

**Water quality**

See page 8

**Glimpses of yesterday**

See page 18

# REN

Illinois Rural Electric News    December 1992



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Festival  
of Lights:**

**More than 400  
lighted displays**

**See page 6**



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# The electric cooperatives' 'infrastructure'

During the presidential campaign, the word "infrastructure" got a lot of use. What candidates had to say about the need to rebuild, repair and maintain the country's basic supporting structure was correct. We must be able to transport and deliver goods, services and information as efficiently as possible. A nation must have high-quality basic installations and facilities: roads, bridges, power plants, transportation and communication systems, and utility distribution networks.

Among the most important components in the nation's infrastructure are the electric cooperative systems that own and maintain more than one-half of the power lines in this country. They serve more than 10 percent of the country's population and about 75 percent of the land area. Such facts stress the importance of these member-owned utility systems.

The nation's electric cooperative systems have long represented one of the greatest examples of government partnership with its citizens. Few private utilities could or would serve the vast rural areas of this country in the early part of this century. The people in those areas took it upon themselves, borrowing money from the federal government, to extend lines into the rural areas. They pay their loans back with interest, and rural electrification is generally considered to be the nation's most successful rural development program.

The rural electric systems, as part of the nation's critical infrastructure, provide something extra: People are part of that infrastructure. A key element over the years has been the leadership structure of electric cooperative members and employees.

Since their beginnings more than 50 years ago, electric cooperatives have been leaders in economic and community improvement. What electric cooperatives did for the rural countryside is well documented. Articles in the Illinois Rural Electric News over the years have shown often that the electric cooperatives were then and are now one of the nation's most effective instruments of economic and community betterment.

Members, directors and employees provide their service areas with outstanding leadership, and that responsible leadership is not limited to the electric cooperatives' utility interests alone. These people make their cooperatives more than just electric utilities. The rural electrification story was in the beginning one of leadership. It is still a story of leadership.

There is no question that the country has some work to do to restore and maintain its physical infrastructure, including the important electric cooperatives' systems. It should concentrate, too, on assuring that it continues to support and recognize the need for the human infrastructure so well illustrated by the members and employees of electric cooperatives.

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## REN

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**Cover: The Lake Shelbyville Festival of Lights grows every year. This year more than 600,000 lights illuminate more than 400 displays. In addition, a Starflake Trail has been added. (See pages 6 and 7.)**

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# Jobs, health care swing rural vote

☆ Rural Americans want better jobs and cheaper health care, so they voted in record numbers November 3.

☆ They voted primarily for Bill Clinton, marking the first time in nearly 30 years that rural Americans voted, as a unit, for a Democrat.

☆ Traditionally conservative, rural America put partisan politics aside and voted its pocketbook this year.

☆ "This is a year where the dynamic of change overwhelmed questions of partisanship," said Washington, D.C., pollster Alan Secrest. "The non-Bush vote was a vote for change and it was a Democratic vote."

☆ "This was really a rural revolution," added Bob Bergland, chief of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and a former Secretary of Agriculture.

☆ Overall, rural voters chose Clinton over President Bush, 43 percent to

38 percent, according to polls by Voter Research and Surveys. Ross Perot claimed 19 percent of the rural vote. By contrast, city voters chose Clinton 52 percent of the time and suburbanites, 44 percent.

Clinton edged out Bush in several rural states by comparable margins. Iowans backed Clinton over Bush, 44 percent to 38 percent; Kentucky, which usually votes for Republican presidents, narrowly backed Clinton over Bush, 45 percent to 42 percent; Missouri gave Clinton 44 percent to Bush's 34 percent, and Pennsylvania went for Clinton 45 percent to 36 percent.

Voters in the Plains states — Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota — broke the rural mold to vote for Bush.

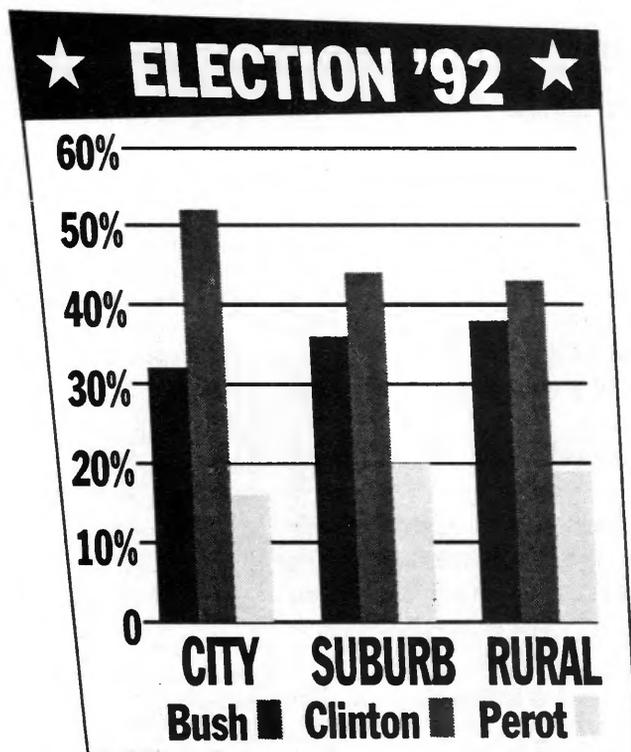
Nebraskans gave Bush 47 percent of their vote, leaving Clinton with just 30 percent and Perot with 24 percent. North Dakotans came out heavily in support of Bush with 45 percent of the vote; South Dakotans gave Bush 41 percent of their vote, and Kansans, 39 percent.

Heavy farm populations in those states — which traditionally vote for Republican presidents — may have sealed the Bush win.

Political consultant Phil Harmeson said the economy wasn't as much an issue in those states as it was in others.

