

Legislative Conference

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Plug-in cars

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Illinois Rural Electric News

June 1992

IREN



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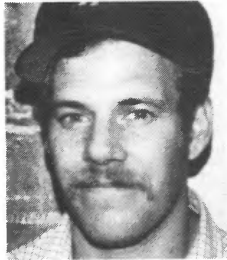


Young people in control

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**earned \$7,700 from
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1st person story by Tedd Mainwaring

"I worked on an oil drilling crew out west. We drilled 11 wells one year, every one a gusher! But did I strike it rich? Not on your life—I was paid by the hour and struggled to feed a growing family. That started me to thinking, 'Why should I do all the work while someone else gets all the gravy.'

"About that time I got injured and ended up having to move my family to a different area to take a job as a maintenance mechanic. That idea of controlling my own destiny kept gnawing at me. By now I had five children with extra expense of about \$2,400 a year sending the oldest one to a speech and hearing center.

"How could a guy like me save up enough money to start my own business? To get into most businesses you have to own a corner of Fort Knox. If I could only ease into a business without giving up the regular salary I had to count on to put food on the table. And without making any investment. As long as I was dreaming, wouldn't it be great to find something where every single spare time order could bring in *really big* extra money.

"Sound like the impossible dream? Well, I had seen a Pace Products story about a man who earned \$4,154.65 on just one Seamless Spray order. And he didn't have to invest a penny. I sent for the free information. Believe me, when I received their literature and saw how easy their field-tested sales kit made everything—I knew it could all be more than just a dream. I decided to become a Pace distributor. And it was the best decision I ever made.

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"Pace ships the Pace Seamless Spray equipment on Free Loan. The customer pays only for the roofing products from Pace. His own men apply it. And the clincher—I would get my big commissions up front. Paid in advance. Weekly.

"With my mechanic's job, I was able to start out with Pace in my spare time. I didn't know a thing about roofs, but Pace told me everything I had to know. They showed me how easy

it is to set up a business and keep it running profitably. So all I had to do was go out and find somebody with a leaky roof, and tell him about Pace products.

"Quite frankly, my first prospect didn't buy. But I made a call for a school building with a roof the size of a football field. They called it the "Bucket Leaker," because every time it rained they had to put out buckets—in classrooms, hall ways, even the cafeteria—to catch the water. I got the job and made \$7,700 on it.

"That school building is now leak-free for the first time in 25 years, so they had me do five other roofs with Pace's Seamless Spray. I was on my way. Today my family and I are enjoying a life we never thought possible before—all thanks to my accepting Pace's invitation to return that little coupon in the ad I read."

Tedd Mainwaring

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Cooperative spirit a key for rural water district

Rather than having a "groundbreaking," people around the town of Dieterich chose to have a "pipe-splicing" ceremony. The choice was obvious. They were celebrating the beginning of construction of the first phase of a rural water distribution system. The event, held May 18 at Dieterich High School, marked the long-awaited construction phase of about 100 miles of water line for E J Water Corporation, an organization dedicated to getting a supply of quality water to hundreds of homes in the area.

By the end of the year, they figure to have water running to about 350 homes in portions of Effingham, Jasper and Cumberland counties. That is Phase I of the project. Hundreds more people have signed up for Phase II, and organizers believe there may be interest in a Phase III.

The project was the subject of an article in the October 1991 issue of the Illinois Rural Electric News, and it has an interesting history. Four years ago, local leaders pondered how they could do something for the local economy, especially to build job opportunities for the area's young people. First thoughts were of industry. Some of the first advice they received was to develop a supply of quality water. Without good water supply and quality, they had little chance of attracting any new jobs, they learned.

They took the advice. Soon, led by several hard-working people — including Delbert Mundt, president of the board of Norris Electric Cooperative —

they were on their way. With federal and state help, they moved quickly.

State Sen. Bill O'Daniel and Rep. Chuck Hartke attended the ceremonies. O'Daniel praised the group for working so quickly to reach one of their goals. Hartke likened the creation of the rural water system to the organization of rural electric cooperatives more than 50 years ago. He pointed out that the rural electrification effort also involved people setting out to provide a needed service for themselves and others when no one else would.

Maybe it was more than coincidence that this project was compared to rural electrification. Another of the people instrumental in the development of E J Water was Victor Lidy, who helped stake lines for Norris Electric years ago, and Kenneth Trimble, Jasper County Board Chairman, is the son of Clay Trimble, long-time Norris director and former president of the board of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

For many years electric cooperatives have been the driving forces for much economic and community betterment. Sometimes it is a direct involvement. In other instances, it is indirect, such as with E J Water. In any case, what E J Water leaders have accomplished is an excellent example for others who have unmet needs. The spirit of cooperation that has dominated rural electrification for more than a half-century works well in a variety of other self-help endeavors.

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Cover: Students participating in Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day April 29 spent a busy day in the capital, including these contestants in the "remote co-op control game." From left are Justin Curry of Griggsville, Leslie Mosbacher of Prairie du Rocher and Donald Lacey of Quincy. (See article on pages 18 and 19.)

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Legislative Conference

Electric cooperative leaders take a message to Washington

Thousands of rural leaders — including a number of Illinoisans — visited Washington, D.C., in early May, taking the news and the needs of the countryside to members of Congress.

They talked with their elected officials about energy policy, economic development and em-

ployment, the environment, telecommunications and taxes.

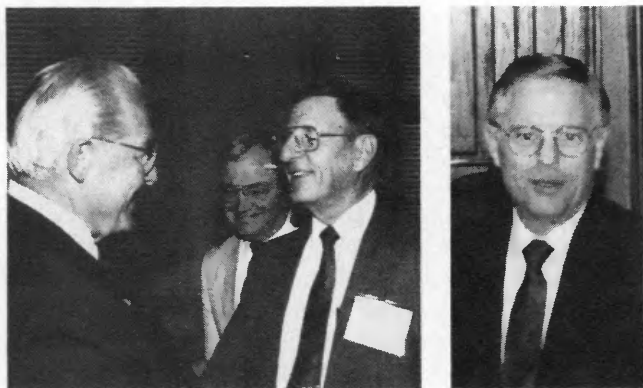
But the financial status of rural electric cooperatives dominated their visit. Rural electric leaders nationwide spent most of 1991 engaged in a thorough review of rural electric financing issues, and came up with suggestions focused on the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), the Agriculture Department agency that makes low-interest loans to rural electric systems.

