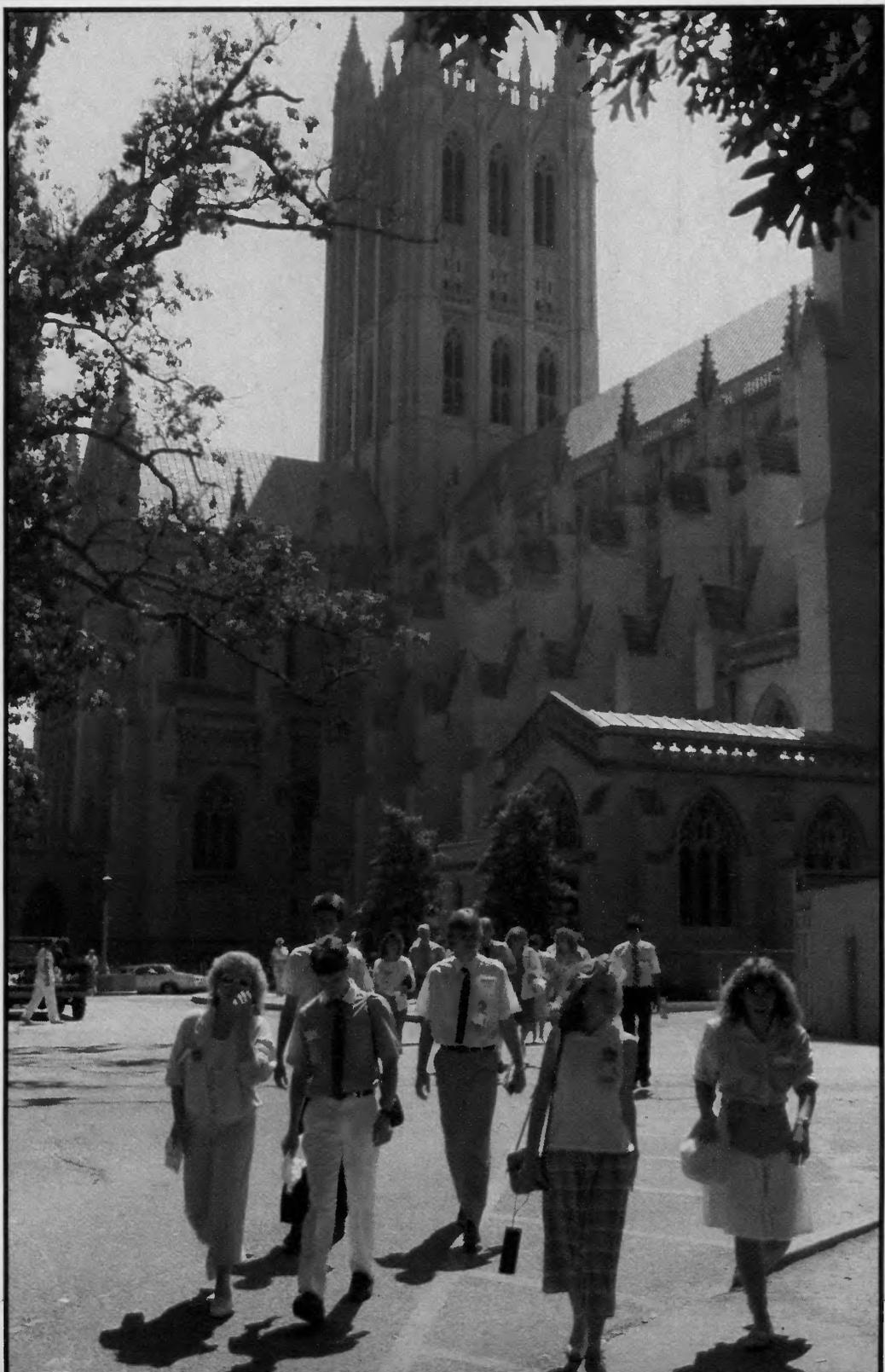


July 1987

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Illinois Rural Electric News



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# Illinois Rural Electric News

## Rural electrics and expectations

Last month, an electric cooperative audience heard the near future described in terms of what to expect: stored electric energy, hydrogen-powered electricity, knifeless surgery and other major medical transformations, growth of insect-free plants, extensive use of robots and hydrogen-powered automobiles, among several other scientific innovations.

If you try to understand the changing world, rather than fear it, you can help shape the changes, the speaker said. The advent of computers and global competition will spawn many of these changes by the mid-1990s, he added. The speaker said that in a world of computer chips, lasers, genetic engineering, bio-electronics, fiber optics, robotics and superconductors, the country is changing from short-range thinking to long-range planning. "Rewards come from long-range planning," Daniel Burris of Waukesha, Wisconsin, emphasized.

Electric cooperatives know about long-range planning. From the beginning, the business of providing a reliable, reasonably priced supply of electricity called for foresight and long-term goals. When the first lines went up in Illinois about 50 years ago, those lines didn't cover the entire area of any given electric cooperative. But those who were working to see to it that electricity reached everyone who wanted it used that long-term goal as the cornerstone of the movement to get electricity to previously excluded areas. Electricity in those days was one of life's greatest expectations.

Time and social and technological advances have changed people drastically since then. No longer is elec-

tricity a great expectation. It's more a great demand now. Consumer expectations in rural America of 1937 were based on what they had and what they thought society and technology could provide. It's no different today, except that society and technology encourage even greater expectations. And, when you read of the startling developments taking place and those in the offing, this heightened expectation is understandable.

Utilities, including electric cooperatives, face difficult tasks in trying to meet their consumer needs. Consumers offer a variety of answers about their needs: "I want comfort and convenience." "I need help financing a home insulation project." "Safety is my top concern." "No power glitches for my computer." "Plenty of power when I want it." "Just keep my TV and VCR running." "I'd like to lower my energy bills." "Can you give me advice on energy efficiency?" "Prompt service is a must."

Many members of Illinois electric cooperatives participated last year in a survey conducted by cooperatives to determine consumer needs and expectations, along with other information vital to making sure electric cooperatives function for their members. That information has helped the cooperative boards and employees plan for needs of the present and the expectations of the future.

This emphasis on long-range planning is nothing new to electric cooperatives. It's been around from the beginning, since electric cooperatives, consumer-driven and consumer-owned, represent one of that nation's outstanding examples of long-term goal achievement.

