

Searls honored

See page 6

FFA's Mindy Elvidge

See page 20

Illinois Rural Electric News December 1990

RIEN



**'Festival
of Lights'
at Lake
Shelbyville**

see page 4

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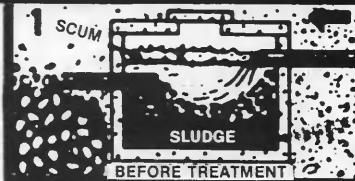
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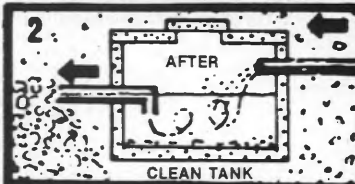
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DOB: 07/25/70

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EYES: Blue

HEIGHT: 6'3"

WEIGHT: 220

HAIR: Brown



ANDREW LEE BROWN

LAST SEEN: 07/24/87

FROM: Colquitt, GA

DOB: 01/04/86

BLACK MALE

EYES: Brown

HEIGHT: 2'

WEIGHT: 25

HAIR: Black

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-Safety Tip of the Month-

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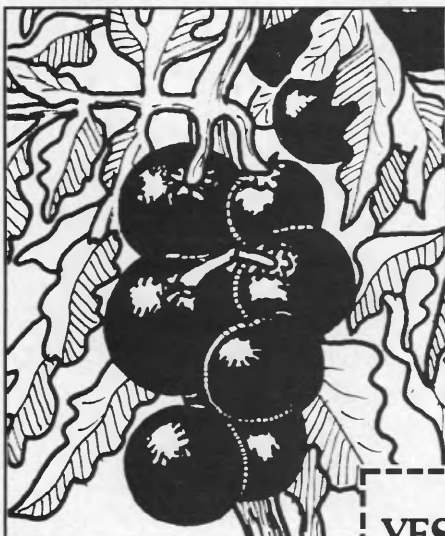
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Illinois Rural Electric News

Enough is enough

(Editor's note: The federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA) makes and guarantees loans to the nation's 1,000 rural electric cooperatives. Just prior to election day 1990, Congress agreed to slash those loan funds by 25 percent over five years. The following comments are by Bob Bergland, executive vice president and general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.)

The nation's rural electric cooperatives have evaluated the impact of the Budget Reconciliation act of 1990 on rural America and concluded that we must seek more adequate loan funds for rural electrification.

The rural electrification program, serving more than 25 million consumers in the most sparsely settled areas of 46 states, has already absorbed a 40 percent reduction in insured loan funds for the past eight years. Meanwhile, other segments of the electric utility industry have been left untouched.

To impose an additional cut of 25 percent on an already inadequate loan program is not fair.

Moreover, it can only result in increasing the backlog of loan applications growing ever higher at REA and contribute to the further deterioration of the rural economy.

The quality of life in the United States is going to depend in a large part on what it chooses to do with its rural area. The future ability of rural America to contribute to and participate in the nation's potential depends upon the strength of local, rural institutions. The modest loan levels we seek will make it possible for rural electric cooperatives to continue to provide high-quality, affordable electric service and local leadership in their areas, which make up three-quarters of the country's land area.

We feel that the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) can best serve the government's fiscal goals by working with Congress and the Administration to maintain the rural electrification program we have worked together to build.

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In this issue

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REN

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Cover: Elaborately designed and lighted archways are among the features of the "Festival of Lights" at Lake Shelbyville. Scores of displays and thousands of lights greet visitors to the drive-through exhibit. The festival continues through February 3. See article on pages 4 and 5.

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Elves make a chain to move packages into Santa's toy bag. While most exhibits are made of lights, this display is lighted by small floodlights in the foreground.

Lights of Christmas

The air is cold and crisp. Colorful skiers schuss down mountain slopes, as giant snowflakes fall. Snowmen dot the hillsides. These skiers and snowflakes are special: They're a part of the giant "Festival of Lights" display at Eagle Creek State Park on Lake Shelbyville.

The snow scene, or "Winter Wonderland," is made up of thousands of colored lights and is only a small part of the display, which wends its way down a three-mile road to the lake. There's a Victorian Village, a "Spirit of Christmas" area, and Toyland. Most are made up of thousands and thousands of light bulbs arranged on carefully shaped frameworks.

The extravaganza, sponsored

by several area businesses and associations, is scheduled to run through Sunday, February 3.

While the Festival of Lights is a good enough reason by itself to head for Lake Shelbyville, organizers hope visitors will linger in the area. Nearby towns and cities like Decatur and Shelbyville are making a special effort to "light up" a little more than usual, to make the trip more enjoyable. And, of course, they hope to convince people to spend some time in the area, perhaps to make a vacation or "mini-vacation" of the trip. Eagle Creek Resort, with a lodge and two restaurants, hopes some viewers to stay there.

Jim Coleman, manager of Shelby Electric Cooperative,

Shelbyville, says, "Lake Shelbyville is well known as a lake for all seasons, because there are a lot of things to do here the year around. We hope that while visitors are enjoying the light sculptures of the Festival of Lights, they'll enjoy the many winter activities that are available there, too." Shelby Electric serves the resort.

Festival of Lights activities kicked off at dusk November 10, when a large candy cane-shaped switch was thrown to send 210,000 watts of power through the miles of wire that connect the displays. Since there was such a tremendous amount of wiring involved, Shelby Electric was in the thick of things, getting the circuits ready to



A large jack-in-the-box greets visitors. It is lighted from within.



A snowman in Toyland waves a cheery Christmas greeting.

power the lights.

As the event began to come together, it began to look as though it might be "touch and go," as far as getting everything into place and tested before the throwing of the main switch. It was. Shelby crews worked late into the night on several occasions.

Burnett Harshman, a member of the Festival of Lights board and one of the event's sponsors, praised the crews for their unstinting efforts. "I was out there a lot when it was cold and damp and muddy, and they were there every time. We just can't say enough good things about their help and dedication," he said.

What they put such dedication into is an exhibit that will gladden the heart of any Christmas enthusiast and go a long way toward giving Christmas spirit to even the most hardcore "Scrooge." Entering the exhibit through a "covered bridge of lights," a driver comes first to

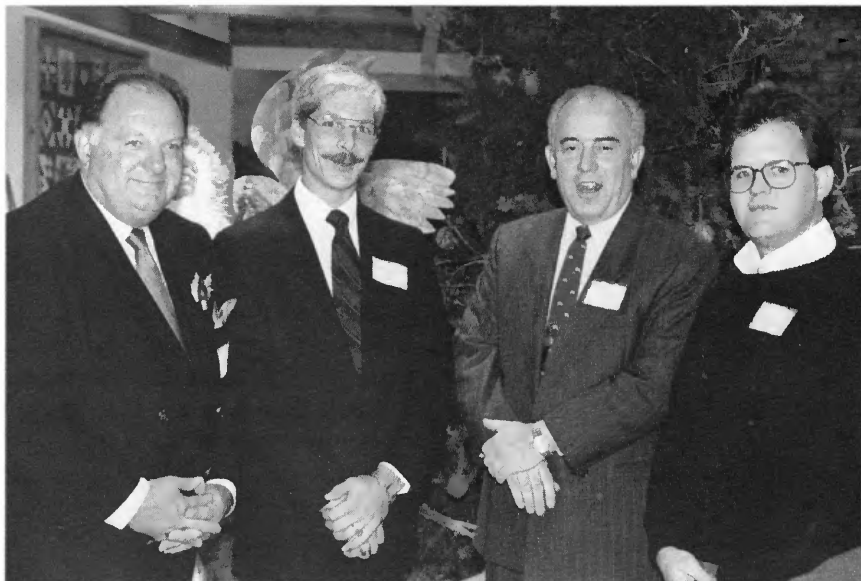
the Winter Wonderland area. With just a few yards to catch his breath, he's in the Victorian Village, with an old train, a railroad depot, the Shelby County Courthouse and Decatur's Transfer Building, all brilliantly recreated in colored lights.

