

**'New day' for REA**

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**Co-ops and change**

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# REN

**ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS**

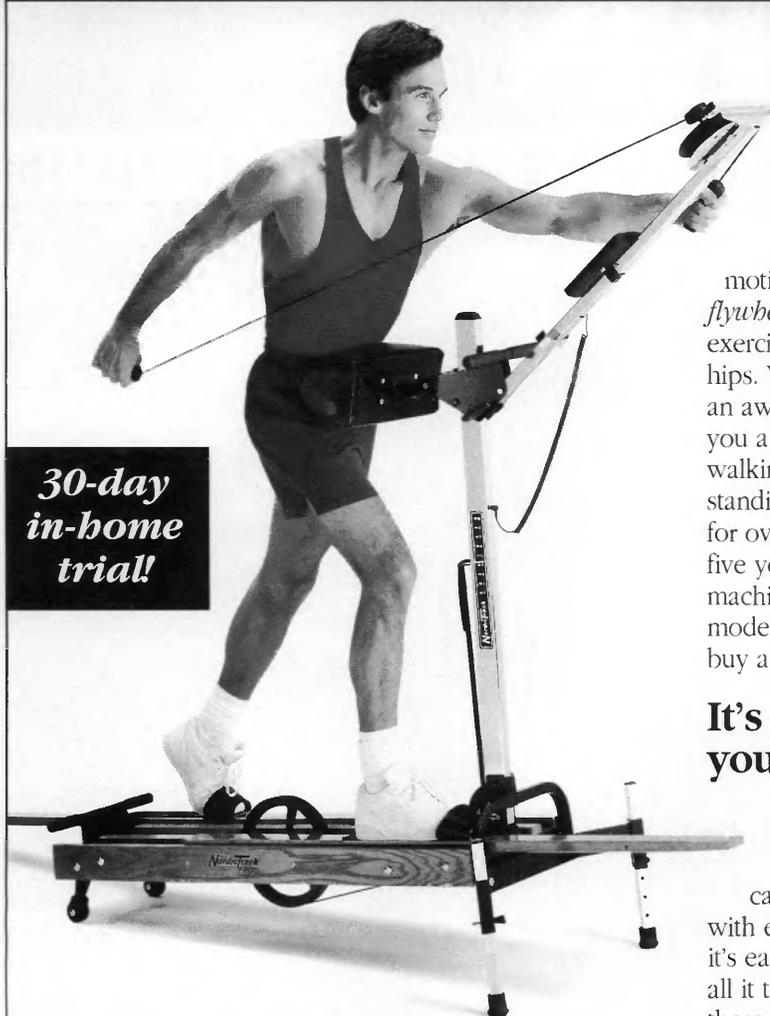
**APRIL 1994**



**A reel  
good idea**

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# Illinois Rural Electric News

## 'Enough is enough'

A national news magazine plans to focus over the next several months on the progress of cuts to 12 federal programs the Clinton Administration has in its proposed budget for fiscal 1995. Among the dozen are cuts to the rural electric and telephone programs, proposals that caught rural electric and telephone leaders off guard in February.

U.S. News and World Report says it will monitor the cutback proposals "as the process grinds on."

Over the years it has been relatively easy for opponents of the rural electric and telephone programs to get negative media coverage of the programs. The U.S. News and World Report material, however, is different, stating: "Power and phone firms are in a huff about more cuts in loans to hook up rural areas, where service is unprofitable. And a cutback might hurt Al Gore's much-loved info superhighway."

It is good to see that someone other than those in the rural electric program know and acknowledge that the cooperatives have taken cuts in the past and that they serve areas other utilities would not serve. It is also good to see the rural telephone cooperatives get credit for being modern, up-to-date partners in the nation's plans

for the "info superhighway."

Rural electric and telephone leaders, who are among the most prominent advocates of a fair shake for rural areas, worked with the Clinton people last year to come up with new public law relating to financing for the cooperatives in an effort to help ease the federal budget deficit. The ink was hardly dry on that five-year agreement when this new cutback proposal hit the halls of Congress.

Electric and telephone cooperative leaders didn't wait long to respond. In a resolution approved during the recent annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, concise wording says it all: "We say 'enough is enough.' We responded to the call last year and accepted a five-year budget plan which was approved by the Administration, Congress and our membership. We did this in spite of the fact that no other portion of the electric utility industry was called upon to share the budget-cutting burden. We are honoring the agreement and expect the Administration and Congress to do the same. . . . Adequate financing must be maintained to ensure a strong, viable rural electric system."

April 1994      Volume 51      Number 12

Published by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives



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## REN

### Illinois Rural Electric News

(USPS number 258-420) is published monthly and is the official publication of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, 6460 South Sixth Frontage Road, Springfield, IL 62707. The cost is \$3.60 per year for members of subscribing cooperatives and \$5 per year for all others. Second class postage paid at Springfield, Illinois, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: REN Illinois Rural Electric News, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, Illinois 62708.

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**Cover: When Bill Roth of Stonington decided to improve his combine's efficiency, he began what has turned into a growing business. See article beginning on page 6.**

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## REA chief:

# 'It's a new day'

After 30 years as manager of a rural North Dakota electric cooperative, Wally Beyer got the ultimate promotion: President Clinton in December appointed him to head the federal agency that lends money to the nation's 1,000 consumer-owned rural utilities.

