants. By the year 2000, according to supporters, the new law could save an amount of energy equal to that produced by about 22 large power plants. That translates into \$4 billion worth of savings each year.

But the efficient appliances are expected to cost more initially, causing opponents to say the new law will cripple U.S. industries that manufacture the appliances and entice foreign competition into the market.

Some rural electric cooperatives have encouraged appliance retailers in their service areas to sell energy efficient appliances, even without the legislation.

Residential appliances, including furnaces, water heaters, central air conditioners and freezers, consumed one-third of all electricity produced in the United States during 1980. Refrigerators alone used the output of about 25 large (1,000-megawatt) power plants — nearly 7 percent of the nation's total electricity consumption and the equivalent of more than 50 percent of the nuclear power, according to the Energy Conservation Coalition, a major proponent of the legislation. After space and water heaters, air conditioners consume the next largest amount of energy in the home, followed by refrigerators, freezers, clothes dryers and lighting.

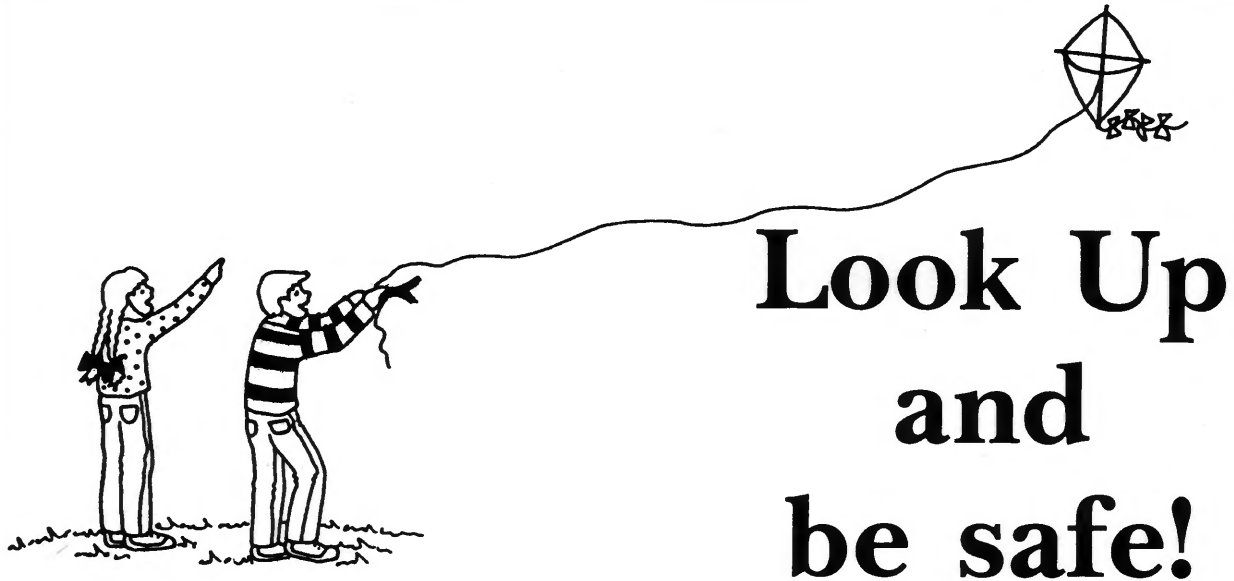
A new generation of appliances — ones with high energy efficiency ratings — can cut the costs, in energy and money spent on it — drastically. A statement from the Coalition predicts, "If the entire stock of appliances in the year 2005 consisted of the best models now available, residential electricity consumption would drop 37 percent" from current projections for that year.

The Coalition includes an unusual mix of environmental groups, appliance manufacturers and utilities. Appliance manufacturers supported the bill largely because it does override state laws, which tend to differ greatly. The new law says manufacturers must comply only with the federal law.

The new standards will take effect between 1988 and 1992, depending on the appliance.