There are other buildings, too, and carolers around them. And Christmas trees.

The next segment of the display gets to the heart of Christmas, and is the Spirit of Christmas area. Visitors arrive via an archway between rows of angels blowing horns, and are treated to the sight of a creche, camel caravans, more angels and Christmas and Chanukah greetings. There is a Star of David and a Menorah, in the midst of the other exhibits.

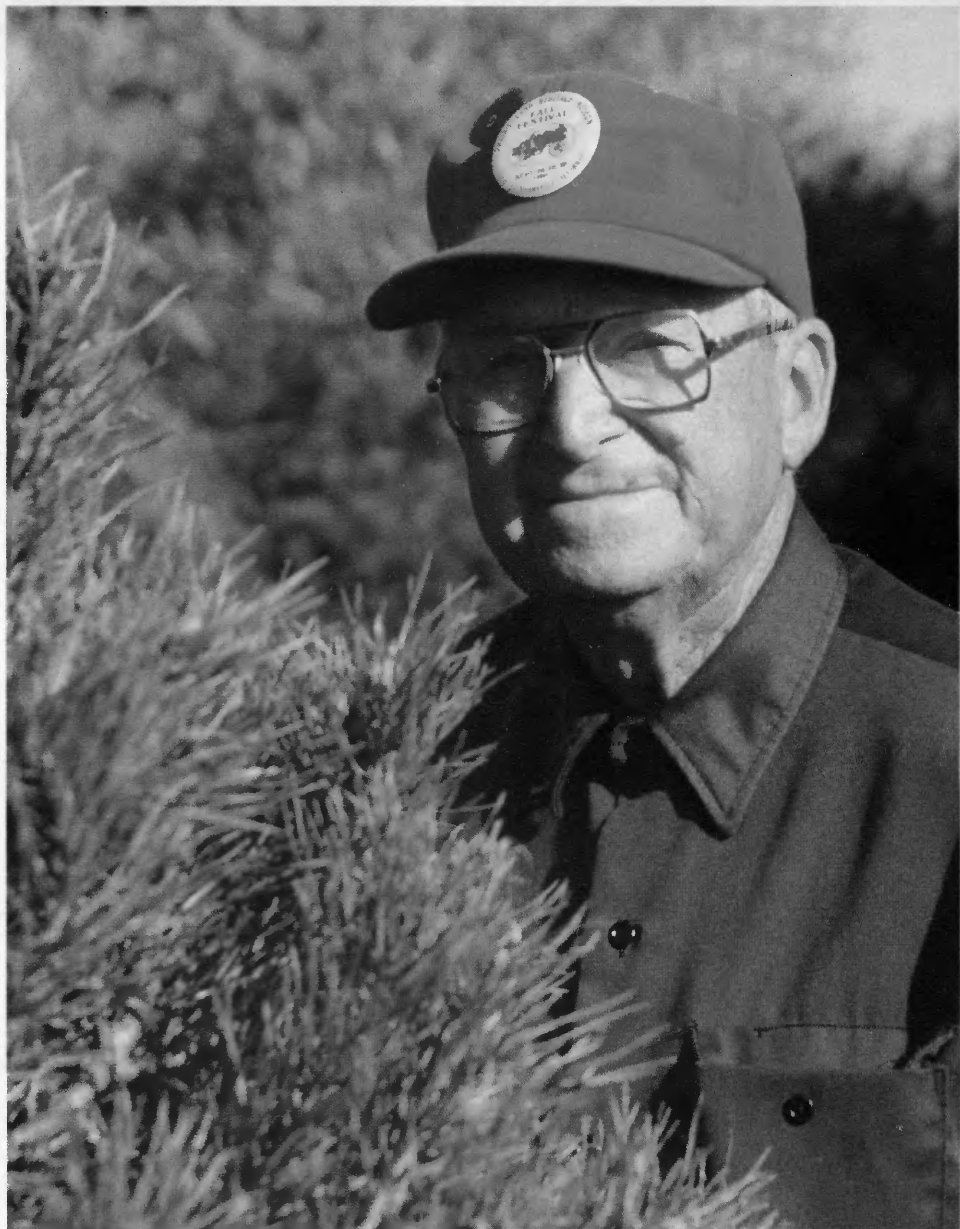
Like the other displays, Toyland is entered through yet another archway, this one decorated with lollipops and candy canes. There are toys everywhere: most differ from the other displays. Instead of being outlined in lights, many are "fleshed out," and lighted from within. There are hobby horses, snowmen, jack-in-the-boxes and all kinds of elves. At the end of the display, near the inn, there's a big Santa.

All in all, it's an impressive, well-thought-out exhibit, and worth a drive and the \$5 per car (buses are \$20) admission fee. Eagle Creek State Park is located just off Illinois Rt. 128, 21 miles southeast of Decatur, 40 miles southwest of Champaign and about 15 miles northeast of Shelbyville.



Some of those involved in the creation of the "Festival of Lights" are, from left, Ed Forester, James Bitzer, Burnett Harshman and James Coleman, manager of Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelbyville.

Dean Searls, now retired, keeps busy with his Christmas tree farm near his home.



Dean Searls: Co-op

Working a few years in the late 1930s for an investor-owned electric utility helped convince Dean Searls that the electric cooperative movement was right for him. His first job out of the college was with a utility that worked actively against the fledgling co-ops, who were struggling to electrify the countryside, largely neglected by the private electric companies.

"It didn't take me long to

realize that their view of rural electrification was quite a bit different from my own," Searl says with smiling understatement, "so I started applying at co-ops for a manger's job."

Searls, of Camp Point, who managed Adams Electrical Co-Operative for 40 years, is the recently honored "Co-op Manager of the Year," as selected by the Illinois Cooperative Coordinating Committee in

recognition of his leadership in several co-op endeavors.

Although it has been nearly a decade since he retired as manager of Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Searls was recognized not only for his stewardship of that cooperative, but also for his work as an interim manager for several electric cooperatives in this country as well as his help in assisting several foreign countries to establish

rural electrification programs.

Born and reared on a farm in Jersey County, Searls grew up without electricity, as did most other rural people of the day. He attended the University of Illinois and graduated in 1937 with a bachelor of science degree from the College of Agriculture.

He joined Adams in 1941, and while he was managing Adams Electrical, the co-op grew from eight employees to 48 and went from 671 miles of line to 2,000. Membership more than quadrupled, from 1,700 to 7,000.

While the co-op was growing, there was another rural problem that wasn't being addressed: telephone service. Searls was in the thick of things, promoting and helping in the organization of Adams Telephone Co-Operative, at Golden. He managed that co-op from 1954 to 1962 in addition to his duties at the electric cooperative. Later, he helped in the organization of a water cooperative.