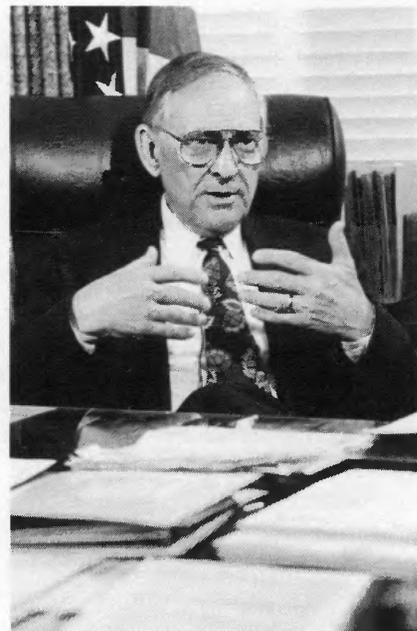
As head of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), Beyer will oversee a program that directs more than \$600 million a year into local economies by lending money to the co-ops to build and maintain their lines. Many co-ops, in turn, are their communities' staunchest promoters of economic development.

Such development will be a focus of the 57-year-old U.S. Department of Agriculture agency under Beyer, who is the first former co-op manager ever selected as its administrator.

Farmers, businessmen, politicians and bankers have been past administrators. Beyer brings experience from "the user end of the federal partnership," he said. He'll use that insight to promote co-op involvement in upgrading life in rural communities.

"The rural electric cooperatives and the rural telephone co-ops in many, many areas of the country are the strongest advocates for rural America," said Beyer. "They're there. Their systems are in place. They're a real part of the leadership of their communities, and I would encourage them to stretch themselves and become active in rural development, rural water and sewer development, in a most meaningful way."

While he was manager of



**Wally Beyer**

Verendrye Electric Cooperative, the Velva, N.D., co-op ventured into water and sewer service, organizing the North Prairie Rural Water Association for some 1,400 rural people. During Beyer's tenure, the co-op also started a Farmers Home Administration-sponsored housing program for low-income co-op members.

Beyer's interest in rural development may be what prompted Clinton in October to nominate the 62-year-old North Dakota native to become REA's 12th administrator. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy has said his agency will focus more on rural economic development, and is awaiting congressional action on legislation to transform REA into a new Rural Utilities Service that will help electric co-ops bring water and sewer facilities to underserved communities.

"Wally Beyer is exactly the type of person we need at the helm at the Rural Electrification

Administration," Clinton said in announcing the nomination.

Agriculture Undersecretary Bob Nash, who heads the agency's rural economic development efforts, agreed that Beyer's experience in economic and housing programs "will be a tremendous aid as we pursue our mission of assisting rural Americans to use their abilities to improve their quality of life."

Unlike some administrators before him who tried to diminish or dismantle REA, Beyer hopes for a stronger link between the government and the private-sector co-ops. "Rural America is just ready, poised, to be a real part of the growth of America," he said. "And I see the agency playing not a small role, but . . . a large role in that mission."

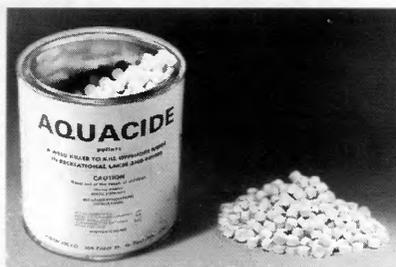
Such an effort, he said, will both strengthen the rural economy and help stabilize electricity prices.

Many rural co-ops charge higher rates than neighboring investor-owned power com-

**"The rural electric cooperatives and the rural telephone co-ops in many, many areas of the country are the strongest advocates for rural America."**

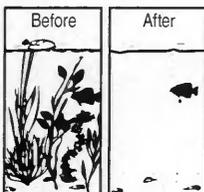
panies because they have fewer customers. "A whole lot of co-ops are going to really struggle to maintain rate compatibility," Beyer predicted.

"The rural electrics, for the survival of their systems, I think, need to be advocates of rural development," he said. "They need to become an integral part of the community. It's certainly necessary for service, and it may very well be necessary (Continued on page 20)



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To improve the efficiency of his combine, Bill Roth made several changes to its reel. Here, he points to one of the parts he has fabricated in a nearby plant to increase the diameter of the reel.

# A reel good idea

**Bill Roth figured out a way to improve the efficiency of his combine.**

Bill Roth of Stonington (Christian County) spent many a harvest season in the cab of his combine, wishing it would work better and vowing that before he got into that cab for the next harvest, he would make some improvements to the reel.

Finally, after turning most of his farming operation over to one of his five sons, the Shelby Electric Cooperative member set out to make the modifications he had dreamed up while fighting crop and combine. The main thing, he decided, was to make the reel one-third larger.

He finally got the job done, and was so happy with the results that he set out to build kits to enable other farmers to get better results with their combines, too, no matter what

make or model they have. So far he has sold some 300 kits in 15 states and Canada, and enthusiastic letters are coming in. Many credit Roth with having "saved their bacon" when their crops were down and weedy.

"I sold my first kit to a farmer in Idaho who grows lentils and edible beans," Bill says, "and he'd already had one drought year and was in the middle of another. His crop looked like it might be awfully hard to combine, and he called me to ask if I thought my kit would help. I encouraged him to give it a try. He bought the kit, installed it and went to work. He said later that it saved his crop, and saved him the cost of the kit 'multiple times over' in just that season."

There were a few things wrong

with virtually every combine as they came from the factory, Bill says, and one was that the reel was too far from the auger. This made for an erratic, unsteady flow, he says, and caused bunching and clogging.

"I decided that if I could make the reel about 30 percent larger in diameter," he adds, "I thought I might be able to smooth out that flow. A larger reel would also come closer to the cutter, with less loss and a smoother feed. This setup gives you 85 percent of the benefits of a bean row head for a fraction of the cost."

Bill, who was raised half a mile from his present home, has been living at his present location since he was seven years old. He and his wife, Kathryn, raised their five sons there. While four have left and taken various jobs, Mark, the oldest, stayed home and took over the main part of the farming operation. "I just kept back 80 acres for my combine experiments," Bill says. He adds that while they were growing up, the boys had a band, "The Brotherhood," and played many a gig all over central Illinois for 10 years.

