

Rural economics

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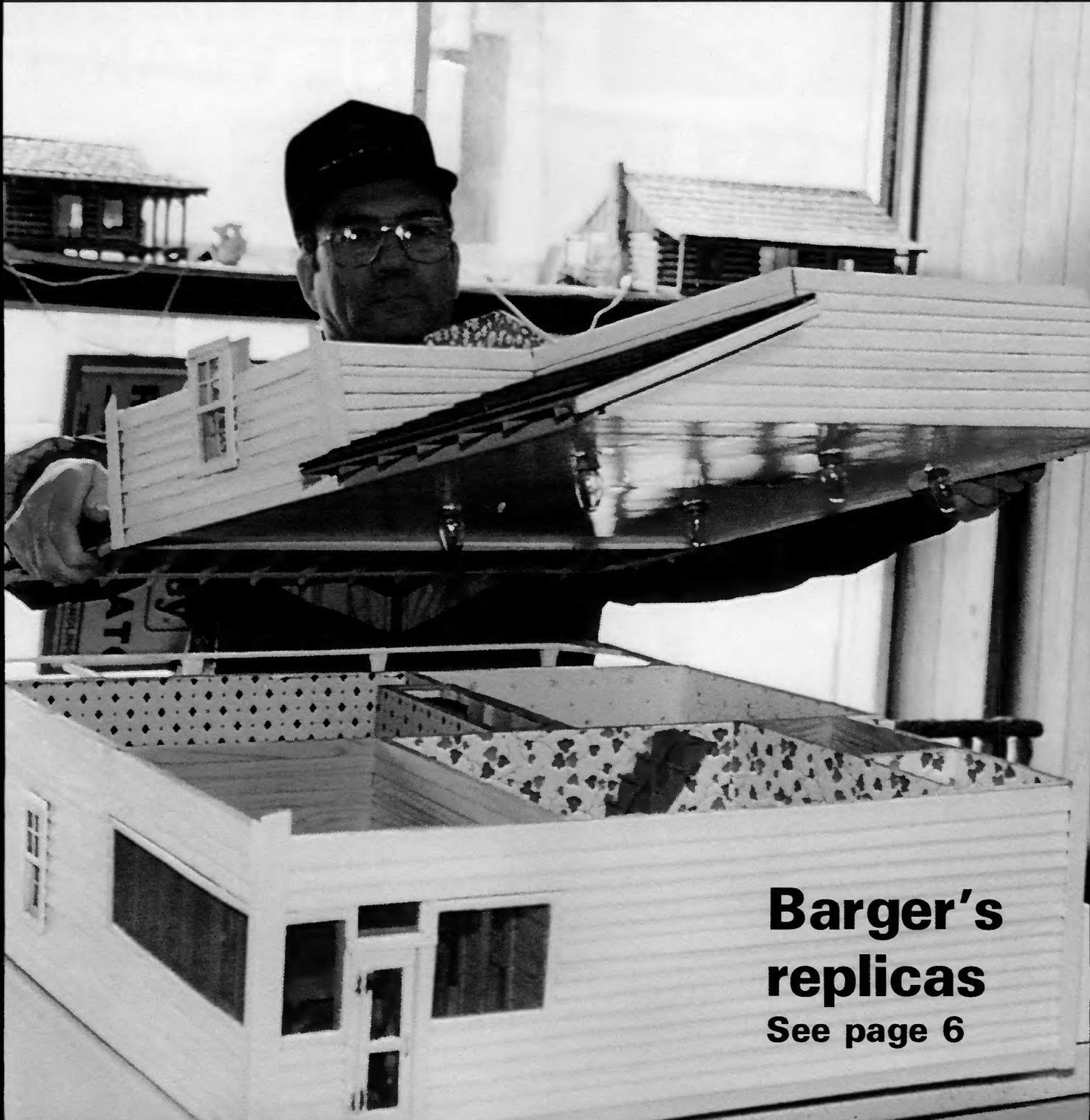
Meeting challenges

See page 18

REN

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

May 1995



**Barger's
replicas**

See page 6



EASTER

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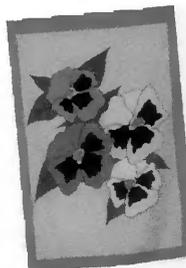
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Illinois Rural Electric News

52 in House resist PMA sale

More than 50 House members — representing both parties and all regions of the country — voiced their opposition to the sale of federal power assets in a letter to Speaker Newt Gingrich in late March.