During the late 1950s, several Western Illinois electric distribution cooperatives became concerned about the availability of power, and they set about or-

live about halfway between Camp Point and Golden in a white, colonial house with 18 acres of trees, a long, tree-lined driveway and a couple of small patches of cropland—usually planted in soybeans or wheat. There is an airstrip—1,500 feet of turf that Searls flies into and out of in his Cessna Skylane. The strip cuts a swath right down the middle of another Searls enterprise, a Christmas tree farm. He cuts and sells hundreds of trees every year. It is their third home in the area. They lived in Camp Point in the early years and raised a family that includes a son, Paul, who is a corporate pilot and lives in Rockford, and a daughter, Deanne, who farms near Golden with her husband, Kenneth Miller.

In addition to his work for Adams and WIPCO, Searls spent time in Guatemala, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea, helping those countries put rural electrification to work.

Some of his managerships, however, came after his "retirement." Some years ago, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) came up with the idea of maintaining a pool of retired managers to step in as interim managers as they became needed.

Such men, all with top-notch abilities, would be called in when a co-op suddenly found itself leaderless, for whatever reason. A seasoned, well-qualified temporary manager, NRECA figured, could take the helm on a day-to-day basis, taking some of the urgency out of the manager search, and offering the possibility of a careful selection of a new manager. Of some 20 or so positions filled in the last 15 years, Searls has been tapped for four, and worked in Kentucky, Louisiana, and Wisconsin before returning to WIPCO to manage

it as it merged with Soyland Power Cooperative, Decatur.

While a man who involved himself in so many activities would have to have a "good head of steam," he is working up steam in another way, too. His newest hobby is a two-ton steam



A steam tractor is one of Searls' latest acquisitions. He says it affords him many hours of enjoyment, as well as being useful for civic activities.

tractor, which is a five-eighths scale model of the real thing. Searls, who's been involved in civic activities for years, uses his steam engine for such worthy purposes, too, including several times to provide steam heat for ham-and-bean fund raisers.

He hasn't ruled out the possibility of getting back into harness. "Rural electrification has been my life's work and it's been good to me," he says. "If my health is good, and if I can be of help, I'll serve again."

'MVP'

ganizing a source of their own. Western Illinois Power Cooperative, or WIPCO, was the upshot of that venture, and Searls was on the board that founded the generation and transmission co-op and was named coordinator. He oversaw the construction of the Pearl Station, a coal-fired generating plant on the Illinois River near the town of Pearl in Pike County.

Searls and his wife, Frances,

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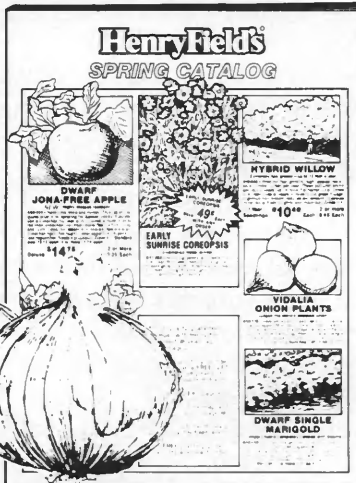
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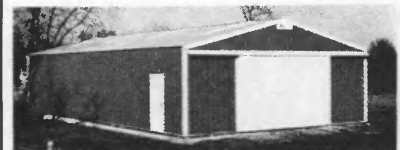
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BRIEFLY

News items of interest to members of Illinois electric cooperatives

Timmermann receives poultry industry honor



Timmermann

Richard S. Timmermann of Germantown, a director of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, is a recipient of the highest honor of the Illinois Poultry Industry Council. The Illinois Golden Feather Award was presented to Timmermann at the 11th Annual Illinois Poultry Seminar and Golden Feather Award Luncheon in Urbana in October. Timmermann was honored for his significant contributions and distinguished service to the Illinois poultry industry. A past president of the Illinois Poultry Industry Council, Timmermann has been active in the poultry industry for the past 30 years. In 1960, he started as a building firm salesman responsible for selling confinement poultry buildings. In 1967 he began employment with Southern Illinois Pullet Sales, Inc., in Germantown, of which he is now vice president and general manager. Timmermann has also served for six years as a member of the Illinois Egg Market Development Council and for the past 10 years has served on the board of directors of the Illinois Poultry Industry Council. During the past two years, he served as president of the Council. Timmermann and his wife, Anna Jean, have three sons: Rodney, 25; Brad, 24, and Dean, 16.

February 11 is date for Asparagus School

The 1991 Illinois Asparagus School is set for Monday, February 11, according to Carl Cantaluppi, horticulture adviser with the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service. It will be held in Moline at the Deere and Co. Administrative Center on Illinois Route 5 (John Deere Expressway). Registration is from 8-9 a.m. and pre-registration is required. The cost is \$10 per person, with an additional charge of \$7.50 per person for lunch, which is optional. This year's program will feature a "Back to the Basics" session for newcomers to the school, which will be held first thing in the morning to bring these people up to speed with the more experienced growers. The experienced growers can then come in after this session is over. For a copy of the program, pre-registration form, and a list of local motels in the Quad City area, contact Cantaluppi at Rock Island County Extension, 1188 John Deere Road, East Moline, IL 61244, or call (309) 796-0512.

Farmers pay more for fuel

Farmers are paying sharply higher prices for the fuel they need to run their machinery, the government says, reporting a 48-cents-a-gallon increase in diesel fuel since mid-summer. The higher fuel prices were a major factor in an overall 2.2 percent increase since July in the prices farmers and ranchers paid for material, services, interest, taxes and hired help. It was the largest quarterly increase since January 1982. U.S. Agriculture Department economists have estimated farmers would spend \$7.2 billion on gasoline, diesel fuel, LP gas and electricity in 1990, or about 6.2 percent of total cash production expenses. In a recent report, the department says farm energy costs could be 10 percent to 15 percent higher in 1991 because world oil prices increased after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Illinois electric cooperative seeks qualified applicants for manager position:

Electric distribution cooperative located in Central Illinois is seeking qualified applicants for the position of general manager. Present manager is retiring in early 1991. Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, located in Auburn, Illinois, serves approximately 4,800 members on 1,278 miles of power line. Cooperative is located in an agricultural community approximately 15 miles from

Springfield. Several colleges are located in area. Applicants should have proven management skills and the ability to work with a member-elected board of directors. Excellent fringe benefits. Send resume, salary history and three references before January 15, 1991, to Lynn B. Johnson, President, Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., R.R. 1, Box C77, Virden, Illinois 62690.



Energy & you

'Wise use' checklist

This is one in a series of articles relating to energy in general. The articles are prepared by the Rural Electric News Service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization of the nation's rural electric systems.

Just as you bundle your toddler up with extra layers before sending the child out to face winter's icy air, you can protect your home from cold-weather ills by adding a heavier coat of insulation, covering exposed windows and preparing the house for the year's chilliest months.

Aside from keeping your family warmer, you'll waste less energy and pay lower bills. Rural electric cooperatives offer "energy audits"—that is, a utility expert will come to your home and evaluate how wisely you use electricity. The auditor will provide some tips for low-cost or no-cost improvements.

You can save money and energy by using and maintaining your electric appliances properly. Here are some home conservation tips from rural electric cooperatives.

Check the ones that apply to you.

Do you:

___ Keep the lint filter on your clothes dryer clean? Poor drying performance usually can be traced to clogged lint filters and exhaust systems.

___ Wash clothes in cold water when appropriate?

___ Is your thermostat programmable; does it automatically shut off the heat/air conditioner after you leave for work and before bedtime?

___ Are your walls, ceilings, crawl

spaces and floors insulated? The better the insulation, the fewer drafts you will feel.