— Rural Electric News Service  
ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS





# Look Up and be safe!

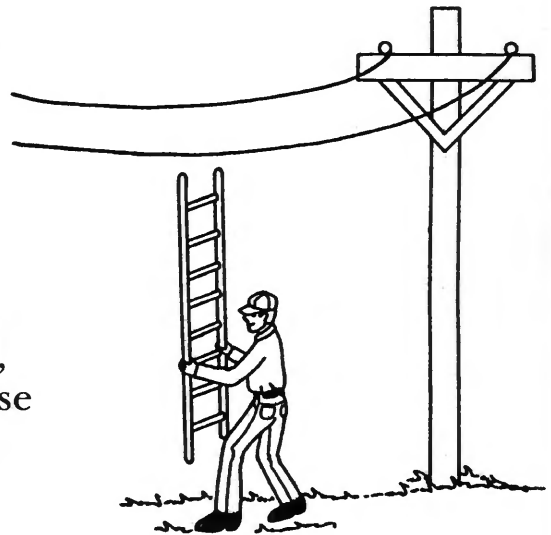
This time of year, with spring-like weather on the way, most people are outside enjoying the nice days . . . cleaning up, making home improvements, or getting into the fields.

Whatever takes you outdoors this spring, remember to look up and be safe! Overhead electric lines can be deadly!

If you're operating tall farm equipment, such as an auger, watch out for anything that might contact an overhead line.

If you're using a ladder to work on a roof, clean out the gutters or make spring repairs, be extremely careful near the power lines.

Your member-owned electric cooperative wants you to be safe around power lines. Electricity is a wonderful, often taken for granted, servant. Remember not to take those overhead lines for granted . . . they can be deadly!



## *Electric Cooperatives of Illinois*

Good for ALL Illinois

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Alpine Nursery is now accepting orders for spring delivery on our most popular varieties of **container-grown seedlings**: Colorado Blue Spruce, French Blue Scotch Pine and Ponderosa Pine.

These seedlings are all healthy, dormant evergreens from Montana's leading containerized seedling nursery. All seedlings are 6 to 12 inches tall and ready for planting. So plan for your spring planting now for home beautification, Christmas trees, woodlot regeneration, or to protect your home from nature's windy chills in winter and blistering heat in summer.



**THESE ARE NOT BARE ROOT STOCK.** All orders are shipped UPS prepaid on a special schedule so the seedlings are not stored over the weekend, and they arrive at your door fresh—ready to plant.

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- 10 trees at \$11.60
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**Phone Orders Accepted**



**Alpine Nursery**

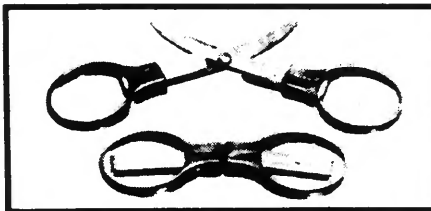
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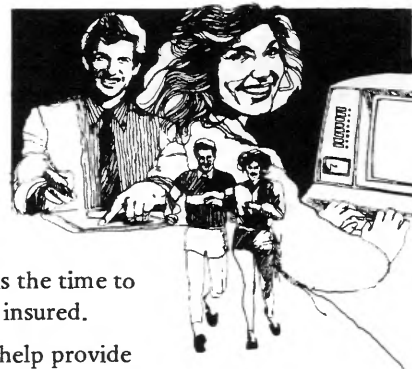
**TWO BROTHERS, INC.** Dept. FS-734  
1602 Locust St. St. Louis, MO 63103

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If you wear a Truss for Rupture, a post card with name and address will get you FREE, the complete Rice Plan of Reducible Rupture Control. Used daily by thousands who say they never dreamed possible such comfortable rupture protection. Safely blocks rupture opening without need for bulky trusses, gouging pad pressure. Regardless of how long ruptured, send your postcard today to W. S. Rice, Inc., Adams, N.Y. 13605. Dept 9X

# 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.

The following plans are available for electric cooperative and telephone cooperative members:

- Disability Income Protection • Major Medical Protection
- Cancer Cost Supplement • Mutual Care (for those 65 and over)
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These plans are underwritten by Mutual of Omaha and United of Omaha and available at Association Group rates.

If you'd like to know more, just fill out and mail this coupon.

Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative Insurance Plan  
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company  
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Please see that I receive full details on the plans available to me as an Illinois Electric Co-op member.