“Sale of the power marketing administrations would reduce revenues to the federal Treasury, diminish the efficiency of the technological resources, diminish competition and increase electric rates for millions of Americans,” the 52 lawmakers said in their letter to Gingrich, a Georgia Republican. “We encourage you to do all that you can to defeat this inappropriate proposal.”

Reps. Wes Cooley (R-Ore.) and Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.) organized the group. Rep. Glenn Poshard of Illinois was among those who signed the letter.

Four Illinois electric cooperatives are directly affected by the effort to sell the PMA's. They are Egyptian Electric Cooperative, Steeleville; SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado; Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola; and Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. Southern Illinois Power is the power supplier for the three other cooperatives. It receives power from the Southeastern Power Administration.

Other PMA developments include:

- Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) opposes sale.

“I will continue to work here in the Senate to make sure that the sale does not take place,” he said.

• The Salvation Army cautioned key lawmakers that PMA sales could hurt low-income people. Lt. Col. Raymond Peacock, the group's national social services consultant, warned of putting “undue stress upon individuals who are already having trouble meeting their utility needs” and added that “The sale of public utilities is a serious matter.”

• Selling PMAs “is merely a Band-Aid and not a solution to this country's financial dilemma,” the Water Resources Congress said. The group, made up of government officials and individuals interested in water conservation and development, opposes PMA sales as “an effort to obtain funds to balance the federal budget on a short-term basis. We hear little or nothing about the revenues generated and placed in the federal Treasury.”

• Rural consumers depend on reasonably priced federal hydropower, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association told Congress. Clinton administration efforts to sell the PMAs for a quick revenue fix would hurt co-ops and “the fragile rural economies that they serve,” Ron Greenhalgh, NRECA chief engineer, told the House Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

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Larry F. Elledge
Editor

Gordon M. Olsen
Managing Editor

Jack D. Halstead
Associate Editor

Peggy Wade
Advertising Coordinator

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REN

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Cover: Don Barger likes working with wood. For years, he turned out furniture and cabinets. He later took up making log cabin and house replicas, and his detailed work is on display in Golconda. See article beginning on page 6.

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BRIEFLY

Jim Hinman elected Soyland board chairman

James E. (Jim) Hinman, manager of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Mt. Vernon, is the new chairman of the board of Soyland Power Cooperative. Soyland is a power supply cooperative providing electric energy to 21 of the 26 electric distribution cooperatives in Illinois. It provides the electric energy requirements of nearly 160,000 farms, homes and businesses located in 69 of the 102 counties in Illinois. Other officers are: Jeffrey D. Reeves of Bloomington, manager of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, retiring board chairman; Robert D. Smith of Barry, director of Adams Electrical Cooperative, vice chairman; Robert E. Gant of Winchester, manager of Illinois Rural Electric Co., treasurer; James E. Coleman of Shelbyville, manager of Shelby Electric Cooperative, secretary; Steven Schertz of El Paso, director of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, assistant secretary; Eldon Moore of Jerseyville, director of M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, assistant treasurer; and Joseph F. Firlit of Decatur, president and chief executive officer.

Interactive TV on the horizon

According to industry leaders, an interactive TV system holds the potential for delivering entertainment and information to millions of homes sooner than anyone dreamed possible. Bell Atlantic Corp.,

Nynex Corp. and Pacific Telesis Group Inc. met with representatives in Hollywood to design and build the system. The major hurdle to providing this service is rewiring homes with the video-capable coaxial cable needed for the system. Despite this expense, Raymond W. Smith, Bell Atlantic chairman and chief executive officer, predicts that by 1998 interactive TV will be moving into homes on a wide scale. The system will offer movies, video games and other entertainment on demand, customized news reports, interactive shopping and other services that will radically change the way people use television, Smith said.

Limited use of Internet in schools

A survey of 1,500 schools released by the Department of Education showed that nearly two-thirds of the nation's public schools have no access to the Internet. About 35 percent of public schools have access to the Internet, the worldwide computer network, in either classrooms, labs or media centers. "Only a small fraction of our classrooms have access to new technologies that are becoming so central to the rest of our lives," said Education Secretary Richard W. Riley. The Internet connects computers around the world and allows individuals to obtain information and documents from distant sources and to ask questions of experts in various fields. According to the survey of 1,500 schools: ● For schools that have access, E-mail is the most available resource, followed by news groups and resource

locations services. ● Two-thirds of schools with Internet offer access to teachers and administrators but only half allow student use. ● Limited money and lack of equipment were cited as the main reasons for not having access. ● Some 75 percent of schools have computers capable of communicating with the Internet if they had access.