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Larry F. Elledge  
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Associate Editor

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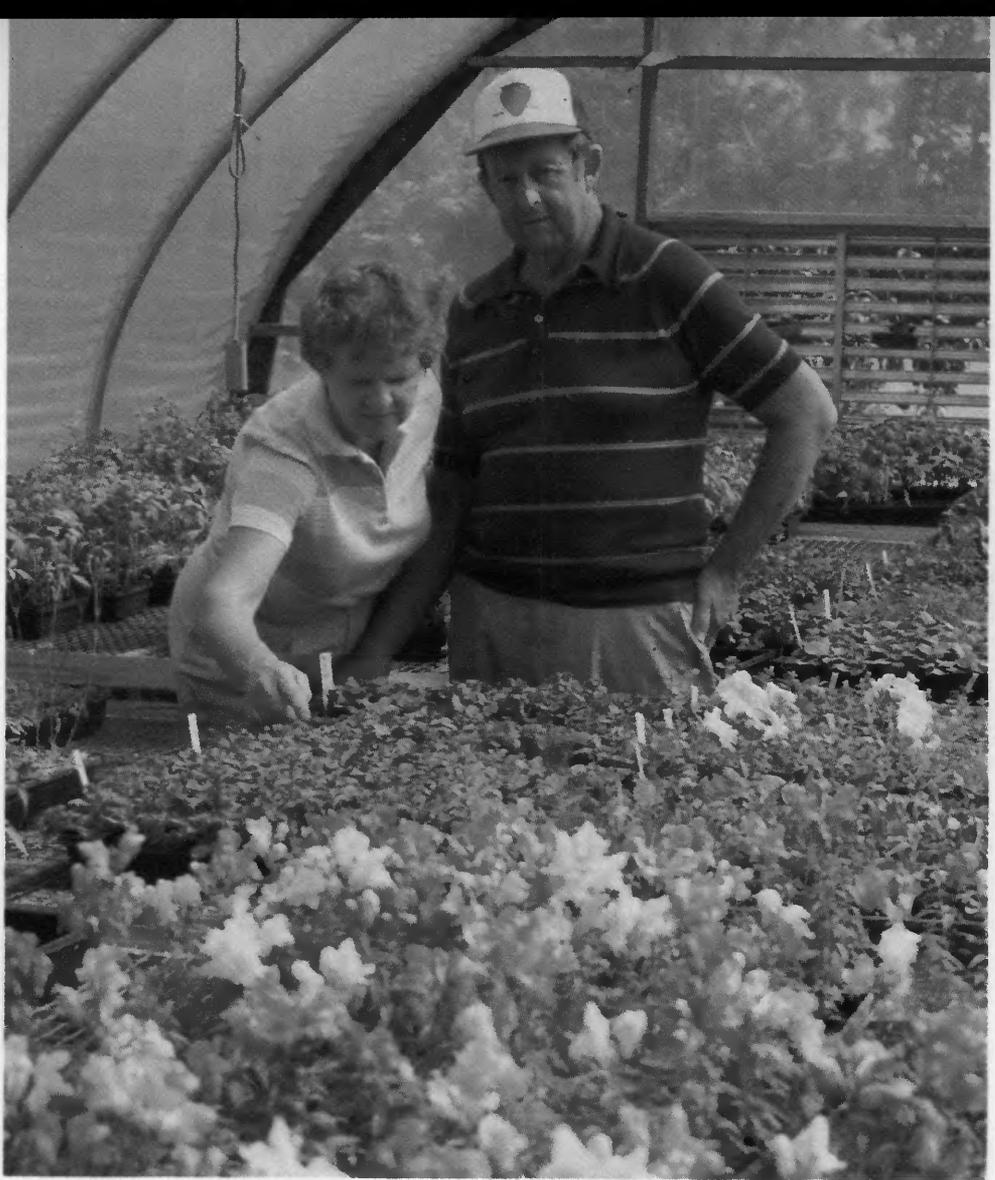
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Ken and Vicki Erb in one of their spacious greenhouses. They diversified into "you-pick" berries, flowers and other crops, when it began to look as though the cash grain market was headed for trouble.



# A rural oasis

This is the second in a series of four farm enterprise articles, developed by the Midwest Technology Development Institute (MTDI) in cooperation with Soyland Power Cooperative. MTDI is a nine-state non-profit institute established to promote regional economic development, including innovative farming techniques. Soyland is a federation of 15 Illinois distribution electric cooperatives.

Arriving at Ken and Vicki Erb's farm is almost like arriving at a desert oasis after passing through the typically flat, almost treeless central Illinois landscape. Pine trees toss in a brisk breeze that ripples the waters of a pond, where ducks lazily paddle under an arched bridge connecting the north and south sides of the farm.

"People who come out here tell us we live in heaven," said Vicki Erb, gazing out her back kitchen window that overlooks the pond.

It's a bit of rural heaven the Erbs are trying to sell on their farm, located 25 miles northeast of Mt. Vernon near Johnsonville, not to mention asparagus, strawberries, chrysanthemums, blackberries, pumpkins and several other horticultural crops that people from over 20 miles away come to pick.

"We're finding out our best advertising is one fellow telling another how nice our berries are. But we try to do more than just sell berries. We try to make the farm an experience. It's more than picking fruit, it's a day away from

---

**There is a sad annotation to this article. On the evening of June 9, not long after these photographs were taken, Ken Erb, driving his tractor, suffered a heart attack and died. Vicki Erb chose to go ahead with the story as written and says she plans to continue the operation of the farm.**

---

your routine," Vicki explained.

People come by the busloads to experience the Erb farm, which is served by Wayne-White Counties Electric

Cooperative, and the Erbs do their best to accommodate them. They hire a pumpkin painter in the fall when school groups come out for a morning on the farm. They put in pick-your-own strawberries closer to the parking lot for their elderly customers. Around Christmas time, they'll have an ornament-making day coinciding with poinsettia sales.

The Erbs attribute part of their success to their attention to customer comfort and satisfaction.

"We made the decision to grow quali-



**The operation has plants at just about any stage of growth at about any time. Here, Vicki checks a seedling.**

ty things. It can't be half good and half bad and expect people to come back," Vicki said. Ken added, "You have to be able to self-criticize."

Perhaps it was that ability to self-examine that enabled the Erbs to see the ominous handwriting on the agricultural wall in the late 1970s, when they were trying to farm 800 acres of grains. They sold that farm, bought 300 acres they now own, and built a new house. They tried growing a quarter acre of strawberries and, to their surprise, "They all sold," Ken recalled.

Now, 10 years later, the Erb farm is the quintessential diversified farm. The Erbs grow nearly 20 horticultural crops on 80 acres, plus milo that is fed to their hogs and soybeans that are sold on the market. The hogs and grain are an integral part of the fruit and vegetable operation. Hog manure fertilizes the fields and milo straw becomes mulch for the strawberry plants.

"Our unit is pretty efficient, so we'll stay with this system as long as we can," Ken Erb said. "One part of the farm helps the other one out."

That diversity is not only important to agronomy, but also to the economy of the Erb farm. Diversity and a will-

ingness to try something new has been the key to their success, and their survival.

The Erbs respond quickly when they feel a product won't sell anymore; they try to anticipate customer tastes and preferences. For example, when fall chrysanthemum sales dropped off, the Erbs started selling them in the spring, after realizing their customers wanted to take advantage of the blooming mums twice and not just once a year. But caution is a watchword at the Erbs. Said Vicki: "We test the water first to see if it's warm enough before we go deeper." "We won't go borrow a bunch of money. Any expansion has to pay for itself," Ken added.

It is their careful planning, their easing into each new enterprise, that has assured the Erbs' success, according to Bill Courter, a University of Illinois extension horticulture specialist.

"And the Erbs never stay in the same place; they're constantly studying their market and changing accordingly," said Courter.