Here is a summary of the issues, backgrounds and electric cooperative positions that surfaced during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Conference:

Financing

Issue: REA loan levels.

Background: The utility industry as a whole relies heavily on borrowed money to pay for expanding and improving electric service. The federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA) is the major lender for most rural electric cooperatives. That agency operates two basic loan funds: a direct lending program that supplies 70 percent



Left: Joe Danielson (right) of Princeton greets Rep. Bob Michel. In the background is Roger C. Mohrman of Camp Point. Right: Rep. Tom Ewing, the state's newest Congressman, met with electric cooperative leaders.



Rep. Dennis Hastert talks with, from left, John W.H. Tompkins of LeRoy, Randall Rings of Springfield and Wm. David Champion, Jr., of Paxton.



Sen. Alan Dixon meets with a large group of Illinoisans during the conference.

of the financing needs of most local distribution cooperatives, and a guaranteed loan program geared toward the credit requirements of about 60 large power-supply cooperatives that serve the distribution systems.

The direct loan program makes \$622 million available each year at 5 percent interest. Co-ops supplement this money with loans from private cooperative lenders, for which they pay market-based interest rates. Unfortunately, the \$622 million available from REA has fallen far short of what the cooperatives needed for the past several years, causing local systems to delay necessary improvements or pay higher interest rates — thus hurting service or driving up costs.

President Bush proposed to cut this program by almost \$100 million in the budget recommendations he sent to Congress. He also suggested ending the power-supply loan guarantee program and replacing it with a modified direct program.

Bills proposed in Congress this year would increase REA direct lending as part of a government effort to increase employment and improve the nation's basic services.

Electric cooperative position: Bolstering REA's direct lending makes sense both as a way to jolt the rural economy out of its lingering recession and as a means of strengthening the crucial basic service of electricity. The backlog of loan applications, meanwhile, is hurting rural electric consumers and should be addressed by increasing the loan level to \$822 million. Changes in government budgeting procedures made in late 1990 would lower the cost of the increase to just \$42 million. Co-ops also question the need for

tinkering' with the successful guaranteed loan program.

REA borrowing

Issue: Changing REA lending procedures.

Background: Electric cooperative leaders are seeking three major changes in REA lending rules, each of which would require an amendment to the law that created the agency:

- Discounted prepayment of loans. The long waiting line for REA loan money and the legal requirements placed on co-ops that borrow from the agency have prompted some rural electric systems to borrow instead from private lenders, including the cooperative-owned National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. Before going elsewhere for their credit, these systems need to buy out of their existing REA loans. Few systems, however, could afford to prepay those notes without a discount — a discount that would cost the government nothing.

- Lending restrictions based on general fund levels. Tightening the loan program would help reduce the backlog of systems waiting for loan funds. As part of a financing study, cooperative leaders concluded that lending should be restricted for systems with a "general fund level" — basically cash on hand or in the bank — totaling 8 percent of the value of physical plant plus a month's wholesale power bill. Thus, a cooperative with \$10 million worth of buildings, lines and substations and a \$200,000 monthly bill from its power supplier would not be able to borrow from REA if it held general funds of more than \$1 million (8 percent of plant, or \$800,000, plus the

\$200,000 monthly power bill).

● **Lien accommodation policy.** Another change is needed to allow co-ops to seek financing outside the government. When a system borrows from REA, the agency holds a mortgage on everything that system owns, leaving nothing left over to secure loans from other sources. The lack of clear collateral makes many credit sources reluctant to make additional loans to co-ops.

Cooperative position: Without increasing the government's cost, these three changes would go a long way toward streamlining and improving the REA loan program. "Essentially," NRECA declared in a background paper on the changes, "rural electric systems are asking for a highly successful federal-private partnership program already in place to run better."

Energy

Issue: National energy strategy.

Background: After coming close but failing last year, Congress is on the verge of passing a comprehensive national energy policy bill. As passed in the major energy committees of both the House and the Senate, the measure calls for greater use of conservation and energy efficiency, some expanded oil and gas development and streamlined licensing procedures for nuclear plants and more competition in power generation. However, the bill must clear seven other House committees before going to the floor for a vote — and powerful members of some of those panels have promised to add sections that would limit the use of energy sources said to contribute to global warming, restrict or block new oil and gas development and virtually stop construction of new nuclear power plants. President Bush, who launched a nationwide debate on energy policy more than two years ago and pushed for passage of this year's bill, would probably veto a final bill that contained such restrictions.

Cooperative position: The nation needs a coordinated and comprehensive energy strategy to avoid the crises and panics that have triggered recessions, gas lines and high prices in the past. Such a policy should contribute to U.S. energy security by easing the country's dependence on oil imported from regions torn by war and political instability.

Energy legislation should balance environmental and economic considerations. It should recognize the importance of coal—a plentiful and economical domestic energy resource—in the production of clean, efficient electricity.

Such measures also should establish a workable model for governing utility access to the nation's electrical transmission grids, one that stresses voluntary coordination and planning by systems within their regions. No move should be made as part of the strategy to sell off the government



Connie M. Shireman of Elizabeth leads discussions with Rep. John Cox of Galena.



T.L. Christensen (left) of Princeton visits with Rep. Lane Evans.



Rep. George Sangmeister listens to Wm. David Champion, Jr., of Paxton.



Rep. Glenn Poshard (right) greets Roy D. Wise of Harrisburg. Looking on are, from left, Kenneth R. Webb of Tunnel Hill, Bill Cadle of Marion, George R. Inman of Grand Chain and Richard D. Moss of Tamms.



Rep. Richard J. Durbin (right) speaks during a breakfast meeting. From left are Robert I. Brauer (left) of Oakford and Roger C. Mohrman of Camp Point.



