

Safety at home

See page 4

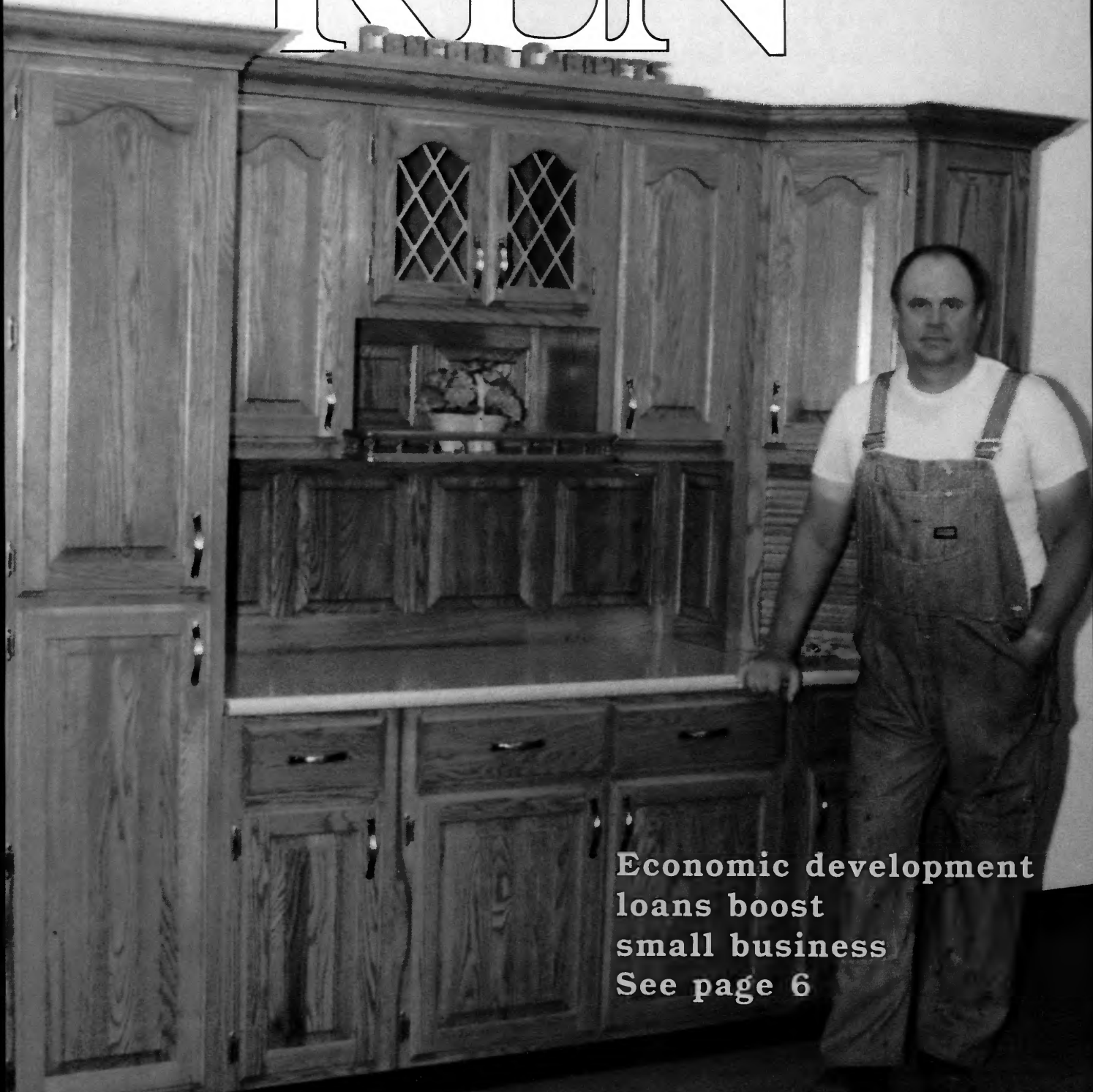
Survey of rural America

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Illinois Rural Electric News

July 1992

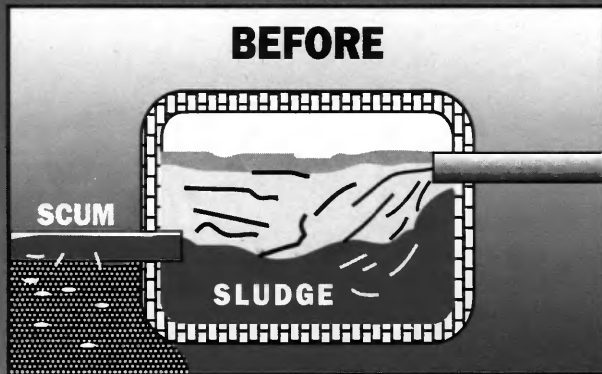
REN



**Economic development
loans boost
small business
See page 6**

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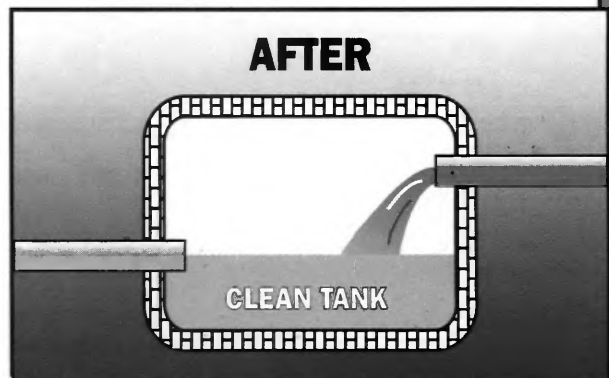
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Legislation would change government loans

Rural electric leaders and their supporters in Congress are moving to improve the sturdy and reliable government lending program that brought lights to the countryside.

Electric cooperatives and rural phone systems across the country borrow money from the government's Rural Electrification Administration (REA) to expand and improve their service. REA's below-market interest rates help these rural utilities control rates despite the higher expenses of serving sparsely populated areas.

Cuts in that lending program over the past decade, however, have cramped REA's operations and produced long waits for loan funds. Rural electric cooperatives that need to extend or upgrade power lines often must move fast — and the delay in getting loan money, which averages more than a year, can cost cooperative consumers more in higher-interest, short-term loans or, in some cases, lost economic development opportunities.

As a result, electric cooperatives and leading lawmakers have proposed a number of measures to fix REA's financing system:

- Discounted prepayment of existing loans. Cooperatives interested in borrowing from non-government sources could pay off their existing REA loans at about a 30 percent discount, freeing them to go elsewhere for credit. This would leave more money in REA funds for other cooperatives that stick with the government program. Such a prepayment would not result in additional costs to the government.

- Restricting loans on the basis of cash on hand. Cooperatives would be allowed to keep cash totalling 8 percent of the value of their buildings and equipment, plus the amount of their biggest monthly wholesale power bill. This would force cooperatives to spend their cash before applying for a new loan, leaving more money for other, usually needier systems.

- Changes in loan security. Currently, REA considers every bit of a cooperative's physical plant as collateral for its loans, no matter how small or what the loan was used for. By granting what the bankers call a lien accommodation, REA could make it easier for cooperatives to start borrowing from other sources.

Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), the Agriculture Committee's top Republican and the leading sponsor of legislation to reform REA's lending practices, says the measure would help rural America.

"It will give rural electric cooperatives more flexibility in meeting their financing needs and in serving their consumers. Rural America is diverse and complex, and government programs must reflect and accommodate this."

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Agriculture Committee chair and a co-sponsor of the bill, predicts that improvements spelled out in the proposal would have an additional benefit. "Rural electric loans can help jump-start stalled rural economies. Rural America needs these jobs."

—Rural Electric News Service

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REN

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**Member of the
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Cover: Gene Daggett of near Siloam Springs in Adams County has been making cabinets for many years. When his business needed a boost to increase production, local economic development people and his electric cooperative helped out. (See article on pages 6 and 7.)