Evidence of that is seen in the new products the Erbs are looking into. They're considering putting in some Christmas trees to complement their winter poinsettia sales. A product coming on line even before the Christmas trees will be wreathes made of dried flowers and other plants — grown, of

*(Continued on page 15)*



**Ken Erb, at left, discusses his varied farming operation with Bill Endicott, center, manager of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, and Stanley Greathouse, right, a Wayne-White director and neighbor of the Erb family.**

Lilli Ann Dittmer knows about disappointment. So does Jodie Mauck, and that helps them do their jobs with thoughtfulness and consideration. Mrs. Dittmer has accepted the painful realization that she will not be able to make a living at her chosen profession: full-time farming.

The Adams Electrical Co-Operative member has made the reluctant transition to part-time farmer and administrator of a four-county program to help dislocated farmers. But she and her husband, Gary, who works for a national computer retailer, are struggling desperately to save even their part-time operation, which they bought when prices and interest rates were high.

Mrs. Dittmer is coordinator of the Dislocated Farmers Program of the Two Rivers Council of Public Officials, in Quincy. The program offers retraining and other help to dislocated farmers and farm workers in Adams, Brown, Pike and Schuyler counties. A similar program headquartered at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg serves farmers in five other nearby counties, while there are 11 regional councils throughout Illinois helping farmers in their areas.

Mrs. Dittmer begins her day with half an hour or so of chores on the family's farm near Loraine, then makes the 30-mile drive to her office, which is liberally sprinkled with bits and pieces of hog-related memorabilia. While there, she will try to help former farmers adjust to a new lifestyle, much as she is doing herself.

Then it's the 30 miles back home and a couple of hours of chores — to try to save that one special farm that she and Gary have put 10 years of sweat into.

She is a farmer and rankles at being called a "farm wife," which suggests that she puts less into the farm than the "farmer" does. "I was raised in a farm kitchen," she says, "and Dad would never let his daughters get involved in the nuts and bolts of farming, which always fascinated me. But I can't remember not wanting to be a farmer."

Mrs. Mauck, also an Adams member, is in a different situation. The farming operation that she and her husband, Jody, shared with their four kids, is gone. She vividly remembers the pain of watching powerlessly — and working against odds — as it slipped away.

"Jodie was our first client," Mrs. Dittmer says, "and we funded her training, which is one of our functions here. She took secretarial courses and we hired her when she finished them.

"We have support groups to lend emotional support, too, because much of the problem is not just a lack of income but the loss of self-esteem and grief people feel when they lose a way of life that they love and have struggled to keep.

"We get together with a trained social worker," she continues, "and just talk out our problems, cry on each other's shoulders, or whatever it takes to help. I'll tell you this: there's been a lot of pain in this office since we got started here."

"We have a new support group just for women," Jodie notes, because they seem to hurt more. They seem to see the writing on the wall before the men do,

## Helping

and it seems to affect them more deeply. And, it's kind of sad that, along with the loss of the farm, many farm families tend to break up, too. We see a lot of divorces after 30 years or so of marriage."

Much of the program, which is state-funded, involves retraining, often at John Woods Community College in Quincy, and covers dislocated farmers, spouses, adult children of farmers, and farm workers. The program offers a year of training, mostly, and up to two years if necessary. "Our objective is to get people back into the work force as quickly as possible," Mrs. Dittmer says, "so most of the training is vocational rather than academic. We pay tuition, books, mileage, child care, some health services and counseling," she adds, "but living expenses have to come from somewhere else."

The program will also pay local businesses to hire and retrain displaced farmers, funding half the wages for up to six months, depending on the training needs of the new job.

"Most farmers don't need an awful lot of retraining," Mrs. Dittmer says, "because they've learned so many skills



Mrs. Dittmer's office is decorated with an occasional sprinkling of farm-related mementoes, such as these pig, cow and hay scenes. For many farmers, memorabilia like these are about all there is left of their life's work.



while farming. Your average farmer can drive a truck, operate heavy equipment, work as a mechanic, do welding, and perform any number of other jobs. The farmers we've placed have done very well, and we've had prospective employers come to us in the hope of hiring a farmer. Along with the skills, they like the real work ethic that you find in most farmers."

While farmers don't seem to need much retraining to land industrial jobs, some are opting for something a little lighter, and so are displaced farm women. "Computer classes are our most popular offering," Jodie says.

While the farmers' affinity for computers was unexpected, Mrs. Dittmer notes that what surprised her — in a pleasant sort of way — was the number of farmers who were willing to seek out help. Farmers are a proud, independent

bunch, she notes, and there was some concern that the program would have trouble finding enough clients to make a difference.

"That turned out not to be a problem," Jodie says, "because we had several years of bad weather and low prices at the same time, and the administration in Washington has been indifferent. It isn't all that unusual for farms to go under anymore.

"There's always the tendency to feel ashamed and to be embarrassed, and to worry about what the neighbors will think. But a lot of neighbors are in the same boat, and it's because of a changing economy, not a result of something they did or didn't to, so a lot of people are willing to come in. It looks like our program is going to be able to do a lot of people some good, and that's what it's all about."

**"Most farmers don't need an awful lot of retraining, because they've learned so many skills while farming."**

# the dislocated



Jodie Mauck, standing, and Lilli Ann Dittmer in the office they share in Quincy. As might be expected, farm snapshots, paintings and knick-knacks are the main source of decorations in the office.



Ron Ramon (left), Stam plant manager, points out features of his company's satellite receivers to Steve Hancock (center) and Dave Fricke of Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative.

# Diversification

**"We've been innovators since the business started in 1952."**

A 35-year-old Watseka firm, owned by Fenton Quick and long known for being on the cutting edge of agricultural technology, has diversified its product line — again — to change with the times.

"We've been innovators since the business started in 1952," notes Ron Ramon, plant manager for Stam Manufacturing Company, "but we've always stayed involved with agricultural products. In the last few years, we've branched out into satellite receiver antennas, or 'dishes,' for those who want to receive television programming but who live where they'll probably never get cable."

While the satellite antenna market seems to be primarily a rural one, it is a step removed from agriculture, Ramon says, and is a step away from dependence on farming, an industry well-known for its wild cyclical swings and long dry spells.

"Much of our business deals with the

manufacture of equipment that's designed to break ground, like fertilizer knives and coulters," Ramon says, "and each time there's a program to idle some land, or when farmers just decide to plant fewer acres, it cuts into our sales."

With that in mind, Stam, which is served by Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, set out to enter a new market, and preferably one with some growth potential. While there are any number of "dish" makers, there are very few who are making top-quality units that are designed to do an exceptionally good job over the long haul, as Stam's units are, Ramon points out.

"There are some manufacturers who make all their components fairly poorly," Ramon says, "and that kind of equipment drives the servicemen — and customers — crazy. Others have a good antenna that's mounted poorly, or vice-versa. We're trying to make the very best antenna we can, and we want to put it

on the best mount we can. With the wind loads we have out here, everything has to be just right, or you're going to have troubles later on."

Ramon notes that there are many ins and outs in the antenna business, and that a careful buyer should keep them in mind when shopping.

Ron Wagner, who keeps up with the electronic side of the antenna business, notes that Stam has been very careful in dish design, and has had some luck, too. "There are several metallic substances that manufacturers can build into the face of a fiberglass antenna, like a mesh screen, spun aluminum or an impregnated cloth. We use finely spun aluminum batting, in quarter-ounce weight, and we use two layers of it. It's the best we've found, and we also found that there's a noticeable difference between dishes made with two layers of quarter-ounce material and one layer of half-ounce. You'd think the results would be the same, but there's a difference."