"Relatively speaking, we did not feel the recession to the same extent as the rest of the country . . . because the economy wasn't that great to begin with," said Harmeson, a North Dakotan. "While the bi-coastal recovery of a few years ago was occurring, our economic line on the chart has been much straighter and flatter."

Other rural voters, however, chose Clinton for his promise to improve



the economy and create jobs.

"In general, the rural areas and small towns have not done well over the last 12 years," said Tom Quinn, executive director of the Minneapolis-based League of Rural Voters. "The farm economy has (hurt) not just farmers but small towns."

Quinn pointed out that fewer than 2 percent of rural voters are farmers.

"The real electoral force is small towns and farms together," Quinn said, adding that the typically Republican farm vote was "fragmented . . . in part because there was not a real clear message about exactly what kind of farm policies (Clinton) will pursue."

"Farm issues were not a big part of the campaign," he added. "In the more Midwestern states, where the rural communities tend to be a mix of small town and farm voters, the general economy is more of an issue."

Health care — limited and expensive in the country — was on the minds of rural voters, as well.

In rural Kentucky, said Hal Hamilton, director of the Community Farm Alliance, a family of four pays \$500 a month for health insurance. Especially for the elderly, that premium rises with frequent claims. "You're afraid to drop your insurance but you can't afford to keep it."

"There's a perception that rural America has fared less well in the '80s than did the urban areas," said Iowa State University sociologist Paul Lasley. "We hear a lot about the problems of our cities, but certainly rural people believe that their problems are equally important. Those voters may feel that the Clinton Administration, coming out of two rural states, may be more able to identify with the problems of rural people."

Rural advocates also sense that a Clinton White House will pay more attention to domestic problems.

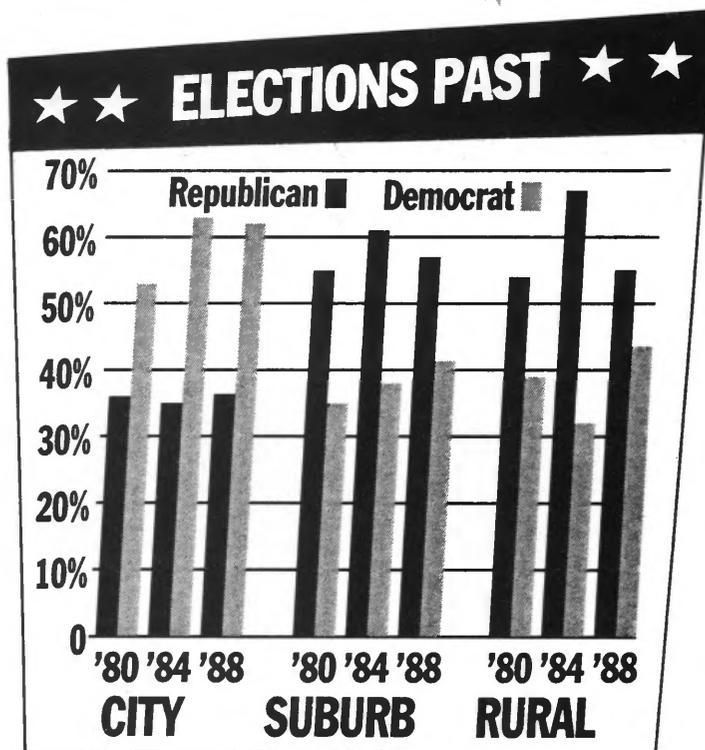
Clinton's campaign platform called for investing in the country's infrastructure — roads, bridges, sewer systems, hospitals, railways, utilities and schools — to turn the economy around.

"Because of a decade of tough

economic times, many communities have postponed making necessary and needed improvements in their infrastructure," Lasley said. "As a result we are facing a need for major infusion of new capital."

Others hope that Clinton's rural roots will make him receptive to rural needs.

"Clinton's roots in a rural state like Arkansas are very solid and deep and he understands a lot of what I'd call traditional sorts of values, community values that are at the heart of life in rural America," said the Rev. David Ostendorf,



executive director of Prairie Fire, a Des Moines-based rural education group.

"I think it's going to be a friendly audience," said Bergland. But he added that Clinton will "have to do what he can without any big, massive spending increases," a sentiment echoed by many.

"The problems are so acute that I don't think any one president is going to turn things around overnight," said Larry Watkins, general manager of Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives.

"I sure don't believe that the Democrats are going to rush pell mell just to throw a lot of borrowed money at problems."

—Rural Electric News Service

Clockwise from right: Lighted exhibits at the site of one of the many archways. Animated swans on a lake of lights. The festival greeting sign.





## Follow the Starflake Trail

During the winter holiday season, the Starflake Trail runs through the towns of Sullivan, Shelbyville and Findlay, as well as Eagle Creek State Park. The trail is part of the Lake Shelbyville Festival of Lights, now in its third year. And if you saw this nationally acclaimed display last year or the year before, don't hesitate to go back: it's bigger and better than ever. The illuminated three-mile route at Eagle Creek Resort includes more than 400 displays with more than 600,000 lights, all powered by Shelby Electric Cooperative. There are toy soldiers 30 feet high, crystal archways, a fantasy carnival and snowmen. There are juggling clowns and animated swans, with bobbing heads and gracefully moving wings. Surrounding communities — along the Starflake Trail — join in the holiday spirit by featuring decorated, lighted streets, businesses and homes. The roads between the towns are marked by snowflake signs to guide visitors. There are more than 40 combined miles of light displays, making this year's Lake Shelbyville Festival of Lights the largest show in the U.S. The area is three hours south of Chicago and about two hours northeast of St. Louis. Eagle Creek State Park is near Findlay, approximately eight miles north of Shelbyville on Illinois 128. The display runs through January 31. There is no charge to drive the Snowflake Trail, but there is an admission fee at the Eagle Creek display.