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Play it safe with

It is like a contemporary horror novel where destruction resides in mundane and familiar objects. The setting is where the family is most comfortable and secure, the home.

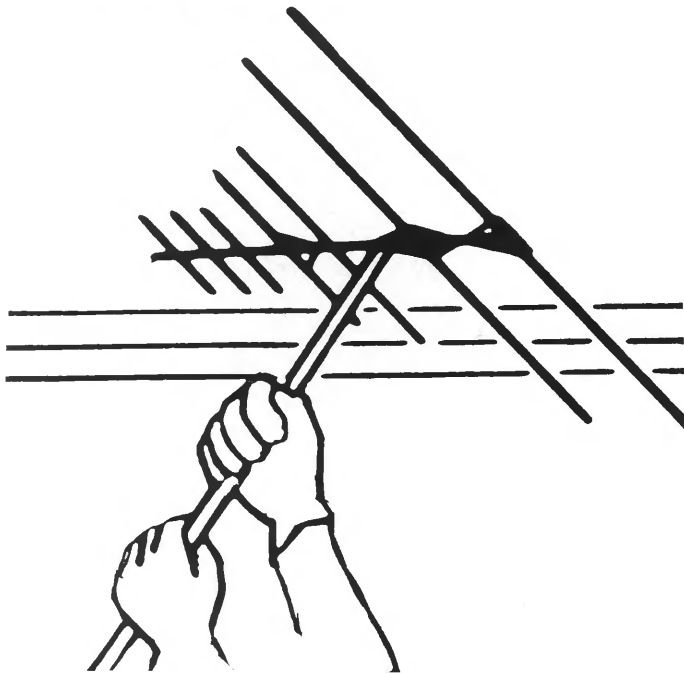
But behind the couch a tangle

of wires and extension cords protrude like tentacles from an overloaded electrical outlet.

Lamps and appliances that have worked without a stutter for years have had their insulation silently fray. A hair dryer,

rigged with an extra-long cord, is plugged into a socket and perched over the bathtub. In the darkness of a fuse box a 60-amp fuse has been twisted into a 15-amp hole.

When storms are crashing and



Outside in the yard

- Be extremely careful when installing antennas, flagpoles or other electricity conductors that metal doesn't come into contact with overhead power lines or exposed wires. Keep metal ladders away from power lines.

- Check extension cords frequently to make sure they are not worn or frayed. It is better to replace a broken cord than to patch it.

- Don't fly kites near electric wires, or with wet strings. Don't use metal in constructing a kite.

- Be sure heavier outdoor power tools are properly grounded. Don't plug a two-pronged plug into a three-hole receptacle unless you have an adapter.

- Never touch, pull, nudge, kick, poke or otherwise mess with a fallen electrical line, even if it's only a telephone wire. Telephone wires could be tangled with power lines some distance away, especially following a bad storm.

- Many power lines are knocked down by tree limbs. Keep this in mind when planting a tree, and put it as far away from power lines as possible. If a tree on your property is already growing into power lines, contact your electric cooperative.

- Check with your utility before doing any serious digging in the yard to avoid hitting buried electric lines.

Inside the home

- Unplug appliances before cleaning or repairing. Some — hair dryers, curling irons, toasters, power tools, irons — should always be unplugged when not in use. If something is plugged in but turned off, there is still a flow of electricity.

- Limit the load of electricity coming from any outlet. Wire can carry only so much power. Overloading creates overheated wires, an obvious fire hazard. If you have an outlet that looks like an octopus from trailing cords, it is overloaded.

- Never run cords under rugs or over heaters. And don't pull a plug from a wall socket by the cord, as that causes fraying that can lead to a short circuit.

- Check outlets to see if they are cool to the touch. Have an electrician check any hot outlets.

- Keep kitchen appliances away from the sink and other areas that tend to get wet. Be careful that cords of appliances can't trail over the coils of an electric stove or the open flames of gas burners.

- In the bathroom, be sure hair dryers and curling irons cannot fall into the bathtub while plugged in. There are gaskets and fixtures that can make bathroom outlets watertight and moisture resistant. There are also electrical outlets

electricity

lightning streaks divide the sky, it is easy to feel the destructive power of electricity.

But you are 10 times more likely to be killed by an electrical accident in the home than by being struck by lightning. Fewer

than 100 people a year are fatally injured in lightning strikes. But approximately 250 people are electrocuted at home each year, and home electrical fires kill about 900 annually.

Electricity has made home life

much safer than in the days of open-fire hearths, candles and kerosene lamps, unrefrigerated food and coal furnaces. But there is plenty of potential for misuse of electricity.

The following is a partial checklist for a helpful home inspection. Most are common sense ideas, and some are so simple it seems unnecessary to call them to mind.

that automatically cut off if splashed.

- Check the wattage of the bulbs used in lamps and other light fixtures. A bulb that has a wattage too high for the fixture can overheat and cause a fire.

- Be careful with fuses and circuit breakers. Many fuse boxes are unlabeled. If in doubt, it is best to go with a 15-amp fuse or breaker unless an electrician has said otherwise. The answer to frequently blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers is to change the pattern of electricity use on that circuit, not add a higher-amp fuse or circuit breaker.

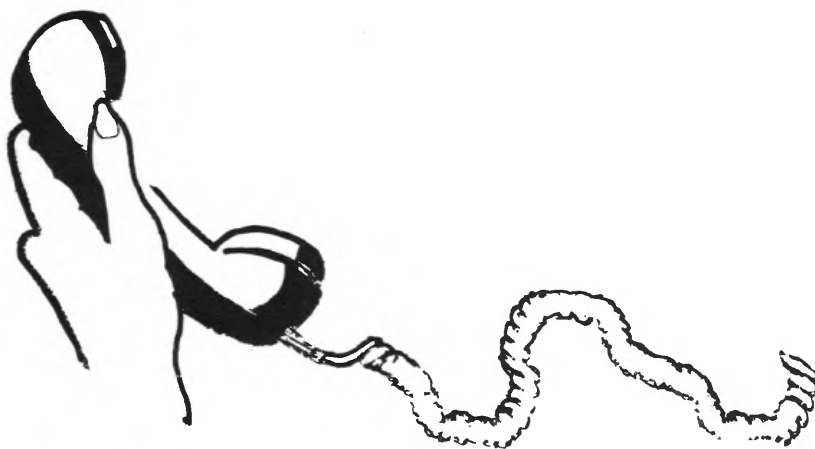


- Keep heavy-use devices such as air conditioners, washing machines and dishwashers on different circuits when possible.

- A baby with a metal hairpin

and an open socket can lead to disaster. Plastic caps can be installed over electrical outlets to protect against crawling infants fascinated with probing any opening with any available object. The preferred cap is one that can be screwed into the center of the outlet coverplate and swiveled aside when the plug is needed. The small individual caps can sometimes be removed by a child and could choke an infant who attempt to swallow it.

- Unplug all appliances in the bathing area when bathing a child. And don't let a child play with an electrical cord.



In case of emergency

- If someone is shocked by live indoor electricity, shut off the power if possible. Call for emergency assistance immediately.

- If someone comes in contact with a live power line outdoors, experts say the only safe course is to contact the electric cooperative to turn the power off

and call an ambulance.

- In case of an electrical fire, unplug the device or appliance that is on fire if possible. If it is a manageable fire, use a household extinguisher or baking soda to put it out. Never use water on an electrical fire.

The odds of getting injured or killed in an electrical accident are low. For example, you are more likely to get hurt falling down the stairs or in the bathtub or even injured by a shopping cart than by an electrical device, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

An hour invested in observing some of the simple precautions described above can be worth a much longer time spared in painful recuperation.

—Rural Electric News Service

Gene Daggett sought out the financial help of area rural development organizations to assist him in expanding his cabinetmaking business. Some of the loan funds went to expand the building.