The firm, proud of its continuous research in agricultural implements, is the same way with its antennas. "We were one of the the first out with a four-foot dish, and we had them out before you could get strong-enough electronics for them. We have a six-footer that — given the same electronics — I'd stack up against anybody else's eight-footer," he adds.

But even with the best of antennas and electronics, a setup is only as good in the long run as its foundation. "We urge our customers to set a ground level antenna in a full cubic yard of concrete, with about half a foot of soil above it," Ramon notes. "I stole an idea from the Illinois Department of Transportation," he continues, "and we welded up a 'cage' that goes down into the concrete and has four bolts sticking out. We mount them just like IDOT mounts their highway signs. The bolts leave a little room for adjustment, just in case the foundation settles a little, but it makes a good solid mount."

The firm makes a point of providing high-quality tracking hardware, too, with bearings instead of bushings. "We found out that there are a lot of 'stargazers,' or people who constantly browse through the available bands," Ramon says, "and they'll wear out bushings quickly, and that leads to pro-

blems. We try to think of all the things that can go wrong and build to avoid them."

Stam, on the agricultural side, has worked constantly to design better, longer-lasting knives that are easier to pull through a field, minimizing tractor wear and fuel consumption.

"We've provided fertilizer knives and experimental equipment to universities and farmers with the provision that they tell us — in some detail — exactly how they were used and how they performed. That way, we can make im-

**Ron Ramon shows the variety of fertilizer knives the company makes.**



provements as needed, Ramon adds.

He notes that there are many different ways fertilizer knives can be configured, and that farmers will often stop in and say, "I'd like a knife like this, but with that little fitting, and maybe with a little different shape here," and Stam will custom make it for him.

The employees of Stam are especially proud that the company's equipment is held in high esteem by others in the trade. "A lot of the ads you see in ag publications will note that a particular piece of hardware will fit Stam equipment," he says.

The company, he adds, pioneered the construction of the so-called gooseneck trailers, but no longer makes them because of the staggering cost of liability insurance.

Stam agricultural equipment, like the satellite dishes, is sold through numerous dealers, and that fact resulted in a pleasant coincidence for a nearby farmer. "We had a fairly specialized piece of equipment that's in big demand in California but not here," Ramon says, adding, "and a farmer from the St. Anne area came in one day. He said, 'Why, I have to order those out of California,' and I told him that we made them here and shipped them out west. We were able to save a little time and money."

**"We try to think of all the things that can go wrong and build to avoid them."**

# 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."

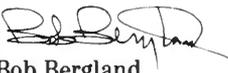
Without waiting to be asked, we'd all pitch in and do what we could to help. And we knew that if our family were ever in need, our neighbors would do the same for us.

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.

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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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	Under 60	60 & Over
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

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**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Last

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apt. No. City State Zip

**PHONE NO.** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **SEX** (check one) Male  Female

**DATE OF BIRTH** \_\_\_\_\_ **AGE** \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

<p><b>Choose the Plan You Want</b> (check one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual Plan 4      <input type="checkbox"/> All-Family Plan 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Husband-Wife Plan 3      <input type="checkbox"/> One-Parent Plan 2</p>	<p><b>Select Option You Prefer</b> (check one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>OPTION A</b>—Pays \$80 a day from very first day for sickness or accident.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>OPTION B</b>—Pays \$50 a day from very first day for sickness or accident.</p> <p>30123-405      30123-404</p>
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**Information About Your Spouse**  
(complete if you choose the Husband-Wife or All-Family Plan)

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial

**DATE of BIRTH** \_\_\_\_\_ **SEX** \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

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** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
Insured's Signature SIGN—DO NOT PRINT

# Heat stress: be aware of signs

It's a really hot day. The sun beats down. The road seems to be on fire. All you want to do is sit somewhere cool. And that's the best thing you could do, because heat stress can be a real danger to many people when a heat wave hits. Heat stress is caused by the body's inability to adjust to sudden increases in temperature, and the elderly are



especially vulnerable. It puts a dangerous strain in the heart and blood pressure, and can lead to heat exhaustion, heart failure, and stroke.

Signs of heat stress include the following: dizziness, rapid heartbeat, diarrhea, nausea, cramps, throbbing headache, dry skin (no sweating), chest pain, weakness, mental changes, breathing problems, and vomiting. If you experience any of them, call a doctor immediately.

Here are some ways to avoid heat stress by keeping cool:

Use air conditioners if you have them, or go someplace that does, such as a library, shopping mall, senior citizen center, or a movie theater.

If you don't have an air conditioner, use a fan to draw in cool air at night and to keep air moving during the day. While the air movement during the day may be hot, it will still help your body to keep cool by speeding up the rate perspiration evaporates.

Take cool baths or showers. They provide relief from heat because water removes extra body heat 25 times faster than cool air.

Wear light-weight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes, and wear hats or use umbrellas to keep out of the sun.

Drink more water during hot weather; don't wait until you are thirsty. (If you are under a doctor's care, check to see how much water you should be drinking.) Avoid alcohol; it acts as a diuretic, resulting in faster water loss. In addition, alcohol can promote a sense of well-being, making you less aware of the danger signs of heat stress.

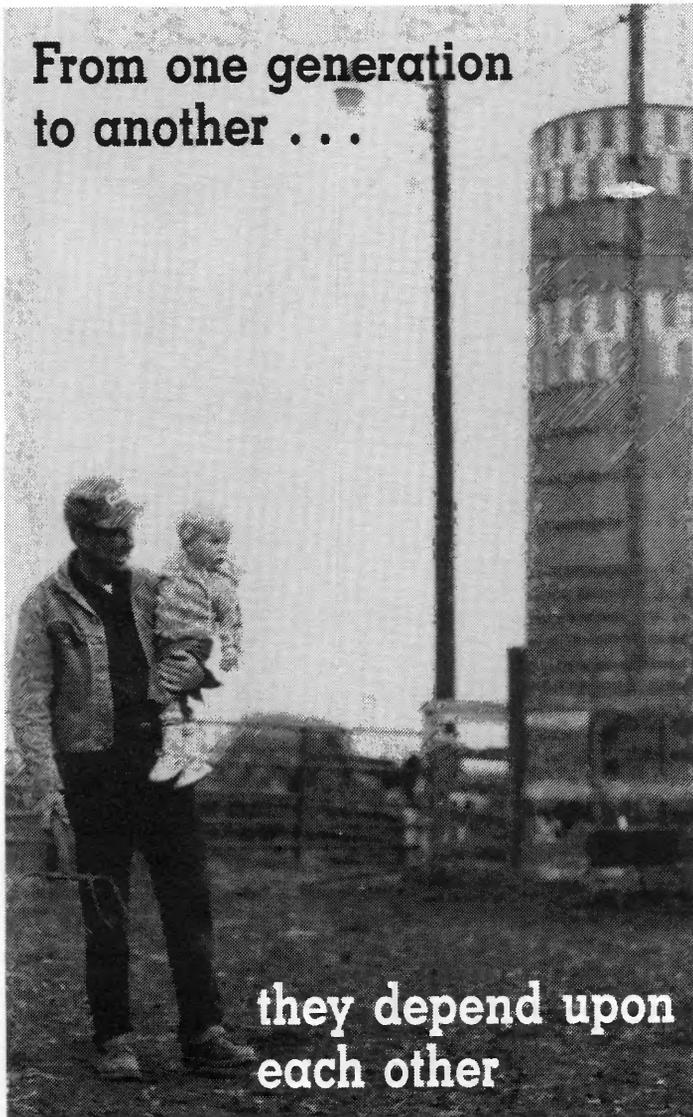
Avoid hot foods and heavy meals. Digesting them adds heat to your body.