# Department of Agriculture studying water survey results

Results of a statewide survey for agricultural chemicals in rural, private water-supply wells in Illinois were released in November.

Becky Doyle, Illinois Department of Agriculture Director, said, "These results are the culmination of a three-year cooperative effort by the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Cooperative Extension Service-University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the Illinois State Geological Survey." The project was conducted by the three organizations with existing resources. Doyle said the Department will use the survey findings to assist the agriculture industry in assessing the current situation and preventing future contamination.

According to Warren D. Goetsch, Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau Chief of Environmental Programs, "Results from the survey provide the first statistically reliable estimates for the extent of pesticide and nitrate contamination of rural, private water supply wells in Illinois."

Initial results indicate:

- About 12 percent of the estimated 360,000 rural, private wells in the state contained detectable concentrations of at least one pesticide degradation product. However, only about 2 percent contained concentrations of pesticides that exceed health-based guidelines for drinking water.

- More than one-fourth of rural wells contained nitrate at levels greater than 3 parts per million, and about 38,000 wells (10.5 percent) are estimated to contain nitrate at levels



**Warren Goetsch, of Williamsville, is president of the board of Menard Electric Cooperative. He is chief of the Bureau of Environmental Programs for the Illinois Department of Agriculture and is the department's coordinator of the statewide survey of rural well water quality.**

exceeding the drinking water standard of 10 parts per million.

- Contamination of sampled wells was related to well construction and well depth.

- Sampled wells in areas where aquifers, or water-bearing formations, occur within 20 feet of land surface were more likely to contain high levels of nitrate.

Dennis P. McKenna, formerly a geologist with the Illinois State Geological Survey, said, "This survey was not designed to allow for reliable estimates to be made about the concentrations of the various analytes in wells, nor are the results representative of wells at regional or county levels. The results provide an estimate of the water quality in rural wells but cannot be used to estimate the quality of groundwater or drinking water within the state."

Groundwater samples were collected from 337 randomly selected wells from March 1991

through April 1992. Samples were analyzed for 38 pesticides and pesticide degradation products as well as nitrate and nitrite.

"By identifying conditions under which private wells are more vulnerable to contamination and by identifying pesticides that are more likely to cause contamination, the results of the survey will provide a basis for more accurate targeting of educational, technical assistance, and monitoring programs in Illinois," added Thomas J. Bicki, formerly a soil management specialist with the University of Illinois-Cooperative Extension Service.

Additional reports will be released presenting detailed results and interpretations of the relationships between well-water quality and agricultural chemical usage, land use, well construction, and various factors affecting aquifer vulnerability.

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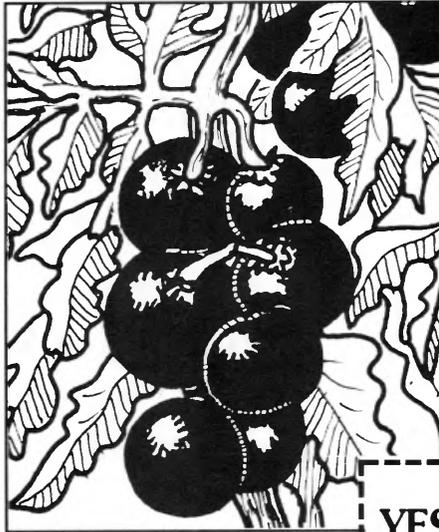
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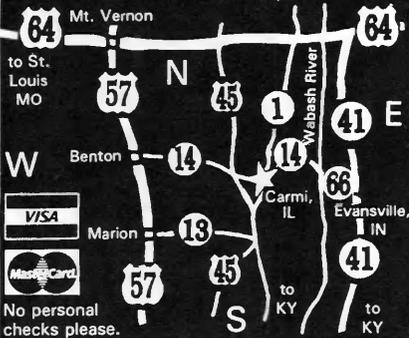
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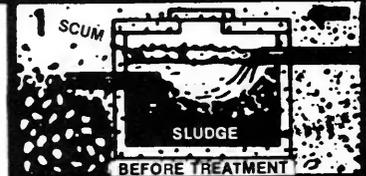
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## Energy plan touts efficiency, alternative fuels

**T**he country's first major energy plan in 15 years backs energy efficiency, nuclear power and alternative fuels. Before leaving Washington for some home-state campaigning in October, members of Congress passed a 900-page energy strategy that they hope will ease the need for foreign oil and make electric utilities more competitive. President Bush signed the bill into law in late October. Congress worked on the massive bill for two years. The new law will affect the way consumers use electricity. Borrowers who buy well-insulated homes will qualify for low interest rates. More government and company cars will run on electricity, natural gas and methane. And appliances, air conditioners and even showerheads will be more efficient, under the new law. The bill's sponsors say Americans will save up to seven million barrels of oil a day. The strategy may also lower electric rates by bringing more competition to electric utilities from independent power producers. By changing the 1935 Public Utility Holding Company Act, Congress has given independent producers access to utility-owned

## Illinoisan honored for cooperative service

**A** well-known Illinois cooperative leader has received a national Cooperative Month award. Glenn Webb of Tunnel Hill (Johnson County) was honored in October for his career in service to cooperatives. Webb is chairman of the board of GROWMARK, Inc., ADM/GROWMARK, a subsidiary of the regional, and CoBank at Denver. He has been involved with local, regional and interregional cooperatives and national organizations since 1961. He was first elected a cooperative director at age 25 when he succeeded his father on the board of Fruit Belt Service Company. A former school superintendent, Webb has also been a leader in promoting cooperative education. He has taught cooperative principles, helped develop young leaders at local, state and national levels, and served a term as chairman of the American Institute of Cooperatives before it was merged into the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. His father, the late Ray Webb, was a long-time director of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, and his brother, Kenneth Webb, serves as a director of Southeastern Illinois Electric. Also among the national award winners are Bob Bergland, general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and Robert W. Nelson, NRECA director of communications. Bergland was presented the Cooperative Statesmanship Award. He has been a national spokesman for cooperatives since his selection in 1984 as executive vice president and general manager of NRECA.

transmission lines. The new producers will sell to utilities, rather than to consumers.

