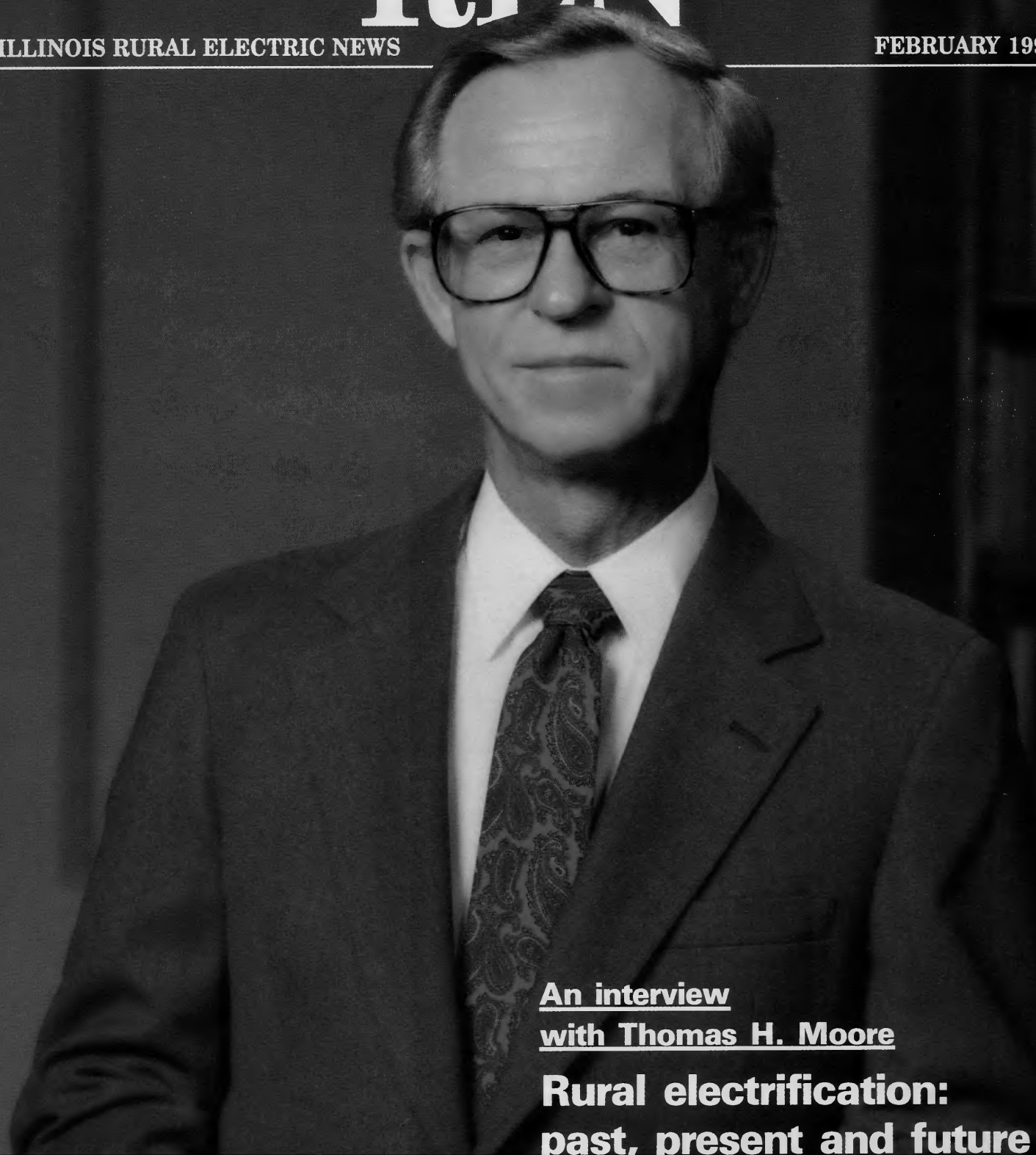

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ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

FEBRUARY 1994



An interview
with Thomas H. Moore

**Rural electrification:
past, present and future**



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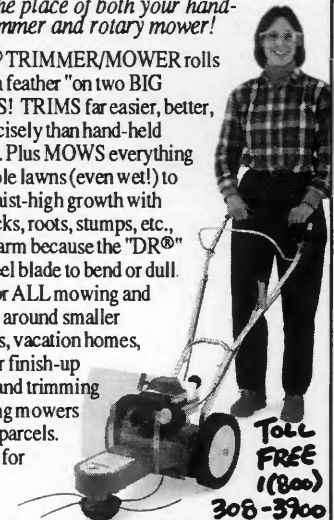
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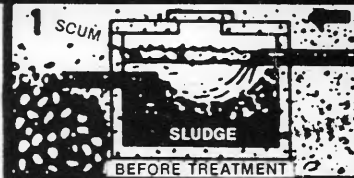
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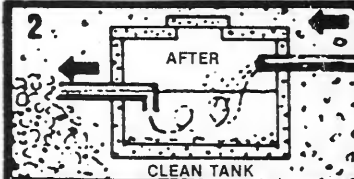
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Moore closes out career of dedication

A career in rural electrification that spanned five decades has come to a close. Thomas H. Moore, executive vice president and general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) since 1961, retired effective January 31.

Morris L. Bell of Chandlerville, president of the board of directors of the AIEC, said, "During his more than 30 years of service, Moore has built our Illinois statewide association into one of the leading statewide federations serving electric cooperatives across the country. From legislative representation to training and safety and publications, Moore has built a valuable service organization for the member-owned cooperatives that provide electric service to consumers living throughout most of the rural areas of 86 Illinois counties."

Among the milestones achieved by the AIEC under Moore's leadership, Bell listed enactment of the Electric Supplier Act in 1965, which ended many of the territorial disputes between electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities in Illinois; strengthening of the Illinois Farm Electrification Council, which unites all power suppliers to support educational research programs

for Illinois agriculture; approval by the Illinois General Assembly of a change in the Illinois utility tax to provide a more equitable method of taxation and which results in savings to rural electric consumers of more than \$6 million annually; and most recently, in 1993, launching of the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group, which has the potential to sharply reduce the cost of workers compensation insurance premiums for electric and telephone cooperatives.

In early 1993, Moore was honored during the 51st annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association by presentation of the William F. Matson Democracy Award. The national award recognizes outstanding accomplishment and service to rural electrification and cooperation through political action. He was also the 1993 recipient of the Service to Agriculture Award presented annually by the School of Agriculture of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The Association's board of directors selected Earl W. Struck, a 15-year employee of the Association and director of the AIEC Legal and Public Affairs Department since 1983, to replace Moore.