Cabinet firm grows with cooperative help

Will success spoil Gene Daggett? Probably not, but it'll sure cut into his motorcycle riding! His cabinetmaking business, Concord Cabinets, is taking so much of his time that he had to fly to a recent trade show in Atlanta. "If I'd had the time," the Adams Electrical Co-Operative member says with a chuckle, "I'd have ridden down there on my brand new Harley."

Daggett, whose business is just a couple of miles west of Siloam Springs State Park, has recently expanded his operation, thanks in large part to financial help from two area organizations dedicated to spurring economic growth. The loan funds are from the Rural Adams Development Corporation (RADC) and the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) with help from the Two Rivers Regional Council of

Public Officials of Quincy. The additional capability of the business allowed the creation of two new jobs, and there is indication that more jobs may be added later.

"The first time I heard about RADC was at an Ag Appreciation day in Ursa," Daggett says, "and I heard that there was money available at low interest for small businesses like mine. I talked to Jim Mentesti and



like the ideal place to go. The development organization was set up by seven rural Adams County banks and Soyland Power Cooperative to spur economic development projects in the county and to create new jobs in the process. Soyland Power is a generation and transmission cooperative that provides power to 21 electric cooperatives in the state.

Specifically, Concord Cabinets needed more room to work in and a dust-free sales area. From a mechanical standpoint, it also

needed three-phase electricity and some new cabinetmaking equipment. "I had a single-phase line to the place," Daggett says, "and I was using some phase converters to run some of the three-phase equipment. It wasn't the most satisfactory arrangement, and I was really glad to be able to get a better power supply and some more modern equipment."

And some of the equipment was old by today's standards. Daggett, who taught physics and mathematics for 26 years at

Kathy Anastas at Great River Economic Development Corporation and decided to submit a loan application."

Roger Mohrman, Adams Electrical Co-Operative manager and president of Great Rivers Economic Development Corporation, helped with the loan paperwork. Rick Chapman of the Council of Public Officials worked with Daggett and Mohrman to secure the FmHA. The Two Rivers Council serves in Adams, Pike, Brown and Schuyler counties.

With his business long established and a really going concern, Daggett was badly in need of expansion funding, and the development corporation looked



There are plenty of personal touches, including the desk he made, in his Concord Cabinets office area.



Workers at Concord Cabinets stand in front of the three-phase service panel that has helped make the expansion of the company possible. From left are Tony Huber, Brien Ohnemus, Steve Spilker, Wayne Sweeting and Gene Daggett.

Liberty High School, started woodworking and cabinetmaking some 17 years ago as a sideline. In fact, that's how the name of the place came about. "Back then," he says, "the board wasn't too happy with the idea of teachers moonlighting, so instead of putting out a big 'Daggett Cabinet Shop' sign, I decided to name the place 'Concord Cabinets,' because we're in Concord Township. Later on, I figured it was time for a career change and went into it on a full-time basis."

Interestingly, he got into woodworking in general, rather than cabinetmaking, and learned the basics from his father. He polished his skills through trial and error, remodeling homes before concentrating on the business of building beautiful kitchen cabinets. He makes fine handmade cabinets from oak, cherry, walnut and pine. He also builds custom furniture such as gun cabinets, display cases,

desks and entertainment centers.

With so many fine products in the line, it seemed a shame to display them in the corner of a dusty old workshop, whose space could be put to better use anyway, so Daggett decided to seek a loan to build a better showroom. That's where RADC came in.

The loan for three-phase service, as well as for newer woodworking equipment, was arranged through the FmHA, with help from Adams Electrical Co-Operative and the Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials.

With the equipment in and things going about as planned, Daggett has been able to add a couple of employees to his roster, and expects to be able to hire a couple more as time goes by. "Our business has been expanding fairly steadily," he says, "and as far as I can tell, we're the only custom cabinet manufacturer in the area, al-

though there are some dealers who sell premanufactured cabinets.

"We've done well because our work is custom, our prices are very competitive and we're there to back up our customers. We've grown to the point that we're serving customers as much as a hundred miles away, and we don't advertise. All our business comes from satisfied repeat customers and word-of-mouth. We're pleased at that."

Mohrman says he is pleased, too. "The success of Gene's expansion program is a perfect example of several different entities working together to help with economic development in the county. We hope that by creating a few new jobs here and a few new jobs there, we'll be able to revitalize the rural parts of the county, as well as the cities and towns," he says. "We hope to see more such cooperation, and economic development, in the future."

MISSING



AMAND NICOLE CAMPBELL

LAST SEEN: 12/27/91 EYES: Blue
 FROM: Fairfield, CA HEIGHT: 3'5"
 DOB: 05/07/87 WEIGHT: 59
 WHITE FEMALE HAIR: Blonde



MARK HIMEBAUGH

LAST SEEN: 11/25/91 EYES: Blue
 FROM: Delhaven, NJ HEIGHT: 4'6"
 DOB: 05/23/80 WEIGHT: 85
 WHITE MALE HAIR: Red

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-

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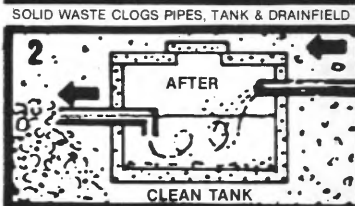
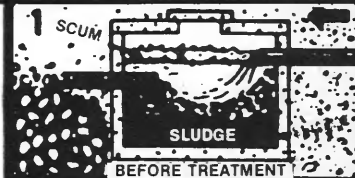
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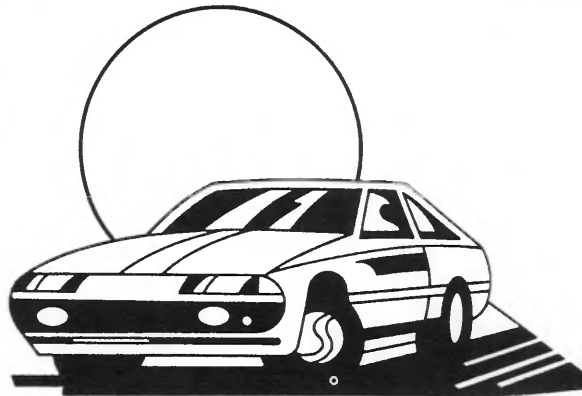
BRIEFLY

Kennelly pushes for tax-free energy rebates

Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-Conn.) thinks the government should pay people to save energy. Kennelly is pushing for tax-free energy rebates. First introduced in 1989, the utility rebate bill would allow utilities to give tax-free rebates to customers who buy energy-saving appliances, says a Kennelly aide. The legislation is part of the hotly debated National Energy Policy proposal. "Americans are ready to adopt energy-efficient behavior," says Kennelly. Her proposal would help people focus on the relationship between energy and the environment, she says.

EPA works toward ecologically sound computers

Even computers are turning green for the summer. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working with eight top computer firms—Apple, Compaq, Digital Equipment Corp., Hewlett Packard, IBM, NCR, Smith-Corona and Zenith Data Systems—to produce more ecologically sound personal computers. Because computers



Solar cars race for awareness

There was no roar of engines, no leaving the slowpoke in a noxious cloud of smoke. Instead, when the appropriately colored green flag dropped to start the Tour de Sol, in May, the 40 electric and solar-electric cars that ran the five-day race from Albany, N.Y., to Boston glided off with a quiet whine. The cars didn't break any speed records as they cruised the open road through New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts, either. But organizers hoped the race would get people thinking about buying electric cars and get American carmakers thinking seriously about building them. "Between clean air regulation, petroleum dependency and the high cost of foreign oil, we're going to be driving electric cars within a decade or so," says Jack Groh, a spokesperson for the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, prime sponsor of the Tour de Sol. Electric cars feature batteries, an electric motor and a controller to make them run. The cars in the race ranged from sleek, strange-looking experiments to stock models that looked just like gasoline-powered vehicles.

account for at least 5 percent of all commercial electricity consumption and that number is expected to double in the next 10 years, it is vital to find ways to make computers more energy efficient, EPA officials say. New computers might automatically cut power when not in use. EPA estimates such a trigger would prevent 6 million tons of carbon emissions each year. New, EPA-approved "green" computers will display a special "energy star" logo showing they are both high performance and energy efficient.