## Mini-grants help students solve energy woes

**C**hildren in Alaska want to sip hot chocolate heated by the sun. Students in Maine hope to design an energy-efficient home. Rural schools in Alaska, Georgia, Maine and Ohio are using grant money to help solve the nation's energy woes. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Education Association awarded four \$250 grants to the schools for student energy projects. Akula Elitnaurvik School students are learning how rooftop solar panels catch the sun's rays and turn them into electricity. Eventually, the students hope to use that solar energy to power their classroom hot plate, which they use to heat water for hot chocolate. In Gray, Ga., 25 third graders at the Jones County-Gray Elementary school will "invent" devices that use alternative fuels. Seventh and eighth graders at Maine's Beech High School are contacting businesses using energy-efficient technologies for a science fair presentation. And

high-school science students at Elmwood High School in Ohio are planning a symposium, at which they will teach other students and community leaders about energy alternatives.

## High-speed rail to connect Midwestern cities

**S**t. Louis will be just a high-speed train ride away from Chicago within six years under a Federal Railroad Administration plan. Trains will speed between Detroit and Chicago, St. Louis and Chicago and Milwaukee and Chicago at 100 miles per hour on the new Midwest rail corridor. U.S. Transportation Secretary Andrew Card said the corridor "contains some of our country's most congested airports and freeways. High-speed rail service will relieve congestion." Close to 17 million people will travel on the high-speed rail, Card predicted. By 2010, he said, there will be six daily round trips between Detroit and Chicago. Each trip will take just four hours. Currently trains travel at a maximum speed of 79 miles per hour.

## Rural jobs pay less

**A**rural worker earns 73.8 cents for every dollar an urban employee makes. Rural wages trail urban earnings across the board, with the widest gaps in wholesale

## 1992 Census of Agriculture

**T**he U.S. Bureau of Census is getting ready once again to measure the activities of the nation's farmers and ranchers. The 1992 Census of Agriculture report forms are being mailed to more than two million agricultural operations nationwide, 80 percent of which will receive the standard census form. The other 20 percent will be asked some additional questions about expenses, fertilizer and pesticide use, interest expenses, energy costs, machinery equipment, and income from farm-related sources. The agriculture census has been conducted 23 times since 1840. Excluding 1974 and 1978, the census was conducted every 10 years until 1920 and every five years since 1925. The census is the only source of uniform, comprehensive information about agricultural production, inventories, sales and expenditures, and other items for each county and state. The data collected will be published in state reports for each of the 3,100 counties with agricultural operations. The most recent census of agriculture, taken for 1987, reported that there were over two million agricultural operations covering 964.5 million acres, a decline of 2.3 percent of the land in farms from the previous census for 1982. While the number of farms declined 6.8 percent, the census also showed a decrease in the average value of land and buildings per farm of over 16 percent, from \$346,000 in 1982 to \$289,000 in 1987. The market value of agricultural products sold rose 3.2 percent over the last census, from \$131.9 billion to \$136 billion. Sales of livestock, poultry, and their products accounted for 57 percent of the nation's agricultural sales while crops, including greenhouse and nursery products, accounted for 43 percent. While farms harvesting wheat decreased 21 percent, the

trade, finance, insurance and real estate, according to an article by researcher Linda Ghelfi in the U.S. Department of Agriculture publication, Rural Conditions and Trends. The wage gap is caused partly by the low number of high-paying, high-technology industries in rural America, Ghelfi wrote. Rural people are more likely to have manufacturing jobs in the lower-paying food processing, apparel, furniture or metals industries. Urban workers have manufacturing jobs in the higher-wage printing-publishing, drugs, medicine, computer and aircraft construction industries. Also, just 9 percent of rural workers in lower-paid industries were managers or professionals, jobs that typically pay more. Nearly 19 percent of urban workers in the same industries held those higher-paid jobs.

## Microwave dries clothes faster

**N**eed to dry that wool sweater in a hurry? Stick it in the microwave—microwave clothes dryer, that is. The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), the research arm of the electric utility industry, has invented a clothes dryer that "will bring the benefits of microwave technology to the laundry room," said John Kesselring, senior project manager for EPRI. A microwave clothes dryer can dry clothes faster while saving 20 percent of the electricity used by conventional dryers. And

because the microwave dryer operates at 100 degrees instead of the traditional dryer's 350 degrees, sensitive fabrics such as wool may be dried safely. Microwaving works the same for clothes as it does for food, says Kesselring: "When you heat something in a microwave oven, you are heating the water molecules in the food." Likewise, drying clothes in a microwave heats the water molecules, not the fabric. And while conventional dryers sometimes get as hot as 350 degrees, the microwave dryer operates at less than 100 degrees. That means fabrics are less likely to shrink. "Researchers have been striving successfully for decades to reduce the time spent on domestic chores," Kesselring said. The microwave dryer "eliminates one more time-consuming step for today's two-career families." EPRI plans to field test its new dryer next year.