___ Are you a conservation-minded cook? You can save energy and money if you:

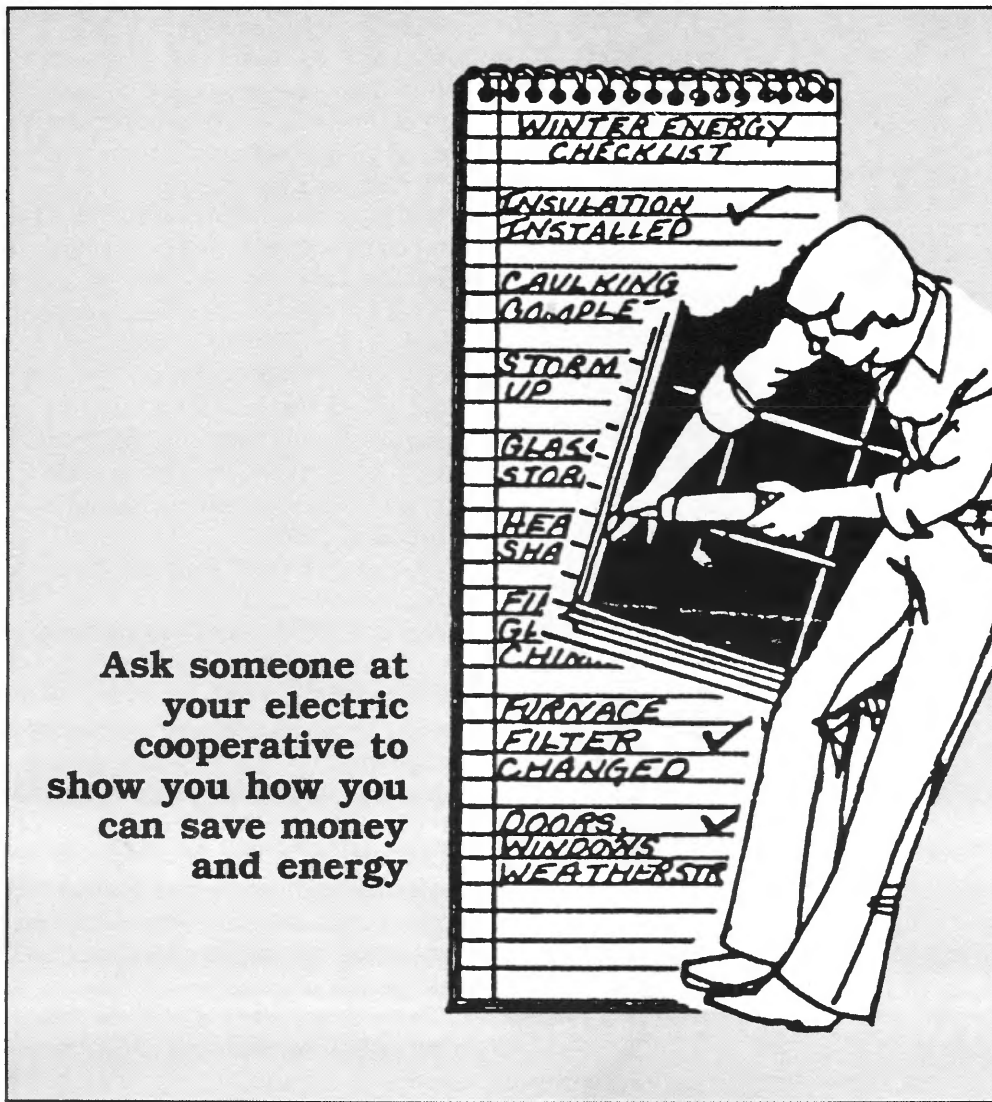
- Defrost foods before cooking.
- Keep the range exhaust filter clean.
- Never use the oven to heat the room.
- Preheat the oven only when necessary; it's usually not needed for roasting and broiling.
- Turn the oven off several minutes before the end of the cooking period and complete the cooking with retained heat.
- Avoid opening the oven door during cooking.

___ Have you tested your windows and doors for airtightness? Flick a cigarette lighter or move a lighted candle around the window frames. A flickering flame means there's a draft. Caulking or weatherstripping will eliminate it.

___ Are your fireplace dampers closed when not in use?

___ Can you lower the temperature on your hot water heater? Unless you have a dishwasher, a setting of 120 degrees is adequate for most families.

___ Hand-wash single laundry items?



Ask someone at your electric cooperative to show you how you can save money and energy

___ Run the clothes washer and dryer during "off-peak" times? (Check with your electric cooperative for the off-peak times.)

___ Keep the water in your water heater clean of sediment that can build up around the electric element and cause premature burn-out?

___ Turn the heat-air conditioning off in unused rooms and close those rooms off from the rest of the house?

___ Cover stovetop pans to boil water quicker?

___ Run only a full dishwasher?

___ Take showers rather than tub baths?

___ Turn off lights in unused rooms?

___ Keep lamps clean? Dirt absorbs light.

___ Turn off the TV, lights, radios and stereo when not in use?

___ Understand R-values? R-values measure insulation capa-

bility. The higher the R-value, the better insulator it is.

___ Use kitchen and bath ventilating fans sparingly? In just one hour, exhaust fans can empty a houseful of warm or cool air.

___ Wear warm clothing indoors in the winter?

___ Open the draperies on sunny days and close them at night?

___ Keep radiator surfaces dust-free?

___ Is your house equipped with an energy-efficient electric heat pump?

If you answered "yes" to all questions on the checklist, congratulations! You use electricity wisely. If you answered "no" to many of them, however, ask someone at your rural electric cooperative to show you how you can save money and energy by conserving right at home.



Your health



Proper diet, testing help prevent colon cancer

This is one in a series of articles prepared by the National Rural Health Network, a subsidiary of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Washington, D.C.-based organization for the nation's 1,000 consumer-owned rural electric utilities.

President Reagan made headlines when his doctors removed some cancerous growths called polyps from his colon. That cancer is cancer of the colon, or colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer is one of the most curable forms of cancer. Reagan was lucky that he discovered the disease early; doing so reduced his need for major surgery.

We can all learn from the former President's candor about a disease many are uncomfortable discussing.

There are two important things we can do to keep from falling prey to colorectal cancer: Have regular medical tests and eat a healthy diet.

For any cancer, early detection improves your chances of successfully fighting the disease. In order to detect the cancer, we need to know what to look for in our own bodies.

The eight "warning signs" of colorectal cancer are: change in bowel or bladder habits; irregular diarrhea or constipation; blood in the stool; general stomach discom-

fort, such as bloating or cramps; frequent gas pains; a feeling that the bowel doesn't empty completely; loss of weight with no known reason and constant fatigue.

If any of these symptoms lasts as long as two weeks, it is important to see a doctor.

There are three effective tests that can detect colorectal cancer simply, safely and with little discomfort. The stool blood test can be done in the privacy of your home; a digital rectal exam is performed by a doctor, and a "procto" exam is also done in a medical office.