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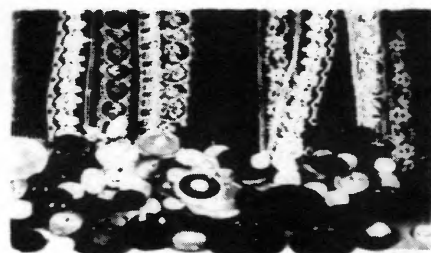
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in delightful patterns. Edging, insertions, etc. Assorted beautiful designs, colors and widths. Pieces at least 10 yards in length—none smaller. Marvelous for dresses, pillowcases etc. Terrific as hem facing. **Only \$2.25** (About 5½ yd.) or double orders **\$4.35**. 3 orders just **\$6.25**. Plus include 50¢ pstg. and hding. with EACH set of 40 yards you buy. Satisfaction guaranteed! **FREE** with lace **50 BUTTONS** 50 NEW High Quality Buttons. Assorted colors, sizes and shapes. Sent **FREE** with each lace order. Please allow up to 6 weeks for delivery.

Lace Lady, 1602 Locust St., Dept. LB-330, St. Louis, MO 63103

Please publish my \_\_\_\_\_ word advertisement for \_\_\_\_\_ times starting with the \_\_\_\_\_ issue. For each month's insertion, I have enclosed \$8 for the first 20 words or less and 30 cents per word for each word beyond 20. Total payment enclosed is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ electric cooperative and my Illinois Rural Electric News mailing label is attached.

### The policy:

1. You must be a member of an Illinois rural electric cooperative in order to qualify for the special rates. Non-members pay \$1.20 per word with a \$24 minimum for 20 words or less. Members must attach their mailing label to their order form.
2. Advertising copy must be in the Illinois Rural Electric News office no later than first of month preceding month of publication.
3. All ads must be in one paragraph form. No centered copy. Maximum of four all-capital words per ad.
4. Cash, check or money order must accompany ad order. No billing or charges. Make checks payable to Illinois Rural Electric News.
5. Please type or print your ad neatly. Include your name, address and telephone number even if they are not part of the advertising copy you plan to run in the Illinois Marketplace.
6. The publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement not deemed to be suitable for the publication's readership.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
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Additional Words: \_\_\_\_\_ (use separate sheet if needed)

**Mail to: Illinois Marketplace**  
Illinois Rural Electric News  
P.O. Box 3787 • Springfield, IL 62708

# Roof Blanket. . . More Than Just a Roof Over Your Head!

Mobile homeowners, take note — if you've been tolerating leaking ceilings, enduring roof 'rumble', or experiencing high utility bills. . .or you're considering replacing your mobile home roof or protecting your investment, then you should know the **two** words that have your neighbors talking.

## Roof Blanket.

Manufactured by the B.F. Goodrich Company, the Roof Blanket is quickly becoming **the** low maintenance, cost-efficient solution to your mobile home roofing problems. Here's how it works. A white, synthetic reinforced rubber is installed in combination with an R-14 fiberglass insulation in place of your existing roof.

This bright white surface, then, works to reflect 87% of the sun's rays in the summer — which means lower roof temperatures and lower air-conditioning bills.

During frigid weather, the Roof Blanket provides maximum protection against heat loss. All told, Roof Blanket **will** save you between 30 to 50% on your utility bills year 'round.

The Roof Blanket is also highly resistant to other environmental concerns of the 1980's — including ultraviolet rays, ozone and acid rain. And the Roof Blanket is the solution for today's mobile homeowner, offering a 20-year limited warranty (a combined effort between BF Goodrich and its exclusive area distributor, Mobile Roof Systems).

For more information about the Roof Blanket and how it can be put to work for **you** and your mobile home, contact Mobile Roof Systems by using their toll-free number: 1-800-255-2000. Or write: P.O. Box 3560, Peoria, Ill. 61614.

## Wrap Yourself Up With

# ROOF BLANKET®

### The Low-Maintenance, Cost-Conscious Way To Improve Your Mobile Home's Roof!

The leaks. The rain noise. The annoying roof 'rumble.' The rust. The endless patching. The shock when your utility bill arrives.

You need Roof Blanket, the solution to ALL of your roofing problems.

Thanks to the BF Goodrich Company, you can put an insulating shield between your mobile home and the damaging effects of Mother Nature.

That's because Roof Blanket utilizes a revolutionary concept combining white synthetic rubber and R-14 insulation for maximum, year 'round protection. And right now, Mobile Roof Systems is offering a **FREE, NO OBLIGATION INSPECTION AND ESTIMATE** of your mobile home and what Roof Blanket can do for **YOU!**

WHY WAIT? CALL US RIGHT NOW  
TOLL-FREE:  
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MOBILE ROOF SYSTEMS, Inc.