Finally, curtail physical activity during extremely hot weather. Activity adds to heart strain.

To help you learn how to protect yourself, symptoms to watch for, and what the remedies are, the United States Office of Consumer Affairs has published a special report that describes the dangers not only of heat, but also of cold. For your free copy of *Hypothermia/Heat Stress*, send your name and address to Dept. 590R, Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

# Co-operation

From one generation  
to another . . .



they depend upon  
each other

Thousands of Illinois farms are family operations . . . passed on from generation to generation. They have changed with the times, yet they continue to cling to their rich traditions.

The electric cooperatives of Illinois, which provide service to more than 80 percent of the farmers in the Land of Lincoln, are very similar. Cooperatives from Little Egypt to the Galena Territory have rich histories of rural people working together to bring electricity to farms and homes off the main roads and beyond the towns.

Farmers like Lloyd Sugg have seen times change on the farm. Although they've farmed in good times and bad, most of the changes have improved the rural lifestyle.

In the next few years, farmers like Lloyd will turn

their farms over to sons and daughters . . . the next caretakers of the land. And in due time another generation, including Lloyd's grandson Timothy, will start all over again.

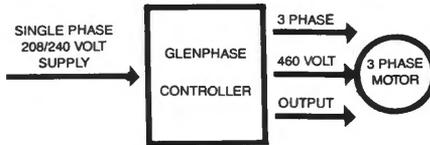
When Timothy gets older, he'll learn about cooperatives and cooperating . . . and if he follows in his grandad's footsteps, he'll be active in his electric cooperative, his energy partner on the farm. Cooperation does work — for people of all ages — they can depend upon it.



## *Electric Cooperatives of Illinois*

Good for ALL Illinois

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# MISSING



PAUL LEONARD BAKER

LAST SEEN: 3/5/87 EYES: Blue  
FROM: Beaufort, SC HEIGHT: 3'  
DOB: 6/29/83 WEIGHT: 39  
WHITE MALE HAIR: Blonde



MARLENA CHILDRESS

LAST SEEN: 4/16/87 EYES: Blue/hazel  
FROM: Union City, TN HEIGHT: 4'  
DOB: 2/17/83 WEIGHT: 38  
WHITE FEMALE HAIR: Light 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)

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-

Alert your child to the many tactics used by possible abductors to lure children away with them. Advise them how to respond in these situations. It is best to ignore these dangerous people.

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

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**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.

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Charge Customers call: 1-800-533-2225

## Rural oasis

(Continued from page 5)

course, on the Erb farm.

Nothing succeeds like success, and one of the best indicators the Erbs have had of their success is that people are copying them.

"Someone in the area took our pumpkin-painting idea. But that's all right, ideas are universal. It just gives an opportunity to be better," Vicki said.

It was partially farmers' inability to adapt to changing conditions and to innovate that got them into trouble, Ken believes.

"Farmers have also thought that bigger is better," Ken said. "We found just

the opposite. If I got bigger machinery and tried to farm more ground, I might make more money, but my expenses would be higher, too. It doesn't give you a bigger profit to have bigger stuff."

Vicki preaches the gospel of the power of positive thinking when she talks about farming and rural economic survival.

"Sometimes rural people think they don't have the skills to try something new, but they have as much, if not more, talent than most urban people do. It's ridiculous when farm people say, 'I'm stuck'. You're not stuck. You just have to open your thinking."

### LIFETIME TANK COATINGS

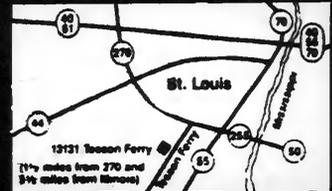
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## LIFT CHAIRS INCORPORATED

1701 East Cook, Springfield, IL 62703 - Dept. IRE 027



# Warm weather

## SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK

1 cup instant nonfat dry milk  
 2/3 cup sugar  
 1/3 cup boiling water  
 3 tablespoons melted margarine

Combine all ingredients in container of electric blender, process until smooth, store in refrigerator. Yield about 1 1/4 cups.

## HAMBURGER NOODLE CASSEROLE

2 tablespoons cooking oil  
 1 medium onion  
 1 bell pepper  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 Pepper to taste  
 1 lb. ground meat  
 8 oz. chopped ripe olives  
 1 1/2 cups tomato sauce  
 2 tablespoons catsup  
 1 5-oz. pkg. narrow flat noodles  
 1 lb. grated cheese

Cook onion and green pepper in oil about 2 minutes. Add hamburger meat and brown until meat turns gray. Add olives, tomato sauce, catsup, seasonings and cooked noodles. Put in casserole and bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes. Sprinkle grated cheese on top last 10 minutes of baking.

## RAISIN CREAM PIE

3 beaten eggs  
 1 cup sugar  
 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
 1/4 teaspoon salt  
 2 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice  
 2 tablespoons melted margarine  
 1 cup raisins  
 1/2 cup nuts  
 1 unbaked 8" pastry shell

Combine eggs, sugar, spices, salt and lemon juice and butter. Stir in raisins and nuts. Pour into pastry shell and bake 30 minutes at 375 degrees.

## LEMONADE PIE

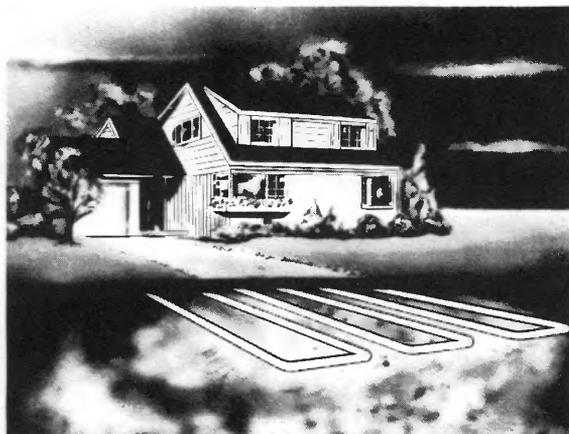
2 cups crushed graham crackers  
 1 stick margarine, melted  
 1 large container non-dairy whipped topping  
 1 can frozen lemonade  
 1 can sweetened condensed milk

Mix graham cracker crumbs and margarine together. Press into 13"x9" pan. Mix non-dairy whipped topping, sweetened condensed milk and thawed lemonade together. Add a few drops of red food coloring. Pour into crust and refrigerate.

# WaterFurnace<sup>TM</sup>

## SYSTEMS

Now you can get maximum comfort, energy and cost savings from a system designed to use natural energy from the earth. Regardless of the temperature above ground, the WaterFurnace System provides a highly efficient comfort zone from the inexhaustible source below the ground!