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Cover: Thomas H. Moore, retiring executive vice president and general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, spent more than 36 years in service to electric cooperatives. Turn to page 6 for an interview.

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Bill Wheelhouse interviews June Conner, Beardstown economic development administrator, for a Rural Notebook series on rural poverty. He's done several stories dealing with many different rural issues ranging from health care to area economic problems.

Rural Notebook: a look at Western Illinois

Bill Wheelhouse gets worked up when talking about Western Illinois. Like most areas, that part of the state has many problems. And, also like most areas, there is a lot to be said for the place.

Working out of his offices at WIUM, the radio station at Western Illinois University (WIU) in Macomb, Bill seeks out the laughs and tears, the best and the worst the area has to offer.

"I have a series going called Rural Notebook," he says, "and in it I try to explore issues that affect the people here. I've done a rural health care series on a hospital that was about to close and plans for the state Rural Health Care Initiative. And I've worked with towns as they try to attract and keep a doctor. I've done several different series on a lot of different topics, and with several different funding sources, including the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives,

which is helping fund my current series on rural poverty."

As he works his way around his part of the state with his microphone and tape recorder, Bill feels right at home because he is right at home.

Born and raised in Rushville, the 30-year-old broadcaster has been in the business more than half his life. June Conner, Beardstown's economic development administrator, notes that she and her husband had a radio station in Beardstown — WRMS — and that Bill had worked there while in high school and college. "He was a big help," she says.

Bill has spent very little time out of the area. After graduating from Rushville High School and going on to WIU, he graduated in 1985. He worked a while for a Quincy radio station, then took a non-radio job in Springfield. "I didn't like that at all," he says, "so I came back to Macomb, working for a commercial radio station. I came to this job in

1987 and have been here ever since."

While he has explored school consolidations and economic development and rural poverty, Bill admits that he tends to enjoy the "lighter side features." "One story I really enjoyed," he says, "was the story of a small-town movie theatre that was struggling to stay in business, as costs kept going up and the competition from TV and video stores got tougher. It was a fun story, but the theatre's closed now."

Another favorite deals with a small old church as it tries to find a solution to a problem many rural churches are facing: a steadily eroding membership.

"It was fun and interesting to document their efforts to survive," Bill says, "and it was heart-warming to see their creativity. They make their entire budget by selling onion rings at Argyle Lake State Park."

"I'm still thinking about doing a story on a subject I saw in the 'Illinois Rural Electric News' a few years ago, and that's about a library in Ellisville and its efforts to get into the record books as the smallest library anywhere. It'd be interesting to see how that panned out.

"I try to provide a picture of rural life, and I try to cover those stories that are ignored by the big-city media," he says.

Rural Notebook is made up of segments that are fairly long by radio standards—four or five minutes, and Bill tries to give them some more depth than is possible in the usual news story. The segments are fed to all the 11 other public broadcast stations in Illinois, and most use them, Bill says.

"I'm trying to point out problems that need to be dealt with," Bill says, "and I also like to show that there's a lighter side to rural life in Western Illinois, too. I think it's an interesting program. I certainly enjoy doing it."

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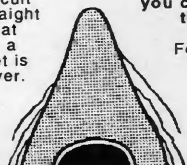
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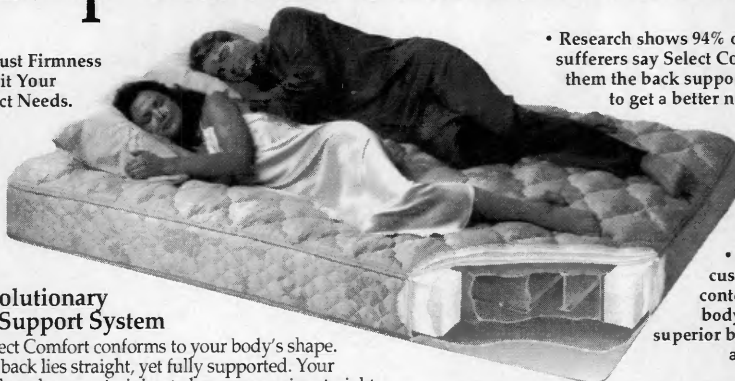
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In July 1961, Thomas H. Moore arrived in Illinois to manage the electric cooperatives' state service organization, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For more than 30 years, Moore worked closely with electric cooperative leaders to develop a service organization to meet the cooperatives' needs. Moore's retirement, effective the end of January, closes out a career in rural electrification that began in 1957. The following interview looks at the roots of rural electrification, where the program is in 1994, and what is ahead.

Q: Since 1957, you've spent more than 36 years in the rural electric program, including 32 and one-half years as general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. There have been changes in the nearly 60-year-old program, and there are many things that remain the same. How has the rural electrification program changed and in what ways is it much the same as it was in the 1930s and 1950s?

A: Change is inevitable in our lives and in the organizations and institutions with which we are associated and with which we are involved. This is certainly true for the electric cooperatives and the rural electrification program. The electric cooperatives were organized to fill a long-recognized need in the rural areas of our state and nation and to improve the living conditions and the ability of

**Thomas H. Moore
talks about
rural electrification**

Thomas H. Moore spent four years with the Arkansas electric cooperatives before becoming manager of the statewide service organization for Illinois electric cooperatives in 1961.



rural residents to work more efficiently and to enjoy many of the comforts long available to their city cousins. Although the electric cooperatives were organized to provide a basic service, electric power was not an end in itself but was a necessary resource to improve the economic and social welfare of the people they were to serve.

Early leaders and the organizers of the electric cooperatives looked at electricity as a tool which would be desirable in their lives but it was not deemed the necessity which it has become. Today, electricity is a necessity for modern living and to perform the many tasks and to operate sophisticated tools and equipment required for farmers and rural people to compete in the highly technological world in which we live. In the early days of the electric cooperative operations, electricity was considered more of a convenience than a necessity. If the power was off for a few days, these rural people quickly reverted to the way they had always "done things." Today, with the complex needs of our modern homes and work areas, electricity is no longer just a convenience or a luxury.

When the electric cooperatives first began their operations, the vast majority of their members were farmers. Today, many of our members are still farmers but an increasing number simply have rural homes and commute to jobs in cities and towns in the area. Many of these people live at a much "faster pace" than we did in the 1940s and '50s and take reliable, dependable and reasonably priced electricity as an essential ingredient of their lives. The electric cooperatives have recognized the needs and have changed their operations to meet these needs. Although the way the cooperatives provide service in the past has

changed and has become more sophisticated, the basic concern of leaders with the social and economic welfare of their member-owners and others who live in rural areas has not changed.