Industry dumps fewer chemicals

American industry released 4.8 billion pounds of toxic chemicals into the environment in 1990, 11 percent less than released in 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency reports. The 1990 Toxics Release Inventory compiled reports from 23,648 industrial facilities on the release of more than 300 toxic substances. Texas, Louisiana, Indiana, Tennessee and Ohio had the greatest amounts of toxic releases, the EPA study says. While the same five states topped the list in 1989, all but Louisiana had reduced

discharges in 1990. The largest industrial category for toxic releases in 1990 was chemical manufacturing. Next were, in order: primary metals, paper manufacturing, transportation, and plastics.

22 nations rank environment high

People from 22 nations ranked environmental protection higher than economic development in Gallup's "Health of the Planet Survey." Those surveyed cited the loss of natural resources and the health implications of a depleted environment as reason for their opinions. Most said they buy products that are environmentally friendly. Surprisingly, the poll shows that even residents of the most impoverished countries "acknowledge the threat of overpopulation and also accept partial responsibility for creating global problems."

Clean air, good economy compatible goals

Environmental protection isn't just for activists any more, says a 300-page World Bank report. Protecting the environment and developing the economy are complementary goals, according to "World Development Report 1991." The study is an analysis of the "two-

Community college trustees honor Pillsbury, Pistorius

Earl L. Pillsbury of Petersburg and Neil A. Pistorius of Blue Mound received "Certificates of Merit" during the 21st Annual Convention of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association June 13 for their support and commitment to the Illinois community college system. Pillsbury is special services coordinator for Menard Electric Cooperative, and Pistorius is a long-time director and president of Shelby Electric Cooperative. Pillsbury served as a board member of the Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield from 1973 until 1989. During his more than 17 years as a LLCC trustee, he served several terms as chairman, vice chairman and secretary of the board. He also served on the 1966 Feasibility Study Committee that reviewed and formulated the junior college district from which LLCC began. Pistorius began his tenure as a trustee of Richland Community College in Decatur in 1977 when Richland was only six years old. Soon after his election, he began campaigning for a permanent Richland campus: locating a site, working towards passage of a tax referendum in 1986, and finally witnessing the construction of a much-needed facility in 1987. He served as chairman of the board of trustees from 1980 until 1982.

way relationship" between development and the environment. "There are strong win-win opportunities that remain unexploited," including the reduction of poverty, the report says. It also identifies priorities for action, including providing clean water and sanitation, reducing

health risks from soot and smoke, cutting indoor air pollution caused by dangerous cooking fuels and protecting natural resources on which farmers, forest dwellers and others depend. Effective, aggressive environmental policies are essential for both sound development and world-

wide environmental protection, the report said, adding that developed nations must take a lead role.

Most regions see growth

Most regions of the country enjoyed some economic growth in March and April, the Federal Reserve Board says. The region that includes eastern Missouri, Arkansas, western Kentucky, western Tennessee, northern Mississippi, southern Illinois and southern Indiana is in particularly good shape for continued upward growth because low interest rates and good weather is encouraging increased residential construction, the Fed predicts. The government determines economic growth figures by looking at commercial and residential construction, manufacturing activity and retail sales.

Energy policy closer to passage

The U.S. House has approved a comprehensive energy policy that seeks to lessen U.S. dependence on foreign oil and encourage conservation and development of renewable energy resources. The 381-37 vote to pass the bill came after the House rejected a proposal to bolster the nation's strategic oil

reserve by requiring oil companies to contribute part of their supplies to the stockpile. Opponents said the stockpile plan would needlessly raise energy prices for consumers, and President Bush threatened a veto if the proposal reached his desk. The Senate passed its version of the energy policy in February and the two chambers will now begin negotiations on a compromise measure to send to the President. Bush hailed passage of the House bill, saying it "represents progress toward development of a sound national energy strategy."

A rural underclass

The American underclass—typically thought of as high-school dropouts who are also welfare mothers or long-term unemployed men—is as much a part of rural American as it is of crowded inner cities. A Population Reference Bureau report says that while most studies focus on urban poverty, "underclass characteristics are not exclusively urban." The study, written by University of Louisville researchers William P. O'Hare and Brenda Curry-White, identifies three million Americans as members of the underclass population. That includes 2.4 percent of all rural dwellers and 3.4 percent of urbanites. Just 1.1 percent of suburbanites are considered members

Buildings could be more energy efficient

A government report says building owners could save a collective \$80 billion a year by using energy-efficient appliances that are already on the market. Energy-efficient furnaces, air conditioners and lights are designed to "save money, reduce energy use and cut environmental damage," according to "Building Energy Efficiency," an Office of Technology Assessment report. The report focuses on cost-effective means to reduce energy consumption in buildings. The report says that, although little effort is required to save energy, few people are aware of the substantial savings. "Few other conservation options have greater potential for energy savings with so little cost to industry . . . or to the American consumer," says Sen. J. Bennett Johnston (D-La.). Full implementation of an energy efficiency technology would "reduce energy costs by \$80 billion per year based on 1992 rates by 2015," as well as reducing energy consumption by up to one-third.



of the underclass. But there are some differences between the rural and urban underclasses, the report says. In rural areas, 55 percent of the underclass is white, compared with just 17 percent in central cities. A third of the rural underclass is black, compared with nearly half of the urban

underclass. Rural women comprise 47 percent of the small-town underclass; 60 percent of the urban underclass is women. The rural underclass has proportionately fewer young adults and more people of "pre-retirement" age, including a quarter between the ages of 50 and 64. In

cities, more than half of the underclass falls between the ages of 19 to 34. Rural blacks and Hispanics are more likely to be members of the underclass than are urban minorities, and blacks in the rural South have higher underclass rates than any other group, rural or urban. The rural underclass is highly concentrated in the South, while the urban underclass is almost evenly divided between cities in every region.

Plastic: A new cash crop

Money may not grow on trees, but plastic cups may soon be a cash crop for farmers. Researchers from several universities and the U.S. Department of Energy have genetically engineered a plant to produce environmentally friendly plastic. The process alters two key genes of the plant, which in turn grows polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB), a plastic produced naturally by soil bacteria. PHB plastic is completely biodegradable, unlike other plastics, which take years to break down in the environment. It is being promoted as an important new cash crop for farmers. Right now the limited availability of PHB plastic compared with mass-produced, petroleum-based plastics makes it quite expensive, but researchers say the price will drop as PHB plastic is produced in larger quantities.



Potato baker's delight

COTTAGE CHEESE TOPPER

- 3 tablespoons chopped sweet red peppers
- 1 cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 1 tablespoon chopped chives or green onion
- 1/4 teaspoon seasoned pepper
- 4 (8-10 oz. each) baked Washington Russet potatoes

Process cottage cheese in food processor or blender until curds are very fine and smooth. Add red peppers, chives and pepper; mix well. Cut or pierce tops of potatoes lengthwise; squeeze ends and push toward center. Spoon about 1/4 cup mixture on each potato. Makes 4 servings.