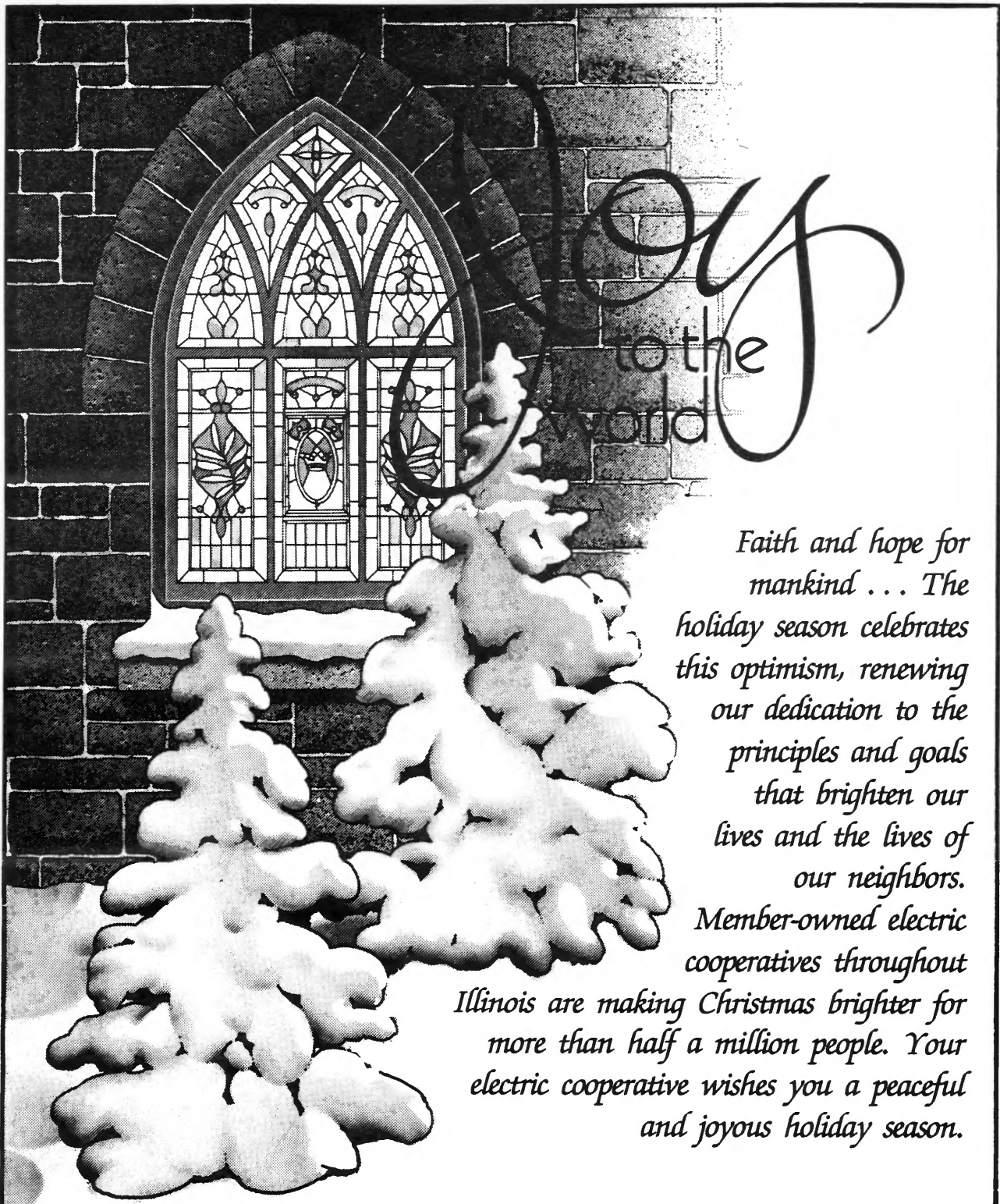
The American Cancer Society recommends that people over 40 have a digital rectal exam every year, and that those older than 50 have a stool blood test every year and a "procto" exam every three to five years.

Eating well can help prevent cancers. One of the most controllable factors in the development of colorectal cancer is diet and nutrition. A high-fat, low-fiber diet may contribute to the development of colorectal cancer.

To reduce your intake of fat, bake, broil or boil rather than frying; trim excess fat off meat; limit the use of butter, cream, salad dressing, margarine, shortening and oil; check the labels of prepared foods for their fat content, and use fewer oils and fats than called for in recipes.

Fiber and certain fruits and vegetables also may protect people from this cancer. Increase the fiber in your diet by eating more breads, cereals and pastas made from oat or wheat bran. Eat more kidney beans, peas, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, kale, carrots and Brussels sprouts. All fruits contain fiber. Enjoy fruits high in vitamin C, such as oranges and grapefruits, because they help protect you from cancer.

Don't immediately sacrifice all the foods you like to protect against cancer risks. It's easier to change your diet a little at a time, by choosing high-fiber foods and avoiding fats. Don't expect to change your diet overnight. Give yourself time, but make a commitment to a healthier diet.



Good
to the
world

*Faith and hope for
mankind . . . The
holiday season celebrates
this optimism, renewing
our dedication to the
principles and goals
that brighten our
lives and the lives of
our neighbors.
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Electric Cooperatives of Illinois



Good for ALL Illinois

Home energy decisions



“Gas—the better choice.”

“Heat your home electrically.”

Confused about what is the best home heating system? Is gas the better choice? Maybe. Is it better to heat your home electrically? Maybe. It depends. It depends on a lot of things such as personal preference, installation costs, availability of energy supplies, energy cost, health risks involved, etc.

But wouldn't it be nice to know if you are getting the best value for your heating dollars? Without considering the factors already mentioned, there is an easy method to determine what type of heating system is most economical.

It's called the “breakeven” equation, and it tells you the breakeven point of the price of one type of energy supply versus another. It does this by comparing the efficiency, British thermal unit (BTU) heat values, and price of energy of one heating system to another heating system. After calculating the breakeven price, you can easily determine whether you are getting the most heat for your dollar.

It's simple! If you are paying more than the breakeven price, the new energy system is the better buy. If you are paying less than the breakeven

price, your existing energy system is the better buy. Please note that this equation does not tell you how to conserve energy—it just compares one type of heating system to another under the same given conditions.

An easy way to understand how this equation works is to realize that a certain house is going to require the same amount of heat (BTUs) to keep it warm regardless of whether the heat is provided by electricity, gas, wood, or oil. This does not mean that weatherization, payback periods, or time value of money should not be considered when selecting a heating system. It simply means that at today's fuel prices and with your home's given conditions one type of heating system is more economical than another.

The equation is as follows:

$$\frac{[(\text{Existing energy}) S \times V] \times \text{Proposed energy price } (\$)}{[(\text{Proposed Energy}) S \times V]} \\ = \text{Breakeven price of existing energy}$$

The “S” and “V” stand for seasonal efficiency and heat value, respectively, and their corresponding values can be selected easily from the following tables. All you will need to know in order to work

Seasonal efficiencies (S)

Gas systems (natural gas, propane, butane)

Gas central furnace

1. 10 years or older .65
2. High efficiency .80
3. Very high efficiency .90 or use efficiency rating designated by manufacturer

Fuel oil systems .65

Electric systems

1. Baseboard heat 1.0
2. Ceiling cable 1.0
3. Electric furnace 1.0
4. Air to air heat pump 1.5
5. Geothermal heat pump 3.0

Coal/wood burner .50
Kerosene heater .95

Heat value per unit (V)

Natural gas	100,000	(BTU/therm)
Propane	92,000	(BTU/gal.)
Butane	100,000	(BTU/gal.)
Electricity	3,413	(BTU/kwh)

Fuel oil	138,000	(BTU/gal.)
Wood	20,000,000	(BTU/cord)
Kerosene	134,000	(BTU/gal.)
Coal	25,000,000	(BTU/ton)

the equation is the price of the proposed energy you are considering.

Example No. 1—Compare replacing a 15-year-old propane furnace with electric baseboard heating. The electric rates are at \$.08/kilowatt-hour.

