

Live line lesson

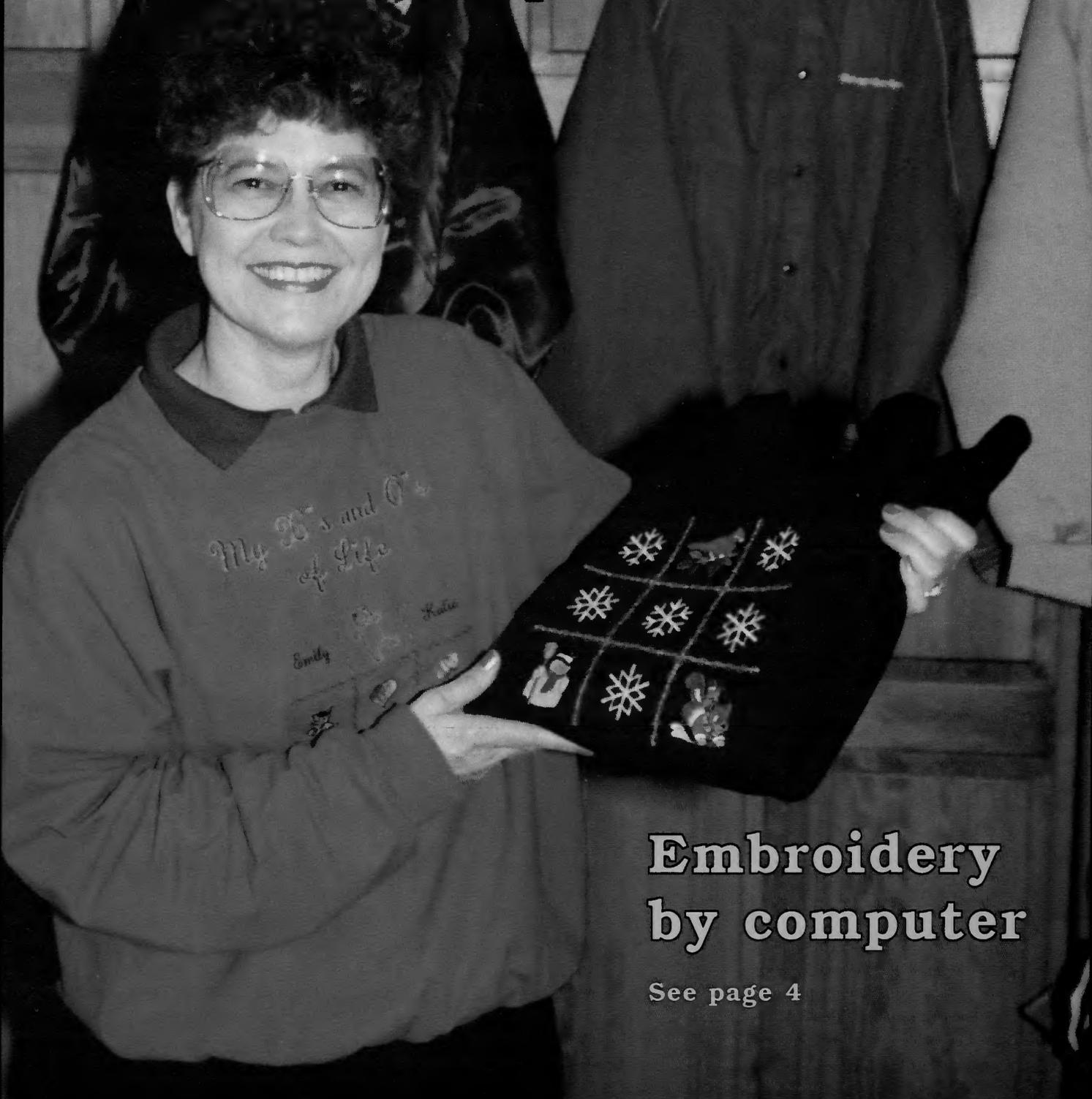
See page 6

Rural TV

See page 16

Illinois Rural Electric News December 1991

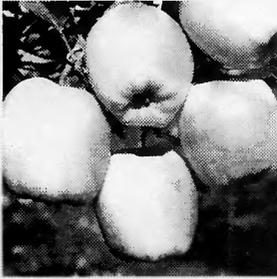
IREN



**Embroidery
by computer**

See page 4

Stark Bro's FREE Catalog



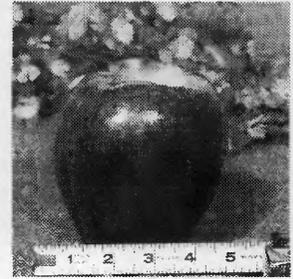
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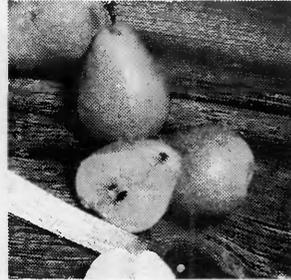
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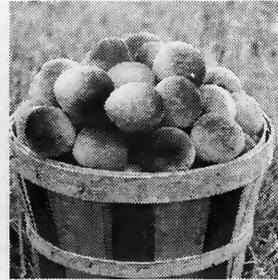
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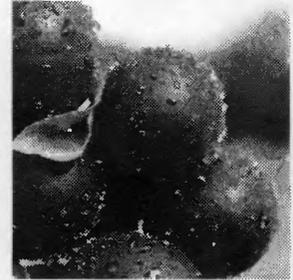
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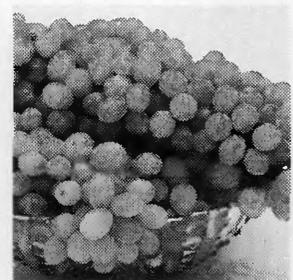
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The common thread

The headline on a front-page story in the Sunday, December 1, issue of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reads: "Sowing Optimism: New Ideas Sprout in Rural Towns." The article deals with the economic and community development efforts of the I-70 Growth Association, an affiliation of communities along almost 100 miles of Interstate 70 in Illinois.

This group is another in a growing number of highly motivated organizations dedicated to improving economic conditions in rural Illinois. These organizations are diverse in their makeup, but there is a common thread running through many of them: the electric cooperative that serves in the area. In this particular article, the contributions of Southwestern Electric Cooperative are prominently mentioned.