1994: A warmer and wetter year

According to the National Climatic Data Center, 1994 was warmer than normal and a bit wetter. The nation's average temperature for 1994 was 53.28 degrees Fahrenheit, 0.77 degrees above normal. That ranks the year at 85 on a scale of 0-100, with 100 being the hottest year on record. The center is a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The country also had an average rainfall of 29.46 inches, 0.5 more than normal. That merited a ranking of 55 on a scale with 100 the wettest year on record. The center broke down the year's weather by region. **NORTHEAST** — 46.05 degrees Fahrenheit, 0.19 below normal, rank 41; 43.3 inches of rain, 2.58 above normal, rank 78. Includes Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. **EAST NORTH CENTRAL** — 43.80 degrees, 0.26 above normal, rank 59; 30.29 inches, 0.69 above normal, rank 59. Includes Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. **WEST NORTH CENTRAL** — 44.23 degrees, 1.17 above normal, rank 78; 15.95 inches, 0.84 below normal, rank 36. Includes Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming. **CENTRAL** — 53.66 degrees, 0.03 above normal, rank 55; 42.92 inches, 0.60 above normal, rank 57. Includes Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia.

SOUTHEAST — 63.21 degrees, 0.31 above normal, rank 63; 58.07 inches, 8.04 above normal, rank 93. Includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. **SOUTH** — 62.80 degrees, 0.42 above normal, rank 73; 36.96 inches, 1.70 above normal, rank 62. Includes Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. **SOUTHWEST** — 53.48 degrees, 1.73 above normal, rank 95; 12.98 inches, 0.43 below normal, rank 44. Includes Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. **NORTHWEST** — 48.30 degrees, 1.70 above normal, rank 93; 22.21 inches, 4.47 below normal, rank 11. Includes Idaho, Oregon and Washington. **WEST** — 55.88 degrees, 0.98 above normal, rank 88; 13.15 inches, 3.36 below normal, rank 22. Includes California and Nevada. The climate averages do not include Alaska and Hawaii.

Internet — how big is it?

The Internet is big, but it is probably smaller than you think. According to a survey by Matrix Information and Directory services, it's about the size of Chile — 13.5 million people, or even Senegal, at 7.9 million people, depending on whether you count the "core Internet" or the "consumer Internet." The Internet, the network of networks, is a cooperative venture linking companies, government bodies, universities and schools, and community computer networks around the world. The "core Internet" is computers that are fully linked to the Internet. But the Internet has been changing over the last year, so there is also a second category — "the commercial Internet." The "commercial Internet" includes the "core Internet," plus another 5.7 million people who can use interactive programs like FTP, Mosaic and Lynx to gain access to Internet services.



Don Barger shows off two of his log cabin replicas, both of which are modeled from actual log cabins built years ago in the Golconda area. The miniatures are on display at the Not So New Shop in Golconda.

Cabin, home replicas are Don Barger specialties

Don Barger has managed to keep busy since he retired a few years ago, and Pope County history enthusiasts are beneficiaries of some of his efforts.

"Keeping busy's not a problem at all when the weather's nice," Barger, a member of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, says with a chuckle, "but sometimes time starts dragging when it's not. Then I have to look for something to do."

His "something to do" has resulted in a couple of nice model replicas of two log cabins built in the area years ago. Don even helped reconstruct a full-size replica of one cabin.

"One was the Davidson cabin," Don says, "and it was a little thing, maybe 18 by

24 feet or so. The other, the Conrad house, was bigger. When we put the Davidson house on a lot near my home, I got the idea to build a replica, so people could see it as it looked. I wanted to make it small enough that it could be put indoors somewhere, too. And I decided that it'd be more appropriate if I built it from scraps of the house itself. We had used redwood shingles, and there were a lot of pieces around, so that was what I used."

With the experience he'd gained building the small cabin, Don decided to try a replica of the bigger one, but with a difference. "I decided to put a removable roof on the Conrad house," he says, "so you can see all the furnishings inside. And I put lights in it, too. While the

little cabin has furniture, it's built in and you can't really see it. The house also has the same kind of ceiling beams the real one did."