## **Electric cooperatives borrow \$622 million**

**R**ural electric cooperatives borrowed \$622 million from the federal government for construction projects in fiscal year 1992. But the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) has a backlog of \$755 million in requests for money from the consumer-owned co-ops. REA, a U.S. Department of Agriculture agency, was authorized by Congress to lend a maximum of \$933 million during the fiscal

**number of farms harvesting corn and soybeans declined 12 and 14 percent respectively. The inventory of chickens three months old or older increased 3.1 percent to 373.6 million while cattle, calves, hogs and pigs inventories all declined between the 1982 and 1987 censuses of agriculture. Also, the 1987 census showed that 55 percent of the nation's agricultural operators considered farming their principal occupation.**

## **Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Network plans 1993 conference**

**T**he Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Network is sponsoring the 1993 Sustainable Agriculture Conference, "Partnerships for Progress: Traditional Knowledge, New Technologies, the Wisdom to Apply Them Profitably," on January 19, at the Illinois Building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Conference topics will include cover crops, residue management, integrated pest management, livestock, soil health and on-farm research. Participants will have the opportunity to talk with Illinois farmers, researchers and others on the cutting edge of sustainable agriculture in the state, and receive materials from various organizations about the latest techniques. The network is a cooperative effort among the following organizations: Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Society, Southeastern Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Association, Western Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Society, University of Illinois, College of Agriculture and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The registration fee will be \$10. Conference brochures were sent out in late November. For more information, contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Coordinator, Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Network at P.O. Box 648, Rochester, Illinois 62563, 217-498-9705.

year, which ended September 30. REA officials chose instead to lend the minimum amount required by Congress, despite the backlog in loan applications. During the new fiscal year that began on October 1, REA is required to lend \$625 million to the cooperatives.

## **Grants help families pay heating bills**

**L**ow-income families who need help heating their homes this winter may apply for special grants from their local social service agencies. The federal government has distributed more than \$1.3 billion to states and Indian reservations through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP. The money goes to help poor families pay their heating bills, avoid utility cut-offs or, in some cases, do emergency repairs on heating systems. The payments generally are made directly to the utility, rather than to the families needing help. In 1990, families who qualified received an average of \$209 for heating assistance and what the government calls "winter crisis"—when a utility threatens to shut off a customer's heat during the cold winter months because of non-payment. Nearly 5.8 million households received LIHEAP funds in 1990. This year's appropriation of \$1.3 billion is less than the \$1.4 billion spent in 1990. In 1991, the government gave \$1.6 billion in LIHEAP funds. Last year, it spent \$1.5 billion. Eligibility and deadlines vary from state to state.

# American as *Pecan* pie

## EASY-AS-PIE CRUST

- 1 1/4 cups flour  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup corn oil margarine  
2 tablespoons cold water

In medium bowl mix flour and salt. With pastry blender or 2 knives, cut in margarine until fine crumbs form. Sprinkle water over flour mixture while tossing with fork to blend well. Press dough firmly into ball. On lightly floured surface roll out to 12-inch circle. Fit loosely into 9-inch pie plate. Trim and flute edge. Fill and bake according to recipe.

## CLASSIC PECAN PIE

- 3 eggs, slightly beaten  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup light or dark corn syrup  
1 tablespoon butter or margarine, melted  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup pecan halves  
1 unbaked (9-inch) pie shell

In medium bowl stir eggs, sugar, corn syrup, margarine and vanilla until well blended. Stir in pecans. Pour into pie shell. Bake in 350 degrees oven 50 to 55 minutes or until knife inserted halfway between center and edge comes out clean. Cool on rack. Makes 8 servings.

**California Pecan Pie:** Stir 1/4 cup sour cream into eggs until blended.  
**Kentucky Bourbon Pecan Pie:** Add up to two tablespoons bourbon to filling mixture.

## APPLE BRANDY PRALINE PIE

- 1/4 cup sugar  
3 tablespoons flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
3 eggs  
1/2 cup light or dark corn syrup  
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted  
2 tablespoons apple or plain brandy  
2 medium apples, peeled and thinly sliced  
1 unbaked (9-inch) pie shell  
Praline topping

Prepare Praline Topping; set aside. In large bowl combine sugar, flour and salt. Beat in eggs, corn syrup, margarine and brandy. Stir in apples. Pour into pie shell. Sprinkle with topping. Bake in 350 degree oven 45 to 50 minutes or until puffed and set. Cool completely on wire rack. Makes 8 servings.

## Praline Topping

- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans  
1/4 cup flour  
1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar  
2 tablespoons butter, softened

In small bowl, combine pecans, flour, brown sugar and margarine. Mix with a fork until crumbly.

## CRANBERRY PECAN PIE

- 3 eggs, slightly beaten  
1 cup light or dark corn syrup  
2/3 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
1 cup coarsely chopped cranberries  
1 cup coarsely chopped pecans  
1 tablespoon grated orange peel  
1 unbaked (9-inch) pie shell

In medium bowl stir eggs, corn syrup, sugar and margarine until well blended. Stir in cranberries, pecans and orange peel. Pour into pie shell. Bake in 350 degree oven about 1 hour or until knife inserted halfway between center and edge comes out clean. Cool on rack. Makes 8 servings.

## ORANGE PECAN PIE BARS

- 3 cups flour  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 cup butter or margarine  
2 tablespoons grated orange peel  
1/2 teaspoon salt

## Filling:

- 4 eggs, slightly beaten  
1 1/2 cups light or dark corn syrup  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
3 tablespoons butter, melted  
3 tablespoons orange-flavored liqueur  
2 1/2 cups chopped pecans

Grease bottom and sides of 15x10x1-inch baking pan. In large bowl combine flour, sugar, margarine, orange peel and salt. With mixer at medium speed, beat until mixture resembles coarse crumbs; press firmly and evenly into pan. Bake in 350 degree oven 20 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare filling. In large bowl stir eggs, corn syrup, sugar, margarine and liqueur until blended. Stir in pecans. Spread evenly over hot crust. Bake in 350 degree oven 25 minutes or until set. Cool. Makes 48 bars.