Rep. Jerry Costello (center) also attended a breakfast meeting. With Costello are Wilbert H. Rueter (left) of Carlyle and Joseph J. Fellin of Waterloo.

agencies that market power produced at federal dams.

Economy

Issue: Rural economic development and job creation.

Background: Two measures before Congress would help cut rural unemployment while improving the basic services crucial to building a strong economic base in the countryside. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), chairman of the Agriculture Committee, has introduced a measure that would increase federal funding and loan levels for a wide variety of programs, including REA. A similar but not identical measure was introduced in the House by the Appropriations Committee chair, Rep. Jamie Whitten (D-Miss.), who also heads that committee's panel on rural development and agriculture spending. Action also is needed to provide money for several important rural development programs established in the 1990 Farm Bill — including a \$10 million program to help rural electric and telephone systems cooperate in local business incubators and \$40 million to help establish water and sewer systems.

Cooperative position: The Leahy and Whitten

bills would be major steps in the right direction for the rural economy. They would create much-needed jobs in the countryside, by putting people to work on vital services such as road and bridge improvements, water and sewer systems, communications services and electric system. The 1990 Farm Bill's sections on rural development should be funded.

Environment

Issue: Global warming.

Background: Some scientists argue that emissions from cars and trucks, factories and power plants are contributing to a dangerous buildup of carbon dioxide and other gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. Pressure has mounted in Washington and at the United Nations for laws and treaties to curb such emissions — probably by restricting the use of fossil fuels.

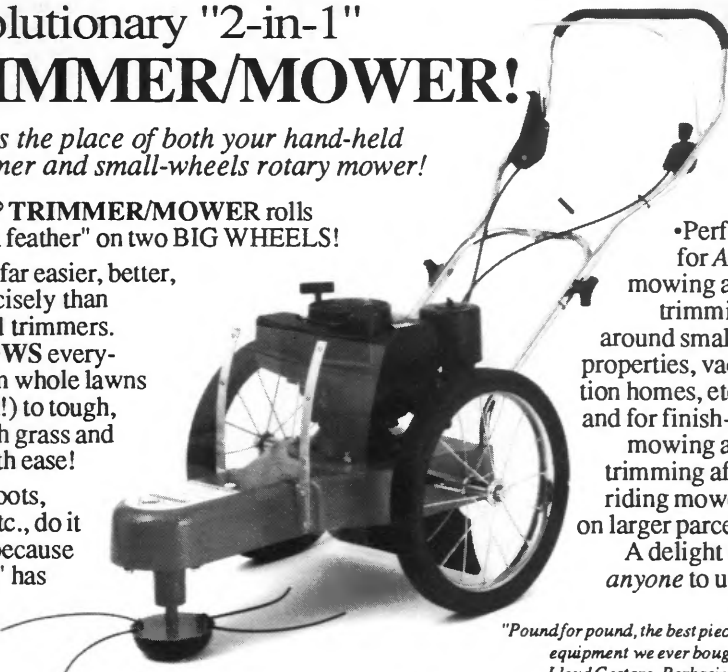
Cooperative position: Global warming merits concern and careful study, but not enough is known about the problem to justify major actions that could severely disrupt the U.S. economy. The proper response is to continue to refine conservation and efficiency programs, look for cleaner

(Continued on page 15)

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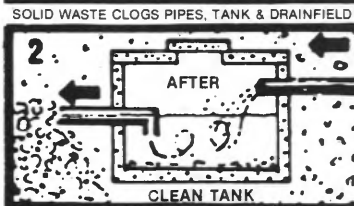
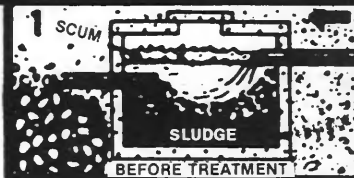
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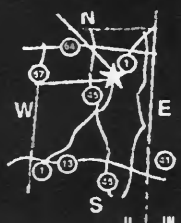
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News items of interest to members of Illinois electric cooperatives

State coal study supports technology solutions

By 1995, Illinois may lose more than one-third of its coal business, 23,000 jobs, \$900 million in personal income, and \$50 million per year in state tax revenues, according to a report from the Illinois Coal Development Board. Those findings are the main points of the board's annual "Outlook for the Illinois Coal Industry," which was presented to Governor Jim Edgar and the Illinois General Assembly with recommendations for preventing economic damage to the state. The 182-page report attributes the majority of its observations to economic fallout from the amendments to the federal Clean Air Act in 1990. The first phase of the revised federal laws, which will take effect in 1995, established caps on sulfur dioxide emissions from coal-burning utility companies in the United States. Phase II, which will begin in the year 2000, tightens regulations on coal-burning utilities by putting restrictions on emissions of nitrogen oxides and further restricting sulfur dioxide emissions. Illinois presently is the fifth-leading coal-producing state in the nation but that ranking, which is based on sales volume, is expected to diminish during Phase I of the new laws. Most Illinois coal is high-sulfur, and power plants that burn high-sulfur coal must reduce their emissions of air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, reductions targeted by the Clean Air Act amendments. "The Illinois coal industry will experience a severe erosion of its customer base due to compliance actions," the report says. Anticipated loss of annual coal sales is projected at \$575 million. Currently, more than two-thirds of Illinois' coal volume is exported to 38 out-of-state utilities. According to the coal board report, 19 of those utilities have opted to switch to low-sulfur coal, while 11 may build emissions scrubbers. Consequently, the report predicts the demise of one-third of the state's utility coal market by 1995.

Alarming statistics

Did you know that Americans are some of the oldest people on the planet, living to the ripe old age of 75.7 years? Or that a typical U.S. woman will have 3.4 children during that lifespan? Have you heard that 11,500 people live in just one square mile of New York City? These facts are in a new Census Bureau report, "World Population Profile: 1991." The report reveals the alarming statistic that our planet is expanding so rapidly that it will hold an unprecedented 8.2 billion people by the not-so-distant year of 2020. That figure is more than 50 percent greater than today's population. Not to worry, says report author Ellen Jamison. Even the most densely populated area, Sub-Saharan Africa, will stabilize its population in the next 30 years.