Answer: If we go to the seasonal efficiency chart, we see that under gas systems a 15-year-old gas central furnace has an "S" value of .65, which is now substituted for existing energy "S." Using the same chart, we see that baseboard heat under electric systems has a "S" value of 1.0, which is now substituted for proposed energy "S." Now go to the heat value chart and find that propane shows 92,000 as the value for existing energy "V" and that electricity shows 3,413 as the value for proposed energy "V." We enter both in the equation along with the cost of electricity as \$.08 (always expressed as a dollar value). The finished equation and calculated answer now looks like:

$$\frac{.65 \times 92,000 \times \$.08}{1.0 \times 3,413} = \$1.40$$

Conclusion: If propane costs more than \$1.40/gallon, switching to electric baseboard heat and utilizing an electric rate of 8 cents per kilowatt-hour is the better buy.

Example No. 2—My electric cooperative is giving a 4 cent per kilowatt-hour incentive rate if I go to electric baseboard heating. Is this more economical than my 90 percent efficient propane furnace?

Answer: Using the equation and filling in the values, it becomes:

$$\frac{.90 \times 92,000 \times \$.04}{1.0 \times 3,413} = \$.97$$

Conclusion: If propane costs more than 97 cents/gallon, switching to electric baseboard heating and your cooperative's incentive rate becomes the better buy.

Example No. 3—I'm building a new house. I'm considering installing a 93 percent high-efficiency propane furnace or a geothermal heating and cooling system. Propane would cost 90 cents/gallon and electricity would cost 8 cents/kilowatt-hour. Which is the more economical system?

Answer: In this situation, there is not an existing or proposed energy system since neither have been in use. But that's OK. The answer may be calculated two different ways, and you will still come up with the same conclusion. Using propane as existing energy and electricity as proposed energy, the equation becomes:

$$\frac{.93 \times 92,000 \times .08}{3.0 \times 3,413} = \$.67/\text{gal.}$$

Or, using electricity as existing energy and propane as proposed energy, the equation becomes:

$$\frac{3.0 \times 3,413 \times .90}{.93 \times 92,000} = \$.11/\text{kilowatt-hour}$$

Conclusion: If propane costs more than 67 cents/gallon, the geothermal system is the better buy. Or if electricity costs more than 11 cents/kilowatt-hour, the propane heating system is the better buy.



5716: Beautifully understated. Pullover, short sleeve dress is straight, long sleeve dress has an elasticized waist and self-lie. Misses' Sizes. State N(10-12-14) or U(16-18-20) when ordering.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

SWEET DREAMS

5555: Soft, feminine and pretty. Robe and nightgown (sleeveless or long sleeved) for that special little girl in your life. Eight sizes are included in pattern, from 3 to 10 years.

4004: Delight a child with a wardrobe for her baby doll. Five outfits in pattern for 10" to 20" dolls. State doll's size (even sizes only).



ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY



5638: Put-togethers! Jumper can be made with or without button-on belt; pullover blouse has self bow. Misses' Sizes. State NN(10-12-14-16) or RR(14-16-18-20) when ordering.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY



5076: Accessorize your kitchen with a bounteous display of fabric vegetables! Fantasy mushrooms, an elegant eggplant, ripe red tomatoes and more. Printed pattern, directions included.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY



5090: Double the fun of decorating with handcrafted holiday accents. Place mats, bumper, basket, napkin ring and bottle cover make for the merriest of meals. Printed pattern, directions included.

5089: Capture the romance of a Victorian Christmas with exquisite crocheted decorations. Directions for tree ornaments, table settings, tree skirt, Afghan and wall hanging included.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

IN LARGE SIZES



5717: To belt or not, that's always the question with this dress. It wraps and is stitched down next to pockets. Misses' Sizes 18 to 26 are included in pattern.

5619: When you want to look terrific, reach for this slenderness chemise. Paneled dress has cap and three quarter sleeves. Misses' Sizes 18 to 26 are included in pattern.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY



5718: You'll work wardrobe wonders with this versatile trio: pull-on skirt, pullover top and unlined jacket. Misses' Sizes. State N(10-12-14) or U(16-18-20) when ordering.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

SWITCHABLES

8614: Top-pick for simply sensational styles. Three blouses: wrap, jewel neck and front placket (two sleeve lengths). Misses' Sizes. State N(10-12-14) or U(16-18-20) when ordering.

8504: Easy-going skirts. Five views in one pattern, all have partially elasticized waists. Misses' Waist Sizes 23" to 39" State A (all sizes included) when ordering.



ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY



5119: Precious puffy animals are made up of slightly stuffed circles. Use one solid and four print fabrics. Monkey measures 27". Non and hippo approx. 15". Directions, printed pattern included.

5118: Adorable early American doll creates the ideal home accent or gift for a special girl. Directions, printed pattern for 21" doll and eight piece wardrobe included.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

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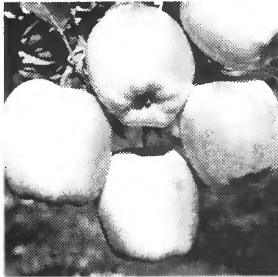
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Illinois Rural Electric News
P.O. Box 3787
Springfield, Ill. 62708

I have enclosed \$ _____ (\$4.00 per pattern — cash, check or money order accepted) for the following patterns (please allow four weeks for delivery):

Print Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

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

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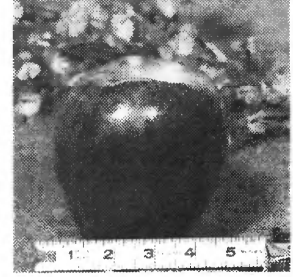
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2. Starkrimson® Red Delicious - The best selection of the world's favorite apple!



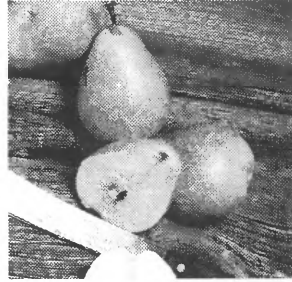
3. Starkspur® Granny Smith - Fast becoming an American favorite!



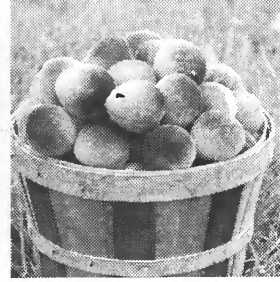
4. Stark® Jumbo™ Apple - Now in Guinness Book of World Records-the LARGEST apple!



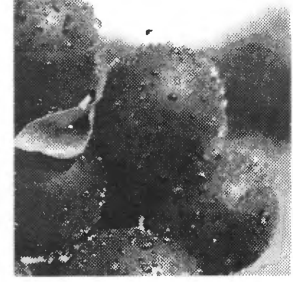
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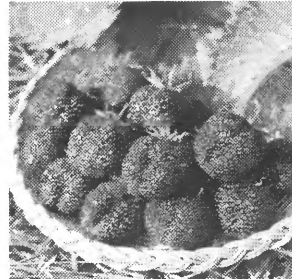
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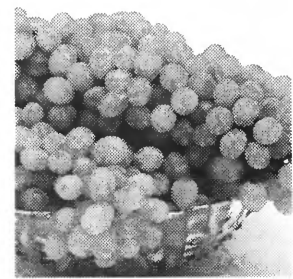
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FRENCH TOAST AU FROMAGE WITH SAUCE MIMOSA

- | | |
|--|---|
| 8 slices (1½-inches thick) French or Italian bread | 1 pkg. (7½ oz.) farmer cheese (about 1¾ cups) |
| 3 large eggs | 3 tablespoons honey |
| ½ cup milk | 1 tablespoon grated orange peel |
| ½ cup orange juice | 3 tablespoons butter or margarine |
| | Confectioners' sugar |

Make horizontal pocket in each bread slice; set aside. Beat egg with milk and orange juice; pour into large shallow dish. In small bowl blend cheese, honey and orange peel. Spoon filling evenly into pockets in bread; press pocket gently to enclose filling. Place bread in egg mixture, soak 15 minutes. Turn; soak 15 minutes longer. In medium skillet melt butter; fry bread slices about 3 minutes per side, until golden brown. Remove to paper towel to drain. Arrange on serving platter; sprinkle with confectioners' sugar. Serve hot with Sauce Mimosa*. Yield: 4 servings.