Q: Today's electric cooperatives serve large areas of the state's rural regions, as well as suburban homes and businesses, and commercial and industrial consumers. Considering that electric cooperatives originated to provide central station power primarily to rural dwellers who were not being served by the investor-owned utilities, how are the cooperatives now able to meet the various requirements of a broad mix of members—rural, farm, suburban, commercial, industrial?

A: When the electric cooperatives were organized and began their operations, little was known about the many problems which would arise in their efforts to provide electric service over thousands of miles of line in sparsely populated areas. In their beginnings, too, electric cooperatives tended to serve similar types of electrical loads—either for farm operations or for such limited uses in the home as lighting, refrigeration, ironing and pumping water. With the assistance of the Rural Electrification Administration and the many innovators who became associated with the electric cooperatives, accepted methods of providing electric service in the towns and cities were quickly adopted to meet different needs in the rural areas.

Most of the early employees were local residents and well aware of the specific needs of the people in the area. Over the years they've increased their

“The distribution cooperatives are the basic units in the rural electrification program, and they control the service groups they organized to assist them in providing service to their member-owners.”

knowledge through on-the-job training or with professional assistance from engineering firms and others specializing in providing electric service for a variety of uses, both large and small.

Over a well-maintained, modern system of more than 52,000 miles of line in 82 Illinois counties and an adequate supply of bulk power through their generation and transmission cooperatives, as well as purchases from the investor-owned utilities, the electric cooperatives can meet the power requirements of large and small consumers for whatever use the consumer may have.

Q: The electric cooperatives are essentially small, geographic organizations, operating in an autonomous manner. How do they maintain that independence while at the same time being members of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and power supply cooperatives?

A: Although all of the electric cooperatives in Illinois are multi-million dollar businesses and often one of the largest employers in the areas in which they serve, the cooperatives are relatively small geographic entities as compared with most other utilities. Throughout their history, the electric cooperatives have operated efficiently and have continued as locally owned and controlled businesses. To ensure they maintain this local autonomy and provide the quality and quantity of service required by their members, early in their history the electric cooperatives in Illinois organized the statewide service association and, later a number of them banded together to form their own power supply cooperatives.

The distribution cooperatives are the basic units in the rural electrification program, and they control these service groups which they organized to assist them in providing service to their member-owners. The AIEC and the generation and transmission cooperatives provide their member-

systems with essential services which can be better and more efficiently done on a pooled or group basis.

Q: What advantages are there in AIEC membership for Illinois electric cooperatives?

A: Membership in the AIEC provides its member electric cooperatives with a staff of professional individuals with essential expertise necessary to the operation of any type of utility. The staff of the AIEC serves as an extension of the staff of each of the member-cooperatives. The member-cooperatives, in effect, jointly employ professionals in a number of areas of expertise to work jointly for the cooperatives as needed, providing services economically that most cooperatives could not otherwise afford or could not individually justify. Trained professionals are required for the operation of any business which expects to meet the challenges of the '90s and the years to come. The AIEC provides the expertise which the electric cooperatives must have if they are to remain viable segments of the electric industry. In addition to providing professional expertise to the electric cooperatives, the AIEC speaks with a common voice for the electric cooperatives. Through the AIEC, the electric cooperatives jointly provide the pooled support for programs and activities which are of benefit to the electric cooperatives, to their member-owners and to rural Illinois.

Q: Several electric cooperatives provide power for state prisons or will provide power for future facilities. How are decisions made as to what utility will serve such a site?

A: These are large power loads which can be adequately and dependably served by the electric cooperatives. The Electric Supplier Act of 1965 was enacted by the Illinois General Assembly to avoid duplication of investment of capital-

“When the electric cooperatives were organized, they basically served areas which the investor-owned utilities refused to serve or had no interest in serving.”

intensive electrical facilities to serve the consumers in Illinois. The ESA was agreed legislation which provides for territorial protection of electric suppliers — electric cooperatives, as well as investor-owned utilities. The delineation of service territory for the electric supplier is based primarily on those territories which were being served by the electric suppliers in 1965. The ESA provides for territorial agreements between adjoining electric suppliers which must be submitted to the Illinois Commerce Commission for approval. When disputes arise from time-to-time concerning the rights of an electric supplier to serve an individual consumer, the ICC determines the electric supplier which has the right to serve.

A number of factors are taken into consideration determining the rights of an electric supplier to serve a consumer, but the primary ones are: (1) who was providing service in the area in 1965, (2) what the additional cost to provide the service will be and (3) the extent to which each supplier assisted in creating the demand for the proposed service. Other considerations in the ICC's determination of the supplier which has the right to serve the customer may include: (1) the customer's preference as to which supplier should furnish the proposed service, (2) which supplier was first furnishing service in the area and (3) which supplier can furnish the proposed service with a smaller amount of additional investment.

During the 28-year history of the ESA, a limited number of disputes have been submitted to the Illinois Commerce Commission and these have been settled in the public interest and have clarified the wording and intent of the ESA.

Q: Before the Electric Supplier Act, how were such conflicts resolved?

A: Before the Electric Supplier Act, the investor-owned utilities and the electric cooperatives were often embroiled in battles over territory and consumers. When the electric cooperatives were organized, they basically served areas which the investor-owned utilities refused to serve or had no interest in serving. In most cases, it was determined by the investor-owned utilities that it was not economically feasible to serve the people and the businesses in those areas

and the need for electric power was minimal. The electric cooperatives filled those voids and, with loans from the Rural Electrification Administration, accepted an obligation to serve all consumers who requested service in these territories. As the territories served by the electric cooperatives became less sparsely populated, electric power loads increased and/or large consumers moved into the area, the investor-owned utilities then offered to extend service to those areas and attempted to pick the “cream of the crop” as they had done in selecting the areas in which they originally provided services. Most of the service areas of Illinois utilities at that time were confined to the towns and villages and along the major highways in downstate Illinois.

Q: New territorial legislation, regarding municipal annexation of residential and commercial areas that developed in areas served by electric cooperatives for more than 50 years, addressed a problem that grew since 1965. Why was this legislation necessary and how does this new legislation differ from the Electric Supplier Act?

A: As towns and cities have grown during the past years, the municipals have become more aggressive in annexing the areas surrounding the cities and towns which have grown and expanded over the years. Much of these areas include farms traditionally served by electric cooperatives. This availability of electric service has enabled the area to grow and to become desirable for municipal annexation. Tremendous investments are required by any electric utility to provide adequate and reliable service and facilities are designed and constructed to meet the needs of the area for a long period of time — in most situations for over a 25-to-35-year period.