Or Write Us: P.O. Box 3560, Peoria, Ill. 61614



**ROOF BLANKET**  
From Tremco, a subsidiary of  
The BFGoodrich Co.





7251—Sew this 14" low-

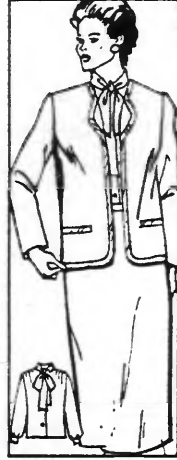


4121—Misses Sizes 12



7050—Embroider and

- No. 7251 is 14" lovable doll. Pattern for doll and clothes.
- No. 4121 is cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26. Size 12 takes 2-3/4 yards 60-inch fabric.
- No. 7050 is transfer of 12 quilt motifs 61"x80". Embroider or paint colorful flowers.



4080—Misses Sizes 10



7170—Dress up win-



4060—Half-Sizes 12 1/2 to

- No. 4080 is cut in sizes 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24. Size 12 suit takes 2 1/2 yards 60"; blouse 1-3/4 yds.
- No. 7170 is directions for cascade, swag and jabot with ruffles.
- No. 4060 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, 26 1/2. Size 14 1/2 takes 3-5/8 yards 45-inch fabric.



4124—Half sizes 12 1/2 to



6012—Crochet oval bowl



4049—A great value!

- No. 4124 is cut in sizes 12 1/2, 14 1/2, 16 1/2, 18 1/2, 20 1/2, 22 1/2 — blouse, skirt, culottes, vest.
- No. 6012 is crochet bowl, separate doily, roses and pansies.
- No. 4049 is cut in Women's sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48.



6011—Popular pineapple-



4084—Half Sizes 12 1/2 to



779—Make a darling kit-

- No. 6011 is petals collar and cuff set — pineapple design.
- No. 4084 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, 26 1/2. Size 14 1/2 takes 2-5/8 yards 60-inch fabric.
- No. 779 is nine designs for kitten baby cover.

# PATTERNS

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

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$3.00 per pattern — cash, check or money order accepted) for the following patterns (please allow four weeks for delivery):

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

# Appetizing April potpourri

## BUTTER SAUCE FOR POUND CAKE

- 1 cup water
- 1 stick margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon butter flavoring
- 2 teaspoons rum flavoring (optional)

Mix together flour, sugar and salt. Gradually add water. Add margarine and bring to a boil. Cook until thick. Add flavoring. Serve hot over slices of pound cake or other type of cake.

## BANANA PUDDING

- 1 large box instant vanilla pudding
- 1 can Eagle Brand milk
- 1 vanilla wafers
- 1 large non-dairy whipped topping
- bananas

Mix instant vanilla pudding according to package directions. Add Eagle Brand and non-dairy whipped topping. Layer pan with bananas and vanilla wafers. Sprinkle with cookie crumbs, if desired.

## CHICKEN TREASURE ISLAND

- 6-8 chicken breasts
- 6 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 cup milk
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup Miracle Whip salad dressing
- 1/2 teaspoon curry powder
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup grated American cheese
- 1 (12 oz.) can whole kernel corn

Cook chicken breasts until tender, remove from bone in large pieces. Melt butter, add flour and gradually stir in milk and chicken broth. Cook until smooth and thick. Remove from heat and add salad dressing, curry powder, lemon juice and salt. Put a layer of asparagus in a greased casserole. Cover with chicken pieces. Pour sauce over this. Add another layer of asparagus on top. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes.

## BLUEBERRY SYRUP FOR PANCAKES

- 1 cup blueberry juice (drained from berries used in pancake batter)
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 teaspoons butter
- 4 teaspoons lemon juice

Let juice, sugar and butter come to a boil. Boil a few minutes and add lemon juice.



## ITALIAN CREAM CHEESE CAKE

- 1 stick oleo
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 5 egg yolks
- 5 egg whites, beaten stiff
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 small can coconut
- 1 cup nuts
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream vegetable oil and oleo, then add sugar. Beat egg yolks and add to mixture. Combine flour and soda. Add alternately with buttermilk. Stir in vanilla. Add coconut and nuts. Fold in egg whites. Bake in three greased 8-inch pans. Bake 25 minutes at 350 degrees.

## FROSTING:

- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1/2 stick oleo
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup pecans

Cream oleo and cream cheese. Mix in other ingredients.