## OATMEAL PECAN PIE

- 4 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons flour  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 cup light or dark corn syrup  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 cup quick oats, uncooked  
1 cup pecan pieces  
1 unbaked (9-inch) pie shell

In large bowl beat eggs lightly. Beat in sugar, flour, cinnamon and salt until smooth. Stir in corn syrup, margarine and vanilla until blended. Stir in oats and pecans. Pour into pie shell. Bake in 350 degree oven 50 minutes or until puffed and set. Cool on wire rack. Makes 8 servings.



## LIGHTNING MICROWAVE FUDGE

- 3 3/4 cups powdered sugar, sifted  
1/2 cup Cocoa  
1/2 cup Margarine, cut into pieces  
1/4 cup milk  
1 tablespoon vanilla  
1/2 cup coarsely chopped nuts

Combine sugar, cocoa, margarine and milk in medium bowl. Microwave at high power for 2 to 3 minutes or till margarine is melted. Stir till mixture is smooth. Stir in vanilla and nuts. Blend well. Spread evenly in buttered 8-inch square pan. Cut into 1-inch squares. Yields 5 dozen.

## RICE-APPLE CRISP

- 2 cups cooked rice  
1 can (20 oz.) pie-sliced apples  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 cup brown sugar  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup flour  
6 tablespoons butter or margarine  
1/2 cup chopped nut meats

Combine rice, apples, lemon juice, 1/2 cup sugar, cinnamon, and salt in buttered shallow baking dish. Mix flour and remaining sugar. Cut in butter until mixture is crumbly. Stir in nut meats. Sprinkle over rice-apple mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Serve warm topped with whipped cream, if desired. Makes 6 servings.

## RICE HEAVENLY HASH

- 2 cups cooked rice  
1 1/2 cups milk  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 cup drained canned pineapple tidbits  
1 large orange, peeled, seeded, and diced  
1/4 cup chopped maraschino cherries  
1 cup miniature marshmallows  
1/2 cup flaked coconut  
1/4 cup nut meats, chopped  
1 envelope whipped topping mix, prepared

Combine rice, milk and sugar. Cook until thick and creamy, about 10 to 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool. Fold in remaining ingredients. Spoon into serving dishes and chill. Garnish with additional maraschino cherries, if desired. Makes 12 servings (1/2 cup each).

## RAW APPLE CAKE

- 1 cup oil  
2 cups sugar  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon soda  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
2 1/2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup chopped nuts  
3 cups chopped apples

Beat oil, sugar and eggs. Add other ingredients. Pour into 13x9 floured pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

## Icing

- 3/4 box confectioners' sugar  
1/4 cup margarine  
1/4 cup evaporated milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Rum flavoring if desired

Beat ingredients to spreading consistency and spread on cake.

# MISSING



**CORRINE LEANNE ERSTAD**

LAST SEEN: 06/01/92 EYES: Brown  
 FROM: Inver Grove Hts, MN HEIGHT: 3'2"  
 DOB: 02/17/87 WEIGHT: 40  
 WHITE FEMALE HAIR: Brown



**BRYAN JAMES MATELYAN**

LAST SEEN: 09/16/90 EYES: Blue  
 FROM: Cherry Hill, NJ HEIGHT: 3'  
 DOB: 08/26/86 WEIGHT: 32  
 WHITE MALE HAIR: Blonde

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

**1-800-843-5678**  
 (sightings only)

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

### -Safety Tip of the Month-

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

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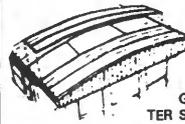


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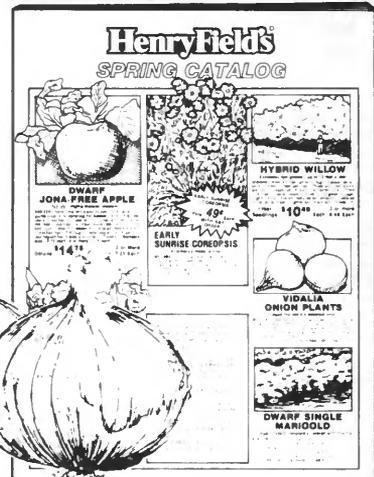
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**CRAFT CORNER**

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.

533: Quilt of Fifty States. Fascinating to embroider stars, flowers, birds, position of capitals, date and order of admission to Union. Applique stars.

Items subject to availability

**DESIGNER ERNS**

5508: Make a grand entrance in this three piece ensemble. Lined coat comes in two lengths. Misses' Sizes 10 to 24. State N(10-12-14). U(16-18-20) or W(20-22-24) when ordering.

Items subject to availability

**CRAFT CORNER**

5146: All the world loves a clown and these two are irresistible. Authentic details make these exciting projects for crafters of all ages. Clown stands 19" tall. Patterns for clown and clothes.

5142: Delightful cow in pinafare is an ideal country accent or best selling bozoar item. Directions, printed pattern for 24" cow and clothes included.

Items subject to availability

**CRAFT CORNER**

5097: Dolls of Nations quilt is fun and educational. 24 transfer motifs of adorable dolls in traditional costumes. Easy to embroider. Quilt measures 60" X 89".

5123: Save Money! Recover old lampshades or make new ones. Easy to follow, fully illustrated directions and styling tips for nine variations included.

Items subject to availability

**CRAFT CORNER**

5147: An adorable couple to decorate your home. Boy or girl doll stand 20" tall and come complete with printed patterns and fully illustrated instructions for clothes and doll.

7121: Topsy-turvy doll flip-flops from waking to sleeping. She will delight kids and collectors. Transfer pattern pieces & directions for doll & clothes.