When a city or town which owns its own electric distribution facility annexes an area, the municipal often encourages the residents and businesses in the annexed area to purchase their electricity from the municipal system. Prior to passage of H.B. 666, which was signed by Governor Jim Edgar and became effective on January 1, 1994, the electric cooperative had little protection from this pirating of some of their



Morris L. Bell (left) of Chandlerville, president of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, talks with Moore during a break in the sessions of last year's AIEC annual meeting.

more profitable service areas. Once the cooperative has made the investment to serve these areas, funds to repay loans used to construct the necessary facilities are included in the monthly power bills paid by all member-owners of the cooperative. If these facilities are confiscated or can no longer be used by the electric cooperatives and, therefore, no income is received from their use, the cost of such unused or abandoned facilities must be borne by the remaining member-owners of the cooperative. This is not in the public interest and is unfair to the local citizens of the area who are member-owners of the cooperatives.

H.B. 666 permits voluntary service area agreements between municipals and electric cooperatives, with limited oversight by the Illinois Commerce Commission. If a municipal does take over the territory of the electric cooperative and provides service to the member-owners of the cooperative, the legislation requires compensation, under certain circumstances, be paid to the electric cooperative for the facilities. This is important legislation and fair to the electric cooperatives, as well as to citizens of the municipalities.

Q: When you came to Illinois in 1961, you moved from a larger statewide association in Arkansas to a relatively small organization. Today the AIEC provides a variety of services to its member cooperatives. What has driven this expanded role for the AIEC over the years?

A: When I was employed by the Association as its second general manager in 1961, it was a small organization with only six or seven

employees. At that time, the state association in Arkansas by which I had been employed for four years was a much larger operation and had pioneered in providing a variety of services needed by the electric cooperatives in Arkansas.

When the Illinois association was organized in 1942, two of its first services for its member-cooperatives were to provide a training and safety program and the publication of a statewide magazine to communicate with member-owners of the electric cooperatives. These two services have continued as essential services provided for the electric cooperatives in Illinois. As relatively small organizations, the electric cooperatives recognized that they could achieve their common goals much easier and more effectively by working together and by speaking together in the Legislature and before public bodies.

This expanded role has been required by the electric cooperatives as they face the growing complexities of meeting the increasing demands of their member-owners for electric power and of complying with state and federal regulations which have proliferated over the years.

The assistance provided its member-cooperatives in the area of communications with their member-owners and the general public requires professional experts, trained and familiar with the specialized needs of electric cooperatives. All of the specialized services available through the AIEC have been requested and are used on an almost daily basis by the member-cooperatives regardless of the size and nature of the operations of the cooperatives. Again, the AIEC has provided the electric cooperatives a means to serve their members as efficiently and dependably as do the

much larger utilities, while at the same time each electric cooperative maintains its local community involvement, its local independence and its closeness to its member-consumers by which it was created and for whom each continues to exist.

Q: President Clinton recently signed legislation that makes some important changes in the way the federal government deals with electric and telephone cooperatives and the needs of the country's rural areas. What does this legislation do and what changes do you expect to see from this legislation and a reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture?

A: Legislation enacted by the 103rd Congress and signed by President Clinton in October 1993 amends the Rural Electrification Act to make the most sweeping changes in the rural electric and telephone programs since the early 1970s. The legislation and plans for reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have a tremendous potential to benefit the electric and telephone cooperatives in Illinois and to enable them to better serve the needs of rural Illinois and its citizens. In the reorganized REA, as proposed, the electric and telephone programs will be assigned to a new Rural Economic and Community Development section with responsibility for the rural electric and telephone service, as well as a key role in providing water and sewer programs for rural areas.

The electric cooperatives have long been active in rural community development services, and if plans for the reorganization of the REA are developed as proposed, the reorganization will provide the electric cooperatives the resources and support services which will make them much more effective. Although the cost of capital may be increased

for most electric cooperatives, the legislation makes provisions for adequate loan funds, which is essential for the electric cooperatives to grow and to continue to provide adequate service to their existing and new members.

The legislation will also reduce the burden of excessive regulations and rules of the REA. We are optimistic that the new legislation will widen the doors for a greater role for more effective action by the electric cooperatives in providing services to the rural areas and communities in their service territories.

Q: Much has changed in the nearly 60 years of rural electrification and electric cooperative history. Do these organizations have a place in the future of the rural areas they serve?

A: Although much has changed during the 60-year history of the electric

cooperatives, they have proven to be essential organizations for the success and social and economic welfare of the member-owners in the areas they serve. The types of services provided by the electric cooperatives will change in the future as they have changed in the past, but the need for dynamic organizations with dedicated leaders interested in the areas they serve will be an important factor in the infrastructure of rural Illinois if its economy is to improve and local organizations are to be successful in providing essential services to meet the needs of rural people.

As long as there are needs for services in the rural areas, the electric cooperatives will be available as dynamic, effective locally owned and controlled entities to help local people fill those needs.

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BRIEFLY

Impact of Medicare savings on rural hospitals unknown

It's hard to predict how the \$124 billion in Medicare savings called for in President Clinton's health care proposal will affect rural areas. That's the conclusion of speakers at the Midwest Summit on Health Care, a Kansas conference that drew sharp questions about the proposal. "We're going to have a lot of babies born in pickups unless we get those questions answered," said Rep. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), one of the summit's chairs. Roberts and others wondered just how the Clinton plan will affect isolated areas. "How are we going to survive?" Roberts asked. Clinton administration health official Jeffrey Human responded by saying that the Medicare savings aren't cuts, but decreases in the projected rate of increases in Medicare spending. Medicare, Human explained, is rising at a rate three times that of inflation. The Clinton plan counts on savings from its reform plan to keep that at two times the rate of inflation. Human is director of the Office of Rural Health Policy, a part of the Department of Health and Human Services. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), who co-chaired the event with

Soyland and REA agree on debt restructuring plan

Soyland Power Cooperative and its primary lender, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Electrification Administration, signed an agreement in Washington, D.C., December 17 to restructure Soyland's debt. The debt restructuring agreement will allow Soyland to maintain stable prices on the electric power it sells to its 21 member distribution cooperatives throughout 69 Illinois counties. "Maintaining stable electric rates without large increases is very important in our efforts to encourage economic growth in the rural areas of our state," said Kent Wick, Soyland executive vice president and general manager. "It was imperative that Soyland reach an agreement with the federal government which will keep the cooperative from passing through significant rate increases to pay for debt incurred primarily on Soyland's ownership in the nuclear Clinton Power Station." Soyland purchased a 13.21 percent ownership interest in the 950-megawatt nuclear Clinton Power Station in 1978. The cost of owning the nuclear plant, combined with high interest costs during the early 1980s, resulted in escalating electric rates for Soyland's 21 member-cooperatives and their 150,000 member-consumers. Soyland initiated formal discussions with REA in July 1992 to restructure the Clinton Power Station debt to avoid rate increases to rural consumers. The debt restructuring agreement includes reducing a portion of the cooperative's debt service payments

Roberts and Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.), said the plan will be questioned by Congress.