Toll-free beef hotline

Until July 5, consumers who call "The Beef Connection," a toll-free hotline, can speak directly with an experienced home economist regarding beef-grilling topics. The hotline is open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily. By calling the 1-800-392-BEEF (2333) number, callers will also receive a free copy of the Illinois Beef Council's Great Grilled Beef brochure featuring recipes and tips for outdoor grilling. "We want Illinois consumers to realize that beef producers listen to their concerns and make necessary changes to keep beef their choice at restaurants and at home," Tim O'Connor, executive vice president of the Illinois Beef Council, said. "With convenience being such an important issue in America's food selection, beef is a great choice, especially during warmer weather," he added.

Underground storage tanks must be registered

Owners of heating oil underground storage tanks (USTs) must register with the Office of the State Fire Marshal by July 1, according to law, Jim McCaslin, petroleum and chemical safety director, says. "Registration is required if the heating oil UST is 110 gallons or greater and if the tank has been in use any time since January 1, 1974. Owners need to get their tanks registered right away." A fee of \$100 per tank will be required upon registration. All heating oil USTs that are

registered after July 1 will be assessed a registration fee of \$500. In addition, all heating oil USTs that have been registered prior to this Act will also have a \$100 assessment fee. Residential and agricultural heating oil USTs are exempt from this law. For more information concerning the registration, assessment, upgrade and removal of these heating oil USTs, call OSFM's Division of Petroleum and Chemical Safety at (217)785-1020 or (217)785-5878. Registration forms can be obtained by calling or writing: Division of Petroleum and Chemical Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, 1035 Stevenson Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-4259.

Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) home ownership loans

"Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has over 24 million dollars in direct home loan funds available state wide" says Jack L. Young, state director, "and we are quite interested in seeing that those funds are utilized to buy, build or repair homes for families in rural Illinois." "Many people are unaware that FmHA affords a very unique opportunity for home ownership to low income families observed Young. "Where else can a deserving family obtain 100 percent financing and be given up to 38 years to repay the loan? Moreover, the interest rate can be adjusted to as low as 1 percent, based on the applicant's income and family situation. This agency really makes house ownership affordable." Loans are provided to finance modest houses in rural areas. Eligible communities includes open country and places with population of 10,000 and less. Under certain conditions towns between 10,000 and 25,000 population are also eligible. Those interested should contact the local FmHA office. The address and telephone number of the local office can be found under "Government Offices — Federal" in the yellow pages of telephone directories. Income eligibility limits vary by county and number in the household. For example, the maximum adjusted income limit for a family of four in Williamson County would be \$27,000. In Dekalb County the four-person household adjusted income limit increases to \$33,450.

Rural hospital crisis still growing

The health care crisis is growing, especially in rural hospitals, says a new report from the American Hospital Association. "Environmental Assessment for Rural Hospitals 1992" notes that "for many rural residents, access to local health care services is seriously threatened in the current environment." The troubled economies of rural areas lead to hospital closings, which compounds economic problems. Those who choose to stay in rural areas "are increasingly the poor, the elderly and the uninsured." Among the statistics compiled by the report: (1) The Census Bureau found that during a 28-month period ending in May 1987, 32 percent of rural residents lacked health insurance for at least one month. (2) In 1988, 67.3 percent of insured urban residents received health coverage from their employers, compared to only 60.6 percent of insured rural residents. (3) Also in 1988, Medicaid covered only 39 percent of the rural poor, compared to 45 percent of the urban poor. In 1988, urban counties had an average of twice as many physicians per 100,000 residents as rural counties. (4) That same year there were no primary care physicians in 176 rural counties, no pediatricians in 1,488 rural counties and no obstetricians/gynecologists in 1,473 rural counties. (5) In 1990, nearly 70 percent of rural hospitals had higher expenses than revenues. (6) Between 1980 and 1990, 280 rural hospitals stopped providing specialized inpatient care.

Green Lights program saves money, energy

Helping protect the environment may be as easy as changing a light bulb. In an attempt to reduce air pollution, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created a new "Green Lights" program to encourage companies to voluntarily install energy-efficient lighting. The new energy-efficient light sources cut air pollution by reducing carbon dioxide emissions. EPA Administrator William Reilly says the Green Lights program so far has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by the equivalent of removing 1.6 million cars from the road — just by changing light bulbs.

Rural workers face greater risks

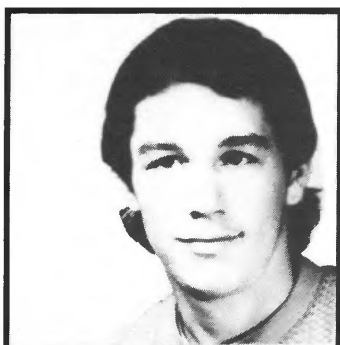
Rural workers are four times as likely to die on the job as their city counterparts. A rural Colorado research team found that 60 percent of 96 workers' deaths were caused by job-related accidents. The deaths are not the result of faulty or late medical attention, but are caused when farmers ignore common hazards or when small-town companies fail to provide safety training. Being struck by a moving object is the most common cause of death, followed by falling from a raised area, getting caught under or between a heavy object, or electrocution.

MISSING



NATASHA LYNN BORRES

LAST SEEN: 10/30/89 EYES: Brown
 FROM: Baton Rouge, LA HEIGHT: 5'2"
 DOB: 04/13/77 WEIGHT: 100
 WHITE FEMALE HAIR: Brown



MARK WILLIAM SEELMAN

LAST SEEN: 06/07/90 EYES: Brown
 FROM: Remsen, NY HEIGHT: 6'
 DOB: 01/29/74 WEIGHT: 160
 WHITE MALE HAIR: Brown

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

1-800-843-5678
 (sightings only)

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-

Teach your child your telephone number, area code, your full address, and how to use the telephone to call home, a law enforcement officer, or dial "0" for operator in an emergency.