*SAUCE MIMOSA

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 cup orange juice | 2 tablespoons honey |
| 1 tablespoon cornstarch | 1 orange, peeled and sectioned |
| ½ cup dry champagne or white wine | ½ cup sliced strawberries |

In medium saucepan whisk juice and cornstarch until blended. Stir in champagne; place over medium high heat. Stir constantly until sauce thickens and boils; boil 1 minute. Remove from heat, stir in honey, orange sections and strawberries. Serve warm. Yield: 1¾ cups.

ORANGE RASPBERRY FLIPS

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 can frozen concentrated orange juice, thawed, undiluted | ¼ cup heavy cream |
| 1 cup chilled club soda | ¼ cup seedless raspberry preserves |
| | 2 cups ice cubes |

In container of electric blender combine concentrated orange juice, club soda, cream and preserves; cover; process until blended. Add ice; process until crushed. Yield: 4 servings.

ORANGE-GLAZED SAUSAGES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 lb. sweet Italian link sausages | 1 cup green pepper strips, (half a pepper) |
| ¼ cup water | 1 cup red bell pepper strips (half a pepper) |
| 1 can (6 oz.) frozen concentrated orange juice, thawed, undiluted | |
| 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley | |

In a medium skillet over low heat, cook sausages 20 minutes, until well-browned and cooked through. Drain off fat. Return to medium heat; stir in water, scraping up browned bits from bottom of skillet. Stir in concentrated orange juice and pepper strips. Cook 5 minutes, stirring frequently, until sausages are glazed. Turn into serving dish. Sprinkle with parsley. Serve warm. Yield: 4 to 6 servings.

ORANGE SCONES

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 2 cups all-purpose flour | ¾ cup sour cream |
| ¼ cup sugar | ½ cup butter or margarine chilled, cut in small pieces |
| 2 teaspoons baking powder | 6 tablespoons (half of a 6-ounce can) frozen concentrated orange juice, thawed, undiluted |
| 1 teaspoon baking soda | |
| ½ teaspoon salt | |
| 1 large egg | |

In large bowl combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cut in butter with pastry blender or two knives, until mixture resembles coarse cornmeal. In a small bowl beat sour cream, egg and 4 tablespoons concentrate until blended. Add to flour mixture; stir just until a soft dough forms. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface; knead several times. Divide dough in half. Pat half the dough into a 6" circle. Cut in 6 wedges. Repeat with remaining dough. Place wedges 1" apart on greased baking sheet. Brunch tops with remaining 2 tablespoons concentrated orange juice. Bake in a preheated 425 degree oven 11 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove to rack; serve warm. Yield: 12 scones.

FRIENDSHIP TEA MIX

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 (18 oz.) jar orange-flavored instant breakfast drink | 1 (3 oz.) pkg. apricot-flavored gelatin |
| 1 cup sugar | 2½ teaspoons ground cinnamon |
| ½ cup pre-sweetened lemonade mix | 1 teaspoon ground cloves |
| ½ cup instant tea | Boiling water |

Combine first 7 ingredients in a large bowl, stirring well. Store mix in an air-tight container. To serve, place 1½ tablespoons mix in a cup. Add 1 cup boiling water and stir well. Yield: about 50 servings.

CRISPIX PARTY MIX

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 tablespoons margarine or butter | 6 cups Crispix cereal |
| 1 teaspoon seasoned salt | 1 cup pretzels |
| 2 teaspoons lemon juice | 1 cup salted mixed nuts |
| 4 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce | |

Melt margarine in 13 x 9 x 2-inch pan in oven 250 degrees. Remove from oven. Stir in seasoned salt, lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce. Add cereal, pretzels and nuts, stirring until coated. Bake at 250 degrees for 45 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes. Spread on absorbent paper to cool. Yield: 8 cups.



CRANBERRY CREAM SALAD

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 2 (3 oz.) pkgs. cherry gelatin | ½ cup diced celery |
| 1½ cups boiling water | ¼ cup chopped nuts |
| 1 (16 oz.) can jellied cranberry sauce | 1 cup sour cream |
| 1 peeled chopped tart apple | |

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Cool and refrigerate until slightly thickened. Break up cranberry sauce and add to gelatin. Add celery and nuts and apple, fold in sour cream. Place in mold or a pretty bowl and refrigerate until ready to serve.

LEMONADE FRUIT SALAD

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained | 1 (14 oz.) can Eagle Brand canned milk |
| 1 cup sliced peaches | 1 (12 oz.) carton frozen whipped topping, thawed |
| 1 cup chopped pecans | 1 (3 oz.) can frozen pink lemonade, thawed |
| 1 (7 oz.) can coconut | |

Mix pineapple, peaches and pecans with coconut in small bowl. Blend milk, whipped topping and lemonade in another bowl with electric mixer. Stir all ingredients together in large bowl and set in refrigerator to chill. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

GREEK SALAD

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 2½ cups cooked rice | 1 (7 oz.) can tiny shrimp, drained |
| 1 green pepper, chopped | 3 green onions with tops, chopped |
| 1 cup sliced green olives | 1 cup mayonnaise |
| ½ head cauliflower, cut into small flowers | 1 tablespoon salt |
| | ½ tablespoon black pepper |

Mix all ingredients in order listed, in a large bowl. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving (longer if possible). Will keep refrigerated for up to 1 week.

SOUR CREAM NUTS

1/2 cup sour cream
1 1/2 cups sugar
Combine sour cream and sugar in large saucepan. Cook over medium heat until mixture reaches 223 degrees on candy thermometer, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in vanilla and nuts, stir rapidly until mixture has coated nuts, spread on lightly buttered waxed paper. Separate nuts, cool thoroughly. Store in air-tight container. Will keep for 3 to 4 months.

CHAMPAGNE SHERBET

4 eggs, beaten
3 cups sugar
2 tablespoons flour
1 (4 oz.) pkg. vanilla junket ice cream powder
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
13 oz. pecans or walnuts
1 quart milk
1 bottle extra dry champagne
Ginger ale
Red food coloring

Mix eggs, sugar, flour, ice cream powder and milk in top of a double boiler. Place over boiling water and cook and stir until mixture begins to thicken and coats a spoon. Chill. Pour into freezer container, add champagne and enough ginger ale to reach the fill line on freezer can. Stir in red food coloring until desired pink color is reached. Freeze as directed by ice cream churn manufacturer. Yield: 1 gallon.

CHOCOLATE CREAM PIE

3 eggs
3/4 cup sugar
3 tablespoons cocoa
Mix sugar, flour and cocoa. Add enough water to dissolve. Add slightly beaten egg yolks. Save whites for meringue. Add cup of milk and cook over open fire until thick. Pour into 9" baked crust and cover with meringue.