President signs law to change co-op agency

President Clinton changed the future of the 59-year-old Rural Electrification Administration (REA) on November 1 when he signed the Rural Electrification Loan Restructuring Act of 1993 into law. The act changes the interest rate that the nation's 1,000 rural electric cooperatives pay on the money they borrow from the government, reducing the federal subsidy provided through those loans. Previously, most co-ops paid 5 percent interest on that money; now only the poorest co-ops will be eligible for that rate. Others will pay the same rate that utilities owned by city governments pay on their loans. Most of the loans will have a 7 percent cap on the interest rate. The changes, Clinton said in a statement, are "a good example of the government doing more with less. This legislation will enhance our ability to provide affordable electric and telephone services in rural areas." He called the plan "a solid step forward."

More rural Americans live in poverty

More rural Americans than urbanites live in poverty, according to a study by the Census Bureau. In 1992, the bureau reported, 16.8 percent of non-metropolitan residents lived in poverty. That was higher than the 13.9 percent poverty rate for metropolitan areas. According to the Rural Sociological Society Task Force on Persistent Rural Poverty, poverty is consistently a bigger problem in rural areas. A study by that group confirms the Census Bureau's findings, and adds that the rapid growth of poverty during the 1980s was spread among rural women, blacks, the elderly and the "working poor."

Senate passes bill to curb indoor pollutants

You may be able to breathe easier inside your own home if a bill passed by the Senate becomes law. The measure would expand research on indoor air pollution from radon and other contaminants. It also would encourage the spread of information on how architects, building managers and others should deal with it. "It is time we recognize the seriousness of the problem," said Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont.), chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, where the bill was

and refinancing high interest loans with lower market interest rates. In addition, Soyland reached agreement with its supplemental lender, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, for a line of credit and future loans to finance capital additions. Wick expressed his satisfaction with this agreement. "This debt restructuring agreement allows Soyland to continue making its debt service payments to REA and the Cooperative Finance Corporation in a more affordable way, while maintaining stable electric prices to our members. We fully accept our obligation to repay our debt; however, this agreement is crucial because it allows us to pay it back while we work to encourage economic growth in our rural service areas." Soyland Power Cooperative is a generation and transmission cooperative based in Decatur, supplying electric power to 21 of the 26 Illinois distribution electric cooperatives. The distribution cooperatives that make up the Soyland federation are: Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Camp Point; Clay Electric Co-operative, Flora; Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Breese; Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon; Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, Bloomington; Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Paxton; Edgar Electric Co-operative Association, Paris; Farmers Mutual Electric Company, Geneseo; Illinois Rural Electric Co., Winchester; Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Princeton; McDonough Power Cooperative, Macomb; M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, Carlinville; Menard Electric Cooperative, Petersburg; Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Waterloo; Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., Auburn; Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelbyville; Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Greenville; Spoon River Electric Co-operative, Canton; Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Mt. Vernon; Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield; and Western Illinois Electrical Coop., Carthage.

approved by voice vote. The measure would direct the Environmental Protection Agency to list common contaminants, study how dangerous they are, and develop a plan for reducing the threat. The House has yet to approve similar legislation, and it must do so before the bill can become law. EPA has estimated that 14,000 lung cancer deaths annually are caused by radon, a radioactive gas that can seep up from the ground into buildings. Other indoor pollutants include asbestos, organic chemicals, formaldehyde, and tobacco smoke.

Flood victims can call toll-free number for help

Midwesterners who still need federal funds to recover from the devastating summer and fall flooding can call a toll-free number for information. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has an 800 number for flood victims in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The number is 1-800-880-4183; it's available between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Central time; at other times, callers can leave messages on an answering machine. Callers will learn what flood-related agricultural assistance is available and where they can get it. Specialists will answer questions or refer callers to other sources.

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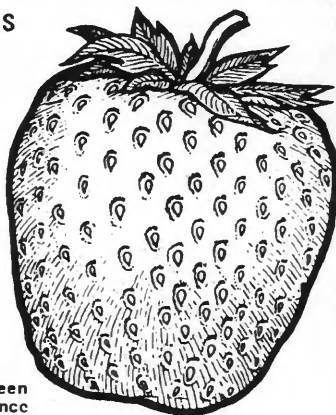
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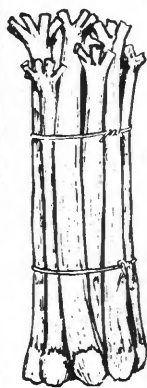
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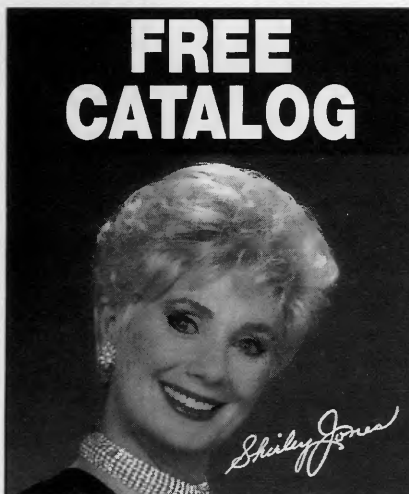
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History in stitches

If you believe as Cheryl Kennedy does, you believe that quilts are much more than just bits of cloth sewn together and that quilters are more than just people who work with a needle and thread.

Kennedy, museum/project director for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, emphasizes that there is far more to quilts than mere bits of cloth and fancy stitching.

"Quilts document our heritage," she says.

In an attempt to preserve that heritage, historians and volunteers from throughout the state set out to register every quilt they could find and piece together as much of a history of each as they could. With an eight-year effort behind them and nearly 16,000 quilts registered, she feels they've got a really good start. Many of the quilts registered are from areas served by Illinois electric cooperatives, and many co-op members were involved in the project.

Using some of the information gathered, E. Duane and Rachel Kamm Elbert wrote a book, *History from the Heart*, which documents the activities of quilters from the time Illinois was just another part of the Northwest Territory to the present. Richly illustrated with color photos of quilts — and black-and-white photos of

quilters long dead — the book is about people, families, community and the state of Illinois.

"This is not a how-to book about quilting," Kennedy says, "and it's not just about quilters and quilting. The important thing we're trying to get across is that this is a history of Illinois as you see it through quilts. We want people to understand that a good part of our sense of pride and sense of belonging comes from what we own — that our belongings give us a sense of place."

Part of what the project hopes to accomplish is the renewal of contact between generations — the reconstruction of the relationship between mothers and daughters, and grandmothers and granddaughters.

