

Entertaining treats

See page 17

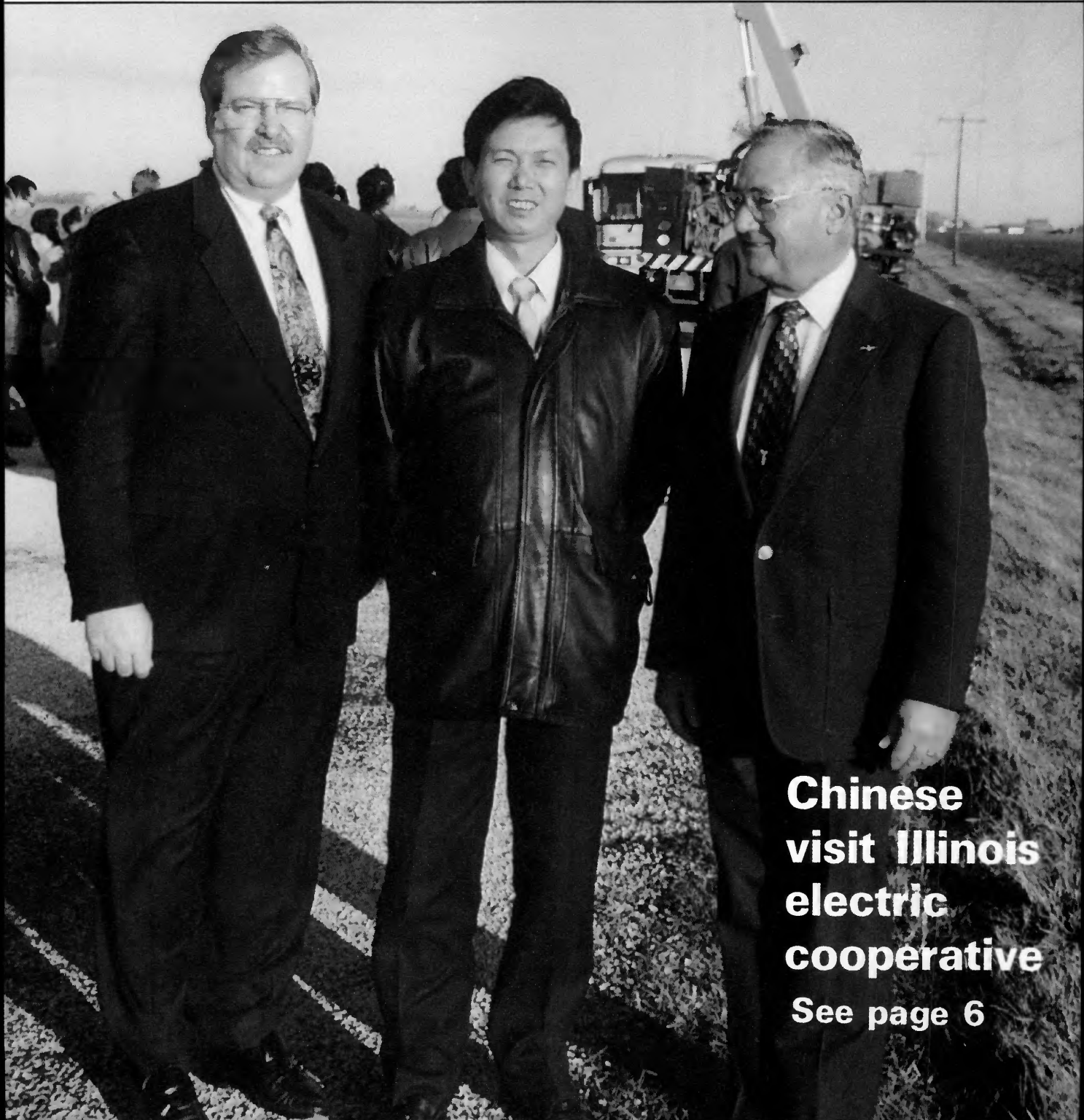
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REN

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

FEBRUARY 1995



**Chinese
visit Illinois
electric
cooperative**

See page 6

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Their philosophy is "What's old is of the good." They claim their folk medicines, handed down from generation to generation, still work today for everything from colds to *kee-gretz* (foot fungus.)

An encyclopedia of their natural health secrets, called *The Wisdom of Amish Folk Medicine* is now available to the general public. It has hundreds of proven home remedies using simple items you have around your home like vinegar, salt, soda, onions—even olive oil. You'll be amazed at the ordinary spices and herbs the Amish use for their health qualities.

This extraordinary health guide was inspired by a collection of little-known folk medicines gathered by the home remedy editor of a magazine published for the Amish.

Speaking of these health secrets, she says, "A doctor was usually called as a last resort, after everything else failed, and this wasn't often."

Step back to simpler times with the Amish natural folk medicine secrets for common health problems like these:

- **Backache?** This home-made liniment has been used for years to relieve aches and pains.
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- **Thinning hair?** Proof of this remedy is seen in Amish people's luxuriant hair and beards.

The Wisdom of Amish Folk Medicine also reveals natural health tips for: **constipation, cold sores, menopausal problems, sinus trouble, hemorrhoids, varicose veins, age spots, flu and more.**

These are only a few of the many trusted home remedies in *The Wisdom of Amish Folk Medicine*. Learn how to make "Go Back" drops, the Amish stomach remedy. Prepare

their "Green Mountain Salve" for boils and sores. Mix up some "Good Samaritan Oil" for colds. Discover 6 ways to relieve muscle cramps, how the Amish use red beets to fight infection, which vegetables and fruits can cleanse and heal, and the Amish natural weight loss method that promises good results.