## SQUASH CASSEROLE

- 2 lb. yellow squash
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 cup mushroom soup
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup grated cheese
- 1/2 stick margarine
- Bread crumbs

Slice squash. Add onions and cook in small amount of water until tender. Drain. Mix together beaten eggs, milk and soup. In baking dish, layer squash mix, then a layer of cheese, then bread crumbs. Repeat layers. Pour milk mix over this. Cover with crumbs and dot with margarine. Bake 35 minutes at 325 degrees then 10 minutes at 350 degrees.

## LITTLE BITS

- 1 lb. hot sausage
  - 1 lb. sharp cheddar cheese
  - 3 cups Bisquick
  - Tad of garlic powder
- Melt cheese and mix with sausage, Bisquick and garlic. Form into balls about marble size. Freeze on cookie sheet. Can store in plastic bag when frozen. Bake at 350 degrees on cookie sheet about 30 minutes or until golden brown. Makes about 160.

## DUTCH OVEN DINNER

- 3 tablespoons oil
  - 1 lb. chuck—ground
  - 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
  - 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
  - 1 cup sliced onions
  - 1 chopped green pepper
  - 1 (12 oz.) can whole kernel corn
  - 1 (3 oz.) can sliced mushrooms
  - 1/2 lb. medium noodles
  - 1/4 lb. grated American cheese
  - 1 (No. 2 1/2) can tomatoes
  - Grated Parmesan cheese
- In hot oil in Dutch oven, cook beef, stirring for about 10 minutes. Stir in salt and next five ingredients. Top with uncooked noodles; sprinkle with 1 cup cheese; pour tomatoes over all. Simmer covered 1 hour. Serve with Parmesan cheese.

## PRUNE CAKE

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 1/4 cups cake flour
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 3/4 teaspoon cloves
- 3/4 teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 1/4 cups chopped cooked prunes

Cream butter or margarine until soft. Beat in sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, and beat well. Sift dry ingredients and add alternately with buttermilk. Fold in prunes. Bake in two greased cake pans at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Frost with 7-minute frosting.

## MY FRIEND'S CHOCOLATE PIE

- 1 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons cocoa
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 3 egg yolks
- Pinch salt
- 1 3/4 cups milk (1 small can evaporated and 1 cup of milk)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla

Sift sugar, cocoa and flour together. In heavy pan or double boiler, heat milk. Add dry ingredients and mix. Add beaten egg yolks. Cook until thick. After removing from range, add butter and vanilla. When cool, pour into baked pie crust and cover with meringue made of the 3 whites beaten to a stiff froth with 4 tablespoons sugar added. Beat stiff. Brown in oven.

## CUSTARD PIE

- 3 eggs
  - 3/4 cup sugar
  - 2 tablespoons flour
  - 1 Pinch of salt
  - 1 3/4 cups milk
  - Nutmeg
- Beat eggs, add sugar and flour to eggs. Mix well. Add salt. Gradually add the milk and 1 teaspoon of vanilla. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Sprinkle top with nutmeg. Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes; reduce to moderate heat and cook about 30 minutes or until custard is done.

## QUICK BREAKFAST PUFF

- 6 slices day old bread, trimmed and quartered
- 4 slices American cheese or 1 cup grated Cheddar cheese
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Dash of pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease an 8-inch square baking dish. Line bottom with half of bread squares. Dot with butter. Place cheese evenly over bread. Place remaining bread squares over cheese. Combine eggs, milk, salt and pepper and beat well. Pour evenly over ingredients in baking dish. Bake for 20 minutes until golden brown and bubbly. Serve hot. Serves 4.

## CUCUMBERS IN SOUR CREAM

- 2 medium cucumbers, thinly sliced
- 1 medium onion, very thinly sliced
- 1/2 carton dairy sour cream
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Combine the cucumbers and onion. Stir together the remaining ingredients; toss with vegetables. Cover and chill; stir occasionally. Makes 3 cups.

## DILLY BREAD

- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon instant minced onion or 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons dill seed
- 1/4 teaspoon soda
- 1 egg, unbeaten
- 1 pkg. yeast
- 1/4 cup warm water
- 2 1/2 cups flour

Combine in a bowl first 8 ingredients. Beat well and add yeast (dissolved in water) and enough flour to make a stiff dough. Beat again and let rise to double in bulk in a warm place. Stir down. Place in well greased 8-inch round casserole. Let rise again. Bake in 350 degree oven for 30 to 40 minutes. Butter and sprinkle with salt.