While Reel Mfg. & Sales, Inc. has many of its parts fabricated in Taylorville and does much of the sales, service and promotion out of the big old farm house, the main part of the operation is housed in a large, modern equipment shed.

The Roths keep track of all their customers with their computer, and they have many letters indicating that the kit delivers at least as much as promised, and often more. One farmer wrote, "It's much less stressful to watch the grain going in because the reel's traveling slower, and there's less bunching." Another pleased customer adds, "The unit works very well in down beans and tall weeds." Yet another carries probably the most significant testimony: "My kit paid for itself early in the first 100 acres I



**The Roths do much of their operation's business from their farmhouse. Here, from left, Kathryn, Mark and Bill go over letters from customers.**

combined. The rest was gravy."

Bill notes that there are several benefits to the unit, one being that the combine can be run about half a mile an hour faster than usual, with the reel turning slower.

"You can sit in the cab during every minute of operation and see all the savings taking place, and you'll feel less stress, too," Bill says, "and if you run the combine 10-14 hours a day, that cuts the stress way back. Since

that major grain loss takes place at the header. Our tests have shown a savings of 2.9-4.9 bushels of soybeans per acre."

Bill remarks that some farmers are putting kits on brand new machines that have never been in the field. One person can expect to spend the better part of a day installing it, although an air ratchet will cut that time about in half.

"These kits are guaranteed to perform," Bill says. "We en-

---

**"You can sit in the cab during every minute of operations and see all the savings taking place, and you'll feel less stress, too."**

---

everything runs more smoothly, there's less wear on the belts and machinery, too."

He emphasizes that one of the main benefits of his kit is that it saves grain that is otherwise lost at the front of the header. "The grain has to enter the header before it can be saved," he says, "and it's safe to say on all machines—new and used—

courage people to try them, and if they're not completely satisfied, they should call us. If we can't make it good, we'll refund the purchase price if the kit's returned in usable condition."

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# Co-ops deal with change

## Member-owned electric utilities poised to meet growing needs of rural areas

There were several recurring themes interwoven through the program during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) annual meeting February 7-9 in New Orleans. Most important was the need to deal with changes — in Rural Electrification Administration (REA) financing, in rural health care, in economic development, in telecommunications and in territorial integrity, among others.

About 350 representatives from Illinois Electric cooperatives joined some 10,000 other delegates from other states to try to determine how to respond creatively and positively to the changes that are taking place. The meeting theme was "Agenda for Rural America."

Speaking during the business session, retiring NRECA manager Bob Bergland noted that his tenure had been the most satisfying 10 years of his life, but that the time had come for him to step down. He introduced his replacement, former Congressman Glenn English of Oklahoma.

During his parting message, Bergland noted that the cooperative form of business, "This combination of public law and private enterprise," as he put it, had served the country well during the last half-century, and that the Administration gave him the message that it wanted the same dynamic team of local private enterprise, the cooperatives, to work with government agencies to address a host of new

problems that are coming up.

"Another message they gave me was that there is going to be some kind of deficit reduction," he said, "and that we simply had to work out some kind of change in REA that would reduce the dependency on the national Treasury. We knew that if we didn't respond to that requirement, it would be done to us."

With that in mind, NRECA set out to propose a set of changes that represents the most significant reforms in 20 years, including a change in interest rates for insured loans guaranteed by REA, he added.

As a result of the changes with the proposed new Rural Utilities Service, the REA will be joining

with the Rural Development Administration providing credit of various kinds for water system improvements, waste management functions and similar projects. "Cooperatives are going to have to start carefully examining their communities to see what kinds of niches they can fill. And a cooperative is uniquely organized to do that because they're not in it for the money," he said.

Bergland remarked on the trend toward the involvement in water and waste management matters, but emphasized that co-ops should not use rural electric revenues to subsidize other, non-electric activities. "But we do recommend that you use the

### **Several Illinoisans active participants in meeting**

Several Illinoisans were prominent in the activities. Margie Mohrman, wife of Roger Mohrman, manager of Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Camp Point, received a special award for her activities in the National Rural Electric Women's Association and gave a presentation to that group about the flooding in Illinois last summer. Ron Provine of Buckley, the Illinois representative on the Youth Consulting Board, took part in several activities and addressed the Illinois get-together breakfast. He represents Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Paxton. Harold Dycus of Carbondale, a member of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association board and Illinois representative on the board of directors of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), was chosen to serve as chairman of that organization's finance committee. Bill Griswold of Rockbridge, president of the Illinois Rural Electric Co. and Illinois director on the NRECA board, was reelected to the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) executive committee.



**Ron Provine of Buckley, the Illinois representative on the NRECA Youth Consulting Board, discusses the New Orleans meeting with members of the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative (EIEC) delegation and Earl W. Struck, general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. From left are Provine; Robert D. Thompson of Paxton, president of EIEC; Wm. David Champion, Jr., EIEC manager; and Struck.**

skill and the knowledge of the community which you possess to help deal with these problems within the community," he said.

Noting that deregulation had spawned some competition and stifled some, Bergland stressed that co-ops will need to be vigilant to protect themselves if unrestricted competition is permitted in the utility business. "We've built our cooperatives on the principle that anybody in the service area should have electricity, and there's the danger that "cherry pickers" could come in and take just the big, lucrative loads. Since they don't worry about area service, their costs are less than ours. You'll need to monitor that situation carefully."

English, Bergland's replacement, said that while the President and the Secretary of Agriculture expressed their firm support for initiatives that would improve the quality of life in

rural America, the budget deficit places limits on them that will extend as far as we can see into the future.