This is one of the many examples of the involvement the electric cooperatives consider to be a tradition of their 50-plus years of serving rural Illinois. In Illinois, and nationwide, the rural electrification program is considered to be the outstanding example of what a government-people partnership can do. Rural electrification was rural economic development in the early years of the program, and that responsibility continues today.

The electric cooperatives of Illinois, during the annual meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in August, reaffirmed their commitment to rural economic and community development. Here is a portion of a resolution

adopted during that meeting:

"We believe that the electric cooperatives, others in the private sector and government should do all they can, working together in a spirit of cooperation, to create a positive, healthy climate for business and industry and promote growth throughout all rural areas of the state.

"We urge the electric cooperatives in Illinois to become aggressively involved in comprehensive rural area economic development programs that will enhance the quality of life of all citizens and result in strengthening the economic growth of the rural areas of our state through the expansion and development of small businesses. We support the activities of "Rural Partners," a coalition of private and public bodies formed to promote rural community development. We encourage the electric cooperatives in Illinois to join and participate in "Rural Partners," development corridors, growth associations and similar groups which work to bring economic progress and community improvement to small towns and rural areas in Illinois.

"We support and encourage activities by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives to coordinate rural development efforts of its member-systems, to support and participate in rural development efforts with its member-cooperatives and to serve as a liaison with state and federal agencies on all rural community development and jobs creation programs."

December 1991

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REN

Illinois Rural Electric News

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**Member of the
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Cover: Linda Coles shows off one of her family's products, specially embroidered sweaters with seasonal designs. The Coles family stays busy with its varied embroidery and advertising specialty business near Donovan. See article on pages 4 & 5.

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Computerized embroidery

Electronic sewing devices suit this family business

Linda and Tony Coles have a business that keeps them in stitches—literally. The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative members operate a machine embroidery business out of their home near Donovan (Iroquois County).

Actually, the embroidery business is just the latest addition to the Koala Bear Embroidery & Ad Specialties, a venture they've operated out of their home since 1986. In addition, Tony has a computer consulting and accounting business he runs from the home. The "Koala Bear" name, incidentally, comes from the fact that Tony is from Australia, and the family lived there for five years.

"We got into computer-controlled embroidery for several reasons," says Linda, a former nurse. "Every once in a while somebody would come in with an order and we'd have to farm it out. I wasn't always sure I'd get the quality I want to see going out of my shop, and sometimes I wasn't too happy with the turnaround time."

So she decided to take control of those variables by adding a couple of high-speed embroidery machines—actually computers with sewing heads—to her equipment roster.

"The demand for embroidery seems to be growing all over the country," she says, "and that was part of the reason I decided to go ahead. For a long time the business seemed to be slow, but it's taken off now."

At any rate, the addition of the machines seemed to mesh well with the rest of the advertising specialties business. "We've been selling mugs, portfolios, watches, calendars, belt buckles—essentially anything imprintable—for several years," Linda says, "and this was just a logical next step."



The Coles children (clockwise from left front): Emily, Michelle, Chad, and Katie.



Linda and Tony with some of the many products they offer.

The machine is set up so she can slip in different circuit boards, each with its own type style, so the customer can get just about any kind of lettering he or she wants. Other functions—particularly drawings—are fed into the machine via 3½-inch diskettes. The two heads on the machine each have six needles, per-

mitting the execution of some very colorful designs.

"Many of our customers are corporate accounts," she says, "and we use their logos on jackets or caps or whatever. We have a lot of in-stock art, too. That way, if somebody wants an Angus steer or a school bus, for example, and their business name on garments, we can provide it."

"We can do several different things with the letters, too. We can make them short and wide or tall and narrow, or run them straight across the back, or in an arc. We can make them outlines, or outline them in one color and fill them in with another, or we can put a 'shadow' behind them. We can do just about anything a customer might want."

She notes that Koala Bear can work with customers, either for silk screening or embroidery, to finalize the artwork to their mutual satisfaction.



A stack of Christmas sweatshirts piles up at one of the embroidery machines. The computer-controlled, multi-head sewing machines can produce attractive multi-colored items quickly.

"We bought a piece of equipment that enables us to trace art work from a line drawing onto a computer disk," Linda says, "and our son, Chad, who's 17, pretty well handles that end of the business. He's both artistic and computer oriented, but it still surprised us that he's mastered the skills so well in so short a time."

She notes that one daughter, Michelle, 18, helped with the billing

and record keeping before going to the University of Illinois, and that their younger daughters, Katie, 10, and Emily, 8, do various chores when they can. While Linda's tending to the rest of the business, Pam Lefave does most of the actual embroidery work.

"While embroidery is the latest addition to the things we can do, it's just a part of the business," Linda stresses. "We don't do silk screening