"We hoped to spark a new interest in quilts," she says, "so people would realize the importance of getting a history of their quilts before it's too late. Our registration form has a place for a brief history. It's a sad thing that nearly half didn't have anything there. People would say, 'I don't know anything about it, but my mom does.' Part of the idea is to get them to talk to their mothers — or their grandmothers — and find out."

One quilt has a history that goes back five generations to Harriet Cook of Peoria County, who pieced together a tan-and-mauve, nine-patch comforter for

the baby she was expecting. The baby, born in August 1898, died before he was a month old.

When Cook died of pneumonia a few years later, the quilt went with her three children to England, where they lived for a while with her relatives. When their father remarried, the children and their quilt returned — and settled near Farmer City.

Another quilt, a simple creation of red thread on a white background, tells one woman's life story. Kathryn Kennedy (not related to Cheryl Kennedy) decided that she wanted to chronicle her life for her daughter and involved the daughter in





Cheryl Kennedy (left) museum/project director for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, and Jan Wass, curator of decorative arts for the Illinois State Museum, Springfield, discuss the quilt exhibit that is now in the state museum. The exhibit, "Connecting Stitches: Tradition and Innovation in Illinois Quilts," will be in the museum through February 13.

the process. They went through old photos, selecting scenes that represented major milestones in her life. Then she set out to embroider each square and finally wound up with a quilt entitled "Yesterdays Remembered." The birth of a baby is there, neatly lettered. Two "dear cousins" who served in World War I are pictured, as is "Art's Model A." There's at least one other baby, and Charles A. Lindbergh's 1927 New York-to-Paris flight is recorded, too.

"Can you imagine a better way to work with a daughter than to get together with her on a project like that, or a better

way to tell a family history?" Cheryl Kennedy asks.

There is another effort, unusual in that it was made by a man. This wasn't just any man, but a big, burly man who spent his days working with explosives. Albert Small, an Ottawa quarry worker, apparently unwound by piecing together tiny bits of cloth at night.

Small had set about the task of making a record-breaking quilt in the 1930s, and he made one with some 36,141 hexagonal pieces, each three-fourths of an inch across. Later, he put another one together — with 123,200 quarter-inch hexagons.

While not every quilt has as much of a history as those, many probably do have some history, if only someone would make an effort to learn it, Kennedy says.

During the eight-year effort, when nearly 16,000 quilts were recorded, Kennedy says there are many more, and she wants to know about them, too.

For more information, call or write Kennedy at the Early American Museum at P.O. Drawer 1040, Mahomet, IL 61853. The phone number is (217) 586-2612.

The book, *History from the Heart*, is in bookstores now.

Valentine treats to share

CANDY BAR FUDGE

Butter 8-inch square pan. In large microwave-safe bowl, combine 1 cup (6 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips and 1 cup (6 oz.) butter-scotch chips. Microwave on HIGH for 1 to 2 minutes or until chips are melted. (OR, in medium saucepan over low heat, melt chips.) Stir until smooth. Stir in 1 can chocolate fudge frosting and 2 (2 oz. size) Snickers, Butterfinger or Heath Candy Bars, chopped (reserve 2 tablespoons chopped candy bar). Spread in buttered pan. Sprinkle with reserved candy bar. Refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour. 36 pieces.

CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER HEART CAKE

Cake

1 pkg. fudge swirl or fudge marble cake mix
1 (8 oz.) carton dairy sour cream

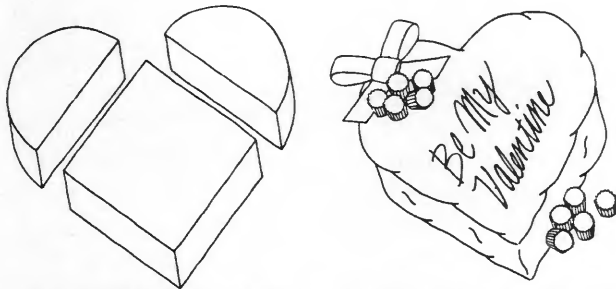
1/2 cup peanut butter
1/4 cup water
3 eggs

Frosting

1 can swirl milk chocolate frosting with fudge swirl

8 to 10 milk chocolate-covered peanut butter cups
Ribbon

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour one 8 inch square and one 8 inch round cake pan.* In large bowl, combine all cake ingredients except swirl packet from cake mix at low speed until moistened. Beat 2 minutes at high speed. Pour 3 1/2 cups batter into greased and floured pans, making sure batter is same depth in both pans. To remaining batter, add swirl packet from cake mix and 2 tablespoons water; mix well. Spoon randomly over yellow batter. Swirl with knife to marble. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 or 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes; remove cakes from pans. Cool completely. To assemble cake, cut round in half to form 2 semi-circles. Fit cut edges to adjoining sides of square (see diagram). Frost sides and top of cake. Garnish with candy and ribbon. Write desired message with swirl packet from frosting. 12 servings. *TIP: One 9-inch square and one 9-inch round cake pan can be substituted. Bake 25 to 35 minutes.



MARBLE-FROSTED CHOCOLATE COOKIES

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In large bowl, combine 1 pkg. devil food cake mix, 1/2 cup margarine, softened, 2 tablespoons water and 1 egg at low speed until thoroughly moistened. Stir in 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 9 to 12 minutes or until set. Cool 2 minutes; remove from cookie sheets. Remove swirl packet from 1 can swirl vanilla frosting with fudge swirl. Place frosting in small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on HIGH for 30 to 45 seconds or until smooth, stirring frequently. (OR, in small saucepan, melt frosting over medium heat, stirring frequently.) Spread frosting over cookies. Immediately drizzle swirl from swirl packet over frosted cookies in heart shape. Marble swirl and frosting together with a toothpick. 30 cookies.

CANDY COATED POPCORN TREATS

Line 16 muffin cups with paper liners. In small microwave-safe bowl, microwave 1 can of Funfetti pink vanilla frosting on HIGH for 45 to 60 seconds or until melted, stirring frequently. (OR, in small saucepan, melt frosting over medium heat, stirring frequently.) In large bowl, pour frosting over 8 cups popped popcorn. Stir until popcorn is well coated. Generously mound into muffin cups. Immediately sprinkle decorator sprinkles over top of each popcorn treat. Allow to set at room temperature for 1 hour. Store loosely covered. 16 popcorn treats.

KISS-ME-QUICK COOKIES

Preheat oven at 375 degrees. In large bowl, combine 1 pkg. Funfetti Cake Mix, 1/3 cup oil and 2 eggs; stir in candy bits. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 6 to 8 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Immediately place chocolate candy heart (1-inch size) or milk chocolate candy kiss in center of each cookie; press lightly. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheets. 3 dozen cookies.