**NOW READY FOR EASY PLANTING**

One of Nature's Loveliest Sights!

**PINK MIST  
SMOKE TREE**

**\$2.00 ea.**

(2 for \$3.75) (3 for \$4.95)

In June, when most other trees have quit blooming, the beautiful "Pink Mist" Smoke Trees (*Cotinus coggygia*) burst forth with big clusters of light pink panicles resembling big clouds of smoke so dense you can't see through them. The tree resembles one large cloud of smoke—like a pink cloud resting on a tree trunk. And then in the fall the tree is ablaze in a beautiful array of red scarlet and orange foliage. Grows to about 15 feet. Especially lovely when three are planted together. You receive choice, hand selected 1½ to 3' trees. Free planting guide included with every order.

**FULL 1-YEAR GUARANTEE**

If within one year of receipt of your order any plants do not live, just RETURN THE ORIGINAL SHIPPING LABEL ONLY for a free replacement or purchase price refund, your choice. We guarantee plants to be vigorous, healthy, and first class in every way. The WARRANTY IS VOID UNLESS THE ORIGINAL SHIPPING LABEL IS RETURNED.

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**END SEPTIC TANK BACKUP  
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**RESULTS VISIBLE  
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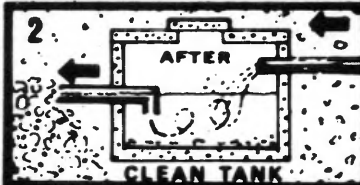
**WHY SEPTIC TANKS BACK UP** Septic tanks Clog, Backup and Smell because of household cleaners, which are great for dishes, laundry and floors, but kill good bacteria in your tank and cesspool that normally digest solid wastes, fats, greases and starches. Without this bacterial action solid waste builds up in your system. They overflow into and clog your drainfields, lines and back up into your tank, causing overflows and smells. Even pumping your tank will not clean out the pipes or drainfields, but SEPTIPRO® will!

**HOW SEPTIPRO® WORKS TO SAVE YOUR DYING SYSTEM!** It goes to work immediately with 3 Safe Potent Enzymes and Bacteria supplement that works with your good bacteria to break down and digest fats, greases, starches, and all organic waste materials including paper and cotton fibers. It converts and liquifies all organic solid wastes. Cleans tank, pipes, and drainfields. Drainfields become porous allowing earth to absorb. The entire system opens and works from beginning to end. SEPTIPRO® SAVES YOU MONEY! No more costly mechanical cleaning, digging or pumping.

**SAFE AND EASY TO USE!** Just pour SEPTIPRO® into your commode, let it work! Results usually visible overnight! Non-toxic, Poisonous or Corrosive. Harmless to Humans, Animals or Plumbing. Will make your system odor-free. SEPTIPRO® IS GUARANTEED TO KEEP YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM TROUBLE FREE OR WE WILL REFUND EVERY PENNY YOU PAID FOR YOUR SEPTIPRO®. 1 lb. for initial treatment of 1000 gal. tank or 4 routine monthly 4 oz. treatments.



SOLID WASTE CLOGS PIPES, TANK & DRAINFIELD



SOLIDS DIGESTED AND LIQUIFIED NOW ABSORBED IN OPENED DRAINFIELDS

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- 1 lb. @ \$8.95 plus \$1.00 postage & handling total \$9.95
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**MISSING**



**KIM WHITE**

LAST SEEN: 11/10/86  
FROM: New Orleans, LA  
DOB: 10/2/71  
BLACK FEMALE

EYES: Brown  
HEIGHT: 5'  
WEIGHT: 110  
HAIR: Brown



**JEREMY DOLAND BRIGHT**

LAST SEEN: 8/14/86  
FROM: Myrtle Point, OR  
DOB: 5/25/72  
WHITE MALE

EYES: Green  
HEIGHT: 6'  
WEIGHT: 140  
HAIR: Brown

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)