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

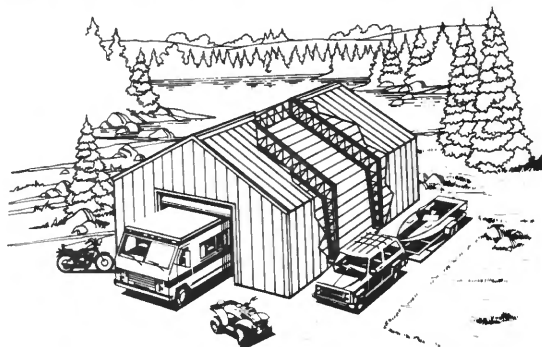
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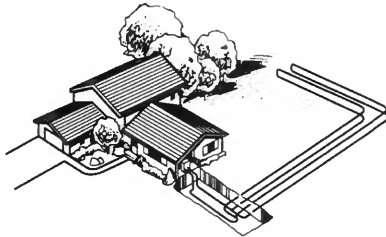
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SMOKY CHEESE BALL

2 (8 oz.) pkgs. softened cream cheese
1 (8 oz.) mild Cheddar cheese
(about 2 cups shredded)
1/2 cup margarine (softened)

2 tablespoons milk
2 teaspoons Prime Choice steak sauce
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
2 teaspoons hickory Liquid Smoke

Combine all ingredients, beat until fluffy. Chill slightly. Shape into a ball. May roll in chopped pecans.

LITTLE PIZZA TURNOVERS 20 servings

1 can refrigerator flaked biscuits
20 slices pepperoni
1 jar (8 oz.) pizza sauce

1 cup Mozzarella cheese, grated
1/2 cup Cheddar cheese, grated
1/2 cup American cheese, grated

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Combine cheese, mix well, and set aside. Separate half the biscuit into two layers. Roll out each biscuit layer into a 4x2-inch oval. Place one slice pepperoni and about one tablespoon cheese mixture on one side of each oval. Then put about one teaspoon of pizza sauce on top of the cheese. Moisten edges with water, fold dough in half, press edges together using a fork to seal. Transfer to a lightly greased baking sheet. Repeat with remaining biscuits. Bake at 350 degrees F. for about 18 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm.

BEEF STROGANOFF

2 lbs. round steak,
(cut into 1" squares)
1/2 onion, finely chopped
2 cans beef consomme
2 cartons (8 oz.) sour cream

1 (8 oz.) can mushrooms
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Flour and brown steak in small amount of oil. When turning steak, add onion to brown. Combine soup, sour cream, mushrooms with juice, salt, garlic salt and pepper. Add to steak and simmer 30-40 minutes. Serve over rice or noodles.

GARLIC GRITS

1 (6 oz.) tube jalapeno cheese
1 (6 oz.) tube garlic cheese
1 cup water

1 teaspoon salt
1 cup uncooked grits
1/4 cup butter

Cut cheese in small pieces. Bring salted water to a boil, slowly add grits. Bring to a second boil, reduce heat and cook over medium heat 4-5 minutes. Add cheese and butter, stirring until melted and blended. Pour into an ungreased 1 1/2 qt. casserole, bake uncovered 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

CREAM CHEESE BRAID

1 (8 oz.) carton sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup butter

2 pkg. yeast
1/2 cup warm water (105-115)
2 eggs, beaten
4 cups all-purpose flour

Heat sour cream over low heat; stir in sugar, salt and butter, cool to luke warm. Sprinkle yeast over warm water in large mixing bowl, stirring until dissolved. Add sour cream mixture, eggs and flour, mix well. Cover tightly; refrigerate overnight. The next day, divide dough into 4 equal parts; roll out each part on a well-floured surface into a 12" x 8" rectangle. Spread one-fourth of cream cheese filling on each rectangle; roll up jelly roll fashion (long way); pinch edges together, and fold ends under slightly. Place rolls seam side down on greased baking sheets. Cover and let rise in warm place until doubled in bulk (about 1 hour). Bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes. Spread with glaze while warm.

Cream Cheese Filling:

2 (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
3/4 cup sugar
1 beaten egg

1/8 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons vanilla

Combine ingredients, mixing well.

Glaze:

2 cups sugar, powdered
4 tablespoons milk

2 teaspoons vanilla

MR. JEFF'S ONION RINGS

Pour some Bulgarian Buttermilk in a bowl. Slice onions and pull apart. Let set in buttermilk for approximately 30 minutes. Take out and coat in self-rising flour and fry in deep fat until done. (These are great at a fish fry. Cook after you have finished everything else.)

STRAWBERRY YOGURT PIE

2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1/2 cup butter, melted
1/4 cup honey
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 carton (8 oz.) strawberry-flavored yogurt

1 carton (8 oz.) commercial sour cream
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup honey
1/2 pint whipping cream, whipped
1/2 cup fresh strawberries, sliced

Combine graham cracker crumbs, butter and honey; blend well and press on bottom and sides of a 9-inch pie plate. Freeze at least 30 minutes.

Beat cream cheese on medium speed of an electric mixer until smooth and fluffy. Combine yogurt and sour cream, mixing well; add to cream cheese. Blend until smooth; stir in vanilla and honey. Pour mixture into prepared crust. Freeze pie until firm. Remove from freezer 30 minutes before serving; garnish with whipped cream and sliced strawberries.

PEANUTTY DAIRY BARS

CRUST:
1 cup butter, softened
2 cups brown sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla

1 1/2 cups unsifted flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups uncooked quick oats

FILLING:
1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
2 pkgs. (3 oz.) cream cheese, softened

1/2 cup smooth peanut butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup chopped peanuts

FROSTING:
2/3 cup semi-sweet chocolate morsels
1/3 cup filling (above)
2 tablespoons vanilla yogurt

2/3 tablespoons milk (as needed for spreading consistency)

For crust, blend the butter, sugar, eggs, and vanilla together. Stir in flour, soda, and salt until smooth. Add oats. Spread in an 11" x 17" x 1" cookie sheet. For filling, beat the condensed milk, cream cheese, peanut butter, and vanilla until smooth. Measure 1/3 cup of filling and reserve it for frosting. Spread remaining filling over crust. Sprinkle nuts evenly on top of filling. Bake for 25 minutes at 350 degrees. For frosting, place chocolate morsels and reserved filling in bowl. Microwave on high for two minutes until morsels are melted and mixture is smooth. Remove from microwave. Add vanilla yogurt and milk for spreading consistency. Drizzle frosting over surface of bars while still warm. Cool at room temperature. Store remaining bars in the refrigerator or freeze what your family can't eat right away.