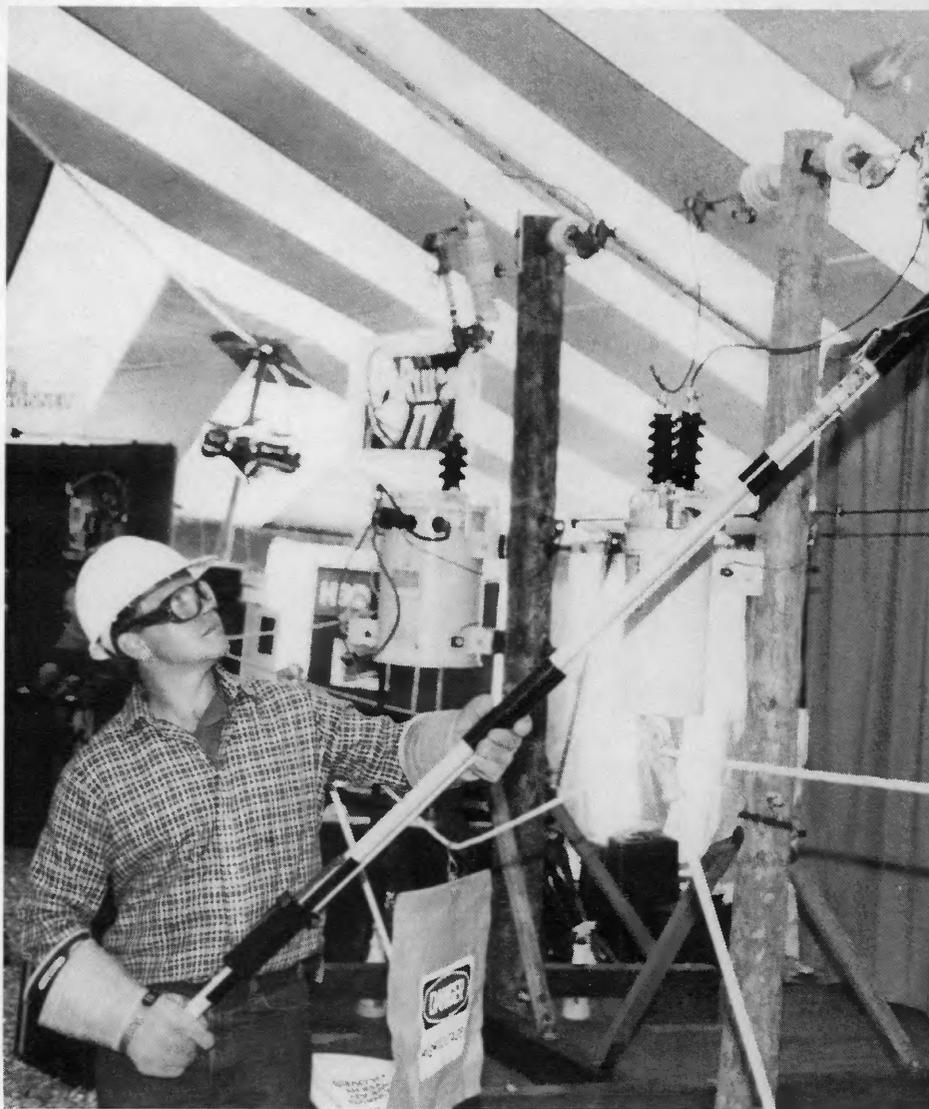
here, but we do a lot of the pre-production work, and deal with really good screen printers. A lot of our business involves silk screening on polo shirts, sweat shirts, caps and things like that. Actually, the embroidery helps us serve as a full service, high quality source of ad specialties, which is exactly what we want to be."

They can be reached by calling (815) 486-7224.

There's a shocking exhibit that travels around Illinois, and one of its reasons for being is to teach people how not to get shocked. It also explains why there are momentary interruptions, or blinks, in their service, and what causes many of the outages they experience. Owned by the Illinois Farm Electrification Council (IFEC), the display is primarily maintained by Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative (EIEC), Paxton.

"It's mainly a safety thing," notes Steve Hancock, manager of member and public relations for Eastern Illini, "and we hoped that by building and operating it, we could help keep injuries to a minimum and keep liability insurance costs within reason."

One of the main things the display emphasizes is that the power lines that go down nearly every roadside out in the country are not insulated, and that they carry a potentially lethal



Live line exhibit teaches

7,200 volts. The main thrust of the exhibit is that untrained people should stay completely away from such current.

Hancock notes that the idea for the "road show" came up after a brainstorming session involving Wm. David Champion, Jr., EIEC manager; Paul Marriman, wholesale energy representative for Illinois Power Company; and Paul Benson, executive director of the IFEC. The three men knew something was needed in Illinois, and also knew that such an exhibit had been used successfully in Indiana for some time. After a

quick trip to Indiana to see that one in action, they decided to propose a similar one for use in this state.

The idea was quickly accepted, and EIEC employees quickly assembled the unit, which is essentially a short section of line containing some of the equipment that likely would be included in a mile or so of line that an electric co-op might have.

"We wanted something that could be stored and carried in a trailer," Hancock says, "and that could be handled fairly easily. We also wanted some-

thing that didn't cost a great deal. We took a lot of the everyday hardware from EIEC's inventory, and it could be put back, if necessary, so the rig didn't really cost a great deal.

"What we felt was really important was that we could make it portable enough that we could go just about anywhere, and educate just about everybody, about safety and system reliability."

So far, the rig is well on its way to doing just that.

When the show is "booked," Hancock and Jerry Haile, EIEC member services representative,



Jerry Haile, member services representative for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, works the display, showing that mylar balloons will conduct electricity. Note that he wears goggles, gloves, a hard hat and is using a special "hot stick," all of which are essential when working with high voltage.

hitch up the trailer and head out. Pat Gallahue, member and public relations representative, often goes, too. He usually keeps watch on the display, while Hancock and Haile make the presentations. Since there is some high voltage involved, the exhibit is usually backed up to a wall, and someone keeps watch at each end to make sure nobody wanders into an unsafe area. Setup and testing usually take up about an hour and a half.

Then the fun begins. Usually suited up in protective gear and using a microphone, Hancock explains carefully what is about to happen, and Haile does the actual work, using a "hot stick," an insulated tool extension that enables him to work with such voltages without danger.

After stressing to his audience that electricity is always trying to find a way to ground and that humans are highly conductive, Hancock uses ordinary hot dogs to make a point early in the demonstration: Flesh conducts electricity very well. He puts a hot dog on each end of a piece of wire and uses the combination to prove that electricity will flow, by keeping a light burning, with its electricity flowing through a wire and hot dogs.

"When you see men working on electrical lines," he tells his audiences, "you can't tell whether the lines are 'hot' or not, but you should know two things: The men are specially trained, and they're using special equipment. People without special training and special equipment shouldn't be near those lines."

He goes on to show what happens when a wet string gets into a high-voltage line (it often catches fire). Damp sticks and

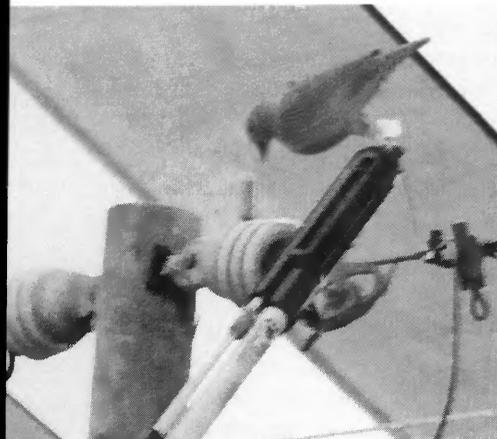
mylar balloons are shown to be conductive, too. Hancock stresses that a person happening on an accident situation where somebody's into an electric line should go for professional help, rather than trying to provide assistance themselves. "Then there'll be two injured or electrocuted people to deal with," he says.