"It will be everything the Administration can do merely to maintain current efforts to keep up with inflation," English said, "and this necessarily restricts any new initiatives by our federal government. It's becoming more and more obvious that leadership must come from the private sector. NRECA and its member cooperatives are well positioned to assume a broader role in providing critical services to rural America."

But with the opportunity comes the need to remember the basic purpose: to provide electricity at the lowest possible rate. "Any new services offered by rural electric cooperatives must contribute to economic growth and/or the retention of electric customers, and any new services provided by rural

electric cooperatives must be regarded as tools to help accomplish the basic mission. In short," he stressed, "co-ops cannot be expected to replace the federal government in providing social services, unless the federal government provides the funding."

When the U.S. introduced the concept of universal service more than 60 years ago, the idea was that rural Americans were entitled to the same quality of life that urban areas enjoyed, at least with regard to electrical service.

"This takes on a new meaning in 1994," he said, "and rural America must have equality with urban America in terms of the quality of life and the prices for those services. This is true in the case of electrical power, in telecommunications, in water and waste management, and in health care.

"There is a wide range of



Representatives of the Illinois delegation visit with David Roosevelt, grandson of Franklin D. Roosevelt, at an exhibit promoting the establishment of an FDR memorial. From left are Delbert Mundt of Dieterich, Roosevelt, Hubert Chapman of Carbondale and Howard Wolf of Wheeler.

health care reform proposals, and none is specifically aimed at solving the problems of health care in rural America. They are, instead, designed for urban America. It is important to note that economic development can be enhanced if health care costs in rural areas are reasonable, just as it could be hampered by higher electrical rates. We intend to see that we in rural America are not an afterthought in someone else's theoretical model for urban areas," he continued.

NRECA negotiated an agreement with the Administration last year to reform the hardship loan program and establish new criteria for eligibility for low interest loans. Factors to be considered included such things as poverty rates in the service area, distances that must be covered, and above-average rates for electricity.

"We learned yesterday," English said (February 7), that the President's budget proposes drastic cuts in this program. At the same time, the budget proposes some spending increases. The President would,

over the next two years, spend \$100 million to renovate the Pennsylvania Railroad station in New York City.

"According to budgetary requirements," English continued, "if the President intends to renovate this railroad station, which serves as a commuter terminal for some of the highest-salaried people in the nation, he must cut \$100 million from the budget or increase taxes. Ironically, his cuts in REA over a two-year period add up to just about \$100 million."

English noted that the plan would take \$100 million from some of the neediest people in America: to renovate a station used by some of the wealthiest!

He also expressed concern over the issue of territorial integrity, because hostile takeovers, as a result of annexation of some of the most lucrative service areas developed by rural electric cooperatives, weaken the ability of REA borrowers to repay their loans. It is becoming more commonplace for municipal utilities to sit by and watch co-ops develop adjacent areas that started out with little or

nothing going for them. Then, when homes and businesses are in place, the municipality annexes the area, leaving the co-op holding the bag. At present, many states have no protection, and the federal government offers none.

"Congresswoman Jill Long and Congressmen Ike Skelton and Steve Gunderson have recognized this danger and have introduced legislation intended to be a starting point for dealing with this problem. A solution must be found and legislation passed that protects the taxpayer," he said. "These predatory practices chill investment in rural development, discourage the introduction of new and needed services and increase electric rates for consumers. The problem has existed for too long and we intend to obtain fair treatment for our member consumers and for rural America," English concluded.

Wally Beyer, newly appointed REA administrator, spoke briefly and noted that his rural upbringing had given him an appreciation for rural areas and their problems, and his 30 years with various cooperatives have made him well aware of the need for a "user-friendly" REA. He was manager of Verendrye Electric Cooperative in Velva, N.D., from 1967 to 1993 and had first been employed at that co-op four years earlier as an engineer.

"I firmly believe in the federal-cooperative partnership," Beyer said, "and I've worked to bring to an end the warlike decade that has existed between the REA and its borrowers. But we need to face the fact that we're confronting staggering national issues, and that money is going to be hard to come by. We have to deal with the national debt, crime, health care and other problems. And while we can't see the future, we do know it will be very competitive internationally."

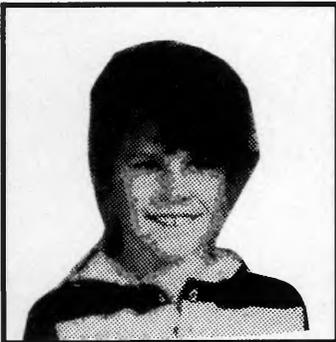
Beyer told his audience that  
**(Continued on page 20)**

# MISSING



**CRYSTAL LEANN ANZALDI**

LAST SEEN: 12/08/90 EYES: Brown  
 FROM: San Diego, CA HEIGHT: 2'6"  
 DOB: 10/10/89 WEIGHT: 30  
 WHITE FEMALE HAIR: Lt. Brown



**STEPHANIE LYN CRANE**

LAST SEEN: 10/11/93 EYES: Blue  
 FROM: Challis, ID HEIGHT: 4'2"  
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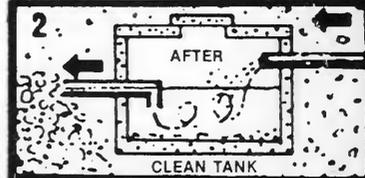
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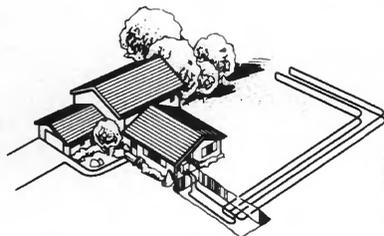
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# Easy entertaining

## CHUNKY BEEF CHILI

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 1/2 lbs. well-trimmed beef chuck, cut into 1/2" pieces
- 1 cup coarsely chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 can (28 oz.) Italian-style plum tomatoes, broken up
- 1 cup water
- 1 can (6 oz.) tomato paste
- 3 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 can (15 1/2 oz.) black beans or kidney beans, drained
- Condiments: shredded Cheddar cheese, chopped onion

In large skillet or Dutch oven, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add boneless beef chuck pieces, 1 cup chopped onion, green pepper and garlic; cook until beef is evenly browned. Pour off drippings. Sprinkle salt over beef mixture. Add tomatoes, water, tomato paste, chili powder, oregano and red pepper. Cover tightly; reduce heat and simmer 1 1/2 hours or until beef is tender. (Recipe can be made up to 24 hours ahead to this point. Cover and refrigerate.) Add beans; continue cooking, uncovered, 20 to 30 minutes. Serve with cheese and additional chopped onion.