Items subject to availability

**For Half Sizes**

5679: The perfect dress for all-around socializing. Flanged shoulders, two sleeve lengths and optional elastic waist. Half Sizes: State A(14 1/2 to 24 1/2 included) when ordering.

4124: A value packed pattern. Classic separates to mix and match: blouse, skirt, culottes and vest. Half Sizes 12 1/2 to 22 1/2.

5680: Very versatile. Easy float just pulls on and you're ready to go. Self tie can be used as belt or neck tie. Dress can be made in short or long sleeves. Half Sizes: State A(14 1/2 to 24 1/2 included) when ordering.

Items subject to availability

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

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

**Bed and Breakfast**

5606: Zip into comfort. Robe has side seam pockets and comes in two lengths. Overlock instructions. Misses' Sizes: State S(10-12), MD(14-16) or LG(18-20) when ordering.

5645: It's time to relax. Raglan sleeve robe has three collar choices: mandarin, Peter Pan or lace. Ten sizes are included in pattern, from 3 to 12 years.

5714: Drift off in comfort and style. Choices: pajamas or nightgown in short and long lengths. Ten sizes are included in pattern, from 3 to 12 years.

Items subject to availability.

# PATTERNS

TO: PATTERNS  
 Illinois Rural Electric News  
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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):

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# Retreat on the Ohio

A religious retreat and retirement community is opening near Rosiclare, on a parcel of land made up of 178 acres located on the bluffs of the Ohio River. It is the retreat center of San Damiano and Shrine of the Good Shepherd, according to Mark Migas, administrative manager.

"The facility will be a retreat center for use by older people to use in private religious and recreation purposes, and will consist of cottages and a main lodge. The lodge will contain facilities for various religious functions, meetings and conferences for use by area

churches," he adds.

The main building is built much like old Spanish structures, and has a fountain and statue of Christ the King in front. There is a bell tower with a fresco, and the structure will have an imported tile roof.

There are three duplexes completed as well as two fourplexes. A coffee shop is open Sunday afternoons. Tours of the building, shrine and grounds are available Sunday afternoons, too, and there are rooms for rent. Persons under 21 years of age are not permitted overnight, and reservations are necessary.

"We're in the process of building a shrine," Mark says, "and we have a 24-foot monolith of granite with the 23rd Psalm engraved on it. We're going to build a statue of Christ, the Good Shepherd, as funds permit. It's going to be about 35-feet tall, and when it's done, it'll be the tallest such statue in North America.

"Right now," he continues, "there's just a power pole there, so people can get an idea of how tall it'll be, and how it'll be visible from the river. People can look at it and say, 'Oh, yeah. That's where it's going to be, and how tall it'll stand.' Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative donated the pole and put it in, and we really appreciate that." Southeastern serves the center.



Mark Migas



Mark notes that the religious purpose of the retreat is to provide a place of spiritual renewal and to commune with the Lord through nature.

"It is the hope of the Catholic Shrine Pilgrimage that this facility will be used for formal and private spiritual retreats, parish retreats, special group and non-profit and religious organizations' meetings and conferences. We believe all will find the use of San Damiano a place of spiritual and emotional uplifting," he adds.

While its primary purpose is as a religious retreat, Mark



Spanish architectural style adds to the uniqueness of San Damiano

emphasizes that San Damiano can also serve as a base for touring Southeastern Illinois. "There are many scenic and tourist attractions within just a few miles, including Cave-in-Rock State Park, Garden of the Gods, Old Slave House, Shawneetown, Tower Rock, and Illinois Iron Furnace. There are also Dixon Springs Park, Lake Glendale and Pounds Hollow," he adds.

"People can come here just for peace and quiet," he says, "or they may want to join others in a lively game of horseshoes, lawn bowling, or card playing.

Or they may just want to watch the boats as they go up and down the Ohio, or fish the river."

Although situated in a rural and rustic area, San Damiano is close to hospitals, restaurants, grocery stores and doctors; most are within ten minutes' drive.

While situated in the wilds, the retreat is not terribly remote, nor is it primitive. All cottages have individual controls for heating and air conditioning, and all have telephones and television. There are decks overlooking the Ohio. Some have handicapped-equipped baths. Parking is at each unit.

"We're just a two-hour drive southeast of Belleville, or an hour north of Paducah," Mark says, "and we offer a clean, peaceful and safe place to relax and get away."

San Damiano is located 25 miles south of Harrisburg and two miles south of the intersection of Routes 146 and 34. An all-weather blacktop road leads to the Pope-Hardin County line and to the entrance to San Damiano.

For more information, contact the facility at Rt. 1, Box 106, Golconda, IL 62938, or (618) 285-3507.



In the middle of a 1992 Illinois cornfield, an 1800s New England farm scene takes shape. Mrs. Stocks, who enjoyed "Down East" tales and sketching as a child, is a self-taught painter.

## Painted glimpses of yesterday's America

Outside the small frame cottage, an ocean of cornstalks rustles gently in the warm Midwestern breeze. Inside the cottage, a colorful New England village — hundreds of miles and a couple of eras away — slowly comes to life brushstroke by brushstroke.

There, on a thin board, a high-stepping mare pulls a hay wagon full of children. Cows mingle in front of a white picket fence. Crowning a green hill in the background, a church oversees a northeastern hamlet as its

inhabitants go through their daily paces. Is that the distant ringing of the church bell?

Linda Nelson Stocks knows, because it is her world. From the middle of the cornfield near Fisher in Iroquois County, she creates rustic New England scenes that dwell in her imagination.

Her world is becoming more and more well-known to others. Governor Jim Edgar knows that world. A Stocks print hangs in his home, a gift to his wife. TV's "The Golden Girls" know that

world. A Stocks calendar hangs on a door of their kitchen scenery. Visitors from Japan know her world. They once showed up on Linda Stocks' doorstep and purchased two of her paintings.