The live line demonstration also explains some of the basics of electricity distribution. Many members are unaware that, when the wind is blowing and their lights blink, the system is working as it was designed to. He deliberately moves a conductor into a line, creating a fault, and the audience is able to see the lights in a little house blink. "The system is set up so if a limb blows into a line, an oil circuit recloser, or OCR, senses the fault and tries to clear it—causing a blink. After three tries, the OCR shuts down the line, and a crew has to go out and find the fault, take care of it, and reset the recloser.

Hancock reports that the display has been well-received every time he's had it on the road. "We took it down to Waterloo for a school demonstration," he says, "and we did six shows in one day. The kids loved it. We took it down to Champaign for a Kiwanis meeting, and they loved it, too. One man said their attendance was up about 40 percent that day, and we heard later that it was one of the best meetings they'd ever had."

It is, most observers agree, a graphic, hard-hitting exhibit. "For us," Hancock says, "it's been a real winner. We think it's going a long way to make the electrical systems safer for everyone."

safety



The exhibit points out that birds are usually safe as long as they touch only one wire, but they often die when they touch two wires simultaneously.

BRIEFLY

News items of interest to members of Illinois electric cooperatives

Illinois' first all-geothermal subdivision

An entire subdivision with homes heated and cooled through the underground geothermal system, Hidden Cove, a 31-acre subdivision with 25 lots, is being developed south of Quincy. Developer and builder Matt Holtmeyer has pledged all of the homes to geothermal heating and cooling—the water source heat pump. "I'm committed to geothermal because it's the most efficient heating and cooling system available," Holtmeyer says. "When the homeowner has lower utility bills, that adds value to the homes I build." The concept of an all-geothermal subdivision is new to Illinois. Assisting in the development of Hidden Cove Subdivision are Applied Energy Systems (WaterFurnace of Illinois) and Adams Electrical Co-Operative.

Lieutenant Governor at Rural Partners meeting

A Rural Partners informational meeting November 6 at Ford County Courthouse in Paxton featured Lieutenant Governor Bob Kustra. The meeting was held partly to enable the Ford County Rural Partners group to give a progress report to the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor was traveling up Route 1 to witness firsthand the economic conditions in rural Illinois by talking to local people along the way. Steve Hancock, manager of member and public relations for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative and chairman of the Ford County Rural Partners coordinators, gave Kustra a brief overview of the group's progress. Wm. David Champion, Jr., EIEC general manager and a member of the Ford County Rural Partners program advisory committee, also attended the meeting. Kustra emphasized that if there was one thing his travels up Route 1 showed him, it was the diversity of the needs that the different towns have, and the wealth of talent that exists in rural Illinois. "I've been to towns where they've gotten their act together and have gotten educated and organized, and they've done tremendous things. I've also seen places where they just aren't there yet, but I think they're getting there."

Lake Shelbyville Festival of Lights

If the holidays seem twice as bright this year, it's because the Lake Shelbyville Festival of Lights doubled the amount of lights used this year in the three-mile stretch of winter joy in Eagle Creek State Park near Findlay. More than 250,000 lights now sparkle for visitors as they tour through the festival's six theme areas. Shelby Electric Cooperative provides electric service to the festival. Especially impressive are the two new fantasy realms, the Victorian Gardens and the Winter Carnival. In the Victorian Gardens, two white swans flap their wings as they seemingly glide across a pond of blue lights. In the Winter Carnival, a Ferris wheel and a roller coaster greet visitors, while a spectacular merry-go-round using the colors of the rainbow lures make-believe riders. The festival is open every night through February 2, 1992, from dusk until 9 p.m., except on Fridays and Saturdays when the festival closes at 10 p.m. Admission to the festival is \$5 per car except on "Children's Thursdays," which are days with special donation admissions that benefit children's groups. For Lake Shelbyville Festival of Lights information, please call 1-800-8SHELBY (1-800-874-3529).

Not enough water

A four-year drought that withered the seven states of the Missouri Basin appears to have abated this year, but observers caution that it will take at least that long to recharge the region's reservoir levels and hydropower capacity. "The situation will be severe for about five years," said NRECA chief engineer Ron Greenhalgh. "This is just the first year in the last six where there's been close to normal runoff. You can say it's over, but that doesn't mean they're out of the woods." As of mid-summer, the Army Corps of Engineers showed that water levels in the three biggest Missouri River reservoirs had risen nine to 12 feet since last winter, thanks to more plentiful rains and snowmelts in May and June. But pool levels were still below normal, the Corps

said, and soil moisture remained low in many parts of the basin, particularly North Dakota. Prolonged precipitation loss in the region imposed hardships on farming, power, recreation and tourism industries, with upper basin states—Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas—hit hardest. Drought conditions closed lake resorts, killed crops and hurt fish spawns.

Gas gets a boost

Last year's amendments to the Clean Air Act will make natural gas an increasingly popular power-plant fuel in the years to come, but coal will continue to generate more than half the nation's electricity, the government predicted. The Annual Outlook for U.S. Electric Power, released by the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration, said utilities will rely on scrubbers, fuel switching and emission allowances to meet the requirements of the new law. It forecasts a price increase of only one-tenth of a cent per kilowatt-hour by 2010, although the increase could be more than three times that in areas that burn large amounts of high-sulfur coal. Power producers—including non-utilities—are expected to build less coal-fired generating capacity in the next two decades, with the difference offset by an increase from plants fueled by natural gas. "The additions to gas-fired capacity will help put natural gas ahead of nuclear power as the second-largest contributor to electricity generation in the nation," the report concluded.

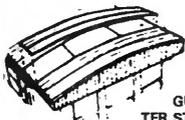
Manager's photograph earns top state honor

A photograph by William C. (Bill) Lemons, manager of McDonough Power Cooperative of Macomb, has been selected as the first place entry in the adult division of the "Scenes of Illinois" photo contest conducted by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office. The photograph, entitled "Blackeyed Susan Sunset," was picked from a large number of entries submitted by outstanding photographers from across Illinois. The photograph will be printed in the 1991-92 Illinois Blue Book, the 45th edition of the official state reference book. The photograph is on display in the Centennial Building in Springfield.

Buying, selling or trading?

Then you need to look through the Illinois Marketplace advertising section beginning on page 18.

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- Standing lockseam design on top of 2" polystyrene insulation form the energy efficient KEMCO ROOF-OVER System

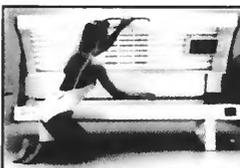
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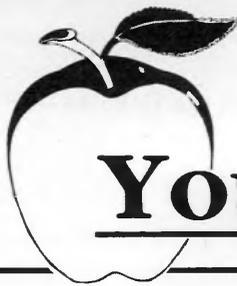
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Your health



Best answers to rural health care crisis are close to home

If your rural community may lose its hospital or even a doctor because not enough people are using them, it may be time to take some action.