## OVERNIGHT CORNMEAL ROLLS

- 5 1/2 to 6 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup plus 2 to 3 tablespoons yellow cornmeal
- 2 pkgs. active dry or rapid-rise yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups plain yogurt
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 egg white, lightly beaten with 1 tablespoon water

In bowl, combine 2 cups flour, 1 cup cornmeal, undissolved yeast and salt. Heat yogurt, water and oil until lukewarm (105° to 110°). Gradually stir into dry ingredients. Beat 2 minutes at medium speed of mixer; add 1/2 cup flour and beat 2 minutes at high speed. With spoon, stir in enough additional flour to make soft dough. Knead dough on lightly floured surface until smooth and elastic, about 6 to 8 minutes. Place in greased bowl, turning to grease top. Cover with plastic wrap; refrigerate 12 to 24 hours. Form into 8 smooth balls.\* Place on greased baking sheets, sprinkled with cornmeal. Cover; let rise in warm place until doubled in size, about 30 to 60 minutes. Make 4 cuts (1/16" deep) in crisscross fashion on each roll. Brush with egg white mixture; sprinkle with cornmeal. Bake in 375° oven 30 minutes or until done. Cool on rack.

To fill bread bowls with chili: Slice and remove top third of each roll; reserve. Remove bread from center of each roll, leaving a 1/2" shell. Just before serving, place bowls and lids on baking sheets in 375° oven 10 minutes to crisp. Fill bowls with chili; replace lids and serve promptly.

\*To make dinner rolls: Prepare dough as directed above except shape dough into 16 balls and reduce baking time to 25 to 30 minutes.

## PARMESAN PEPPER BREAD

- 3 1/2 to 4 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 pkgs. active or rapid-rise yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 cups hot tap water (120-130 degrees)
- 1 egg, at room temperature
- 1 cup (4 oz.) grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 egg white, lightly beaten

In large bowl, combine 1 1/2 cups flour, sugar, undissolved yeast, 1 1/2 teaspoons pepper and salt. Gradually stir hot water into dry ingredients. Beat 2 minutes at medium speed of electric mixer, scraping bowl occasionally. Add egg and 1/2 cup flour; beat 2 minutes at high speed, scraping bowl occasionally. With spoon, stir in cheese and enough additional flour to make soft dough. Knead dough on lightly floured surface, until smooth and elastic, about 4 minutes. Place in greased bowl, turning to grease top. Cover; let rise in warm, draft-free place until doubled in size, about 30 to 45 minutes. (With rapid-rise yeast, cover kneaded dough and let rest on floured surface for 10 minutes. Proceed with recipe.) Divide dough into three equal pieces; shape each into 30" rope. Braid ropes. Tie knot in center of braid; wrap ends around knot, in opposite directions, and tuck under to make round loaf. Place on greased baking sheet. Cover; let rise in warm, draft-free place until doubled in size, about 20 to 40 minutes. Brush loaf with egg white. If desired, sprinkle with additional pepper. Bake in 375° oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until done. Remove from sheet and cool on wire rack.

## CHERRY DELIGHT

- 3/4 cup margarine, softened
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups unsifted all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups chopped pecans
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 carton (8 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 can (21 oz.) cherry pie filling

Cream margarine and brown sugar; add flour and mix well. Stir in pecans. Press mixture in bottom of greased 13"x9"x2" baking pan. Preheat oven to 325°. Bake 15 minutes or until lightly browned; cool. Combine cream cheese, sugar and milk; beat until smooth. Fold in whipped topping. Spread over cooled crust; chill. Top with cherry pie filling. Refrigerate until firm. Makes 12 servings.

## ZESTY ROAST BEEF PLATTER

- 2 lbs. beef eye round roast
- 1/4 cup each red wine vinegar and water
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- Lettuce leaves
- Assorted condiments: variety of mustards, horseradish sauce, thinly sliced onion

Butterfly beef eye round roast by cutting horizontally through the center (parallel to surface of meat), the length and width of roast. Do not cut through opposite side of roast. Open meat and lay flat. Combine vinegar, water, oil, garlic, thyme and red pepper. Place beef roast in plastic bag; add marinade, turning to coat. Close bag securely; marinate in refrigerator 6 to 8 hours (or overnight, if desired), turning occasionally. Remove roast from marinade. Place beef on rack in broiler pan so surface of meat is 5 to 7 inches from heat source. Broil 20 to 25 minutes to desired doneness (rare or medium), turning occasionally. Tent with foil and allow roast to stand 15 to 20 minutes for easier carving. Cut roast in half lengthwise. Carve each roast half into thin slices. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Arrange beef slices on lettuce-lined platter. Serve with assorted condiments and garnish, as desired.