VEGETABLE PESTO TOPPER

- 1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 cups sliced zucchini
- 1/4 cup packed parsley leaves
- 1 cup diced tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons dried basil, crushed
- 4 (8-10 oz. each) baked Washington Russet potatoes

Thoroughly drain thawed spinach by pressing out excess moisture; spread on double layer of paper towels about 5 minutes. Puree spinach, cheese, walnuts, 2 tablespoons oil, parsley and seasonings in food processor or blender about 30 seconds. Saute' zucchini in 1 tablespoon olive oil until crisp-tender; add tomatoes and remove from heat. Stir in 1/4 to 1/2 cup spinach pesto mixture; mix well. Salt to taste. Cut or pierce tops of potatoes lengthwise; squeeze ends and push toward center. Spoon about 1/2 cup zucchini on each potato. Makes 4 servings. Storage Tip: Left-over spinach pesto sauce may be stored, refrigerated, up to two weeks. For longer storage, freeze in freezer-proof container or plastic bag.

GREEN BEAN BUNDLES

- 2 cans whole green beans
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 lb. bacon
- Garlic salt
- 3/4 stick oleo
- Pepper

Roll eight beans in 1/2 slice bacon, secure with toothpick. There will be enough rolls to fill an 11x13-inch casserole dish.

Sauce:

Melt butter. Stir in brown sugar, garlic salt and black pepper—pour over bundles. Bake at 350 degrees covered for 45 minutes—remove foil and bake 15 minutes more.

SPOONBURGERS

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons fat
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 3/4 cup chopped onions
- 1 can chicken gumbo soup
- 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tablespoon catsup

Brown meat in hot fat; add onion, cook until golden brown. Stir in remaining ingredients. Simmer over low heat for about 20 minutes. Spoon from skillet onto toasted buns. Serves 6.

TURKEY CHILI TOPPER

- 3/4 lb. ground turkey, thawed if necessary
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 4 (8-10 oz. each) baked Washington Russet potatoes
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 can (15 oz.) diced tomatoes
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- 3-4 teaspoons chili powder
- Chopped green onions

Saute' turkey in oil until juices run clear. Add onion and garlic; saute' until onion is tender. Add tomatoes, chili powder, salt and pepper. Bring mixture to boil; reduce heat and simmer about 30 minutes. Cut or pierce tops of potatoes lengthwise; squeeze ends and push toward center. Spoon about 3/4 cup chili on each potato. Sprinkle with cheese and green onions. Makes 4 servings.

SWEET AND SOUR PORK TOPPER

- 3/4 lb. lean pork, cut in 2x1/2x1/4" strips
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1/2 cup each 3/4" squares green and sweet red pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 cup diagonally sliced green onions
- Dash bottled hot pepper sauce
- 1 can (8 oz.) pineapple chunks
- 4 (8-10 oz. each) baked Washington Russet potatoes
- Water
- 1/2 teaspoon sesame seeds (optional)
- 1/3 cup rice vinegar

Stir-fry pork in oil until lightly browned and juices run clear. Add vegetables and stir-fry until crisp-tender. Drain pineapple chunks; reserve liquid. Add water to liquid to equal 1/2 cup. Combine reserved liquid mixture, vinegar, sugar, cornstarch, garlic salt and hot pepper sauce; heat to boiling and cook 1 minute. Add pork-vegetable mixture and drained pineapple to sauce; mix to coat pieces with sauce. Cut or pierce tops of potatoes lengthwise; squeeze ends and push toward center. Spoon about 1/2 cup pork mixture on each potato. Sprinkle with sesame seeds. Makes 4 servings.

TOMATO SALAD

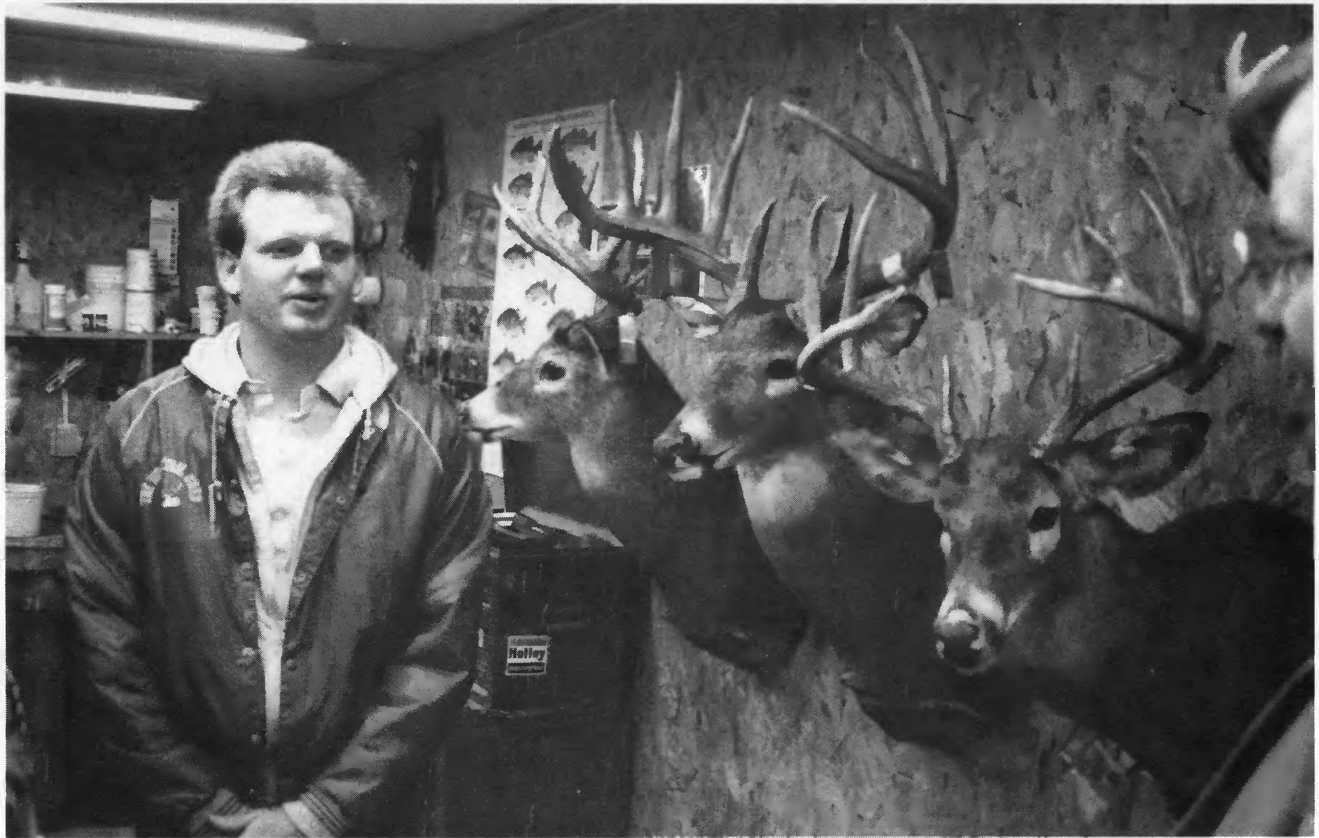
- 5 or 6 large tomatoes
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1 green pepper
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1 medium onion
- 1 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 or 3 banana peppers

Chop tomatoes, peppers and onion in large bowl. Mix oil, vinegar and sugar to make a dressing. Mix together. Let stand 5 minutes and pour over tomato salad.

PORK NORMANDY

- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 medium apple, chopped
- 6 pork chops, each cut 1/2-inch thick
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 1/2 cup apple juice
- Hot cooked noodles

In skillet, in hot oil, cook pork chops about 10 minutes or until browned. Spoon off fat. Stir in soup, apple juice, apple, celery and thyme. Reduce heat to low. Cover, simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve over noodles. Garnish with apple slices if desired. Makes 6 servings.



Brassard discusses the finer points of taxidermy.

Hobby leads to taxidermy business

The desire to preserve his trophies has landed a Milford (Iroquois County) man in an enjoyable full-time job. Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative member John Brassard turned sort of a "sub-hobby" into a full-fledged occupation. While his real hobby was hunting, the spinoff was taxidermy, and that's what he does from "The Whitetail Shed," a shop at his place northeast of Milford.