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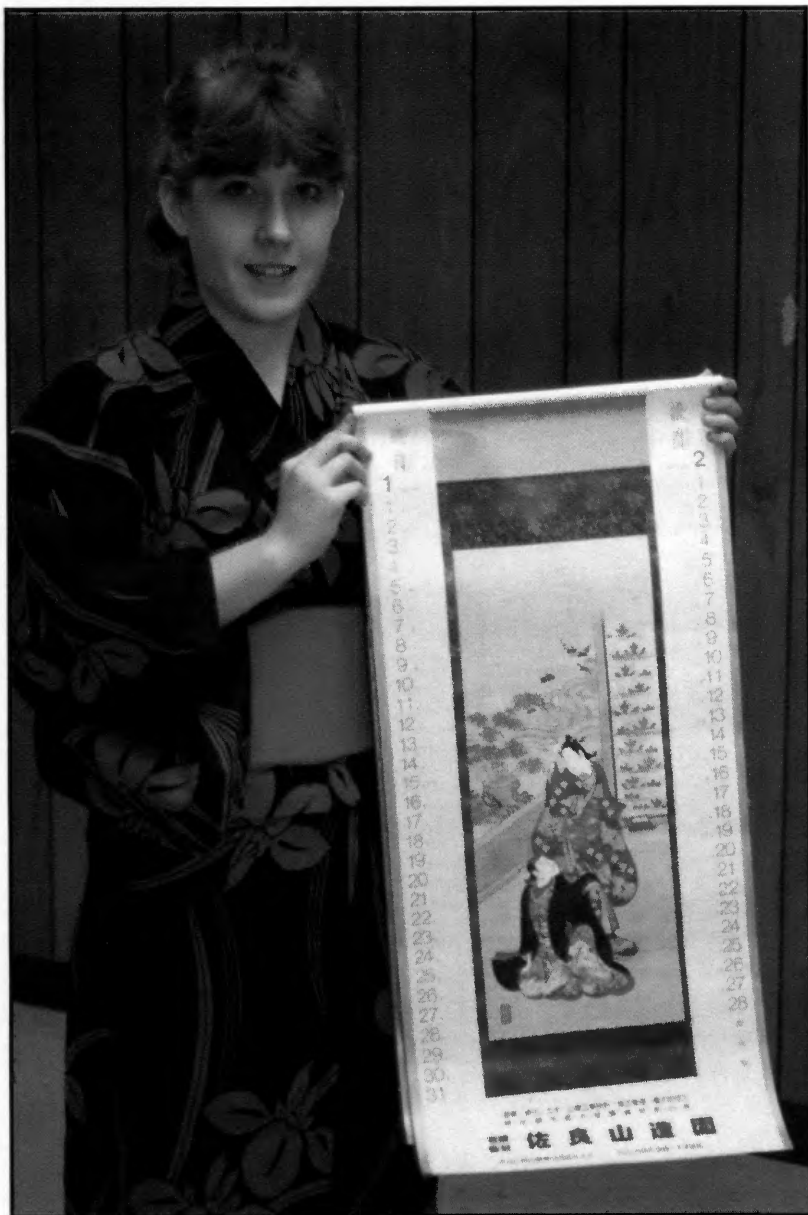
**-Safety Tip of the Month-**

Choose a secret code word to use in case of an emergency. Your child should never go with anyone who does not know the code word.

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If you want to personally help end this national tragedy, or need additional information, please call:

**1-800-222-1464**



Above, a Japanese calendar was one of the many souvenirs Rebecca brought back from her month-long trip to Japan, and the kimono she's wearing was another.

“Ichi, ni, san, si . . .”

A year ago, those words would have meant nothing to Rebecca Childress of Oakland (Coles County) but she now knows that they're the first four numbers, in Japanese.

Last summer she soaked up more experiences than many of us see in a lifetime. The petite, vivacious daughter of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative members Dan and Janet Childress spent a month in Japan, as part of a 4-H program.

She lived with the Akihiko Hata family in Tsuyama, on Japan's main island, Honshu. Fusayo was her hostess “mother,” and the “sister” she lived with was Kaori. “Brother” Akihiro rounded out her exchange family. The trip was arranged through 4-H and a Japanese organization called LABO and was partially funded by club, business and individual sponsors, and a part-time job. “Mom and dad helped, too,” she says.

Surprisingly, the fantastic trip was almost a nonstarter. “I told Mom and Dad I was kind of interested in going,” she says, “and they weren't too enthusiastic. Then we got to talking about it, and we found out that area businesses would help sponsor me, in exchange for my giving slide presentations when I got back.”