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**The Water Shop**  
**Humboldt (217) 856-2243**

## WHAT IS A WATERFURNACE SYSTEM?

WaterFurnace is the safest, most energy efficient, pollution free heating and cooling system available.

Basically it looks like a normal furnace, but that's where the similarity ends. Because it burns no fossil fuel, it emits no pollutants, thus, no chimney is required. Therefore it can be installed almost anywhere, in a basement, crawl space, attic or closet.

WaterFurnace is a complete home heating system.

In the summer, select the cooling mode on the thermostat and the WaterFurnace System is your complete home cooling center. WaterFurnace can also supply most of your domestic hot water requirements. Customers report savings up to 60% heating their homes. Cooling cost reductions of 50% are not uncommon.

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**Winters Energy Systems**  
**Downtown Alton (618) 463-7799**

For dealer in your area:  
 Contact WaterFurnace of Illinois, 1-800-367-4795  
 or your local electric cooperative

\* Trade Mark of Earth Systems Limited

# variety

## BEEF STROGANOFF

- |                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 5-oz. pkg. noodles               |
| 1 onion, chopped  | 1 can mushrooms (stems and pieces) |
| 1 qt. water       | 1 carton sour cream                |
| 4 bouillon cubes  | Grated cheese                      |

Brown beef and onion. Add water and bouillon cubes, bring to a boil, add noodles, cook until done. Add mushrooms and sour cream. Place in casserole, top with grated cheese and brown in oven.

## CHICKEN & RICE

Stew one hen, cool and dice. Take 1 quart broth, add 1 cup uncooked rice, 1 large onion (chopped), 2 small cans mushrooms, 1 chopped green pepper, 1 small can pimiento, 1 cup chopped almonds. Season to taste. Cook gently together, add chicken. Place in casserole, cover with bread crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees until brown.

## CHICKEN SPAGHETTI

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 large cooked hen and stock | 1 clove of garlic                |
| 4 large onions, chopped      | 4 tablespoons Lea & Perrin Sauce |
| 2 or more bell peppers       | 2 teaspoons salt                 |
| 3 large cans tomatoes        | 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper      |
| 2 cans (8 oz.) tomato paste  | 2 tablespoons powdered comina    |
| 8 stalks of celery           | 3 tablespoons chili powder       |
| 1 large can green peas       | 1 lb. American cheese            |
| 1 large can mushrooms        | 1 1/2 to 2 lbs. long spaghetti   |

Saute onions, celery, green peppers in bacon grease. Add tomatoes, that have been run thru sieve, tomato paste, about 1 1/2 quarts chicken stock, all seasonings and sauteed ingredients. Add boned cooked hen. Cook slowly for thirty minutes. Add peas, mushrooms and cooked spaghetti. Continue cooking for 1 hour or until spaghetti absorbs liquid in sauce. Serve with American and parmesan cheese.

## CHICKEN ITALIANO

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 8 oz. bottle Kraft's Creamy Italian Dressing | 1 teaspoon oregano, or more to suit taste                    |
| 1 pkg. onion soup mix                          | 1 2 1/2 to 3 lb. fryer, cut up (can also use chicken breast) |
| 1 4 oz. can mushrooms                          |  |
| 1 bay leaf                                     |  |

Combine creamy Italian dressing, onion soup mix, mushrooms, bay leaf and oregano and pour over chicken. Bake covered at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 10 minutes. Serve with egg noodles.

## GREEN ONIONS AND EGGS

Saute green onions (tops chopped up) in 1 tablespoon bacon grease and about 2 tablespoons of water until onions are tender and water is evaporated. Stir in two eggs and continue to stir until eggs are done. Salt and pepper to taste. Arrange onions on one end of a platter. Put thick slices of bacon on the other end. Really good with hot water cornbread.

## KING'S RANCH CHICKEN

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 (2 to 2 1/2 lb.) chicken, boiled and boned | 1 medium onion, sliced       |
| 1 pkg. corn tortillas                        | 1 medium bell pepper, sliced |
| 1 can cream of chicken soup                  | 1 stick oleo                 |
| 1 can cream of mushroom soup                 | 1 can Rotel tomatoes         |
|  | cheddar cheese               |

Soak tortillas in chicken broth and cover bottom and sides of 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking dish. Layer boned chicken over tortillas and cover with cream of mushroom soup and cream of chicken soup mixed. Saute bell pepper and onion in oleo and pour over soup. Pour Rotel tomatoes over pepper and onion. Grate cheese and cover the top of casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. This dish is HOT!

## NEW ORLEANS DRESSING

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup Durkee's mayonnaise       | 1 garlic clove, minced   |
| 2 tablespoons catsup            | 1 teaspoon salt          |
| 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce | 3 teaspoons curry powder |
| 2 tablespoons grated onion      | dash of tabasco sauce    |

Use as a dip for raw vegetables. Looks pretty with raw crispy vegetables on a party table. The taste is wonderful.

## SLAW

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 head cabbage grated     | 3/4 cup vinegar           |
| 1 large onion chopped     | 1/2 cup cooking oil       |
| 1 bell pepper sliced fine | 1 teaspoon salt           |
| 1 carrot grated fine      | 1/2 teaspoon mustard seed |
| 3/4 cup sugar             | 1/2 teaspoon celery seed  |

Pour sugar over first 4 ingredients and let set. Boil together vinegar, oil and salt. Add mustard and celery seed to the boiling mixture and pour over above while hot. Cool before refrigerating. Don't stir until ready to serve.

## VEGETABLE SALAD

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 can mixed vegetables (drained)        | 3 stalks celery (chopped) |
| 1 can long white shoe-peg corn (cut up) | 1/2 cup sugar             |
| 1 onion (chopped)                       | 1/4 cup salad oil         |
| 1 bell pepper (chopped)                 | 1/2 cup vinegar           |

Bring to a boil sugar, oil and vinegar. Pour over other ingredients mixed. Keep in refrigerator. Keeps well for about one week.



## FRUIT BOATS ARECIBO

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 1/2 cups water                      | 1 large fresh pineapple  |
| 2 tablespoons sugar                   | 8 cups assorted fresh fruits (strawberries, plums, peaches, oranges) |
| 2 lemon slices with skin              |  |
| 2 3-inch cinnamon sticks              |  |
| 1 1/4 cups coconut rum or apple cider |  |

In medium saucepan combine water, sugar, lemon slices and cinnamon sticks. Boil about 5 minutes or until liquid is reduced to 3/4 cup. Remove from heat. Cool to room temperature. Stir in coconut rum. Meanwhile prepare pineapple. Cut pineapple in half lengthwise. Cut pineapple meat out of both halves to make two shells; remove core and cut remaining pineapple into cubes. Cut assorted fruits into bite size pieces. Combine all fruits in a large bowl. Remove lemon slices and cinnamon sticks from syrup and pour over fruit. Chill at least 4 hours; stir occasionally. When ready to serve, spoon fruit and syrup into prepared pineapple shells. Yield: About 8 servings.