After a tiring day, you might want to try the Amish cure for *au-gewachsen*. That's their word for the aches that come from a long buggy ride, but it works for any kind of muscle fatigue.

Right now, as part of a special introductory offer, you can receive a special press run of *The Wisdom of Amish Folk Medicine* for only \$8.95 plus \$1 postage and handling. Your satisfaction is **100% guaranteed**. You must be completely satisfied, or simply return it within 90 days for a **full refund-no questions asked**.

HERE'S HOW TO ORDER: simply print your name and address and the words "Amish Folk Medicine" on a piece of paper and mail it along with a check or money order for only \$9.95 to: THE LEADER CO., INC. Publishing Division, Dept. AM446 P.O. Box 8347, Canton, Ohio 44711. (Make checks payable to The Leader Co., Inc.) VISA or MasterCard send card number and expiration date. Act now. Orders are filled on a first-come, first served basis.

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'Trouble is, it just ain't so'

(Editor's note: Attacks on your electric cooperative are nothing new. The rural electric program, the country's most successful and beneficial rural development endeavor, has drawn critics' fire since its beginning in the 1930s. Recently, a commentator on National Public Radio made inane remarks about the program. John Vanvig of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) took the commentator to task in NRECA's Rural Electric News Letter. We don't have room to print all of Vanvig's comments; we pick up with his point-by-point response. The commentator's statements are in italics and marked by the large dots.)

● *"We all know the story of rural electrification during the New Deal, how the federal government strung the wires to tiny isolated rural communities . . ."*

That's what he said. Trouble is, it just ain't so. Rural people banded together into rural electric co-ops, then used their own muscle and some hired help to put up lines that brought power into areas investor-owned and municipal utilities turned up their noses at. True, Uncle Sam loaned them money (we'll talk about that later.)

● *"Many of those isolated communities aren't isolated any longer. In fact, they're bustling suburbs surrounded by malls. But they're still paying a fraction of the electric bill their downtown neighbors on*

the other side of the interstate are paying. Is there any reason for this suburban welfare to continue?"

There's a lot to consider here. The use of many ("many of those isolated communities aren't isolated any longer") is debatable—especially since any co-op territory that turns into "bustling suburbs surrounded by malls" suddenly looks attractive to acquisitive neighboring systems.

Worse, though, is that crack about our consumers paying "a fraction of the electric bill their downtown neighbors" pay. If only that were true! Instead, as our poorly informed commentator easily could have discovered, most rural electric consumers pay more—some much more—because their co-ops cover a lot of sparsely populated ground the other utilities still turn up their noses at.

Government loans are vital to keeping many of our systems afloat, but plenty would trade a big chunk of the loan program for territorial protection (against losing those "bustling suburbs surrounded by malls") and rates equal to—much less "a fraction of"—our competitors'.

● *"Everyone knows that rural electrification grants are ridiculous, but getting rid of them is impossible."*

True only in the sense that you can't get rid of something that never existed in the first place. There are not rural electrification grants; co-ops take out loans and pay them back to the government with interest.

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REN

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Cover: Lei Mingwu (center) and 21 other Chinese rural electric officials toured Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Paxton, in December. Mingwu and the rest of the delegation visited with a number of Eastern Illini employees and officials, including Wm. David Champion, Jr., (left), manager, and Laverl Byers of Tuscola, president. See article beginning on page 6.

Advertising and editorial inquiries should be directed to the Illinois Rural Electric News, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, Illinois 62708. National advertising representatives: Fox Associates, Inc., 116 West Kinzie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610, and The Papert Companies, 800 Hartford Building, Dallas, Texas 75201. Acceptance of advertising by the IREN does

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BRIEFLY

Rural Economic Conference scheduled

The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, in conjunction with Rural Partners, is hosting the Sixth Annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference in Springfield March 7-8. The conference provides a broad overview of rural development issues and features workshops on innovative economic development activities within rural Illinois. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn East. Further information is available from the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University, 518 Stipes Hall, Macomb, IL 61455 (1-800-526-9943 or 309-298-2237).

Rural schools need distance learning technology, superintendents say

Rural school districts have curriculum needs that could be addressed with distance learning technology, but most rural schools can't afford it. That's the conclusion of a survey of rural school superintendents recently concluded on behalf of the Illinois Distance Learning Foundation board. In the survey of 472 rural superintendents, 93 percent said their districts have curriculum needs that could be addressed with communication and learning technologies, while 97 percent said they don't have adequate financial resources to develop this technology. Lou DiFonso, executive director of the foundation, said, "The

survey results produce clear evidence that rural school districts are in need of resources to increase their utilization of communications and learning technologies and that the desire to do so is strong among rural education leaders." Fundraising and pursuit of federal grants for distance learning will be the top priority for the foundation, he added. The Illinois Distance Learning Foundation is a not-for-profit organization created by state law to help further the purchase and use of distance learning technologies in rural schools. Earl Struck, executive vice president and general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield, is a member of the foundation's 18-member board.