"I got interested in taxidermy because I'd done a lot of hunting, particularly bowhunting," he says, "and I wanted to preserve my trophies. I started doing my own to keep costs down, and found that I enjoyed it a lot."

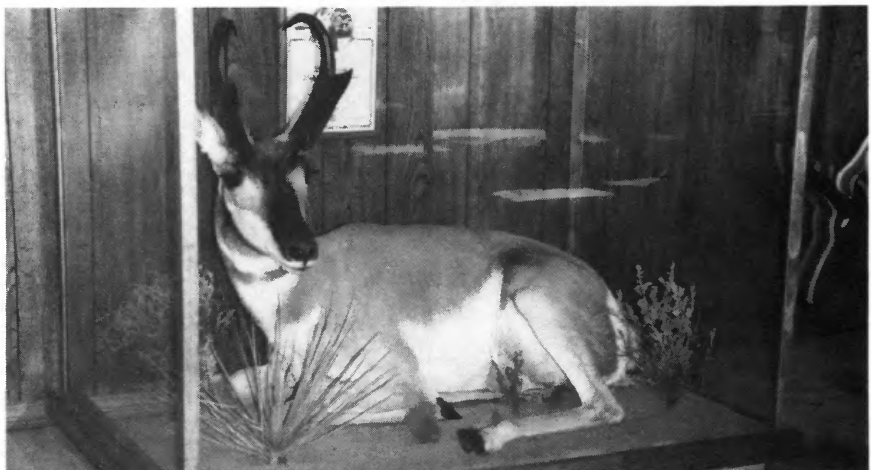
From there it was a fairly logical step to start doing work for others. "I wanted to do it right," he says, "so I did a lot of studying, and talked to some good taxidermists. There are a lot of really good taxidermists in Illinois, and several of them helped me a lot. And I went over

to Iowa to study with Joe Meder, who's probably the best taxidermist in the country."

John notes that taxidermy is somewhat easier to do right than it was many years ago, because there are good "forms" available, and taxidermists years ago had to make theirs, usually out of paper mache' over a framework. He notes that basically, taxidermy involves tanning a

hide and affixing it — correctly — to the form. Now, there are good urethane foam forms that will make a beautiful trophy.

"Even so," he says, "taxidermy's more of an art form than just a job, and you have to do it right. That's why I urge my customers to give me plenty of time. If you're going to do a deer's head right, you'll need to put about a month in it, al-



A pronghorn antelope from out West is one of Brassard's fine trophies. He took this one with a bow and arrow, and he built a "habitat" for it.



A coyote stands under some of the many ribbons Brassard has won in competition.

though you can do a lot of them at about the same time."

One of John's favorite trophies is a pronghorn Antelope that he

bagged from just 20 or so yards using archery equipment. He has it in his shop, in a glass case. "It's kind of a 'habitat,'" he says, "because I've put some sprigs of grass around it and it's on the kind of soil that it'd lie in out there. I've also got a whitetail deer in a habitat, but there's not really a good market for them. I did mine because I enjoyed doing them."

By far most of the work he does involves deer heads, and he does about 100 a year. "Every once in a while somebody will bring in a caribou or a coyote or something like that," he says, "but they're few and far between."

He tries to stick to the larger mammals, and avoids smaller animals like rabbits and squirrels. "I have friends who like to do that kind of work," he says, "and I refer potential customers to them. The same is true of birds and fish. I enjoy larger

mammals, particularly deer, and try to stick to them."

While he's not particularly enthusiastic about mounting smaller animals, he does tan hides, and adds that there's a booming business in hides. "Coyote hides are especially big now," he says, "and I sell quite a few of them. It's surprising how big a comeback the coyotes have made over the last several years. While I tan a lot of coyote hides, I farm some of that out, too, and sell hides that others tan for me."

John's preference for deer becomes obvious when you drive into his yard. He has a pen behind the shop where there are a few deer. "I keep them because they're nice to study," he says, "and the kids like them, too. My wife, Sue, and I have two children. Melissa is seven, and J. D. is five. It's nice to be able to have a job that enables me to keep deer for them to enjoy."

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Casual Fashions

5620: Easy going full and fluttering float. Shoulder buttoned pullover looks great in slenderizing stripes or solids. Misses' Sizes 18 to 26 are included in pattern.

4176: Only one main pattern piece for pull-on pants, no side seams. Women's Waist Sizes 30" to 46". Sizes S(30-32), M(34-36), L(38-41), XL(43-46) are included in pattern.

4186: Culottes have elastic waist; backwrap has handy patch pockets. Women's Waist Sizes 31" to 46½". Sizes S(31-33), M(35-37), L(39-42½), XL(44-46½) are included in pattern.

Items subject to availability

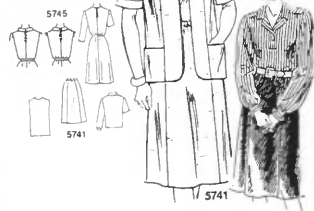


Casual Fashions

5745: Elastic waist dress with round neck, cow or "Peter Pan" type collar has two sleeve lengths. Half Sizes State A(14½ to 24½ included) when ordering

5741: Three-piece outfit pullover blouse with short and long sleeves, paneled vest and pull-on skirt. Half Sizes State A(14½ to 24½ included) when ordering

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY



4185: Feminine softness flows from shoulders to hem. Flattering day or evening dress is easy to fit. Elasticized waist of bodice tops flowing skirt. Misses' Sizes 10 to 20.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

CRAFT CORNER



915: Your dog will love to go out far winter walks in a cozy coat! Put dog's name on coat for a personal touch! Knit top style in rib stitch; crochet other in single crocheter. Use worsted. Directions for sizes 10 to 18 included.

5081: Create this lovable 7" doll complete with an outfit for every occasion. Directions, printed pattern, for doll and six piece wardrobe included.

Items subject to availability

DESIGNER PATTERNS



5743: Easy fit, dropped waistline dress can be made sleeveless or with elbow sleeves. Misses' Sizes 10 to 20 included in pattern.

Items subject to availability

CRAFT CORNER



5136: Make your own wooden toy. 9" tall crocodile is made from wood scraps and clothes line. Watch him climb to the top of his trapeze by pulling the ropes alternately. Pattern includes transfers for crocodile and fully illustrated instructions.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

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

Casual Fashions



5660: For busy days. Loose-fitting dress in sleeveless or short sleeves has ribbed knit bands. Misses' Sizes. State BB(10-24 included) when ordering.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

CRAFT CORNER



504: Sew this charming 12" mouse. Has cute hat, calico dress and blouse. Directions, tissue pattern to sew mouse & clothes.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

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

PATTERNS

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

I have enclosed \$_____ (\$4.50 per pattern — cash, check or money order accepted) for the following patterns (please allow four weeks for delivery):

Print Name _____
Address _____
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State _____ Zip _____

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

Two western Illinois electric cooperatives are among the founding financial institutions and utilities for the new Western Illinois Community Development Corporation (WICDC).

The WICDC was formed to offer "gap financing" or seed capital

To qualify for WICDC financing, businesses will make written presentations including such information as a business plan, tax returns and statements, personal financial information and a summary of collateral offered. Approval of the request will be based on such criteria as potential market for the product or service, job growth potential, economic impact on the area and any risks involved. All terms, rates and other factors will be based on the individual project.

WICDC board members are: Rosenbaum, president; Jerald Bartell (Marine Trust), vice president; Bill Lemons (manager of McDonough Power Cooperative), secretary-treasurer; Mark Reynolds (Colchester State Bank); John Maguire (Western Illinois University); Ted Awerkamp (Security State Bank); Ron Stone (State Bank of Western Illinois); and Paul Dion (manager of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.).

"The investors in the WICDC believe in the potential of the western Illinois region," said Rosenbaum. "This type of internal support for our region's economy is more than just words, more than just promises. It's a positive, proactive decision to encourage and enable businesses to choose western Illinois for job location."