If you look into the Conrad house, you can see a cookstove, a fireplace, and even a dish towel hanging on a handy peg. There's a woodbox, a table and chairs in the kitchen, a feather bed in the bedroom, and other furnishings, too. A tiny butter churn on the porch has a two-piece dasher that can be removed. There are porch swings, and Don notes that the two tiny people on them are the only things he didn't make.

For a long time, he passed time making furniture: A nice china cabinet — his first major work — sits in the Barger dining room, although Don notes that



Above: The Conrad house replica interior shows Barger's attention to detail in his work. Below: This is the inside of a replica of his wife's family home. The house burned about 10 years ago, and they relied on photos and memory.

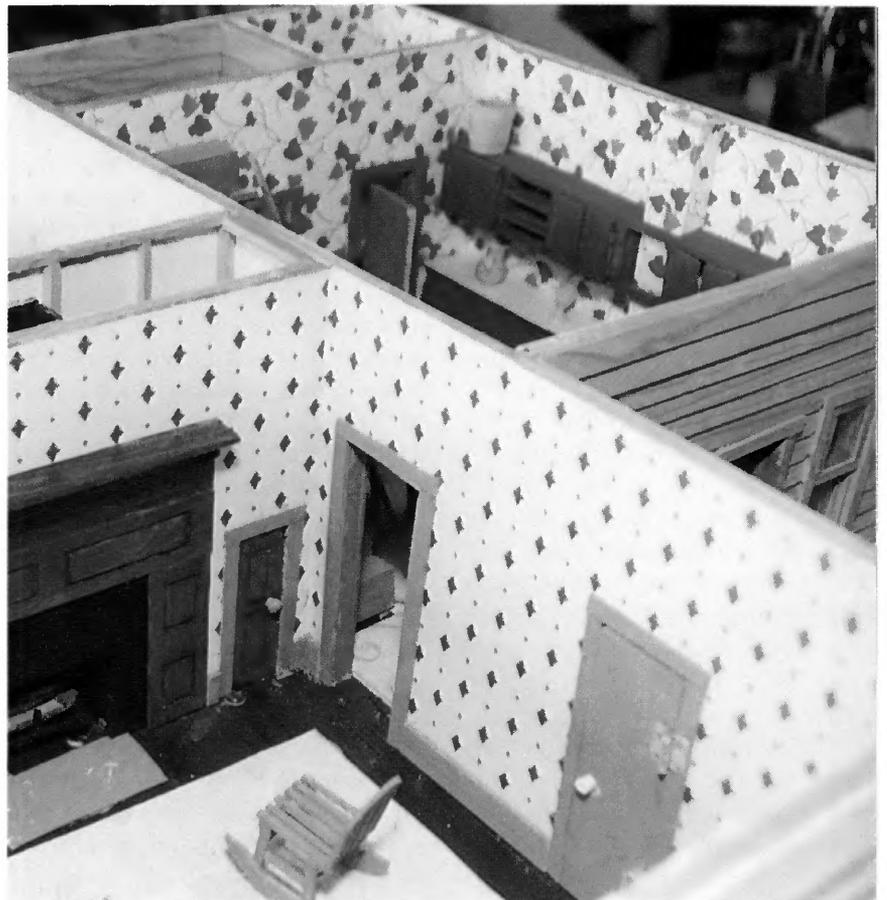
he's not particularly proud of it, since pieces he's built since have been much nicer.

"I managed to keep busy making furniture for our three daughters and our son," he says with a laugh, "and I can still make just about anything for one of them and they'll take it. I built our kitchen cabinets, too."