Financial aid/admissions helpline to assist Illinois students

Illinois students can receive free information about how to finance a college education and how to select a college or vocational school through a number of activities to be held during Financial Aid/Admissions Awareness Month (FAAM) in February. A financial aid and admissions helpline will be held during the week of February 13-17 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Students and parents may call the toll-free number for answers to their questions about financial aid for college or vocational school and how to choose a post-secondary institution. The Helpline number is 1-800-628-7939. Helpline phones will be staffed by college financial aid administrators, high school counselors, college admission professionals and lenders. The 1995 helpline marks the sixth year for

this toll-free phone service, which has provided information to more than 14,800 callers. Other activities include financial aid workshops for high school students and parents to be held throughout Illinois. FAAM activities and the helpline are sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Inc. and the Illinois Association of College Admission Counselors.

Sec. Espy says farewell

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy left the Agriculture Department at the end of the year, as a result of an investigation into whether he improperly took gifts from companies under his department's jurisdiction and committed other improprieties during his two years. In a news conference before leaving, he didn't speak directly about the probe, but did list the accomplishments of USDA under his leadership. Espy spoke about getting running water in the homes of some of the poorest Americans, of setting guidelines for healthier school lunches, of toughening the rules for meat inspections after several children died from eating tainted fast-food hamburgers. "For whatever time I have had a chance to serve, I am proud," he said. But mostly, Espy spoke to the USDA staffers about how he opened his door, restructured the department and created new incentives for minorities.

USDA, Commerce Department urge exporting

Small businesses needing assistance in exporting products to Russia can get help from the Commerce Department. According to the *AgExporter*, the Agriculture Department's monthly news magazine

for food and agricultural exporters, the Commerce Department is promoting a special internship training program called Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT). Two of the 10 priority sectors selected are agribusiness and energy. The International Trade Administration plays matchmaker selecting an American business partner and an intern for three to six months. A database of qualified Russian executives and scientists is used. Approximately \$3,675,000 in federal assistance is available. For further information call 202-482-0073 or write SABIT, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3319, 14th St. & Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20230.

Social Security owes money

According to Social Security officials, hundreds of thousands of retired Americans were underpaid nearly a half-billion dollars because of a glitch in its computer system dating to 1978. Agency officials are now working to identify as many as 426,000 people whose retirement checks were shorted by an average of \$10 a month for more than a decade, or about \$1,000 overall. Commissioner Shirley Chater said that while she was gratified that agency employees helped uncover the mistake, "It is now imperative that we take immediate action to correct the problem so that it will not occur again and then move quickly to begin processing the underpayments that are long overdue." Agency officials said they intend to notify and repay all of the recipients hurt by the error, which totals \$478.5 million. The agency will also reimburse survivors or the estates of any retirees who have died. Social Security's toll-free phone number is (800) 772-1213. The hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Wm. David Champion, Jr., (right), manager of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, met with the Chinese group at EIEC's Paxton headquarters.

Chinese take good look at Illinois electric co-op

When 25 Chinese rural electric officials launched a five-week tour of United States electric utilities, they were especially interested in rural systems. To get a good look at how rural areas are served, they chose an Illinois electric cooperative, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative of Paxton.

The day-long tour in December was part of an intensive learning experience for the group, which included engineers and financial professionals, who represented 20 of China's provinces, most of them rural. The tour was organized by the America China Executive Development Office (ACEDO) at the University of

Illinois at Chicago.

EIEC was chosen largely because it is up-to-date in technology, makes good use of its electronic monitoring equipment, and is deeply involved in demand-side management.

The visitors had undergone a thorough orientation before arriving in the cooperative's service area, and they had discussed American engineering practices with Illinois experts. The workings of a cooperative had been explained to them.

They wanted to visit with Americans and learn how U.S. rural power distribution systems are organized and managed, the application of new distribution

theories, management techniques and equipment. Also high on their list of things to learn was how American companies go about improving the analytic and evaluation skills of managers, how to lower the cost of power, how to improve reliability, economic policies, technical procedures, supervisory methods, employee training, and customer relations. In addition to visiting EIEC and the Chicago area, they stopped in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., New York City and Seattle, and visited other kinds of utilities.

Laverl Byers of Tuscola, president, welcomed the group

to EIEC. He explained how members are elected to the co-op's board and how officers are chosen. Wm. David Champion, Jr., manager, discussed the relationship of the board of directors, the manager, and other cooperative employees.

"We have 78 employees," Champion said, "with 12,682 members on 4,485 miles of line. Our service area is 100 miles from north to south, and about 55 miles from east to west."

He went on to explain that there are two outposts and several area servicemen, to help provide speedy and efficient service in the event that installations needed to be made, or storm damage repaired.

Brandon Jackson, manager of financial services, talked about the co-op's financing resources and billing procedures, and Wenona Gumbel, manager of human resource services, discussed employee selection and training, as well as insurance matters. Dale Kuhn, manager of marketing and member services, told of the co-op's efforts involving member relations and marketing.

With a "look at America" as one objective of the tour, the visitors were taken on a tour of Paxton and treated to a buffet lunch. Jim Kingston, mayor, made a few welcoming remarks, and presented each member of the Chinese delegation with a "Paxton Pride" T-shirt. He is the husband of Jeannie Kingston, EIEC manager of information services, who conducted the downtown tour.

While in town, they had a look at the decorated-for-Christmas streets and buildings and stopped in at the offices of SkyQuest, the wholly owned EIEC subsidiary designed to provide direct broadcast satellite TV programming to area residents. "The idea," explained David Lithgow, DBS business manager, "is to enable us to serve members and non-members alike with the finest

programming available. When we start turning a profit, that money will go to help keep our electric rates as low as possible."