BROWNIE LOVER HEARTS

Brownie

1 (21 1/2-oz.) pkg. fudge brownie mix
1/2 cup water

1/2 cup oil
1 egg

Glaze

1 can Swirl Vanilla or Milk Chocolate Frosting with Fudge Swirl. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Line 13x9 inch pan with foil; grease bottom. In large bowl, combine all brownie ingredients; beat 50 strokes with spoon. Spread in greased pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 33 to 35 minutes or until set. DO NOT OVERBAKE. Cool completely. Freeze brownies 1/2 hour. Lift foil to remove brownies for pan; place on cutting board. Using 2 1/2 inch heartshaped cookie cutter, cut 8 to 10 brownie hearts. In small saucepan, melt frosting over low heat, stirring occasionally until smooth; keep warm. Line cookie sheet with waxed paper. Place wire rack on waxed paper. Place brownies on wire rack. Quickly spoon frosting over brownies, covering completely. Refrigerate 15 to 20 minutes or until frosting is set. Decorate brownie hearts with swirl from swirl packet as desired. 8 to 10 brownies.

VALENTINE DIPPED STRAWBERRIES

Wash 2 pints (about 30) fresh strawberries with stems; pat dry. In 1-cup microwave-safe measuring cup, microwave 1 cup Funfetti pink vanilla frosting on HIGH for 30 to 40 seconds or until melted, stirring once or twice. (OR, in small saucepan, melt frosting over low heat stirring until smooth.) Dip berries into frosting, coating bottom 2/3 of berries. Immediately sprinkle with decorator sprinkles. Place on plate lined with waxed paper. Refrigerate to set. 30 berries.

MILLIONAIRE PIE

Crust

1 cup oleo
1 cup flour

1 tablespoon sugar

Cut the oleo into flour and sugar with wire pastry blender thoroughly and press into 9 inch pie pan. Bake for 10 minutes at 225 degrees. Cool.

Filling

1 can Eagle Brand milk
3 tablespoons lemon juice

1 cup sweetened sliced strawberries
1 small carton Cool Whip

Stir the lemon juice into the condensed milk and add the strawberries. Carefully fold the Cool Whip into the milk and pour in the cooled crust. Chill several hours before serving.

WHITE CHOCOLATE MACADAMIA NUT COOKIES

2/3 cup soft shortening
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 egg

1/2 teaspoon soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup chopped macadamia nuts
6 oz. (approx.) white chocolate chopped in 1/2" chunks

1 teaspoon vanilla
1 3/4 cups flour

Mix thoroughly first 5 ingredients. Sift together flour, soda and salt and stir in. Stir in nuts and chocolate chunks. Chill dough for 2 hours. Drop by heaping teaspoonfuls about 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes in 375 degree oven. Cool slightly before removing from cookie sheet.

CHOCOLATE CREAM PIE

- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons cocoa

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

COCOON COOKIES

- 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 2 cups flour
 - 1 cup finely chopped pecans
 - 6 teaspoons powdered sugar
 - 1 cup melted butter (real)
 - 1 teaspoon salt
- Mix vanilla and melted butter with flour. Mix powdered sugar, nuts and salt together. Combine with first mixture and make into small cocoons. Place on lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake at 325° until lightly brown. Roll in sifted powdered sugar while hot.

APPLE CRUNCH

- 2 cans apple pie filling
 - 1 small can crushed pineapple, drained
 - 1 yellow cake mix
 - 2 sticks oleo
- Layer apple filling, pineapple, cake mix and oleo. Top with nuts. Bake in large pan at 350° until brown.

MEXICAN SALAD

- 1 lb. ground beef
 - 1/4 lb. chopped onion
 - 2 cups (1 lb. can) kidney beans, drained
 - 1/2 cup Catalina French dressing
 - 1/2 cup water
 - 1 tablespoon chili powder
 - 1 head of lettuce, shredded
 - 1/2 cup sliced green onions
 - 1 (8 oz.) wedge sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- Brown meat and drain. Add onion and cook until tender. Stir in beans, dressing, water and chili powder; simmer 15 minutes. Combine lettuce, green onions and 1/2 cups cheese. Pour meat sauce and toss lightly. Sprinkle with remaining cheese.

CREOLE CABBAGE

- 1 medium head cabbage
 - 1 lb. ground beef
 - 1 medium onion, chopped
 - 1 bell pepper, chopped
 - 1 large can tomatoes
 - 1 can Ro-tel
 - 1 can cheddar cheese soup
 - Salt and pepper, to taste
- Brown meat, bell pepper and onion. Chop cabbage and add with tomatoes and Ro-tel to meat mixture. Cook until meat, onion and pepper are done. Add cheddar cheese soup. Cook about 2 hours. Good served with cornbread.

CHILI

- 3 lbs. ground beef
 - 2 cans kidney beans or pintos
 - 3 cans tomatoes
 - 1 can tomato sauce
 - 2 large onions, chopped
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - 1/4 cup chili powder
 - 2 tablespoons cumin
- Brown onions in 1 tablespoon oil. Add meat, brown. Run beans and tomatoes through colander and add 1 can of water. Add beans and tomatoes to meat mixture and start cooking. Add salt, pepper, chili powder and cumin to taste. The longer it cooks, the better it is.

HOMEMADE SALAMI

- 2 lbs. ground beef (lean)
 - 3 tablespoons Morton's Tender Quick
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
 - 1 cup water
 - 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
 - 1/2 teaspoon Liquid Smoke
 - 1 teaspoon pepper
- Mix all together, form into four rolls. Wrap in foil, shaping and sealing well. Leave in refrigerator 24 hours, then boil in kettle of water 1 hour. Remove from water. Unwrap and lay out to cool or can be baked 1 hour in oven on rack.

SALTLESS SEASONING SALT

- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
 - 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
 - 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
 - 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
 - 1/2 teaspoon paprika
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground celery seed
 - 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- Combine all ingredients together. Cover and store in a dry place.

ENGLISH PEA SALAD

- 2 large cans English peas, drained or 2 boxes frozen (cooked slightly), drained and cooled
 - 4 stalks celery, chopped
 - 1 small onion, chopped
 - 1 green pepper, chopped
 - 1/2 cup pimento, chopped
- Mix the above ingredients in a salad bowl. Bring to a boil the following and cool well before pouring over vegetables.

- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups sugar (1 reduce to 3/4 cup)
- 1/4 cup salad oil
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1 tablespoon water
- Dash of paprika

LASAGNA

- 1 pkg. lasagna noodles
 - 3/4-1 lb. ground beef
 - 1/2 clove garlic
 - 1 onion, chopped
 - 1 (6 oz.) can tomato paste
 - 1 cup water
 - Few flakes parsley, bay leaf, oregano
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - 1 lb. American, Parmesan or Cheddar cheese
 - 1/4 lb. (small curd) cottage cheese
 - 1/2 lb. mozzarella cheese
- Brown meat and drain. Add garlic, onion, tomato paste, water, parsley, bay leaf and oregano, salt and pepper. Simmer about 1 hour. Cook lasagna noodles as directed. Arrange lasagna in dish alternately with layers of sauce and cheese. Bake about 20 minutes at 350°.