The loss of vital health care services can hamper local growth—and health.

The decade-long struggle to keep local hospitals and other health-care services in rural America continues. One reason for the tenuous state of rural health care stands out above all others: Rural residents are looking outside of their communities for doctors, hospitals and mental health treatment because local services are inadequate.

The consequence is a loss of critical financial support for the hospitals, clinics and doctors that remain in small towns. When the local community does not use its

local services, it pinches already stressed hospital budgets, making it harder for them to afford necessary medical equipment and staff.

It takes strong community support to turn this kind of situation around.

When communities face the loss of a school or a church, they generally maintain a strong sense of responsibility. For many communities, there is a long history of effective local leadership to sustain and strengthen these important services.

But health care is different, although the reason isn't clear.

During much of the 1960s and '70s, most rural hospitals were fairly stable. People seemed more than content to leave the responsibility for local health care to their local health care providers.

Rural residents can take three important steps to save their local health care structure.

First, they must decide which health services the community really wants and can afford. Then, they should open lines of communication between patients and providers; without discussion and feedback, local doctors can neither change to meet local expectations nor be held accountable by local residents for not doing so. Third, patients must support and use local doctors, clinics and hospitals.

Local people must stimulate local action. Without it, the massive outflow of rural residents for health care will continue. If it does, the community will lose critical local health care dollars as well as the dollars spent in the city on groceries, medicine and gas that normally would be purchased locally.

You can help take the initiative to plan and carry out a problem-solving process to help turn things around.

No one outside your community can do it; the federal or state government can't solve these problems. The best answers are closer to home.

—Rural Electric News Service

This article was prepared by Dr. Bruce Admundson, a Seattle, Wash., family practice physician, in cooperation with the National Rural Health Network, a subsidiary of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. NRECA is the Washington, D.C., service organization for the country's 1,000 consumer-owned rural electric systems.

Season's Greetings



Scurrying midst their workplace scene,

the elves take time to render

our season's message wishing you

the most in Yuletide splendor.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois



Good for ALL Illinois

Make-ahead holiday



BISCUIT DOUGH ORNAMENTS

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix 2 cups biscuit mix and 1/2 cup boiling water until soft dough forms; beat vigorously 30 seconds. Turn onto cloth-covered board well dusted with baking mix. Gently roll in baking mix to coat; shape into ball. Knead 10 times. Roll 1/8-inch thick. Let stand uncovered 5 minutes. Cut into desired shapes, using cutters of 2 sizes to obtain cutouts, or design your own patterns. (Cutout decorations can be attached by brushing with beaten egg yolk and pressing gently into surface of larger shape.) If ornaments are to be hung, make a hole in each 1/4 inch from top with end of plastic straw. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet until golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes. About ten 4-inch ornaments.

SHRIMP DIP

1 cup celery, cut fine
1/2 cup green onion, finely chopped
1 large pkg. cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1 can shrimp, cut up
1/2 teaspoons lemon juice

Mix all ingredients together and chill several hours before serving.

BUFFET CHICKEN ELEGANTE

3 quarts water
2 tablespoons salt
1 teaspoon olive oil
1 pkg. (5 oz.) wide egg noodles
1/4 cup green pepper, chopped
1/2 cup onion, chopped
3 tablespoons butter, melted
1 can (10 3/4 oz.) cream of chicken soup, undiluted
1/2 cup milk
1 can (6 oz.) mushrooms, sliced and drained
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1 carton (12 oz.) cream style cottage cheese
1 small package almonds, sliced
3 cups cooked chicken, chopped
1 pkg. (10 oz.) mild Cheddar cheese, shredded
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
Paprika (optional)

Bring water, salt, and olive oil to a boil; slowly add noodles. Allow water to return to a boil; cook 12 to 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Drain and set aside. Sauté green pepper and onion in butter until tender. Remove from heat; stir in soup, milk, mushrooms, black pepper, cottage cheese, and almonds. Arrange half of the noodles in an ungreased 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking pan; cover with half of soup mixture. Top with half of chicken; sprinkle with half of the Cheddar cheese. Repeat layers. Top with Parmesan cheese; sprinkle with paprika, if desired. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

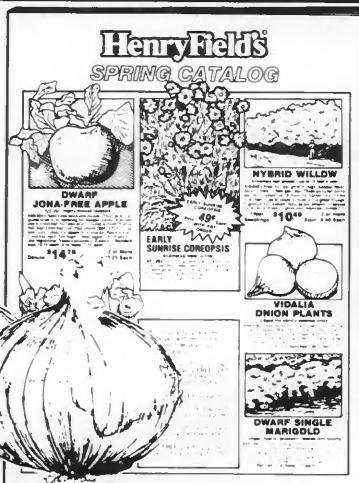
PUNCH BOWL CAKE

1 pkg. yellow cake mix, baked as directed
2 (3 oz.) boxes vanilla instant pudding, mixed as directed
2 cans cherry pie filling, removed from can of course!
1 large can crushed pineapple
1 medium container whipped topping
1 large container whipped topping
Chopped pecans to taste

Crumble 1/3 of cake into bottom of punch bowl, add a layer of pudding, pie filling, pineapple, whipped topping and pecans. Repeat until all ingredients are gone, ending with whipped topping and pecans. Keep chilled until ready to serve, or if you're alone for the weekend, until you are ready to PIG OUT!!! Remember: It is not polite to lick the bottom of the punchbowl when all of the good stuff is gone.

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buffet

NEW ORLEANS DIP

- 1 cup small curd cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons chopped chives, freeze dry
- 1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic juice
- 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon Tabasco
- Salt and pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients together. Marinate overnight. Serve with raw vegetables or chips.

FRIED WON TONS

- 1 cup cooked diced pork
- 1/2 cup bean sprouts, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup minced water chestnuts
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 drops sesame oil
- Ground red pepper to taste
- 1 16-ounce package won ton skins

Mix all ingredients except the won ton skins. In center of each won ton skin place one teaspoon filling. Moisten edges of the skin with water, fold opposite corners together, forming a triangle, then seal edges. Bring the two points together, moisten and seal. Deep fry won tons, a few at a time, until golden brown. Makes 48 won tons. Serve with Savory Sweet and Sour Dressing.