A trip to the countryside was intended to enable the visitors to watch a pole changeout and a crossarm replacement. The crews on those jobs used different techniques, to give the visitors a feel for the different kinds of work that is undertaken at EIEC.

Steve Hancock, manager of operations and engineering services, gave a running commentary on the activities. He noted that the co-op uses "rubber-gloving" and "hotstick" techniques to work on energized lines. "Our members insist on a steady supply of high-quality electricity," he said, "and we work hard to see that they get it. While these techniques appear to be dangerous, they're not if the workers are careful and follow the correct procedures. Sometimes we have to kill the lines anyway."

While watching the work, the visitors commented on the size of the equipment and the variety of tasks that a bucket truck or digger-derrick could do, and

took a lot of photos.

After a substation visit, the Chinese were taken back to the EIEC offices, given a complete tour, and were treated to a "Live-Line" display, again headed up by Hancock.

While visiting with co-op personnel, the Chinese noted that there are some similarities between EIEC and Chinese electric utilities, but that there are also differences. "We have more mountains and less flat land," one said, "and while we have a few really big cities, there are a lot of suburbs and small towns. There are also a lot of places that are very remote.

"While your kilowatt-hour usage averages about 1,200 per member per month, ours is much lower. We have a few places in really rural areas where usage amounts to 10-20 kwh a month. We have many places where our density is about 2.8 meters per mile, but there are some where it is even lower. One difference also is in the kind of electrical items people have. In rural areas, refrigerators are uncommon, although almost everyone has a TV set."



Hong Wei (right) of the University of Illinois at Chicago served as interpreter. On the left is Lei Mingwu, head of the delegation.

Business loan guarantees available

Funding levels increased from 1994

Funding for the USDA Business and Industrial Loan Guarantee program is available to help rural Illinois businesses obtain needed financing through their lender. Funding levels are twice the amount received last year, according to Gerald Townsend, chief of community and business programs for USDA in Illinois. The program is administered by the USDA Rural Economic and Community Development agency (RECD), formerly Farmers Home Administration prior to the USDA reorganization.

The purpose of the program is to create and maintain employment and improve the economic climate in rural communities. Guaranteed loans help businesses by providing a source of long-term financing not otherwise available.

Lenders benefit by being able to offer term loans sometimes at lower interest rates and with less credit risk. In addition, the lender may participate in the secondary market, can offer loans in excess of their lending limits and can meet their Community Reinvestment Act responsibilities through guarantees.

Funds may be used for business construction, enlargement, modernization or acquisition; purchase of land, machinery or equipment; start up and working capital and other project related costs.

Eligible lenders for the Business and Industry Loan program are those lenders subject to credit examination by either a federal or state agency. RECD may guarantee up to 90 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan although normally guarantees are 80 percent or less.

Loans are limited to rural areas, which excludes cities of 50,000 or more and nearby adjacent urban areas.

Interest rates may be fixed

or variable and are negotiated between the lender and borrower. Maximum loan terms are 30 years on land and buildings, 15 years or the useful life of machinery and equipment and up to seven years on working capital. Businesses must have loan repayment ability and a minimum 10 percent tangible balance sheet equity (20 percent

for new businesses).

Additional information on this and other RECD programs may be obtained from the nearest RECD district office located in Princeton, Morris, Galesburg, Jacksonville, Champaign, Flora, Nashville and Harrisburg or the RECD state office at 1817 South Neil, Suite 103, Champaign, IL 61820 (Telephone 217/398-5247).

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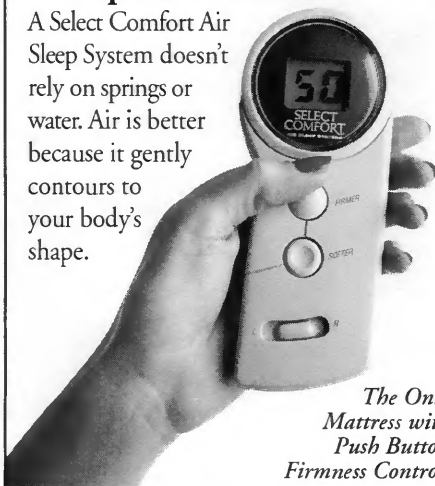
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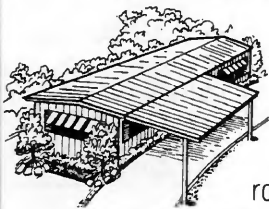
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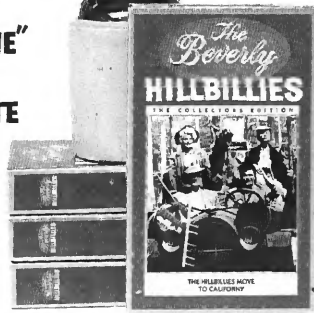
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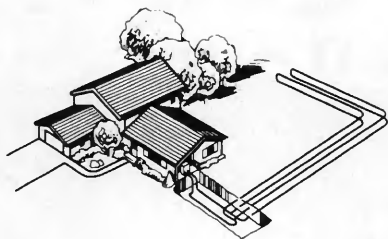
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MISSING



TIFFANY E. NELSON

LAST SEEN: 06/06/94 EYES: Brown
 FROM: Augusta, GA HEIGHT: 5'0"
 DOB: 10/21/84 WEIGHT: 95
 BLACK FEMALE HAIR: Black



VICTORIA M. POOR

LAST SEEN: 08/25/94 EYES: Blue
 FROM: Rantoul, IL HEIGHT: 2'6"
 DOB: 04/18/92 WEIGHT: 35
 WHITE FEMALE HAIR: L. Brown

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

1-800-843-5678

(sightings only)

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

-Safety Tip of the Month-

Check your child's route to and from school. Call attention to any dangerous spots, such as vacant lots, alleyways, etc. Advise them what to do if a strange person follows or approaches them.