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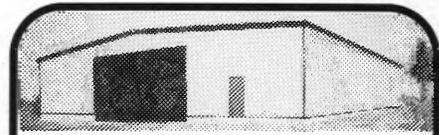


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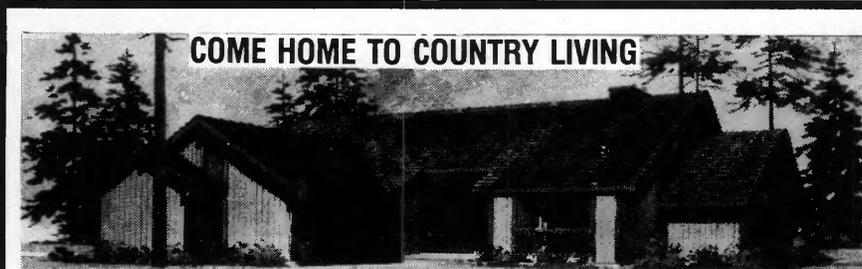


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**PATTERNS to SEW**

FASHIONS & CRAFTS



5733: This dropped waist, semi-fitted dress has short and long sleeves. Misses' Sizes: State NW (10-12-14-16) when ordering 5699: Here's two-part dressing at its best! Pullover, with flared cap sleeves and side tie tops a slim skirt. Misses' Sizes: State K (8-10-12) or OX (12-14-16) when ordering 5716: Pullover, short sleeve dress is straight, long sleeve dress has an elasticized waist and self-tie. Misses' Sizes: State N (10-12-14) or U (16-18-20) when ordering.

**PATTERNS to SEW**

FASHIONS & CRAFTS



5743: Easy-fit, dropped waist-line dress can be made sleeveless or with elbow sleeves. Misses' Sizes: 10 to 20 included in pattern. 5746: Pullover dress has button front bodice, elastic waist, flared skirt with side seam pockets. Optional purchased lace collar. Misses' Sizes: State H (6-14) or U (16-24) when ordering 5602: Made for each other separates. Three vary-wearable pieces, cardigan, pullover top and elastic waist skirt. Misses' Sizes: State N (10-12-14) or U (16-18-20) when ordering.

**CRAFTS to SEW**



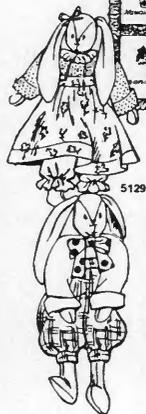
5081: Create this lovable 7" doll complete with an outfit for every occasion. Directions, printed pattern, for doll and six piece wardrobe included. ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

**CRAFTS to SEW**



7075: Use scraps to make colorful kitten potholders that store in a fabric basket you can hang next to your stove. Directions, transfers. ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

**CRAFTS to SEW**



5097: Dolls of Nations quilt is fun and educational. 24 transfer motifs of adorable dolls in traditional costumes. Easy to embroider. Quilt measure 60" X 89". 5129: Country Bunnies! Create this cuddly couple complete with original costumes. Ideal home or gift bazaar items. Printed pattern, directions for 24" bunnies and clothes included.

**PATTERNS to SEW**

FASHIONS & CRAFTS



5749: Easy to sew button front loose fitting tunic and smock with pleasing detail. State A (PT to XL included) when ordering 5750: Set of aprons: cobble (with pockets and side ties) is encased in braid or trimmed with eyelet, apron with bib and gathered skirt is encased in braid. State A (one size fits 6-18) when ordering.

**CRAFTS to SEW**



702: Sew this huge 25" doll for a favorite child. She's fun to make. Tissue pattern pieces and directions for making doll and clothes included. 7330: Fascinate everybody with this unique American history quilt. Presidents from first to forty-first - likeness are extraordinary! Embroider or color faces, dates on 9" x 11" finished blocks. Tissue transfer, charts for quilt 78" x 97". ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

# PATTERNS

TO: PATTERNS  
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# BRIEFLY

## Larry Quandt elected Farmers Union president

**L**arry Quandt of Mason (Effingham County) was elected president of the Illinois Farmers Union during its 40th annual meeting held in Springfield February 18-19. He served for several years as vice president and had assumed the presidency April 1 after the resignation of the previous president. Quandt and his wife, Peggy, have a diversified farming operation. They have a son, J.R., a daughter, Jennifer, and two grandchildren. Other officers elected include: James Soeldner of Ellsworth, vice president; Robert Fromme of New Berlin, secretary-treasurer; and Harold Dodd of Loami, chairman of the board.

## Survey shows increasing violence in rural schools

**H**alf of suburban and rural school districts say violence has increased "somewhat" in the halls of learning. "Clearly, violence is not confined to urban schools, but is increasing in rural and suburban schools as well," says a survey by the National School Boards Association. An even greater number of big-city school districts—56 percent—reported a "significant"

## Monroe County Sheep Producers Festival is April 16

**T**he Monroe County Sheep Producers Association's Eighth Annual Southern Illinois Sheep and Craft Festival will be held April 16 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds near Waterloo. This event will feature an educational as well as recreational agenda. Planned events include a series of lecture topics by University of Illinois Extension sheep specialists, as well as spinning and craft demonstrations with wool. A buffet lamb lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. featuring various cuts of fresh, locally grown lamb. Commercial and other exhibits will display purebred sheep breeds, sheep equipment, feed and health products, and sheep- and wool-related craft and gift items. Many items will be for sale. This program is open to the public. Admission is free. For information call 618-939-8536 or 618-458-7256.

## Poshard announces \$4.3 million funding for EJ Water Phase II

**T**here's a gusher of good news for EJ Water Corporation and customers who've signed up for service from the Dieterich-based water system. Just a scant half year after "The Big Splash," which kicked off service for EJ's Phase I, Congressman Glenn Poshard announced the awarding of a \$4.3 million grant and loan package for the utility. Delbert D. Mundt of

increase in school violence. Educators attribute the growing problem to "changing family situations," the survey reveals. Some cite television violence and violent song lyrics. Schools are trying to prevent violence within their walls in various ways, ranging from hiring security guards to installing metal detectors.