CHICK'N WRAP-UPS

- 1 cup soy sauce (may substitute Italian salad dressing)
- 4 green onions, minced
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 6 boned and skinned chicken breasts
- 12 bacon strips
- 24 toothpicks

In a small mixing bowl, combine soy sauce, green onions and pepper. Slice each chicken breast into 4 strips. Place chicken strips in a Season Serve marinating container and pour soy sauce mixture over the strips. Seal; refrigerate overnight. Invert container occasionally. Slice bacon strips in half. Remove chicken strips from marinating container. Roll up each chicken strip and wrap with half slice of bacon. Secure with toothpick. Place Chick'N Wrap-Ups in baking dish. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes or until done. Makes 24 Chick'N Wrap-Ups. Serve hot with Savory Sweet and Sour Dressing.

SAVORY SWEET AND SOUR DRESSING

- 1 cup condensed tomato soup
- 1 cup salad oil
- 3/4 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 medium onion, coarsely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon each salt and pepper

Place all ingredients in blender container, cover and process until smooth. Chill thoroughly before serving, preferably 24 hours. Makes about 4 cups dressing. Use as a dip for Fried Won Tons and Chick'N Wrap Ups.

GET-TOGETHERS CHEESE SPREAD

- 1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons pimiento, diced
- 1 tablespoon chili sauce
- 1/3 cup cream style cottage cheese, drained
- 1/8 teaspoon onion salt
- 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 cup snipped parsley

In a 1-quart mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and lemon juice until fluffy. Divide into two portions: Into one portion stir Parmesan cheese, pimiento and chili sauce. Into second portion add cottage cheese, onion salt and garlic powder—beat until nearly smooth. Stir in parsley. Makes 2 spreads, 3/4 cup each. Store in sealed containers in refrigerator until serving time. Serve along with raw vegetables and crackers.

MEXICAN MUNCH

- 1 3 oz. can French-fried onions
- 2 cups bite-size shredded corn squares
- 3/4 cup Spanish peanuts
- 1 4 oz. can potato sticks
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1/2 of a 1 1/8 oz. pkg. taco seasoning mix

In a 13"x9"x2" baking pan, combine onions, cereal, peanuts and potato sticks. Melt butter or margarine over low heat; drizzle over mixture, mixing well. Bake in 300° oven for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Allow to cool and store in air-tight container. Makes about 7 cups.

TOPAZ PUNCH

- 1/2 cup red maraschino cherries
- 1/2 cup green maraschino cherries
- 1 6 oz. can frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 1 6 oz. can frozen lemon concentrate, thawed
- 5 cups softened lemon sherbet
- 1 quart water
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 bottles (24-oz. each) white grape juice

Arrange red and green maraschino cherries in the bottom of a Jello ring mold. Spoon soften lemon sherbet over cherries, pressing to make a firm ring. Cover mold ring with an airtight seal and place in coldest part of freezer until very firm. To make punch base, combine orange juice concentrate, lemonade concentrate, water and sugar in a 48-ounce container with liquid-tight seal. Apply seal; shake gently until sugar is dissolved. Store in refrigerator. Shortly before serving time, remove Jello ring mold from freezer. While still sealed, immerse in warm water for 20 to 30 seconds. Inside a large punch bowl, remove the seal from mold, invert and release frozen sherbet ring. Pour chilled punch base from 48-ounce container into punch bowl. Slowly add grape juice and stir very gently until well blended. Makes about 20 five-ounce servings.



SWEET HOLIDAY YAMS

- 4-5 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup melted margarine
- salt to taste

Mix sugar, cornstarch, orange juice, margarine and salt. Simmer over low heat until slightly thickened. Place potatoes in greased casserole. Pour sauce over and bake at 350 degrees for 30-45 minutes.

HOLIDAY SALAD

- 1 large pkg. raspberry gelatin
- 2 cups hot water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 cup canned whole cranberries
- 2 bananas, sliced
- 1-2 apples, chopped
- 1 cup nuts

Mix together gelatin, hot water, sugar and lemon juice. Let set until it begins to thicken. Then add the cranberries, bananas, apples and nuts. Top with Cool Whip and serve.

FRUIT CAKE COOKIES

- 3 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter flavored oil
- 1 lb. chopped dates
- 2 cups candied red and green cherries
- 4 slices candied pineapple
- 1 cup raisins
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1 lb. brown sugar
- 2 cups chopped pecans

Sift flour, soda and salt. Use it all to dredge fruits and nuts. Mix oil, brown sugar and eggs. Stir in buttermilk. Add mixture to floured fruits, blending well. Refrigerate overnight in tight container. Drop cookies by teaspoon on lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake about 10-15 minutes at 350°. Makes 10 dozen. These may be made about a week before Christmas. Keep in refrigerator. They get better with age.

HOLLY COOKIES

- 1/4 cup margarine
- 16 large marshmallows
- 3/4 teaspoon green food coloring
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups corn flakes
- Red hot cinnamon candy

Blend margarine and marshmallows in double boiler until melted. Stir in food coloring and vanilla. Fold in corn flakes until each flake is well coated. Drop cookies on waxed paper and top with 3 redhots while still warm. Let dry uncovered 24 hours. Store in tightly covered container.

Valentine's Day



5078: Handcrafted gifts express heart-felt sentiments! Heart ring pillow, money bag and crocheted basket create keepsakes to treasure forever. Printed pattern, directions included.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

CRAFT CORNER

5130: Hairloom doll updated with today's latest craft look. Adaptable rag dolls add a touch of nostalgia to your home. Doll measures 15" high. Printed pattern, directions for doll and clothes included.

5141: New ideas for tissue boxes! This conversation piece will brighten up any area. Perfect for bazaars. Printed pattern, directions for cow tissue box cover included.

Items subject to availability.



5554: Versatile dressing. Pieces that mix and match: cowl and round neck top, straight and paneled skirt, plus sash. Misses' Sizes 8 to 18 are included in pattern.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.



5551: Daytime dressing for KNITS ONLY. Top can be made with or without collar; skirt is elasticized. Misses' Sizes 6 to 16. State HH(6-8-10-12) or NN(10-12-14-16) when ordering.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

CRAFT CORNER

5149: Everybody loves a bear. Now you can create your own. Bear stands 18" tall and comes with complete instructions and printed pattern for bear, collar and vest.