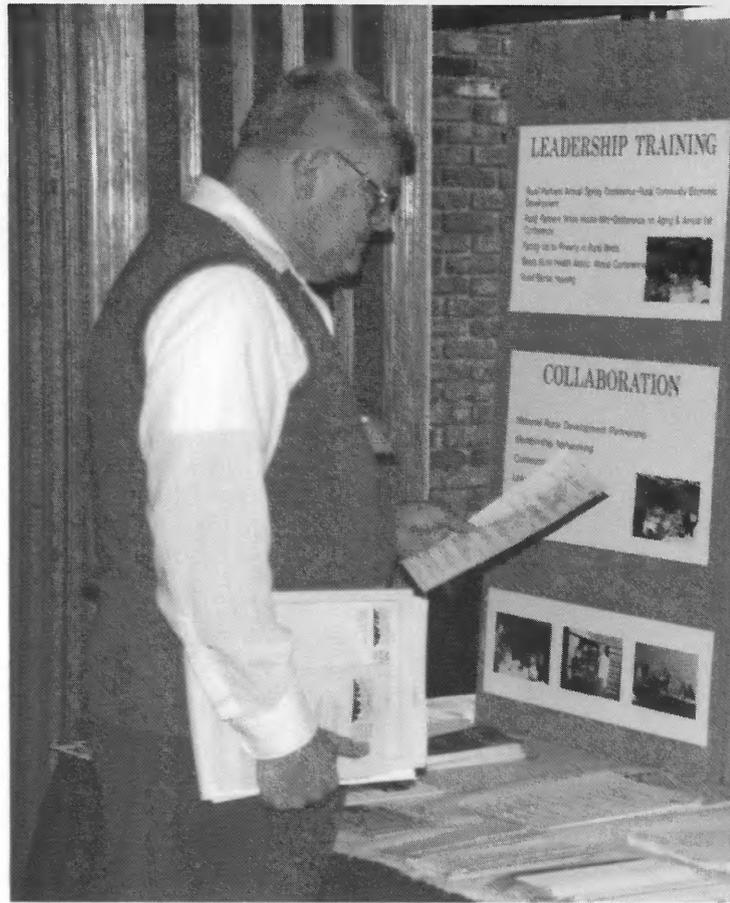
A major project now, he adds, is a replica of the house his wife, Bonnie, grew up in not far from Golconda, where both of them were born and raised. "Between the two of us," Bonnie says, "I guess we're related to just about everybody in Pope and Hardin counties."

They have a problem that slows construction. They don't know that much about the place, which burned about 10 years ago.

"There isn't anybody in the family who has a picture of the whole house. We're building the replica from incomplete photos and memory, but we think it's going to be pretty close to the real thing," she says.



Keys to rural economic growth: **Creativity,** **motivation,** **drive**



Now, more than ever, rural communities have to be creative, motivated and self-driven if they're going to thrive—or even survive—into the next century.

That was the message some 275 community leaders, government officials and economic development professionals heard at the 1995 Rural Economic Development Conference. The workshop, held March 7-8 in Springfield, was organized by the Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University, Rural Partners and the office of Lt. Governor Bob Kustra.

Speaker after speaker noted that "the way we've always done it" won't work, and that federal money, which had been getting more and more scarce over the years, will be even more hard to come by in the future.

While things that have been done for years came under attack, the idea was advanced that some of the things that used to work, but have been

abandoned, should perhaps be revived.

Cornelia Butler Flora, director of the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development at Iowa State University, noted that one problem in both rural and urban areas is a result of the slippage in what she calls "social capital." She notes that social capital is, roughly, those benefits that accrue to a society as a result of people educating their children, working together, trusting each other, respecting each other, and pitching in when they're needed. Social capital, she added, is much like the kind of money capital people invest to create new resources.

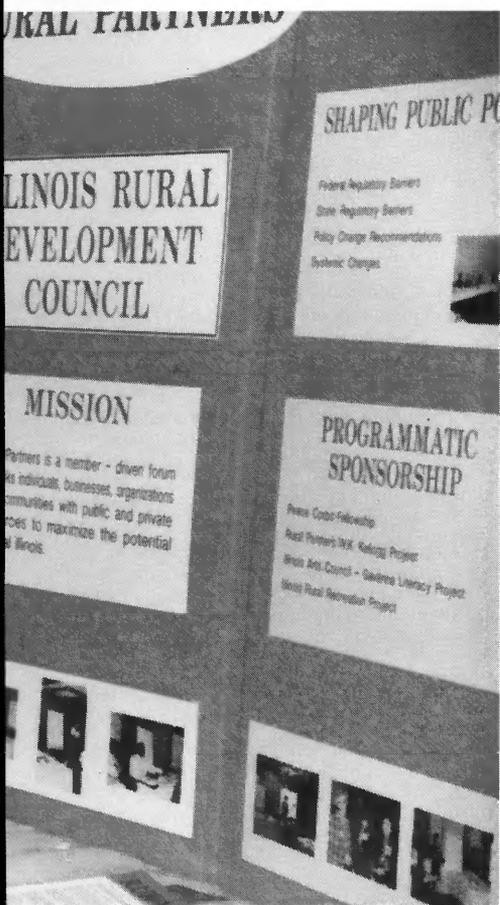
"Years ago," she said, "neighbors helped each other. The willingness to do that was a form of social capital. As time goes by, there's less and less of that. Attendance at PTA meetings is down, voter registration is down, membership in civic clubs is down, and volunteerism is down.