Doug Dougherty, director of economic development for Soyland, said, "Soyland's investment in the Western Illinois CDC is more than an investment of money. It represents an investment in the people of western Illinois and their collective ability to create economic opportunity for local residents. By pooling resources, leveraging limited funds and spreading the investment risk, the likelihood of job creation and tax base expansion is greatly enhanced."

Soyland is an equity partner in three other CDC's: Tri-County CDC, Illini CDC and Rural Adams CDC. Lemons represents Soyland on the WICDC board.

Those interested in discussing the possibilities of CDC financing should contact any CDC investor or member organization.

Western Illinois CDC formed to produce seed capital loans



Dion

loans to businesses wishing to locate or remain in the area. As with any CDC, its mission is to retain and create employment. "It's a matter of commitment to the economic survival and growth in our area," said George Rosenbaum, president of Union National Bank of Macomb, one of the primary investors. Rosenbaum also serves as the WICDC president.

"We believe success will breed success," added Rosenbaum. "Growth in the wage pool of our area counties will cause a multiplier effect on the total demand for goods and services in our area. Put simply, the more jobs we have created in this area, the more attractive this area will be to potential employers."

More than a quarter of a million dollars has been committed by nine investors. Soyland Power Cooperative, in conjunction with the two electric cooperatives, McDonough Power Cooperative and Western Illinois Electrical Coop., has committed up to \$100,000.

Financial institutions involved include: Union National Bank of Macomb (\$65,000); First State Bank of LaHarpe (\$35,000); Marine Trust of Carthage (\$30,000); Security State Bank of Hamilton (\$25,000); State Bank of Augusta (\$11,500); First National Bank of Blandinsville (\$8,000); Colchester State Bank (\$6,500). GTE North also has committed financial support to the project, and Western Illinois University has provided non-financial resources.



Lemons

Traditional values rural areas

An idealistic view of rural America continues to capture the public's imagination, in spite of the highest level of national pessimism on record in the last 20 years. People ascribe to rural Americans the traditional values that helped build the nation — resourcefulness, civic pride, family orientation, concern for neighbors, honesty, and friendliness. And rural Americans describe themselves in much the same way.

This profile, along with a less rosy picture of rural America as the land of opportunity, emerges from the results of a major national opinion survey of public attitudes toward rural America conducted by The Roper Organization, Inc., for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Along with a cherished traditional view of life in rural America, the public indicates that the countryside may have its drawbacks — over and above a lack of cultural activities, for example. Rural Americans are thought to have fewer opportunities “to achieve the American Dream” than any other group asked about, including poor people, recent immigrants and blue-collar workers. Loss of family farms and closing of small businesses are seen as threats. Big-city problems like crime and drug abuse are believed to be making inroads into the country, and few people agree on the best way to respond.

Acting on NRECA's behalf, The Roper Organization, one of the world's oldest and most respected opinion research firms, conducted in-home interviews with a nationwide cross section of 1,010 adults in February this year.

Results of those interviews provide the most comprehensive look at popular views of rural America since NRECA commissioned a similar study in late 1968. The just-released poll coincides with NRECA's 50th anniversary year.

NRECA's members include the nearly 1,000 consumer-owned rural electric cooperatives that provide electric service to more than 25 million people in 46 states.

At a news conference releasing the survey results, Bob Bergland, NRECA executive vice president, explained why the study was commissioned.

“Massive changes in America and the world have occurred in the last 25 years. A new generation has grown up. Attitudes have changed. We must have the best information available to guide

us. Ours is a civic agenda. Electric cooperatives, besides providing at-cost electricity, have always been in the business of building communities. We continue to want the children of families who grew up with us to have a future close to home.”

The survey also probed opinions of electric service, and Bergland commented that he was pleased to note that electric cooperatives enjoy a high degree of consumer satisfaction. But he observed that the findings contain some warnings for all electric utilities. Familiarity with co-ops has slipped along with awareness of investor-owned and publicly owned power companies.

Americans admit, however, that they possess relatively little knowledge about types of businesses — including cooperatives. But those that are aware of cooperative businesses are overwhelmingly positive toward them.

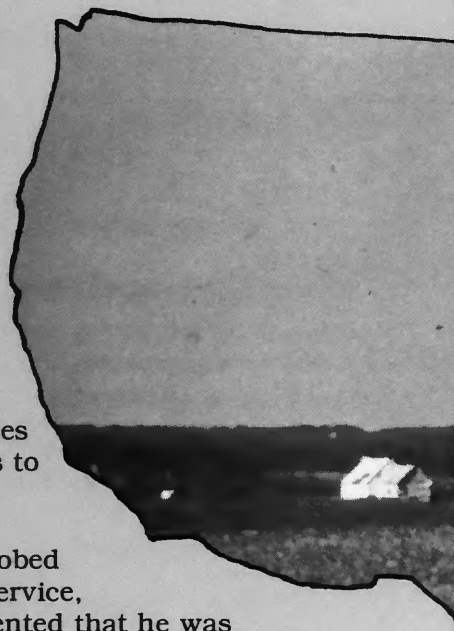
Following is a summary of major topics surveyed.

Electric service

Americans are paying even less attention to or know less about their electricity supplier than they did in 1968. The Roper researchers suggest this is because people are largely satisfied with the service they're getting. More than 80 percent say they're very or reasonably satisfied with their electric service.

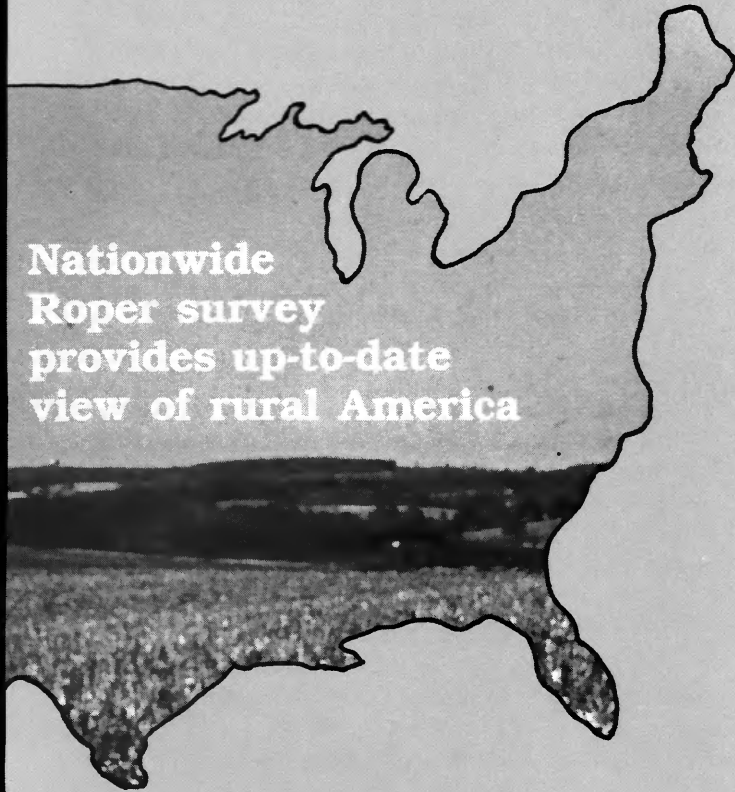
“Americans have a higher degree of satisfaction relating to the service they receive from their electric utility than either their local telephone or cable TV services.”

Fewer people today are familiar with electric utilities of any kind. Since 1968, the number of people who say they have heard of investor-owned companies has dropped 23 points to 40 percent; for rural electric cooperatives, awareness has dropped 12 points to 35 percent; and for publicly owned electric companies, the drop-off is down



alive in

**Nationwide
Roper survey
provides up-to-date
view of rural America**



four points to 54 percent.

Nine percent say they are currently served by an electric cooperative — close to the 11 percent that actually are — but 24 percent of Americans have no idea what form of utility serves them.