5150: A big, beautiful bunny! Easy to sew bunny is fun to make as well as display. Patterns for bunny and clothes, fully illustrated, step-by-step instructions.

Items subject to availability.

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504: Sew this charming 12" mouse. Not cute hat, colico dress and blouse. Directions, tissue pattern to sew mouse & clothes.

5148: Create an old-fashioned doll from an antique pillow case or a favorite fabric. Printed pattern for 18" doll, dress and bonnet.

Items subject to availability.



5712: Looking pretty is the whole idea here. Soft blouse; jabot, bib, bow and shirt with separate tie. Misses' Sizes 8 to 18 included in pattern.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

Valentine's Day



5099: Create this lovely quilt for a home accent or gift. The dove motif is as beautiful as the peace symbol it represents. Directions, printed pattern included.

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5545: For non-stop days. Elastic waist dress has front opening, band collar or round neck. Misses' Sizes (adjustable for petites). State NN(10-12-14) or U(16-18-20) when ordering.

5551: Daytime dressing for KNITS ONLY. Top can be made with or without collar; skirt is elasticized. Misses' Sizes 6 to 16. State HH(6-8-10-12) or NN(10-12-14-16) when ordering.

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5709: Dressing with all the confidence in the world. Dolman sleeved dress, made with or without collar, has a separate scarf. Misses' Sizes 8 to 18 are included in pattern.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

PATTERNS

TO: PATTERNS
Illinois Rural Electric News
P.O. Box 3787
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I have enclosed \$_____ (\$4.50 per pattern — cash, check or money order accepted) for the following patterns (please allow four weeks for delivery):

| Print Name _____ | Pattern No. _____ | Size _____ | Pattern No. _____ | Size _____ |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| Address _____ | | | | |
| City _____ | | | | |
| State _____ Zip _____ | | | | |

MISSING



MEGAN GINEVICZ

LAST SEEN: 04/30/80 EYES: Blue
 FROM: Saint Ignatius, MT HEIGHT: 2'1"
 DOB: 01/12/78 WEIGHT: 25-30
 WHITE FEMALE HAIR: Brown



MEGAN GINEVICZ

Age Progression
 NCMEC

(04/91)

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-

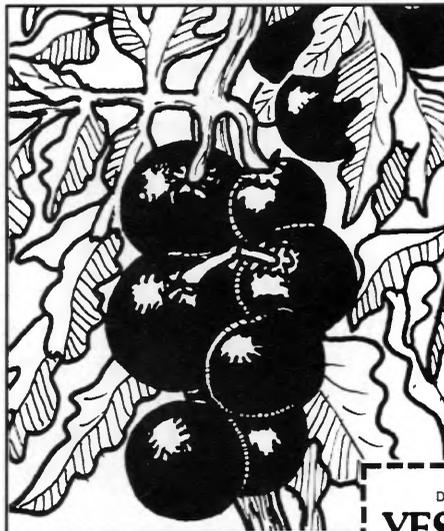
Instruct your child's school to notify you immediately if your child is absent. Inform the principal who is authorized to pick your child up from school. Try to have the same person every day.

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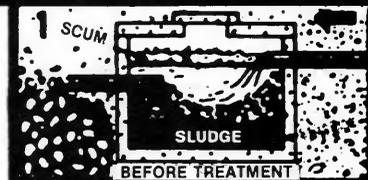
WHY SEPTIC TANKS BACK UP Septic tanks Clog, Backup and Smell because of household cleaners, which are great for dishes, laundry and floors, but kill good bacteria in your tank and cesspool that normally digest solid wastes, fats, greases and starches. Without this bacterial action solid waste builds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

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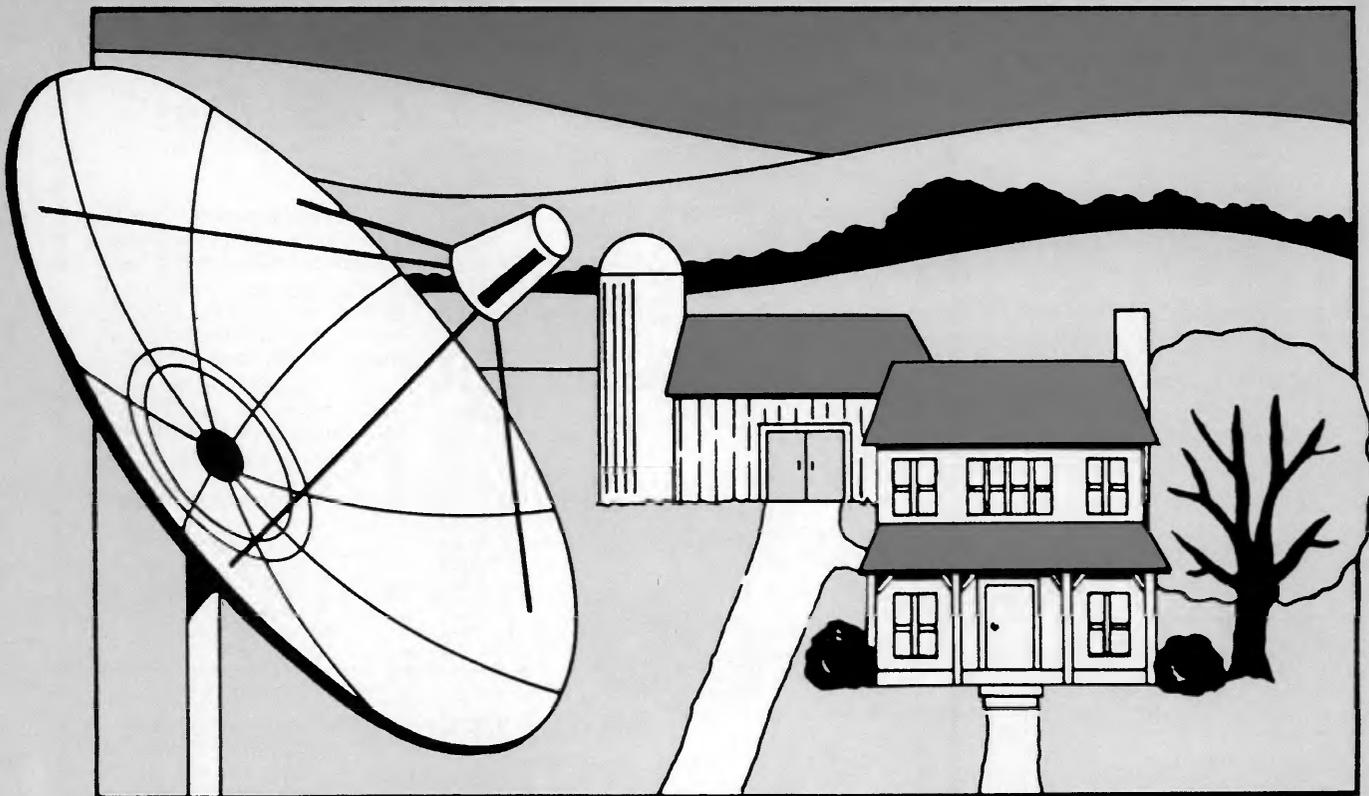
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Rural TV is best bet