After a brief orientation, she traveled with 11 other Illinois youths — and 85 more from the rest of the U.S. — for the long flight from Seattle to Tokyo, where she spent another couple of days in orientation before meeting her host family. “Dad,” as it turned out, was a landscape architect, and “Mom” had worked in a hospital, but was staying home.

After getting acquainted with her host sister, who had spent a month in Indiana a couple of years before, Rebecca settled in to a world that was quite a bit different from the one she was accustomed to, and quickly learned that Kaori's short stint in the U.S. had not turned her into an interpreter. “I

# Joys of Japan

had a Japanese-English dictionary,” Rebecca says, “and I really had fun trying to communicate.” She found that with the dictionary, sign language and a good deal of patience, she could communicate fairly well. “Sometimes I'd get frustrated trying to ask a question, but if I really wanted to know something, I'd draw a picture,” she says with a laugh. The language barrier was no deterrent to having a good time and learning a lot.

She learned to eat with chopsticks and notes that the Hatas ate with them



all the time, except when they were eating breakfast cereal. "They ate cereal quite a bit," she says, "and I think part of the reason was that they wanted to spare me the chopsticks, just a little."

It is an old Japanese custom to kneel at a low table to eat, but many Japanese are getting away from that and sitting at a conventional table, just as we do. "I ate at a small table three times," Rebecca relates, "and they were on special occasions. Once was when I arrived, another time was when I had friends over and helped prepare the meal, and another was when I went to visit my Japanese 'grandmother'."

She tried a couple of exotic dishes while in Japan. "We had squid on a stick, which had been cooked barbecue-style," she says, "and I tried a pickled radish, which was yellow and had a very strong taste."

Probably the most unusual custom — or the one that took the most getting used to — was the bath. "The tub's in a separate room" she notes, "and each morning they fill it with water, which is kept hot. One at a time, each member would take a pail of water out of the tub and wash themselves clean, then climb into the tub and soak, separately, but the idea of everybody using the same tub of water was a bit of a surprise to me."

She found Japanese teenagers to be less independent than American youths, she says, partly because Japanese kids must graduate from high school before they can get a driver's license. She and

her sister didn't go many places together, but the whole family did many activities as a group. "We went to the movies a couple of times," she says, "and it wasn't like going to the movies here. They're really into cartoons there, and you can be 18 and still like Mickey Mouse without having people think you're wierd."

While there are a lot of differences between Japanese and American cultures, she says, there are similarities, too. "Converse high-tops and blue jeans are fashion raves," she says, "and Coke, Pepsi, Mountain Dew and Sunkist soft drinks are very popular."

Many family pastimes could come straight out of an American summer, she adds. "We went to the ocean and camped out right on the beach. That was the first time I'd ever done that, and I thought it was really neat," she enthuses.

On a more sober note, the family visited some historic sites, including the museums and monuments in Hiroshima. "I was really impressed with the eternal flame. Many people travel there from all over Japan to pray," she adds.

Rebecca has no immediate plans to return to Japan, but her many mementoes and memories — and the 400 pictures she took — will help her remember the trip for a long time. And she relives her trip a little each time she gives a slide show to one of the several groups who helped sponsor her trip!

Below, from left, Rebecca with her umbrella. Rebecca in her kimono. Just a few of the many souvenirs she brought back include slim soda cans, chopsticks, a Japanese magazine, a game and an unusual bottle.



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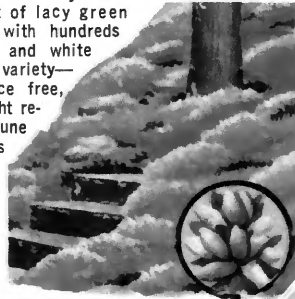
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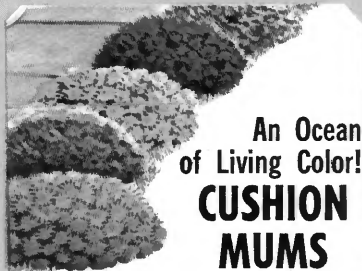
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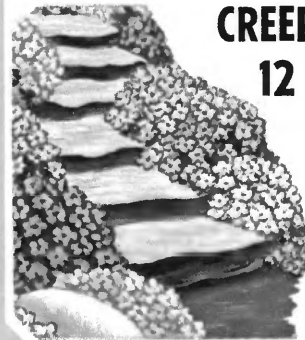
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