## New panels produce half-price solar electricity

**A** Michigan manufacturer has produced solar panels that are so efficient they can keep a home's lights on all day for half of what other models cost. The U.S. Department of Energy has hailed United Solar Systems Corp. for achieving record efficiency in converting sunlight into electricity. Current solar panels have about 6 percent efficiency in converting sunlight falling on solar cells into electricity. But United Solar Systems officials say the Troy, Mich.-based company has achieved a record 10.2 percent efficiency. The technology—called photovoltaics—has had limited use because it's more expensive than other fuels. As efficiency increases, however, the cost drops. Currently, costs for electricity produced by solar energy run from 25 cents to 50 cents per kilowatt-hour, depending on the location.

The new technology could reduce the cost to 16 cents per kilowatt-hour now, and to as low as 12 cents in the future. United Solar Systems plans to build the world's largest manufacturing plant for solar panels by 1995, in Newport News, Va. The plant will create around 400 jobs. Research for the new panel cost \$6.2 million.

## Record cold threatens power supply

**T**he third week of 1994 was the coldest ever for several eastern states, causing such a strain on supplies of electricity and natural gas that utilities asked people to stay home from work and keep their thermostats turned low. It was too cold for federal government workers in Washington, D.C., to go to work for a day and a half; Pennsylvania's governor declared the entire state an emergency area, asking businesses to stay closed. Utilities shut off power to more than 1 million business and residential customers for 30-minute rolling blocks in an effort to force conservation. The power grid that serves more than 21 million customers in Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, as well as Washington, D.C., and parts of Virginia and Delaware, ran low on power even after buying surplus electricity from New York, New England and Ontario. Because the cold front stretched from Maine to Georgia and west to Illinois, with record temperatures everywhere, few states had

**Dieterich, president of EJ Water, is also president of Norris Electric Cooperative. He was one of the prime movers in getting EJ up and running. The funds will provide for a new well, an elevated storage tank and about 185 miles of distribution lines and enlargement of the water treatment plant, Poshard said. The USDA is providing the funds through its Rural Development Administration, which is making a low-interest loan of \$2,411,300 and a grant of \$1,941,600. This is in addition to the \$1.8 million in grants and loans that have already been awarded. In his announcement of the funding, Poshard congratulated the people at EJ Water for "putting together a good package and working hard to improve the quality of life for their customers."**

## Shearer named to congressional relations post at USDA

**A** native of Villa Grove (Douglas County), **P. Scott Shearer has been named as deputy assistant secretary of agriculture for congressional relations, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy has announced. As deputy assistant secretary, Shearer will help direct legislative efforts of the Department with Congress. "Scott Shearer brings to USDA considerable experience in administrative, managerial, government relations, and legislative positions in both state and national arenas that is of great value to the Department," Espy said. In the mid-1980s, Shearer was executive director of the National Corn Growers Association in St. Louis. Between 1981 and 1984, Shearer was the legislative assistant to Illinois Senator Alan Dixon. Previously, he served in Illinois state government and with the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Illinois. Shearer received B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Illinois in agriculture economics.**

surplus energy to sell. As many people stayed home to avoid the ice and cold, many others continued to go to work, putting a double strain on utility reserve power. The mayor of Washington, D.C., ordered businesses in that city to close for a day to avoid the need for continued "rolling blackouts." The conservation measures worked, according to Bruce Balmat, spokesman for the mid-Atlantic power grid. By the end of the week, businesses had re-opened and people forced by ice and snow to stay indoors had begun to dig themselves out.

## Carter museum to trace rural roots

**J**immy Carter once told members of Sumter Electric Membership Cooperative that the most memorable day of his life was not when he became president of the United States, but rather when his parents' home got electricity from the Americus, Ga., utility for the first time in 1938. It's stories such as that one that National Park Service rangers hope to tell through pictures, letters, scrapbooks and other memorabilia to be included in a museum to be opened at the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site. "We're looking for anything dealing with how a small town produced a president," says supervisory park ranger Bonnie Blaford. "What we're trying to do is have exhibits reflecting the town of Plains, his roots in farming, how he grew up on the farm."



Mary Holdnak with one of the Easter lilies grown at Bridgeway, which also produces poinsettias, hanging flower baskets and bedding plants.

## Lilies and poinsettias *Sheltered workshop is top producer*

With springtime beginning, most of us start thinking of warmer weather, longer days, a welcome relief from bitter cold and blowing snow, and blooms and buds.

About this time of year Mary Holdnak and the nursery workers at Bridgeway are producing yet another crop of beautiful Easter lilies. Mary, who is horticulture manager at the Macomb sheltered workshop, notes that the organization's nursery employees, numbering about a dozen or so, are digging into the job of getting their white blooms

ready for the Easter season.

Bridgeway, formerly the McDonough County Rehabilitation Center, got its new name when it merged with a similar organization in Galesburg. It exists to provide work, training and support for area people with varying degrees of disability.

While lilies are a pretty and visible part of Bridgeway's nursery operation, there is much more.

"We grow about 1,400 Easter lilies a year," Mary says, "and most are sold at wholesale or to area churches. We also grow

about 8,000 poinsettias a year, for sale during the Christmas season. We grow three different varieties of reds including Annette Hegg, Celebrate II and Freedom, which is the newest variety. We also grow five other colors. We grow pink, pink peppermint, white, jingle bells and marble varieties."

A new operation this past year was the addition of a retail outlet at the facility. "It worked out really well," she says. McDonough Power Cooperative provides electric service.