Consumers should be wary of illegal satellite descramblers

Across the country, a large number of television watchers have fallen prey to a relatively small but none-the-less effective group of satellite TV con men. Many unsuspecting consumers paid unscrupulous dealers to "fix" their satellite TV descramblers so they can watch their favorite programs. They're learning—the hard way—that what they originally thought of as a "good deal" isn't such a good deal after all.

An increasing number of rural Americans, tired of getting fleeced by such disreputable satellite dealers, have come forward with horror stories. In one instance a "dealer" who had

sold illegal descramblers turned off services to his customers, then "fixed" the descramblers for the customers for upwards of \$400 each.

According to Bob Phillips, chief executive officer of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), many pirate dealers prey on the lack of knowledge of first-time satellite dish purchasers, telling them that they have been "authorized" to make the descrambler modifications by the equipment manufacturer. Phillips says "These pirate box dealers basically tell their victims that by paying a one-time 'service charge,' they can watch as

much TV as they want. Often, the consumer doesn't even know that he or she is breaking the law."

"Not only does this deceptive practice break federal law, it hurts the satellite industry's credibility and has caused damage to the honest satellite dealer and his business," continued Phillips.

"By giving them a choice between having their descramblers altered and paying exorbitant monthly programming fees," Phillips says, "these consumers are being lied to on two counts. First, the pirate dealer hasn't told them that altering their descrambler can cost them

thousands of dollars and land them in jail. Second, the pirate has misled them into thinking that paying for their TV on a monthly basis—the way they are meant to—is an expensive proposition. With Rural TV, it definitely is not.”

Rural TV is the satellite programming package offered through electric cooperatives across rural America. Through Rural TV, consumers are given the opportunity to purchase their television from a respected member of the local business community—their local electric cooperative. In addition, Rural TV makes watching satellite TV affordable.

For example, the most basic Rural TV package features Arts & Entertainment, CNN, The Discovery Channel, ESPN, The Family Channel, Headline News, The Nashville Network, TBS, USA Network and WGN—all for just a few dollars per month.

Many rural electric systems that offer Rural TV have made it a top priority to help consumers with pirated boxes “go legal.” That’s why many electric systems are offering affordable, legal descramblers on a strictly no-questions-asked basis.

As an added incentive for tampered descrambler owners, the satellite TV marketplace is on the verge of some historic changes that could rid the industry of video piracy once and for all. These changes will take place in two steps:

First, General Instrument Corp., the manufacturer of the currently used VideoCipher II descrambler, has created a new descrambler incorporating renewable security technology called the VideoCipher RS. Plans are under way to change legal, paying customers’ VideoCipher II descramblers to the new technology at no charge.

Subsequent to this change, major programmers will stop sending their television signals to the old VideoCipher II descramblers sometime in 1992.

Rural TV in Illinois

There has been considerable growth in the satellite television market in Illinois over the last several years. Rural Illinoisans who either own satellite signal receivers (dishes) or who are planning such a purchase have available to them the wide range of programs offered as Rural TV.

Rural TV is a package of programming ranging from a basic group of satellite channels through a large number of optional channels. Developed through a cooperative organization, the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), the Rural TV package is available through the more than 500 electric and telephone cooperatives that make up NRTC.

In Illinois, a number of electric and telephone cooperatives are members of NRTC. Some offer the Rural TV service to their members only. Some offer the service to both members and non-members. In either instance, the operation of the satellite television business does not affect electric or telephone rates or costs.

Wm. David Champion, Jr., manager of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative of Paxton, is a director of NRTC.

“Rural TV offers rural residents the opportunity to receive television services on a par with those offered in towns and cities by cable television companies, which serve very few rural areas. In addition, NRTC is poised to provide rural consumers with telecommunications services beyond Rural TV to assure that advances in this information age will be available to rural dwellers, just as they will be to those people who live in the cities and towns,” Champion said.

He added that Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives were providing Rural TV services to 2,178 consumers as of October 31. “The sales of programming nationwide increased by 5.85 percent in the first 10 months of this year,” Champion said. “NRTC had growth of 12.25 percent in subscriptions to Rural TV, indicating that NRTC is gaining an increasing market share,” Champion added.

Champion said there are 19,330 authorized satellite dishes (those receiving at least one legal service) in Illinois, but there are approximately 40,000 descrambler units in the state, an indication that there are upwards of 20,000 illegal descramblers in operation. This will change drastically with the VideoCipher RS technology.

If you are interested in subscribing to Rural TV or if you want more information about satellite television, contact your electric cooperative.

In effect, this will cause all the VideoCipher II descramblers—legal and illegal—in the country to be switched off and become useless. This way, consumers who have been receiving their television without paying for it will be forced to “go legal”—or go without service.

By switching over to Rural TV and moving up to the VideoCipher RS descramblers, subscribers who currently receive

their television signal illegally will get the best of both worlds—a comprehensive program selection at affordable rates and the convenience of one-stop shopping from their local electric system—a trusted member of the local business community that will be around for many years to come. And, they’ll have the peace of mind that comes with knowing they’re getting their television legally.

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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.
3. All ads must be in one paragraph form. No centered copy. Maximum of four all-capital words per ad.
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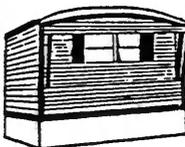
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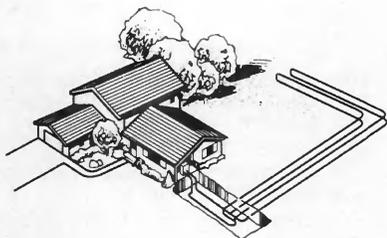


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