## BROCCOLI-RICE CASSEROLE

- |                                       |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 10-oz. pkg. frozen chopped broccoli | 1 10-oz. can cream of chicken soup |
| 3 cups cooked rice                    | 1 tablespoon salt                  |
| 1/2 cup milk                          | Dash of pepper                     |
| 1 cup grated cheese                   |                                    |

Cook broccoli; drain. Combine with remaining ingredients. Pour into 2-quart baking dish. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes. Yield: 8 servings.

## CHOCOLATE PIE

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 2 sqs. (2 oz.) unsweetened chocolate      | 3 eggs, separated          |
| 2 tablespoons butter                      | 3/4 teaspoon vanilla       |
| 1/3 cup flour                             | Baked 8-inch pie shell     |
| 1 cup sugar                               | 1/2 cup sugar for meringue |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt                         | Chopped nuts if desired    |
| 2 1/2 cups milk, heated to almost boiling |                            |

Melt chocolate and butter in top of double boiler. Mix flour, sugar and salt and stir into chocolate, mixing well. Add 1 cup of hot milk and stir until smooth. Add remaining milk and cook, stirring frequently until mixture is smooth and thickened. Beat egg yolks well; stir in a little of the chocolate mixture, then pour back into hot mixture and cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, add vanilla. Pour into cooled pie shell. Cool. Beat egg whites until stiff, then slowly beat in 1/2 cup sugar until thick and smooth. Pile lightly over pie filling. Sprinkle with chopped nuts if desired. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown. Cool on cake rack before cutting.

## COCONUT CREAM PIE

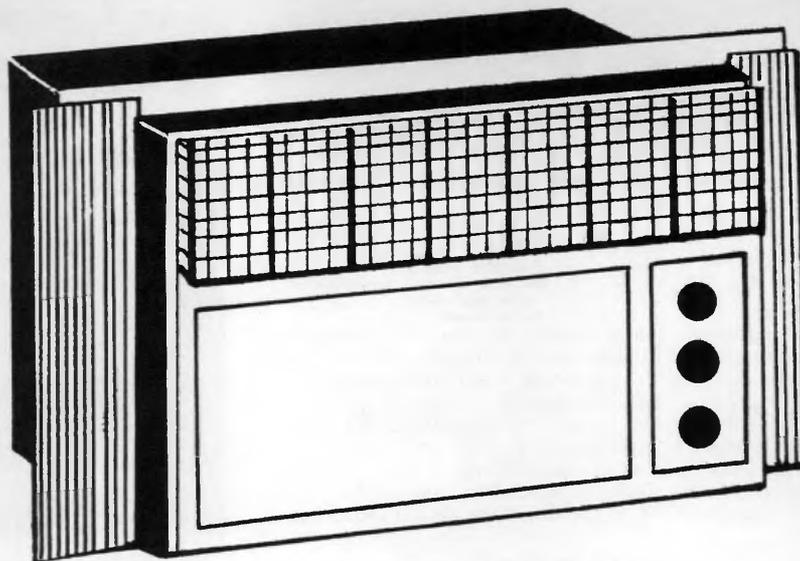
- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1/4 cup flour       | 1 cup coconut          |
| 1/2 cup sugar       | 2 tablespoons butter   |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt   | 1/2 teaspoon vanilla   |
| 1 1/2 cups hot milk | 1/3 cup sugar          |
| 3 eggs, separated   | Baked 8-inch pie shell |

Mix flour, 1/2 cup sugar and salt in top of double boiler; add 3/4 cup of the hot milk and stir until blended. Add remaining hot milk and cook until thick and smooth, stirring frequently. Beat egg yolks well; stir in a little of the hot mixture and pour back into other hot mixture; cook 2 minutes stirring constantly. Remove from heat, add butter and vanilla. Stir in 1/2 cup coconut. Beat egg whites until stiff and gradually beat in the 1/3 cup sugar until very thick and smooth. Fold 1/3 of meringue into pie filling and pour into pie shell. Top with remaining meringue, sprinkle with 1/2 cup coconut. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on cake rack before cutting.

## COCOA BROWNIES

- |                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3/4 cup flour     | 1/2 cup soft shortening     |
| 3/4 cup sugar     | 2 eggs                      |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt | 1 teaspoon vanilla          |
| 1/4 cup cocoa     | 1/3 to 1/2 cup chopped nuts |

Sift dry ingredients into mixing bowl. Add shortening, eggs and vanilla. Beat until well mixed. Add nuts. Bake in 8 x 8 pyrex dish at 325 degrees for 25 minutes.



## Getting the most from air conditioners

It is summer, with hot, steamy afternoons. Early summer's record heat in some parts of Illinois made us even more aware of the comforts an air-conditioning system could produce. The comfort we enjoy is produced by an appliance that if properly maintained can give us the satisfaction of comfort for many summers.

The maintenance begins with having a qualified air conditioner service person inspect your air conditioning system once a year. He will check the refrigerant, inspect and oil the fan, and make sure the unit is operating properly. This annual inspection could save you a trouble call on a hot, steamy afternoon.

Although your air conditioning system needs the annual check, there are numerous things you as the homeowner can do to ensure the system's maximum performance:

1. Clean or replace filters once a month. When the filter is dirty the fan must run longer to move the same amount of air, and this uses more electricity.

2. A thermostat setting of 78 degrees F. or higher is generally recommended. Each degree cooler than 78 degrees costs you about 3 percent more. If you plan to be out of the house most of the day, it is advisable to raise the setting considerably higher or turn the unit off completely.

3. Ducts in your air conditioning

system should be properly insulated, especially those that pass through attics or other uncooled areas. Return ducts should be insulated.

4. Keep doors and windows closed when cooling system is operating.

5. Keep the outside unit clear of shrubbery and grass.

6. The coils on the units should be vacuumed or washed with a mild detergent and flushed with fresh running water. Keeping coils dust free allows proper air flow across the coils for maximum efficiency.

7. Keep heat out of the house. Use drapes, blinds and curtains to shield out the sun. Plant trees and shrubs that will shade glass area from the sun.

8. Schedule the use of heat-producing appliances during the early morning or late evenings. Washing and drying clothes and cooking during cooler periods can reduce the air conditioning load.

9. Don't place lamps or TV sets near your air conditioning thermostat. Heat from these appliances is sensed by the thermostat and could cause the air conditioner to run longer.

10. Have your system serviced at least once a year.

Obviously, there are many factors that affect air conditioning, but its greatest influence is you, the member. Air conditioners create electrical demands that amount to millions of dollars annually. If we can prevent that demand from becoming critically high, we can help control future bills. Contact your electric cooperative about when its peak demand occurs.



4160:



407-



4051-

- 4160 is cut in sizes 14 1/2, 16 1/2, 18 1/2, 20 1/2.
- No. 407 is 16-inch cuddly bear made with plush and felt details.
- No. 4051 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.



4159:



7124-



4158:

- No. 4159 is cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20.
- No. 7124 is 12-inch country girl doll with clothes included.
- 4158 is cut in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46.



7407:



4117-



4157:

- No. 7407 is six motifs (2 of each) about 4 1/2 to 6" high by 10 to 14 1/2" across.
- No. 4117 is cut in sizes 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24. Size 12 takes 2 1/2 yards 60-inch fabric.
- No. 4157 is cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20.