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ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

CRAFTS to SEW

Easy to make

5096: What better way to display the magical moments of your marriage than with our wedding quilt. Transfers, complete directions for 53" x 75" quilt included.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

CRAFTS to SEW

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682: Give baby a beautiful start! Crochet jacket, cap, booties, mittens of baby yarn in 2 colors. Directions: One Size fits 6 to 12 mos.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

CRAFTS to SEW

Easy to make

7449: Embroider thoroughbreds on 11" x 14" blocks, alternate with plaid blocks and join into 61" x 124" quilt. Transfers for 18 motifs.

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CRAFTS to SEW

7424: Adorable kittens decorate baby's quilt - a beautiful gift! Color 'n' embroider charming motifs - each one is beautiful and appealing. Easy, fun to do! Tissue transfer motifs to color, embroider for 20-block quilt about 46" x 50".

Easy to Make

7379: Beginner's easy 4-color oval rug is single crochet all the way. Directions are included for rugs 30" x 36" and 30" x 50". Use rug yarn.

Easy to crochet

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

PATTERNS to SEW
FASHIONS & CRAFTS

5758: Easy-to-sew culotte dress with soule neck and button front bodice has elastic waistline and side seam pockets. Misses' sizes: Size H5(6-14) or US(16-24) when ordering.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

PATTERNS to SEW
FASHIONS & CRAFTS

4185: Feminine softness flows from shoulders to hem. Flattering day or evening dress is easy to fit. Elasticized waist of bodice tops flowing skirt. Misses' Sizes: 10 to 20. \$5.14.

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ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

CRAFTS to SEW

Easy to crochet

7387: Peacock spreads its tail to make a place mat. Crochet peacock edged design 12" x 17" of No. 30 cotton. Complete directions.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

CRAFTS to SEW

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5115: Add an early American accent to your home with our Valley Forge quilt. Directions, precise pattern for patchwork quilt in Single and Double sizes included.

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PATTERNS to SEW

Misses' sizes 6 to 24

5756: This pullover dress has front inset variations forming a sweetheart or square neckline. The flared skirt has an elasticized waistline and side seam pockets. Misses' Sizes: Slate H5(6-14) or US(16-24) when ordering.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

CRAFTS to SEW

Single & double sizes incl.

5098: Add a cozy accent to any room with our lovely house quilt. Printed pattern, directions for quilt in single and double sizes.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

PATTERNS to SEW
FASHIONS & CRAFTS

5688: Wardrobe includes pullover dress or top, unlined jacket, et, pull-on skirt and pants.

Misses' Sizes: Slate H6(10-12) or O(12-14-16) when ordering.

5684: Spanning the seasons, Jacket is unlined, pull-on pants and skirt have side seam pockets. Misses' Sizes: Slate H6(10-12-14) or L(U)16-18-20-22 when ordering.

ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

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

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

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Pattern No.	Size	Pattern No.	Size
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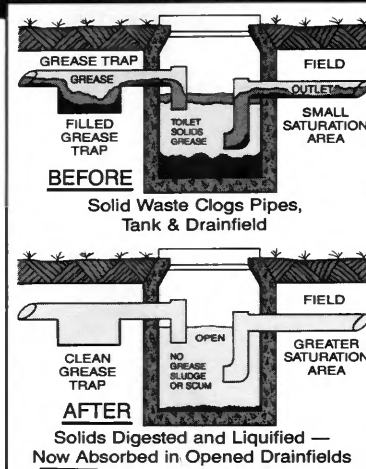
SeptiCare, the natural bacteria and enzyme concentrate—has the highest levels of activity available in septic system cleaners on the market today. It cleans and deodorizes the entire septic and drain system from beginning to end. The "Latticed Enzymes" works upwards to break down and liquify the top layer of grease scum. No other septic product is capable of performing this necessary treatment needed to keep your septic system working properly.

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Independent Laboratory Analysis

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Department of the Navy Civil Engineering Laboratory

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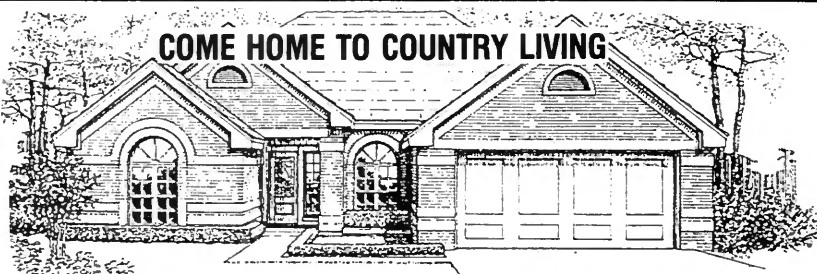
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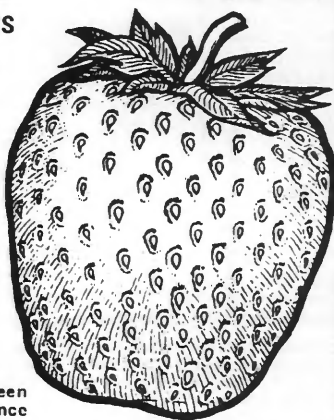
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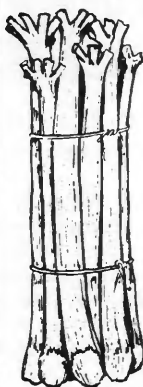
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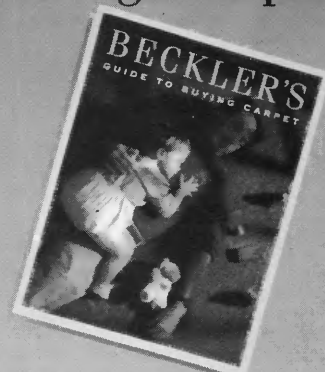
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Entertaining treats