Stocks, a member of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, ranks seventh in sales among artists of top-selling calendars in the U.S. Stocks' work, in the "primitive" style of Grandma Moses, was once a pastime. Today, her commitment to calendars and lithograph prints means a constant

parade of deadlines.

"It started as a lark," she says, seated in the north window light of her studio. "Now, so many people are involved, so many are depending on me to get my work done. Now, it's really serious. I can't say, 'Oh, I don't feel like painting.' But, I'd do this even if I didn't get paid."

Stocks' early life did not necessarily forecast her artistic career. Five generations of her family have lived on this farmland. She attended Fisher schools and studied home economics at Michigan State University for two years. She and her husband, Leonard, a civil engineer, and their two daughters lived in various cities in Illinois and the East Coast until 1973. The family returned to the Illinois farm to help her father, who was ill. He died within a year and the Stocks family assumed the farm work.

Still, in childhood Stocks loved to hear her grandmother's stories of the horse-and-buggy days, and she explored the countryside. She has always loved children and animals (two German shepherds are studio companions). And, she spent many hours with crayons, watercolors and oils. These hues of her past eventually mixed to color her future.

In 1979, Stocks received a book of paintings by Grandma Moses as a Christmas gift. It prompted her first try at painting a primitive scene — a rural setting in which a family brings home a Christmas tree aboard a horse-drawn sleigh. More paintings followed. With no formal art training, she taught herself at the easel.

"I had to learn, 'Do I paint the house on the background, or paint the house first and fill the background around it?' It took several hours to create the details of a window," she says.

During a family trip in Wisconsin, Stocks visited a Milwaukee gallery featuring primitive art. Her daughter



Linda Nelson Stocks

revealed to the owner that her mother did similar work. The owner invited Stocks to send some photos.

"I thought they were just being nice," she recalls. Nine months went by before she took the offer. In three days, the gallery was on the phone. The Stocks family packed up a mobile home with paintings and headed to Milwaukee. At the gallery, they began to unload the paintings when, to Stocks' astonishment, a woman approached and asked to buy the second painting out of the trailer.

"I said, 'Don't you want to see the others?' and she said, 'No, I'll have this one.' I'll never forget that."

Requests for her paintings began to grow. One buyer was a Milwaukee housebuilder, Bob Lang, a native of Danville. He thought somebody should make a calendar out of this woman's work. Then, he took the job on himself. Despite an utter lack of printing experience, Lang contacted Stocks, bought paper, found a printer and printed 8,000. They sold out, launching not only Stocks' calendar business but Lang Graphics, now one of the leading publishers

of calendars and cards in the country.

The calendar became an annual project, demanding 12 new paintings a year. B Dalton Bookseller, which chooses 50 to 60 kinds of calendars to sell from among almost 6,000 available, includes Stocks creations in its supply. They have ranked seventh for five years.

She states, "One of the biggest satisfactions is that it is consistent. When my calendar first was No. 7, there was a calendar representing the 'Miami Vice' TV show. That was the No. 1 selling calendar that year. They're gone now."

In addition to the calendars, four paintings are done each year for limited edition prints, with 1,500 in a single edition. The Stocks and their assistants, Alyssa and Donna Coffin, oversee the painstaking quality process and the customer orders. And then, there's still the planting and harvesting to get done.

Stocks works in the remodeled cottage across the road from her home. She starts by penciling a layout on white paper.

"All the scenes are from my imagination. We go out East and I see the doors, windows and architecture, and put them together. You can't improve on what the men did designing these buildings 200 years ago. I also enjoy painting farm scenes one might have seen in the Midwest many years ago."

Though the deadlines hound her, she finds peace in bringing these scenes to life. "I feel that when I sit here and paint this work, when I really let my imagination go into the picture, I can imagine what these people are doing."

Stocks acknowledges that she wants to be successful, "but not necessarily to make a great deal of money. . . . I don't want my work to be out of people's affordability. I want it to be available to young couples decorating their first home."



# Illinois Marketplace

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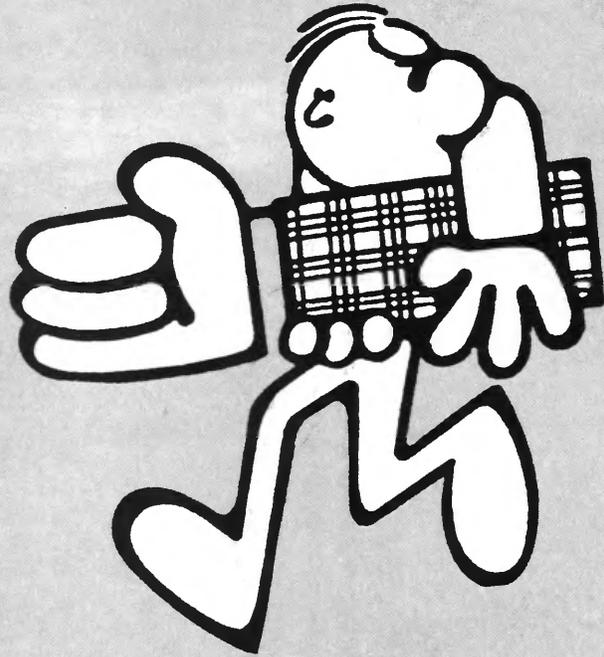
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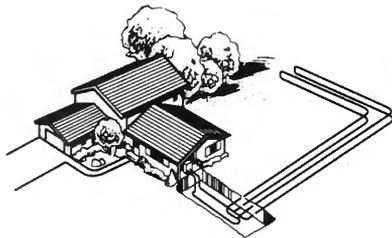
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