BROWN COW PIE

32 chocolate wafers
2 envelopes unflavored gelatin
1/4 cup water
3/4 cup root beer

1 pint vanilla ice cream, softened slightly
1 1/2 cups heavy cream, divided
Ground cinnamon, optional

Arrange wafers on bottom of a 9" pie plate, overlapping wafers slightly. Stand 12 wafers up around pie plate to form a rim; reserve 4 cookies for garnish. In a medium saucepan, sprinkle gelatin over water; let stand 5 minutes to soften. Stir over low heat until gelatin completely dissolves; stir in root beer. Gradually add ice cream (1 heaping tablespoon at a time) stirring over low heat, until all ice cream is melted. Remove from heat; pour into large bowl. Chill until mixture mounds slightly when dropped from a spoon. Whip 1/4 cups heavy cream until soft peaks form; fold into gelatin mixture. Turn into prepared pie plate, mounding in the center. Chill several hours, until firm. Just before serving, whip remaining 1/4 cup cream. Garnish pie with whipped cream, 4 chocolate wafers and cinnamon. Yield: 8 to 10 servings.

RO-TEL CASSEROLE

1 can Ro-tel
1 can cheddar cheese soup
1 can tomatoes

1 medium cabbage, chopped
1 onion, chopped

Mix all ingredients together and bake 1 hour at 350°.

SPICY COCOA

3/4 cup hot cocoa mix
1 cup root beer

6 cups boiling water
Cinnamon sticks

In heatproof pitcher, blend cocoa mix with root beer. Pour in boiling water; stir. Serve in mugs, garnished with a cinnamon stick. Yield: 8 servings.



Mrs. Graham exhibits one of her early efforts, which won a place on a calendar in 1952.

Calendar contest entry sparks a rewarding 40 years for artist

If experience counts for anything, Helen Graham of Oblong has an advantage as an artist — she's been at it for more than 40 years.

Actually, the Norris Electric Cooperative member has been at it seriously for a little while — just 20 years. But she got off to a good start, once she decided to try it. "I'd gone to a lot of art and craft shows," she says with a smile, "and I'd admired all the nice work other people had done. One day as I was looking at all that stuff, I said, 'If they can do it, I can do it,' and set out to prove it."

It turned out that an Illinois agricultural organization had an annual calendar contest, in which artists who were members were encouraged to submit entries, and the 12 best were

used for the calendar.

To make a long story short, Mrs. Graham entered the 1952 contest, and her entry, a winter snowscape, was one of those chosen. "I was rich," she says, still tickled at the memory. "There was a \$50 prize that went with it, and that was a lot of money then. I also got a nice certificate, which I still have."

While it wasn't enough to retire on, it was an encouragement that just wouldn't quit, and she got busy working on her painting, while she was raising a daughter and two sons, and helping around the farm. She and her husband, Charley, married in 1942, and moved to their place near Oblong a couple of years later. They're still there. In those days, like today, it was fairly commonplace for a farm



Gathering paintings for a show

wife to help with the operation, and farms were often more diversified than they are now.

Chickens and dairy cows often made up a part of the business, and the wife and children were often responsible for them. Often, the wife took her "pin money" from the sale of milk, cream, butter and eggs. Mrs. Graham was one who did.

As time went by, that practice fell by the wayside, and women started looking for other sources of income. Mrs. Graham decided to make her painting pay, and she set out to do just that.

"I'm mostly self-taught," she says, "except for classes and workshops that I go to fairly often. I just went to one in Paris, at the end of March, in fact."

She started exhibiting at shows, and business started picking up. "I'll try just about anything," she says, "but I don't really enjoy doing flowers. I like

old barns and stores and gas stations, and things like that, because there's often a lot of texture in them, and some good strong light and shadow. I do a lot of painting with a knife, because with barn wood and a knife, you can do some really beautiful stuff."

As word of her ability spread, people started coming to her — with requests to do portraits. "I had never really done much in the way of portraits," she says, "but I told people that if they wanted me to, I would give it a shot and see if they liked the results. Everybody seems to like them, so I must be doing something right. I've done kids, dogs and cats, too."

Much of her work is from old photos, and she has done many paintings of area homes, stores and farms that are gone now. She has done a couple of seascapes, and has a painting of her

mother, father and older sister, which was painted from a snapshot taken before she was born. It was taken in the mountains out West, and many of her paintings are from the Rockies, especially Colorado and New Mexico.

"I usually work with oils when I'm doing portraits and buildings, where detail really count, and I prefer acrylics for landscapes.

"I paint for people more than myself," she says, "and I really enjoy it when they look at my paintings and admire them. And I think that's part of the reason they sell fairly well. I've sold paintings that have gone to England and Austria, as well as California, New Jersey, Texas, Colorado and Utah, that I know of; about 12 states in all. It's a good way to earn a little money, now that milk and eggs are a thing of the past."



Illinois electric cooperative leaders also met with Sen. Paul Simon (left) and Rep. Terry Bruce.

Legislative Conference

(Continued from page 7)

ways to use the nation's abundant coal resources, pursue a vigorous research program and take other basic steps, such as planting trees, that will benefit the environment even if the global warming threat is found not to exist.

Telecommunications

Issue: Cable television industry control of programming.

Background: Cable TV corporations own or control many of the companies that produce television shows, and they've used this control to keep prices for popular programs excessively high for rural viewers who get television entertainment

through satellite broadcasts rather than cable. Two bills before Congress would help break that monopolistic hold on the television industry by outlawing discriminatory policies of price and access that keep satellite television services from offering the most popular shows. Another piece of legislation would allow satellite services to sue the cable companies to obtain fair treatment.