COCONUT-RASPBERRY TORTE

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1½ cups biscuit mix | ½ cup flaked coconut |
| ½ cup sugar | ½ cup raspberry preserves |
| 1 egg | 1 cup chilled whipping cream |
| ½ cup milk | 2 tablespoons sugar |
| 2 tablespoons shortening | 2 tablespoons flaked coconut |
| 1 teaspoon vanilla | |

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour square pan, 8 x 8 x 2 inches, or round pan, 9 x 1½ inches. Beat biscuit mix, ½ cup sugar, the egg, milk, shortening, vanilla and ½ cup coconut in large bowl on low speed, scraping bowl constantly, 30 seconds. Beat at medium speed, scraping bowl occasionally, 4 minutes. Pour into pan. Bake until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean, 30 to 35 minutes. Cool completely. Split cake to make 2 layers. Spread preserves evenly over bottom layer. Place top layer over preserves. Beat whipping cream and 2 tablespoons sugar in chilled bowl until stiff. Frost sides and top of cake with whipped cream. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons coconut over top. Refrigerate any remaining cake.

DUMP CAKE

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 stick of oleo | 1 (13½ oz.) can crushed pineapple |
| 1 can cherry pie filling | 1 small pkg. cake mix (white or yellow) |
- Use oleo to grease 8"x11" baking dish. Dump pie filling, then pineapple in dish. Sprinkle dry cake mix over this. Slice rest of stick of oleo over cake mix. Bake at 350° for 1 hour.

PEANUT CLUSTERS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 pkg. almond bark | 2 (12 oz.) cans Spanish peanuts |
| 1 (6 oz.) pkg. chocolate chips | |
- Melt almond bark and chocolate chips in microwave, add peanuts. Drop by spoonfuls onto cookie sheet or wax paper.

TURTLE OR SNICKERS CAKE

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 German chocolate cake mix | ¾ cup margarine |
| 1 (1 lb.) pkg. Kraft light caramels | 1 cup chocolate chips |
| ½ cup evaporated milk | 1 cup pecans |
- Mix cake according to instructions. Pour ½ the batter in greased 9"x13" pan. Bake at 350° for 18 minutes while ½ cake is baking. Melt the caramels and stir in the evaporated milk and margarine until smooth. After 18 minutes, pour caramel mixture over baked ½ of cake. Sprinkle the cup of pecans and chocolate chips over caramel covered cake. Top with remaining unbaked batter and bake another 20 minutes. Cool and serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

CHOCOLATE CINNAMON ROLLS

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 pkg. yeast | ½ cup cocoa |
| ¾ cup warm water | 2¼ cups flour |
| ¼ cup shortening | 1 tablespoon butter |
| 1 teaspoon salt | 1½ teaspoons cinnamon |
| ¼ cup sugar | 3 tablespoons sugar |
| 1 egg | |

Dissolve yeast in warm water, add shortening, salt, sugar, egg, cocoa and 1 cup flour, beat for 2 minutes at medium speed. Stir in remaining flour; let rise 1 hour. Stir down by beating 25 strokes, roll on floured board, spread with butter, then sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Cut into 1 inch slices, let rise about 40 minutes. Bake at 375° for 25 minutes.

HAMBURGER DIP

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 lbs. Velveeta cheese | 1 can cream of mushroom soup |
| 2 lbs. ground beef | 1 can mild enchilada sauce |
- Brown ground beef; drain well. Melt Velveeta in microwave. Combine all ingredients. Serve with vegetable sticks or chips.

CRANBERRY SALAD

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 pkg. red Jello | 1 cup pecans, chopped |
| 1 small pineapple, crushed | 1 can cranberry sauce |
| 1 cup celery, chopped | |
- Mix 2 cups of hot water in Jello until dissolved. Add cranberry sauce, stir until smooth. Add pineapple, nuts and celery, then chill.

FRUIT SALAD

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 can peaches, sliced | 1 small jar Maraschino cherries |
| 1 can pineapple chunks | 1 small instant vanilla pudding mix |
| 2 bananas | |
- Drain all. Use pineapple juice to mix instant vanilla pudding mix. Pour over fruit and chill.

CHOCOLATE PIE

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ½ cup flour (rounded) | 5 eggs |
| ½ teaspoon salt | 2 cups milk |
| ¼ cup cocoa | 2 teaspoons vanilla |
| 2 cups sugar | 2 tablespoons butter |
| 1 can evaporated milk | |
- Combine flour, salt, cocoa and sugar, add can of milk and egg yolks. Mix well. Add 2 cups of milk and cook in double boiler over medium heat until thickened. Remove from heat, add 2 teaspoons vanilla and 2 tablespoons butter, beat well. Pour into cooked pie crust. Beat egg whites, ½ teaspoon of cream of tartar until whites hold a peak, slowly add 9 tablespoons sugar and continue beating until whites hold a peak. Top filling and brown in oven. Makes 2 pies.