Big, beautiful blooms keep the



**Top left: this Easter lily is one of about 1,400 produced each year. Lower left: A poinsettia grown for the Christmas season. Some 8,000 of these are grown and shipped each year.**

horticulturists busy during the two holiday seasons, but that leaves much of the year with seemingly little to do. However that's not the case at all. Mary notes that while lilies and poinsettias are a highly visible part of the business, they are by no means the whole show. In fact, by far the biggest part of the operation is made up of more mundane plantings, including several thousand square feet of bedding plants. Baskets full of flowers can be seen hanging around just about everywhere, too. "Our nursery work is pretty seasonal," says Mary, who has an associate of science degree in horticulture from Vincennes University in Indiana. "And we'll have from 12 to 22 people working in the greenhouse, depending on the season."

She notes that the green-

houses, all 20,000 square feet of them, are beauties, when it comes to quality construction and temperature control. "There are some efficiencies we could take advantage of if we were just trying to produce plants in the most efficient manner," she says, "but the objective here is to provide jobs and training and support for a goodly number of people, so we don't have drip irrigation or anything like that. This is not designed to be a high-tech operation."

As mentioned, bedding plants and hanging baskets make up most of the operation's output, and they are also the most well traveled, so to speak. Only about 3 percent of them are sold in McDonough County, while most are shipped to distant locations. "The rest go to Springfield, the Bloomington-Normal area,

Peoria, Hannibal, Keokuk, and into Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and Clinton, Iowa," Mary says.

"We have our own own semi," she continues, "and our wood-working shop built racks that we use to ship our hanging baskets. We'll send an especially deserving client along with the driver to someplace like Iowa City or Cedar Rapids," she says, "because it's a special treat for many of them. They help with the loading and unloading, too."

The organization also has another enterprise. Landscape maintenance workers fan out from the building on a regular basis to serve the needs of about 40 residential and commercial customers in and around Macomb.

As you look around during Easter and Christmas, it's not all that likely that the lilies and poinsettias that have come to symbolize those seasons will have been produced at Bridgeway. But bedding plants and hanging baskets are another matter altogether: those uplifting creations may very well have come from a Macomb workshop, where handicapped people work and learn.

## REA

*(Continued from page 5)*

for survival."

Beyer's supporters have applauded his plans.

"He's seen in Velva that rural areas are crying out for a public partnership," said Dennis Hill, general manager of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives. "He knows we've got to get rid of the red tape, get the agency doing what it was intended to do, which is get the money flowing back into rural America."

The Minot (North Dakota) Daily News, in an editorial praising Beyer's appointment, called him "the right person for the right job at the right time."

"Beyer has the background and experience to bring a strong rural perspective to an agency that is ground in 60 years of rural history."

REA was created in 1935 after

power companies, which brought electricity to cities, bypassed rural areas because of the lack of potential profits offered by their sparse populations. Farmers and other rural residents formed nonprofit cooperatives with REA loans.

Over nearly six decades, REA has offered technical and management help to the co-ops and in recent years has encouraged their economic development efforts by allowing them to make loans and grants to local businesses.

Throughout the 1980s, under Presidents Reagan and Bush, government officials — including a former REA administrator — tried to close the agency, saying that because rural America has electricity, it no longer needs government help.

President Clinton has said he supports a government role in rural America, but singled out the agency as one that needed to make sacrifices for the sake of

budget reduction. As a result, the co-ops last year agreed to pay higher interest rates on their government loans.

Beyer called that arrangement "an opportunity for stability. I think the new financing program is more of a long-term approach for financial assistance to borrowers."

At the same time, Espy announced his desire to restructure the Agriculture Department, and combine its scattered rural development efforts into a single division that would include a Rural Utilities Service. If Congress approves that change, Beyer will head the new service.

"We've come through... a decade of pretty tough times in the agency," Beyer said. "I think it's a new day. It's a new opportunity to develop more of an advocacy role for the agency, and better serve the rural communities."

**Rural Electric News Service**

## Co-ops

*(Continued from page 10)*

they needed to encourage their cooperatives to do three things: focus on price and quality, look for ways to share jobs and expenses with other co-ops or utilities, and play a leadership role in economic development. "Rural America remains a vast, untapped resource, with a skilled labor force and a good work ethic," he said, "and you ought to take advantage of that."

He added that a window of opportunity is opening for telephone cooperatives in the information age and that many electric cooperatives are working to see that rural people are not passed by when the information superhighway is built.

"I know that many of you are already doing a lot," he remarked, "and you have a proven track record. That helps, and you need to keep at it. Rural America is not that large. If we're going to compete globally,

we need to broaden and diversify to get the job done. It's important to develop water and sewer systems, and in many areas, you're the only game in town. You have the skills and resources to do a lot, I encourage you to take a leadership role in your community."

Mike Espy, Secretary of Agriculture, was an unexpected guest and spoke about the changes taking place within the USDA — which includes the REA — and the changing mission of that organization. "We're streamlining and downsizing," he said. "We took a look at all 143 divisions, and I've proposed that we reduce some and consolidate many county offices. We'd rather put some of that money into rural development projects than salaries. But these won't be the kind of projects from years ago when the government decided what you needed. These will be bottom-up projects that people want and are willing to go into partnership with us

to get done."

Espy noted that he had something of an appreciation for rural improvement projects, having been raised in a small town in the Mississippi River delta. "The people in the outlying areas had electricity," he said, "but there were many who didn't have running water. Some had cisterns, and others had deep water wells. Some had to go down to the creek with a bucket on the end of a rope.

"With a small government grant, a small loan, a lot of donated labor and materials, and a lot of hard work, many people near Bloomfield, Miss., got running water into their homes. People were thrilled," Espy related, "much like they were when they first got electricity years ago. It was the first time in a lifetime that they had running water in their homes, at the turn of a tap. And it was done on a mutual self-help basis, like the electric co-ops had been."

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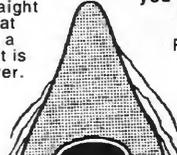
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