Cooperative position: Many rural electric systems offer their consumers a satellite television package called Rural TV, and the bills proposed before Congress would strengthen that television service. The bills should be passed.

Taxes

Issue: Taxing consumers' energy conservation rebates.

Background: Providing cash rebates to consumers who install energy-efficient appliances or energy-conservation materials such as added insulation is one of the most effective ways to get the public to conserve energy. The Internal Revenue Service, however, wants to tax such cash incentives paid by utilities. The IRS would allow utilities to give participating consumers credit on their electric bills. About a dozen pieces of legislation have been offered in Congress to exempt such rebates from taxation.

Cooperative position: National energy policy should encourage greater participation in utility energy efficiency programs. Congress should pass legislation to exempt rebates from taxation.

NEW DESIGNS

5749: Easy to sew button-front loose-fitting tunic and smock with pleating detail. *State A* (PT to XL included) when ordering.

5750: Set of aprons, cobbler (with pockets and side ties) is encased in braid or trimmed with eyelet, apron with bib and gathered skirt is encased in braid. *State A* (one size fits 6-18) when ordering.

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COUNTRY CRITTERS

5633: Concentrate on comfort in this dress, smock and pants. Smock and dress have front zipper, two sleeve lengths, pants have elastic waist. *Half Sizes State A* (14½ to 24½ included) when ordering.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

DESIGNER

In Women's Sizes

5734: Pullover top and pull-on skirt. *Women's Sizes State G* (40-42, 44) or *H* (46-48-50) when ordering.

5748: Easy-to-sew pullover dress and top have dolman sleeves, ribbed neck and sleeve bands; pull-on pants and skirt have elastic waist. *Women's Sizes State G* (22-24-26) or *H* (28-30-32) when ordering.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

Social Assets

5591: On the loose... dress with free floating comfort in sleeveless or short sleeved versions. *Misses' Sizes State SM* (10-12), *MD* (14-16), *LG* (18-20) or *XL* (22-24) when ordering.

5637: Fluid ease of movement that does not sacrifice a measure of its good looks. Jacket tops a no-waist seam dress. *Misses' Sizes 8 to 18* are included in pattern.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

Quilts Galore

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".

5156: Printed patterns and sewing instructions for 10" tall angel bunnies made from crew socks.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

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Quilts Galore

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.

902: Butterflies to embroider on blocks for a delightful colorful quilt. Tissue transfer of 48 motifs and directions are included.

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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Researchers and developers of electric cars say it will not be easy to convince Americans to convert from automobiles with gas tanks to those with batteries. That's why the key to success is making electrics as easy to use and as comparable to the old stand-by as possible.

Chrysler Corp. turned up the heat in the race to make an electric car so good that a consumer would hardly know it doesn't have a gas tank.

Chrysler is joining with Westinghouse Electric Corp. in a multimillion-dollar project to boost acceleration and operating range between charges in an electric car. The prototype would be electric born and bred. In other words, it would not be

a gasoline-powered car made to be converted to electricity.

The company hopes to bring the car to market in the late 1990s — as others rush to get electric cars ready for 1998.

At least 12 states, led by California, have mandated that extremely low-emission and zero-emission vehicles operate on a significant scale by 1998. Only electric vehicles now produce no airborne pollutants.

"We have a couple of hurdles to cross," concedes Jason Vines, Chrysler public relations manager of engineering and technology. "Chief among this is the 200-mile range goal. That is what is acceptable to the consumer, according to our information."

The limited driving range of existing electric cars is one of the technology's major drawbacks. Most of the 4,000 or so electric cars on America's highways now must be recharged every 40 to 60 miles — and that's without the use of air conditioning. Other problems include the length of time it takes for recharging, slow acceleration and the high cost of conversion.

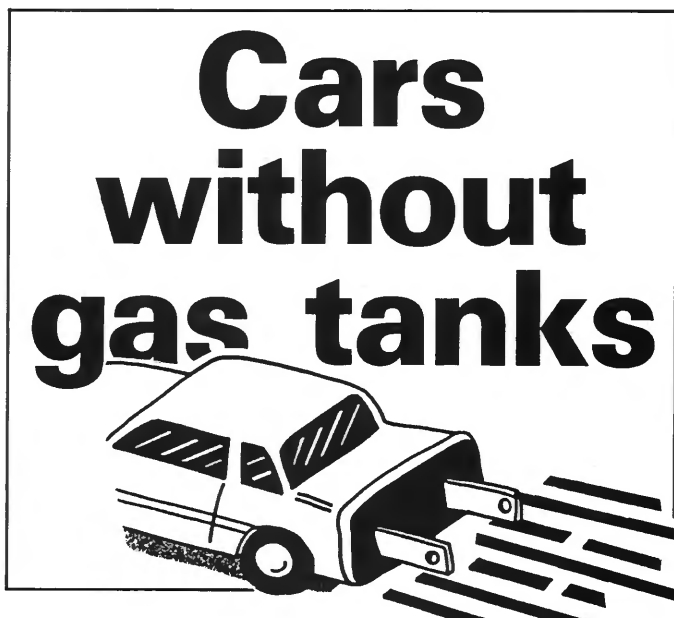
We think we can work out the problems," says Vines. "We think we can eventually make the electric car competitive with the gas vehicle and remove the stigma. That way people can be environmentally friendly but they don't have to give anything up. They won't have to become prisoners of a car that can only travel 60 miles."

Chrysler and other automakers are turning to the United States Advanced Battery Consortium, which was formed by Chrysler, Ford Motor Co.

and General Motors Corp. with support from the government and the electric utility industry. Rural electric cooperatives, through their membership in the Electric Power Research Institute, support the consortium.

It may be the consortium that finds the "miracle"

battery that can power the electric car past the magic 200-mile mark, and eventually, says Vines, to 400 miles on a single charge. "That's when it becomes truly competitive with a gas vehicle." The Chrysler car would have a computerized brain for extending the range and allow acceleration from zero to 60 miles per hour in about 15 seconds. A standard gas-powered vehicle takes about 11 seconds.