When asked which of these types of utilities they expect “to be the best,” those giving an opinion gave co-ops the highest score in all but two of the nine areas listed, including fairness of rates and of “profits,” dependable service, consumer influence, management efficiency, and concern for the environment.

For people who say they are served by electric co-ops, solid majorities say co-ops rank the highest in those same service characteristics.

Mood of the country

The much-reported public frustration and pessimism about the direction in which the country is headed was confirmed in this survey. However, the public’s outlook for their own communities is generally more upbeat. This is especially true for rural Americans.

Of all those surveyed, 47 percent say their community is on track, yet six out of 10 rural Americans express that confidence. “Rural Americans,” the report says, “are the only group

of Americans where a solid majority feel their community is going in the right direction.”

For the nation as a whole, the survey found, people are losing faith in “the American Dream” and worry that the country’s traditional values are eroding.

When asked if the American Dream prevails today, respondents appear much less hopeful than they were when the same question was asked in a 1987 poll taken for *The Wall Street Journal*. More than a quarter now say the dream is not really alive, compared with 11 percent just five years ago.

Meanwhile, 81 percent of the people think the country “has lost or is starting to lose its traditional values.” Only 12 percent think America’s traditional values are as strong as ever.

The Roper analysts link that pessimism to a shift in personal ambitions, reporting a new emphasis on “pragmatic choices essentially oriented toward the present.”

When given a choice of nine things to strive for, majorities choose only two as essential: to have freedom of choice in how to live one’s life (63 percent), and to be financially secure enough to have ample time for leisure pursuits (62 percent).

Other traditional goals — starting a business, owning a home, sending one’s children to college, doing better than one’s parents — fall short of 50 percent. A rags-to-riches career is essential for only 17 percent.

Attitudes toward rural America

“Americans seem to have a great affinity for rural America,” the survey reports. Eight in 10 say they have had some direct contact — even if only on vacation — with the countryside, and one in three would prefer to live there.

What do Americans like so much about small-town and rural America? They see it as clean and wholesome, slower-paced and less stressful, with less traffic on better streets, a lower cost of living, and stronger personal values.

“The most important asset of rural America, however, seems to be the qualities of the people who live there. By Americans’ own definition, rural Americans possess a quintessentially American spirit. Rural America is where the public feels people possess many admirable characteristics, such as a strong sense of family, commitment to community, responsibility as citizens, strong religious beliefs, and resourcefulness. By consensus, rural Americans are more likely to be warm and friendly, honest in their business dealings, to be concerned about the problems and needs of others, to get real fun

out of life, to be in good health, and to have a close-knit family."

Americans, however, aren't anxious to move to the country, indicating concerns about health care services, police protection, and public transportation.

Significantly, a strong majority of 63 percent believe small-town and rural Americans have fewer opportunities to achieve "the American Dream" — more than believe that poor people (60 percent), recent immigrants (55 percent), or blue-collar workers (51 percent) have less chance to get ahead. Only 18 percent feel that people in big cities have less opportunity.

"The general public doesn't see rural America as the place to be if you want to get ahead in life," the survey notes, "while big-city dwellers are thought to have more opportunities than most Americans."

Knowledge about rural America

The public in general is unsure about the most pressing problems facing rural America. When offered a list of 17 threats to the future of the countryside, nearly half cited loss of family farms as a severe peril. Of the next four — alcohol abuse, increasing crime, lack of land, increasing drug use — three could be considered threats anywhere, not just in rural America.

Finally, Americans fail to see many of the problems facing the countryside. Seven to eight in 10 people say they expect to find higher unemployment, more inadequate housing and higher infant mortality in the cities, and smaller majorities say aging populations and a higher poverty rate are urban problems.

In fact, levels of joblessness, substandard housing, poverty, and the percentage of people over 65 are higher in rural areas, while the rural infant mortality rate is virtually the same as that of the cities.

"Few Americans associate societal ills and responsibilities such as inadequate housing and supporting an aging population with rural America," the Roper analysts say. "They are mainly thought to be characteristic of urban settings."

Business not to blame

"Americans do not appear to blame business for their gloomy mood," the Roper study said. Small companies get good grades from 90 percent of Americans, and large corporations earn moderate or highly favorable reactions from 67 percent.

"Indications are that the public is extremely open to any special efforts businesses might make to serve local communities," the survey said.

Powerful majorities of at least 75 percent say they'd feel better about businesses that help local health and social service organizations, provide assistance to schools, take part in local economic development efforts, work with literacy programs, help start new businesses, strengthen arts and cultural offerings, and educate their consumers about the environment.

Portrait of rural Americans

Rural Americans live mostly in the South (48 percent) and the Midwest (34 percent). They have a higher level of voter registration (81 percent vs. 71 percent) and a lower median income (\$25,200 vs. \$31,200). Rural Americans are more politically conservative than the nation as a whole, with 53 percent calling themselves conservatives compared with 41 percent nationwide, and they're more likely to be married (65 percent vs. 60 percent). They tend to be older, with 30 percent of the rural population over 60, compared with the national rate of 22 percent.

Above all, they're happy where they are.

No other Americans are as satisfied and as enthusiastic about their community as are rural Americans," Roper's analysts say. "The grass is not greener on the other side of the fence. Rural Americans not only feel that their community is better off than the country as a whole, they feel that there are a great many aspects that make rural America a better place to live than anywhere in the country."

Rural Americans don't, however, deny the problems they face. "Quite the contrary," the report says, "rural Americans are very forthright about the shortfalls of living in a rural area." They readily admit the lack of services and amenities they could find in the cities, and they see problems once viewed as urban encroaching on the countryside. They also concede the lack of opportunities in small town and rural areas.

And as the leading authorities on consumer-owned cooperative electric service, rural Americans pronounce themselves pleased with what they're getting. Co-ops scored higher than other types of utilities on all nine service attributes asked about in the survey, ranging from fairness of rates to influence by consumers to concern for the environment.

Copies of the report, "Public Attitudes Toward Rural America and Rural Electric Cooperatives," are available from Public Relations Division/CD3-46, NRECA, 1800 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 (\$5.00 prepaid).

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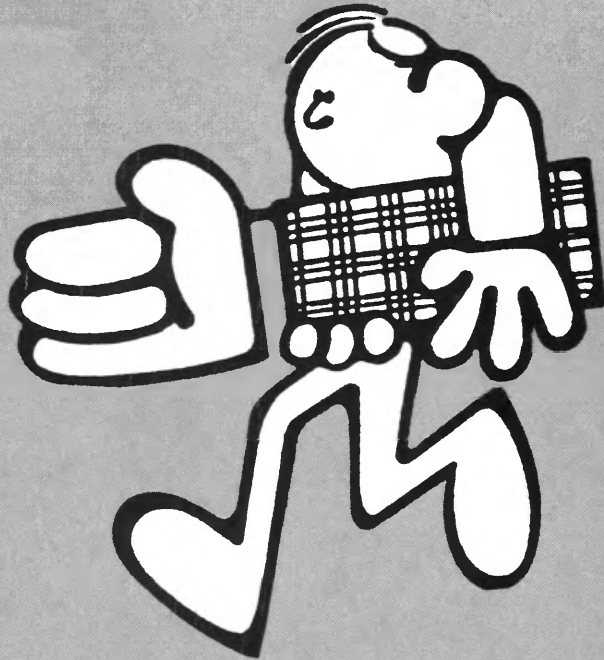
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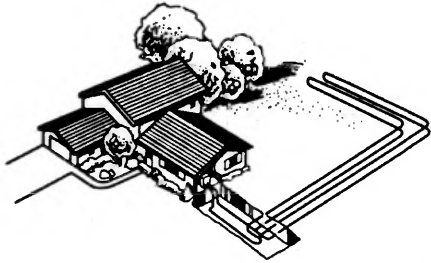
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