MARY'S RESURRECTION CAKE

1 white cake mix
1 large carton sour cream
1 container Cool-Whip
1 pkg. frozen coconut (flake works but not as well)

Prepare cake according to package directions. Pour into 3 prepared round cake pans. Do not let cake brown. Cool. Combine sour cream and coconut to spread between layers. Save 1 cup mixture for icing. ICING: Combine mixture with Cool-Whip and ice cake. Cover and let set in refrigerator for 3 days.

CRUNCH PUNCH

3 pkgs. any flavor Jello
2 46-oz. cans pineapple juice
4 quarts ginger ale, or 7-Up
4 cups sugar
16 oz. bottle lemon juice
4 1/2-gallon milk cartons

Dissolve Jello in 9 cups boiling water. Then dissolve sugar in 4 cups of boiling water. Add sugar mixture in Jello mixture and cool. Add lemon and pineapple juice and freeze in milk cartons. Take as much as needed out of freezer and add 1 quart of ginger ale or 7-Up for each milk carton. You need to freeze for about 36 hours before serving.

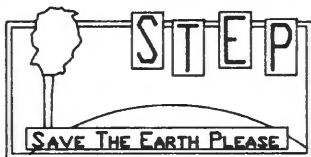
HAY STACK CANDY

1 small can chow mein noodles
1 cup cashew nuts
6 oz. pkg. butterscotch chips
Melt butterscotch chips. Stir in noodles and nuts. Drop by spoonfuls on wax paper. Let cool.

CUCUMBER DIP

2 large raw cucumbers, if fresh do not peel
1 small onion, grated
Salt and pepper to taste
1 carton sour cream
2 tablespoons of mayonnaise
1/4 teaspoon seasoned salt

Grate and drain cucumbers well on a towel. I press out all juices. Mix onion, salt and pepper, sour cream, mayonnaise and seasoned salt well. This is good on hot dogs, hamburgers, or as a dip.



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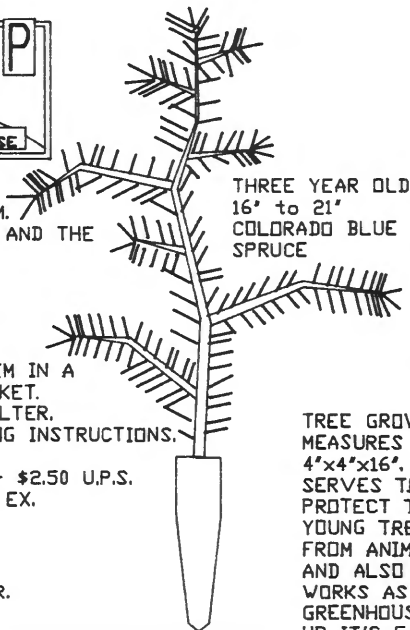
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Mindy Elvidge of Farmersville is the first female elected to lead the Illinois FFA organization.



Mindy Elvidge has a “tough row to hoe.” Instead of letting that bother her, though, she’s using the knowledge to enable her to work harder. She hopes to arrest the long-term slide in FFA membership and agriculture class offerings that has taken place over the last couple of decades.

Mindy, who’s 19, is the first woman Illinois FFA State president. She is the daughter of Larry and Janet Elvidge of rural Farmersville, who receive electric service from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., or RECC, Auburn. She’s a member of the Lincolnwood FFA chapter at Raymond and has been in the organization for six years. FFA, which was called the “Future Farmers of America” from its founding in 1928 until a couple of years ago, began calling itself FFA in recognition of the fact that many of its members will be in agriculture without necessarily being involved directly in production agriculture.

As president, Mindy will travel about 45-50,000 miles this year, explaining the FFA program to thousands of young people throughout the state.

Some of her presentations have been in Chicago, which has made for some amusing misunderstandings, she notes. “FFA is doing pretty well in the Chicago area,” she says, “because there are opportunities there for nursery production and other classes that don’t depend on row cropping or livestock production.

“What’s funny is when I go there and talk to kids, many of them think anything south of

Kankakee is at the end of the world, and they think the name ‘Farmersville’ is a gimmick. When I tell them that’s really the name of my home town, they’re really surprised. A lot of kids think it’s a lot like Mayberry, the little town in the old Andy Griffith series.”

She notes that she often receives sincere sympathy for having grown up “in a place like that,” and politely but firmly explains that she doesn’t have any sympathy coming.

“I’ve done quite a bit of traveling,” she says, “and I’ve seen what a lot of schools have to offer. I realize that mine offered quite a bit. I don’t feel at all deprived because I grew up in a small town and went to a small school.”

At any rate, while she knows that her job is going to be a tough one, she knows things are getting a little better. “Nationally,” she says, “FFA membership has steadied after many years of decreasing. Illinois is still slipping, but not nearly as badly as it did in the past. We hope to stabilize fairly soon, at about 11,300 or so members.”

Mindy notes that part of the problem stems from the fact that many school districts are dropping the program, some for budgetary reasons and others because they don’t perceive a need for more agriculturists at a time when the farm population makes up about 2 percent of the population—and is still shrinking.

“The name Future Farmers of America kind of got in the way sometimes,” she says, “because schools know that the farm population is de-

Mindy Elvidge takes the FFA story on the road

creasing and they don't really know that there's far more to the program than just turning out row crop or livestock producers."

She does know, and she learned firsthand. Her great grandfather, Ellsworth Lyman, was an early RECC member, and the family has been in a general farming operation for many years. Her supervised agricultural experience program consisted of nursery operations, fruit and vegetable production and ag sales and service.

Vocational agriculture, or vo-ag, was originally designed to meet the training and educational needs of farm boys and was at one time a heavily attended class, with over half a million youngsters enrolled nationwide by the late 1970s. Young women, who at that time were expected to become farm wives, were excluded until 1969.

As farm numbers declined and as future farmers became fewer, the organization set out to change to reflect the shifting nature of modern agriculture.

"Now," Mindy says, "there's a lot more emphasis on other kinds of agriculture, and there's the realization that many of those interested in agribusiness will never be directly involved in production agriculture. And there's also the realization that there are many more kinds of production agriculture, too. Now you see hydroponics and aquaculture and subjects you hardly even heard of 15 or 20 years ago.

"And," she continues, "we're putting some new emphasis on science skills. We hope to increase

high school enrollment by getting the classes accepted as science credits when the students need them for college."

One of the hurdles the FFA faces now, she laments, is the fact that high school students taking college prep courses have a limited number of elective courses to take, and if something doesn't fit in the needed curriculum, it gets dropped. Increasingly, it has been vo-ag that has fallen by the wayside.

"Agriculture is already treated as a science class in some Illinois high schools," she says, "and we're working hard to get other schools to accept it, too. It seems reasonable—we cover science in soils, chemicals, and plant science, and a lot of our kids are really heavily into computers and related technology."

While agriculture is an important part of FFA, Mindy points out that there's far more than that, including public speaking and hands-on experience. "Leadership skills are an important part of the program, too," she adds.

Mindy, who would normally be deeply involved in college work now, says she stayed out of school for two years to do an effective FFA job. "I know people will kid me about being a 20-year-old freshman," she laughs, "but I can handle it, and I knew the university wasn't going to go anywhere."

She plans to attend the University of Illinois and major in agriculture education and agriculture communications.

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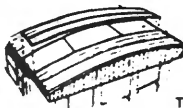
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