The car makers and the electric utility industry have already gone a long way in developing fully functional electric vehicles.

General Motors' prototype electric car, the Impact, can accelerate from zero to 60 miles in eight seconds. Its range is about 120 miles.

Ford is developing the Ecostar electric min-van, and Chrysler, in partnership with EPRI, is developing the TEVan. They can reach speeds of 65 miles an hour with a range of 120 miles. They could go commercial by 1994.

Soon, however, EPRI will stop developing electric vehicles and start concentrating on how to sustain them. It could be that shopping malls and parking garages will serve as charge stations for electric cars.

In rural America, too, research has turned to the electric vehicle. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is developing an electric tractor and is closely monitoring the work of major car manufacturers. The rural user, with daily travel as much as 100 miles, will be a tough sell right now, said John Neal, administrator of energy research and development for NRECA.

But then, says James Janasik, project manager of the Electric Power Research Institute's transportation program, a move to electric cars would mean a big change for everyone.

"It's difficult to get Americans to change their habits," he said. "That's why we want to make the electric vehicle just as compatible to the buyer as the combustible engine vehicle."

—Rural Electric News Service

The eight contestants wait expectantly, listening carefully to the game show host. Each member of the two teams has a buzzer button on a coffee table in front of them.

The question is asked: "Who was the senator who . . ." The buzzer blares.

"George Norris of Nebraska!"

"Right," the host says, "and the rest of the question is, 'worked long and hard against heavy odds to get the Rural Electrification Act passed into law?'"

This scene, and others like it, was played out several times during the Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day April 29 in Springfield. Some 185 students and their chaperones turned out on a beautiful spring day for the event and, in addition to playing a game show, took a special tour of the capital, including visits to historical sites

YOUTH



and meetings with a number of elected officials.

During a luncheon in their honor, Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra addressed the essay contest winners and finalists and mentioned that he and Gov. Jim Edgar weren't a great deal older than the students when they first arrived on the Springfield scene in 1968.

"It was a fact that there were people in the legislature who wouldn't go out on the floor and vote on an issue unless there was an envelope full of cash on their desk," he said, "and there were those who thought there wasn't anything wrong with that. We thought it was the wrong way to run state, and we set out to change the way things were done. I hope you'll do the same."

He challenged them to ask questions and work to bring change and improvements to the system in the future. "As you make your trip today," he said, "don't take any of this for granted. Don't

assume that five, 10 or 15 years from now that things must stay the same as today. I think we've come a long way, but don't think that improvements can't be made."

Rep. Art Tenhouse of Liberty also spoke briefly at the luncheon, urging the students to get involved in the political process. "I hope you will," he said, "because young people in the 18-25 age bracket have the worst voter turnout of all the age groups, and we've got to do a better job of getting young people involved."

He reminded the youths that his first direct involvement in government came in 1967 when he represented Adams Electrical Co-Operative on the Rural Electric Youth Day and the Youth to Washington tour.

Ronny Wickenhauser of Heyworth, the Illinois representative on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Consulting Board, spoke on his tenure with the board, adding that he was



Lt. Gov. Kustra

DAY

1992



At the left: Three high school students representing Clay Electric Co-operative seem pleased with the breakfast buffet awaiting them after their early morning drive from Flora. From left are Joyce Buerster of Clay City, Carrie Lewis of Louisville and Cyra Tolliver of Louisville. Above: Doug Darby of Geneseo, a director of Farmers Mutual Electric Company, helps with registration for three students, from left, David Roets of Geneseo, Dustin DeKeyrel of Colona and Eric Bos of Atkinson.

chosen to the position during last year's Youth to Washington tour.

"It has been a great experience for me," he said, "and I've been to several places I wouldn't have been able to go to, and I've learned a lot. If you think you might have any interest at all, my advice is 'Go for it!' It was great for me."

During the "remote control" game show after the luncheon, Rural Electrification Administration (REA) history and politics were staples, but it had its lighter side, too. The "laughing guy" category was a popular one. The laughing guy ha-ha-ha'd out theme song tunes from sixties TV series for the young people to identify, with mixed results. One contestant, a complete success in most categories, asked, "What's the Brady Bunch?" after having been beaten out by a team she'd otherwise bested in several rounds of questioning.

The remote control contest has been a part of Youth Day activities for the last few years, intended to inject a little fun into the learning process.

The activities are designed to acquaint the young people of Illinois with the benefits of the REA programs by having them write essays on related topics. Winners in the essay contests take a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. in June, and winners and finalists attend the Springfield event, which is essentially a warmup for the Washington

week, which also includes a lot of touring, and a game show, too.

The young people spent the morning visiting with their legislators, and used the afternoon to tour the capital area. They visited the Old State Capitol, the Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Lincoln's tomb, Lincoln's Home and Neighborhood, Illinois State Library and the Illinois Supreme Court.

During a morning visit the various cooperative delegations met with 26 Illinois legislators: Representatives Todd Sieben of Geneseo, Frank Mautino of Spring Valley, Gordon Ropp of Bloomington, Tom Homer of Canton, Robert Olson of Lincoln, Tom Ryder of Jerseyville, N. Duane Noland of Decatur, Tim Johnson of Urbana, Helen Satterthwaite of Champaign, Mike Weaver of Mattoon, Larry Hicks of Mt. Vernon, Kurt Granberg of Centralia, Terry Deering of Nashville, and Bruce Richmond of Murphysboro; and Senators Jim Rea of Christopher, Ralph Dunn of DuQuoin, Frank Watson of Carlyle, Bill O'Daniel of Mt. Vernon, Harry "Babe" Woodyard of Chrisman, Stanley Weaver of Urbana, Vince Demuzio of Carlinville, Laura Kent Donahue of Quincy, Robert Madigan of Lincoln, John Maitland, Jr., of Bloomington and Calvin Schuneman of Prophetstown.

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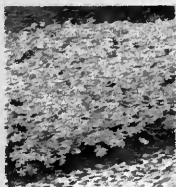
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