FRIED PIE PASTRY

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
 - Dash of ground nutmeg
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1 teaspoon sugar
 - 1/2 cup soft oleo
 - 1 teaspoon vinegar
 - 4-5 tablespoons cold water
- Mix all ingredients, divide into 10 balls. Roll out; use 2 teaspoons of fruit filling for each pie.

BAKED CHICKEN BREASTS

- 6 chicken breasts
 - 1 pkg. dry onion soup mix
 - Apricot jelly
 - 1 bottle Russian dressing
- Place breasts in baking dish. Sprinkle onion soup mix over. Mix apricot jelly and dressing. Drizzle over chicken. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees turning the last 15 minutes to brown.

BROWN HAMBURGER STEW

- 1 lb. ground beef
 - 1/4 cup flour
 - 2 teaspoons salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 2 tablespoons fat
 - 1 1/3 cups water
 - 3 carrots, sliced
 - 3 potatoes, diced
 - 2 onions, sliced
 - 1 turnip, diced (optional)
 - 2 cups tomato juice
- Mix hamburger meat with flour, salt and pepper. Brown in fat, stirring as needed. Drain off fat. Add water and carrots. Cover, simmer 10 minutes. Add other vegetables, simmer until crisp tender—about 10 minutes. Add tomato juice, heat, and serve. Makes 6 servings, 1 1/2 cups each.

PORK CHOPS AND HOMINY

- 3-4 pork chops
 - shortening
 - 1 medium can hominy
- Brown chops slowly in small amount of shortening, pour off grease. Put hominy and liquid in skillet with chops. Cover; cook slowly for 45 minutes to 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Add small amount of water if necessary. Yield: 3-4 servings.

CARAMEL-CHOCOLATE BROWNIES

- 1 1/2 sticks oleo
 - 3/4 cup evaporated milk
 - 1 cup chopped nuts
 - about 50 light caramels
 - 6 oz. chocolate chips
 - 1 German chocolate cake mix
- Add melted oleo and 1/3 cup milk to cake mix and mix by hand. Stir in nuts. Melt caramels in 1/3 cup milk in double boiler. Grease and flour 13 x 9" pan. Spread 1/2 of cake batter in pan. Bake 6 minutes at 350 degrees. Spread melted caramels over this. Sprinkle on chocolate chips. Spread remainder of batter (it will be thick) and bake 16-18 minutes. Cool and set in refrigerator about 30 minutes to set caramels. Keep then at room temperature.

SAUSAGE AND RICE CASSEROLE

- 1 lb. sausage
 - 1 cup chopped onion
 - 1 cup chopped celery
 - 1 cup instant rice
 - 1 can mushroom soup
 - 1 can cream of chicken soup
 - 1 soup can of milk
 - Pinch of oregano
 - Pinch of thyme
 - Pinch of marjoram
 - 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
 - Sliced almonds
- Fry sausage and remove from skillet. Sauté onion and celery in sausage fat; add butter if necessary. Combine all ingredients except cheese in buttered 3 quart casserole; top with almonds. Cover and bake at 350° until bubbly. Add grated cheese and return to oven until cheese melts.

FUDGE CAKE

- 2 cups flour
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons soda
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 2 cups sugar
 - 4 sqs. (4-oz.) unsweetened chocolate
 - 1/2 cup shortening
 - 1 cup boiling water
 - 1/2 cup buttermilk
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Melt chocolate and shortening in boiling water over low heat; stir until thoroughly blended; remove from heat and cool. Sift flour, measure; add soda, salt and sugar; sift again. Add chocolate mixture to sifted dry ingredients. Add sour milk, beaten eggs and vanilla. Pour batter into 3 greased and floured cake pans. Bake at 400 degrees for about 25 minutes. Frost with Sea Spray Frosting or Fudge Frosting. May be baked in loaf pan if Fudge Frosting is used.

SEA SPRAY FROSTING

- 1 cup sugar
 - 1/2 cup light corn syrup
 - 1/2 cup water
 - 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
 - 4 egg whites
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - Food coloring, if desired
- Beat egg whites until stiff but not dry. Gradually pour hot syrup over egg whites while beating constantly. Syrup should be cooked until it will spin a long thread, about 8 inches long. Add vanilla and tint if desired. Continue beating until frosting will stand in peaks.

FUDGE FROSTING

- 2 cups sugar
 - 3/4 cup milk
 - 3 tablespoons cocoa
 - 4 tablespoons white syrup
 - 1/2 stick margarine
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Mix all ingredients except vanilla. Cook to soft ball stage. Cool. Add vanilla and beat to spreading consistency.

HERBED TOMATOES

- 2 large or 4 small tomatoes, cut into 8 wedges
 - 1 tablespoon olive oil
 - 2 tablespoons butter or oleo
 - 1/4 cup chopped onion
 - 1 small clove garlic, minced
 - 1/4 cup seasoned bread crumbs
 - 2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley
 - 1 tablespoon grated parmesan cheese
 - 1/2 teaspoon crushed oregano
- Preheat oven at 375 degrees. Arrange tomato wedges in 9-inch pie plate. Brush with olive oil. Cover and bake 30 minutes or until tender. Meanwhile, in small skillet, melt butter, add onion. Cook, stirring often, 3 minutes or until soft. Add garlic. Cook, stirring 1 minute. Remove from heat, stir in remaining ingredients. Preheat broiler. Uncover tomatoes and sprinkle bread crumb mixture over top. Broil 2-3 inches from heat source 2-3 minutes or until bread crumbs are browned.

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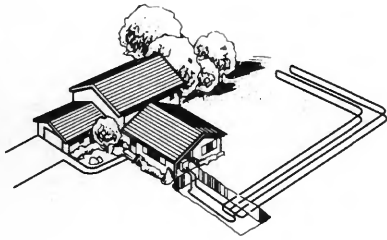
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Geothermal Heating • Cooling • Hot Water



A geothermal system consists of a buried piping system called a "loop." These loops are laid in the ground several different ways, either horizontally across the property or vertically drilled into the earth. The loops are then connected inside the home to a geothermal unit housing the heat exchanger, compressor and fan. It provides heating, cooling and hot water.

How a geothermal system heats your home.

In winter, water circulating through a "loop" of underground pipe absorbs heat from the warmer earth and carries it to the geothermal unit where it is extracted, compressed to a higher temperature and distributed throughout your home.

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