Right: Don Lawler visits with one of the horses at his farm. Opposite page: The entryway into Scofflaw Farm belies the fact that the farm was carved out of some pretty rugged land.



This farm is 'where particular horses gather'

The story of Scofflaw Farm, "where particular horses gather," sounds like a reversal of the normal course of events, but it's true. It's the tale of a dog business that has gone to the horses.

"I'd decided to go into dog grooming when I was a young man," says Menard Electric Cooperative member Don Lawler, Scofflaw's owner. "I was determined to do it right, so I went to New York City in 1968, and learned the business. Then I set up shop in Springfield, and called my business Professional Canine Grooming II. I had a

wonderful clientele and did all kinds of dogs. At first I set up shop in a basement, then outgrew that space and moved to a bigger, better location."

Don now has a "full-service" horse farm just east of Springfield. Actually, the business had been a "dog-and-pony" show for a while, but the dog operation was put out to pasture some time ago.

But even before the grooming business, the Springfield native was working with horses.

"My parents bought me a horse when I was just a kid,"

Don relates, "and I'm pretty well convinced that the reason they did that was so they'd know where I was at all times. I rode my bike out five miles every day to take care of that horse. I started showing horses competitively when I was in seventh grade. I've had lots of brood mares and shown lots of horses at the State Fair, and I've never taken less than second place."

As time went by and as his skills became known, Don started showing horses for others. "I show Western, Sidesaddle, or in any competi-



tion people want their horses shown in," he says, "and there are people who'll call and say, 'I want you to show at Minneapolis,' and they'll send an airline ticket and hotel reservation, and I'll go there and show their horse for them. I travel about 50,000 miles a year doing that."

While the horse enthusiasm was building, so was the idea of putting together a horse farm, and Don and a partner, Robert Grayek, decided to do just that. They set out to find a place fairly readily accessible to Springfield, and affordable. The place they settled on was a mess, Don remembers.

"It was in 1977," he says, "and we bought the place about eight miles off of I-55, out in the country. It was so overgrown that we didn't know that the back half was covered with

rolling hills. We set out to clear it, and to do some building and landscaping. Bob, who died almost two years ago, was really good at that kind of thing, and we got the place cleaned up and some fences built."

"We named it Scofflaw Farm because it seemed that every time we set out to build a gazebo or a fence or whatever, there'd be someone who'd say, 'That's not the way you ought to do that', or 'That's not the way I'd do that.' We looked up the word scofflaw, and found that it referred to people who kind of go against the conventional wisdom, or who do their own thing, and decided to name the farm that. We knew that scofflaw also meant people who don't obey the law. That's not what the name is about at all."

Anyway, they put up a barn, with attached living quarters,

and built it very carefully. The stalls are generously sized, and gate and gateway edges are bevelled so horses won't injure themselves going in and out. There are eight stalls, and one is set up so it can be used for foaling. "We can enclose it," Don says, "and we put in heat lamps, too. There's a closed-circuit TV camera so we can watch. When a mare is about to foal and it's cold and she's stressed, it's best that there aren't a lot of people coming and going. If she starts having trouble, we can see it on the monitor and we can go out and help. The monitor is in the living quarters attached to the barn."

The quarters, he says, are his, although they weren't originally intended to be. "There's a beautiful site for a house across a little draw from the barn," he says, "and I always wanted to



The practice area is grass and carefully designed. Riding enthusiasts practice there often to prepare for competition or to stay proficient.

build a nice Tudor-style home over there. I even had an architect come out. Since I don't have a family, it didn't seem to make much sense. The plan I had for a long time was to provide lodging for an older couple who could do light work and keep an eye on the place for me, in exchange for rent. I still haven't ruled that plan out yet."

Bob, with his artistic eye and workaholic nature, set out to beautify the place, Don says, and they both pitched in. "We trucked in 97 loads of broken-up driveway material to edge roads and banks with," he adds, "and we built two gazebos, one small and one large, and riding trails. We built an indoor arena that's 80 by 160 feet, and put in a grass show ring. We planted a lot of flowers and did some other landscaping, too. While all that was going on, Bob came up with the idea for the slogan, 'where particular horses gather.'"

Don notes that the farm is a fine place for horse enthusiasts, and that the big gazebo was the scene of three weddings last summer, with receptions held in the grassy area between the out-

door arena and the indoor one.

Since Don bills Scofflaw Farm as a "full-service" horse farm, he naturally provides many services. He boards horses, trains them, gives riding lessons, shows others' horses for them, and provides overnight layovers for horses in transit. An interesting service he provides, he says, is the horse search.

"People will tell me what kind of horse they want, give me a price range, and give me any other particulars they think are important, and I'll use my contacts to try to find such a horse, and I'll do their 'shopping' for them too, if they want. By that I mean that I'll take a video camera and photograph the horse for them, so they can look at it at their leisure and make up their minds."

He also teaches show ring skills to young people who want to show horses in competition. "My students have a good record of wins," he says, "and that's partly because I'm careful to teach them well, and partly because I won't let them show until I know they're ready."