"People have tended more and more to buy services they used to exchange as neighbors, and it's a sad fact that the neighborhoods that are growing the fastest are the walled communities with iron gates and security guards, where people have electric garage door openers. They can drive right into their garage and never even see their neighbors."

If communities are going to thrive again, we're going to have to reverse that trend, she said.

Jay Kayne of the National Governors Association emphasized that the struggle with the federal deficit will be a factor for years to come. "If we don't have the money for our programs today," he said, "we won't have it tomorrow."

Kayne noted that not all the news out of the nation's capital is bad. "There's a real commitment to get good, safe drinking water into the countryside," he said, "and the budget has been increased dramatically



Left: Clifford Manns, who represented the Village of Edinburg at the conference, studies the Rural Partners exhibit. Below: R.A. "Butch" Price, executive director of the Tuscola Area Improvement Association, talks to Mark Martin, director of member and public relations for Illinois Rural Electric Co., Winchester. Price discussed developing housing for commuters from nearby cities.



for that. Rural economic development funds have been increased, too. These funding increases are seen as an investment, not as a cost."

William Hill, director of network video services for distance learning at the Illinois Telephone Association, said the association is working to get distance learning into schools as soon as possible and is looking for ways to help the schools keep their costs down.

"It's important to get distance learning going, because the vitality and survival of rural schools is at stake. They're not giving kids the education they need to compete in the universities or the job market. I was superintendent of schools in Charleston for 25 years, and a former colleague told me his school's valedictorian had applied at a university and was accepted — provisionally. She had to take non-credit classes before she could enroll as a student in good standing. That's scary."

Hill added that there are not many foreign language teachers and that very few are willing to locate in rural areas. The same is true of advanced math teachers. "We can solve that problem with distance learning," he said, "and we're going to have to if we're going to give our kids a fair chance in the job market of the future."

Robert Lovan, director of the National Rural Development Partnership, Washington, D.C., told his audience that many people are pinning their hopes on receiving money when and if Congress decides to give money to states in block grants, instead of parceling it out for individual programs.

"I'm afraid many people are looking to block grants as a cure-all," he said, "and I'm afraid many think there'll be more money, since it's not going to be filtered down through a federal bureaucracy. Many think it'll be simpler to access those funds, because there'll be fewer government controls.

"I think you'll be surprised both to find that there's less money, not more, and that it's going to be harder to get."

While such factors will be important in the future, and most of the programs involve money and scarce resources, participants were urged to use an inexpensive resource they are likely to have right at home — creativity.

Workshop speakers told of successes in their towns, and shared ideas. R.A. "Butch" Price, executive director of the Tuscola Area Improvement Association, noted that his community, located 25 miles from Champaign-Urbana down Interstate 57, started a subdivision and golf course to attract university-area workers who were looking for less expensive housing — and less crime.

"It took a lot of work and a couple of tries to get the project going," he said, "but it's going to be worth it. We purposely set out to attract Champaign-Urbana people."

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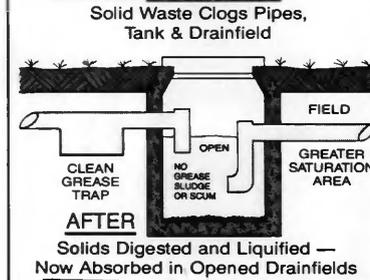
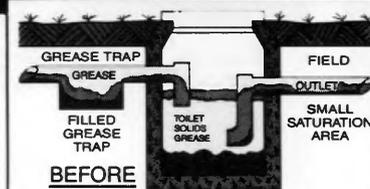
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 WHITE HISP FEMALE HAIR: Sandy