701-



4162:



4022-

- No. 701 includes flowers, fruit, butterflies and a graceful swan. Instructions, transfers.
- 4162 is cut in sizes Small (8-10), Medium (12-14), Large (16-18), Extra Large (20-22).
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Members of the Illinois Youth to Washington group take time out from their whirlwind tour to have their picture taken with Senator Alan J. Dixon. While the photo has traditionally been taken on the Capitol steps, the area was sealed off this year, cleared for the eminent arrival of the President.

## A busy Youth Tour for

The 1987 Illinois "Youth to Washington" tour left Friday, June 19, for a week-long tour that also included a certain amount of the "hurry up and wait" that takes place when scheduling has to take heavy traffic and busy legislators into account.

The Illinois group, which was joined in Washington by delegations from Arizona, California and Montana, managed to visit what seemed a lifetime's worth of monuments, memorials, buildings and dignitaries during their week in the nation's capital.

Highlights included a stop at the Gettysburg Battlefield, Washington's home at Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, Ford's Theater, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the White House, Washington National Cathedral, the FBI building, the Capitol, Folger's Shakespeare Library, the U.S.

Supreme Court, The National Air and Space Museum and the Iwo Jima Parade and Pageant, where they were guests of Congressman Lane Evans of Rock Island, himself a former Marine.

The youths also toured the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson and Vietnam memorials. They visited the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), where Rural Electrification Administrator Harold V. Hunter spoke briefly. During their visit to the U.S. Supreme Court, the group met with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, whose visit was arranged by the Arizona delegation.

Later in the week the group stopped at the Royal



Eric Young of McLeansboro, a member of the Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative group, was elected to the NRECA Youth Consulting Board.



The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts was a popular point on the tour.



While the schedule was heavy and the pace hectic, there was always time for a picture with friends. Here, Cheryl Knolhoff, Rhonda Drum, Robyn Culberson and Lisa Foutch are pictured from left to right, while Joe Holevoet is in the background.

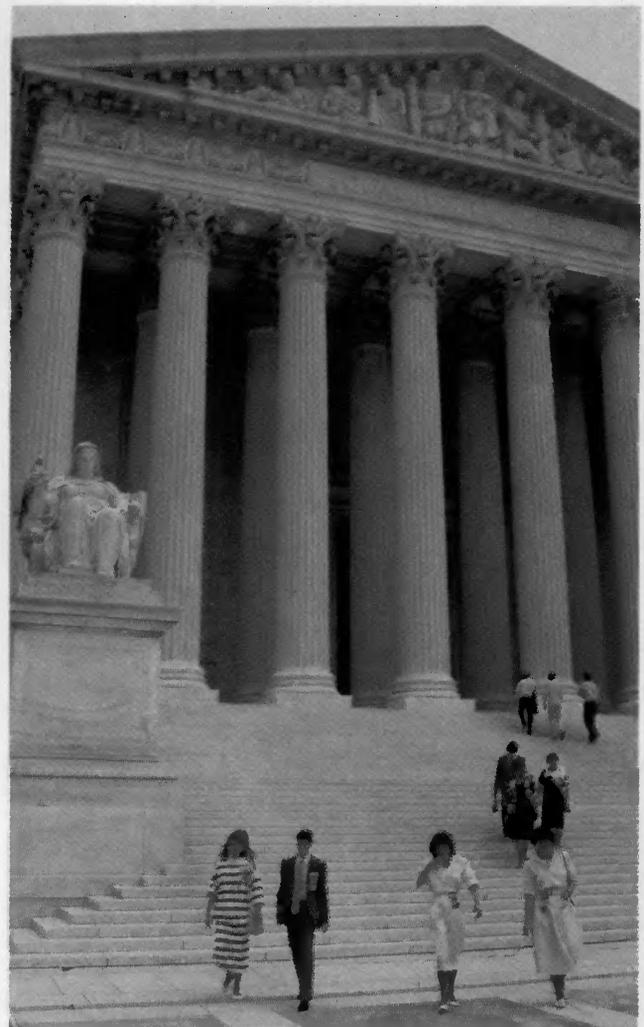
## participants

Saudi Arabian Embassy for a talk by Habib A. Shaheen, director of information, who hosted a dessert reception for them. In addition to citrus juices, they had an opportunity to try baklava, mamol and grae ba, all delicacies common in the Middle East.

While in Washington, the students were breakfast guests of Congressman Terry L. Bruce of Olney and his daughter Emily. The group also had their picture taken at the Capitol with Senator Alan Dixon.

During a "mock" annual meeting, Eric Young of McLeansboro was chosen to represent Illinois on the NRECA Youth Consulting Board. Shannon Marlar of Paxton was chosen to represent Illinois in "The Energy Battle," a game show held during NRECA Youth Day activities to test the student's knowledge of the rural electrification program and government.

July 1987



The Supreme Court building was one stop on the tour. While in Washington, the group got to visit with Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

# Illinois Marketplace

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2. Advertising copy must be in the Illinois Rural Electric News office no later than first of month preceding month of publication.
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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.

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An Amazing Value for Genuine Copper Bottom Cookware, Hard to Believe, but True.

(Atlanta, GA)

FC&A, a nearby Peachtree City, Georgia, company is "giving" away 16,200 ten-piece sets of famous copper bottom cookware in an advertising campaign to increase its customer list. The 5 small pieces are only \$1 per piece. The 5 large pieces are \$3 per piece.

These ten-piece sets are guaranteed to be available only to the first 16,200 people who write to the following address before midnight, August 31, 1987.

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

The 10-piece copper bottom cookware sets being offered are similar to those sets sold elsewhere at much higher prices. All pieces are stainless steel with copper bottoms and heat resistant handles.

Copper on the outside is wonderful for cookware. It's prized the world over.

Stainless steel on the inside helps keep food from sticking to the bottoms of pots and pans. The brilliant, scratch resistant stainless steel interiors are easy to clean.

Each 10-piece set contains:

large 5-1/2 quart dutch oven w/lid

large 2 quart sauce pan w/lid

large 10" skillet (uses oven lid)

1 quart sauce pan w/lid

5/8 quart sauce pan w/lid

8" skillet

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

### Lifetime Guarantee

Each 10-piece copper bottom cookware set weighs over 7 lbs. Its construction is so heavy and durable that we offer an unconditional lifetime money-back guarantee. If for any reason you are ever dissatisfied with the set, simply return it to us for a full refund with no questions asked.

### Sorry, Only 1 Set Per Customer

Because of the limited availability in this nationwide publicity campaign and our desire to obtain additional names for our customer list, only 1 set

may be purchased by each customer. Absolutely no exceptions will be permitted. Checks for more than 1 set will be returned to customers.

### Not Sold In Stores

This widely advertised famous copper bottom cookware set will not be sold by us in stores. Order now! Tear out this ad, and return it to the address below before midnight, August 31, 1987.

### Free With Order. Offer Expires Midnight, August 31, 1987

Don't wait past the expiration date. Order now! Tear out and return this publicity notice with your name and address and a check for \$19.95 plus \$6.00 heavyweight shipping and handling charge to our following address: FC&A, Dept. LIL-7, 103 Clover Green, Peachtree City, GA 30269.

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

Remember, satisfaction is guaranteed or your money back!

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