Sometimes parents will try to

rush things, and I'll tell them their child isn't ready yet," he continues. "Not only would it reflect badly on me if he or she did poorly, but it's very discouraging to find yourself in the ring and suddenly realize you're out of your depth. While it's difficult in the short term—especially for parents—to wait until you're really ready, it pays off well later on."

Don notes that his thoroughness won him some recognition in 1990, when he was honored by his peers. "I'd served for years as ringmaster at the Youth Charity Horse Show," he says, "and they gave me a trophy in recognition of my service and professionalism, and dedicated that year's show to me. I don't remember ever being so honored. I'm normally something of a motormouth, but I was absolutely struck speechless. I couldn't even respond appropriately."

While that suggests that he may not have much of a future at public speaking, it does give an indication of one reason Scofflaw Farm is a good place for particular horses to gather.

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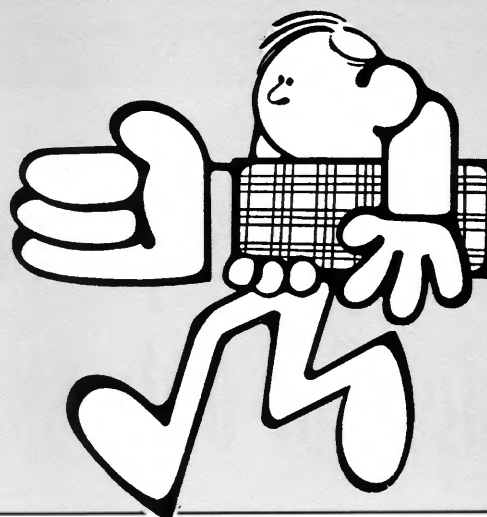


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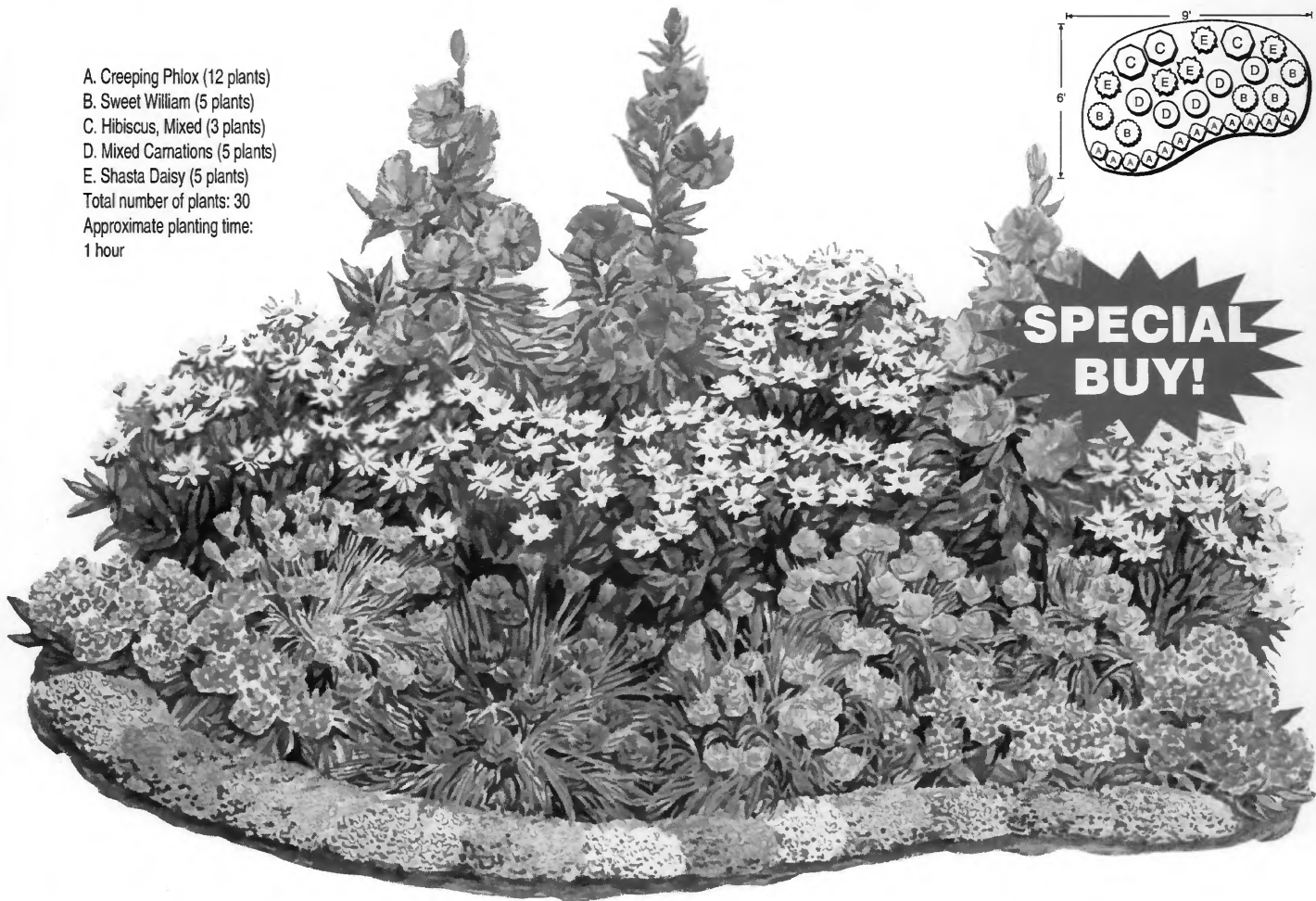
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