PENNY LYNN DAVIS

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-Safety Tip of the Month-

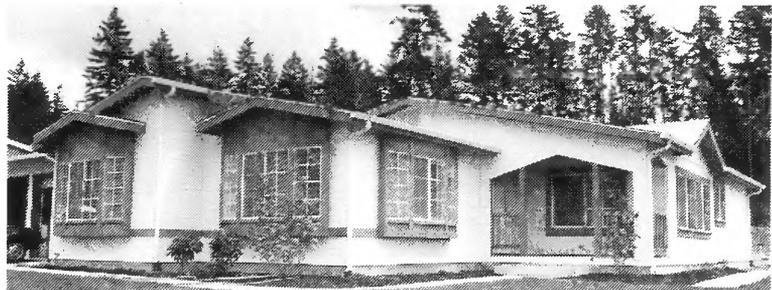
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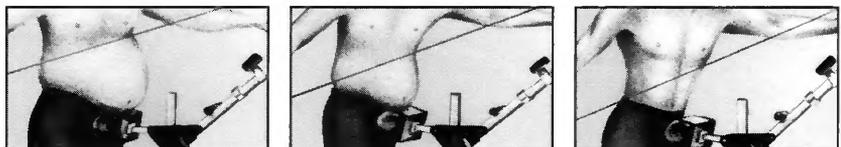
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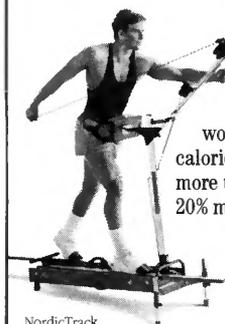
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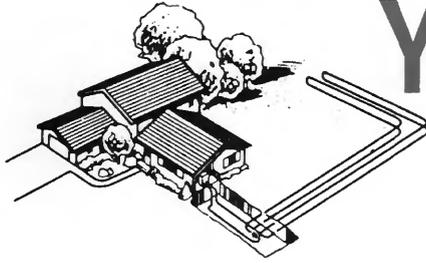
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WARM MIMOSA SALAD

- 6 cups loosely packed, torn mixed greens (about 9 oz.)
- 6 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
- 2 small or 1 med. zucchini, cut into julienne strips (about 2 to 2½ cups)
- 1 cup thinly sliced onion (about 1 med.)
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 2/3 cup red wine vinegar
- 1½ tablespoons Dijon style mustard
- 1½ teaspoons Italian seasoning, crushed
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 large tomato, wedged (about 7 to 8 oz.)

Tear greens into large bowl. Add eggs. Set aside. In 10" skillet or large saucepan over medium heat, cook zucchini and onion in hot oil, stirring occasionally, until crisp-tender, about 4 to 5 minutes. In small bowl, stir together vinegar, mustard, seasoning, sugar and garlic powder. Pour over vegetables. Stir in tomato and cook until heated through, about 1 minute more. Pour over reserved greens. Gently toss evenly coated with dressing. Serve immediately, to 6.

SUN COUNTRY DEVILED EGGS

- 2 tablespoons sun-dried tomatoes
- 6 hard-cooked eggs
- 2 tablespoons bottled reduced calorie Italian dressing

Reconstitute tomatoes according to package directions. Finely chop. Set aside. Cut eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks. Set whites aside. Mash yolks with fork. Stir in tomatoes and dressing until well blended. Refill whites, using about 1 tablespoon yolk mixture for each egg half. Chill to blend flavors.

VERSATILE PARTY SPREAD

- ½ cup plain non-fat yogurt
- ½ cup reduced-fat mayonnaise
- 2 teaspoons dill weed
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 cans (5 oz. each) boned chicken, drained
- 6 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
- 1 cup finely chopped celery, Belgian endive leaves, frozen potato skins, Melba crackers or cocktail rye bread

In medium bowl, stir together yogurt, mayonnaise, dill weed and garlic powder until well blended. Stir in chicken, eggs and celery until well combined. Cover and chill to blend flavors. Spoon into endive leaves or potato skins or spread on crackers or bread. For hot appetizers, place on baking sheet. Bake in preheated 425° oven until heated through, about 10 minutes.

AUNT WANDA'S TEA CAKES

- ½ cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup buttermilk
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream shortening and sugar. Add salt and the egg. Stir the soda into the buttermilk and mix, last add the flour and vanilla. Drop by teaspoons onto cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes.

ITALIAN TIDBITS

- 6 eggs
- ½ cup skim or low fat (1%) milk
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon garlic salt
- ½ cup bottled pizza sauce
- 1 can (2.25 oz.) sliced ripe olives, drained
- ½ cup chopped sweet red or green pepper
- ¼ cup chopped green onions with tops
- ½ cup (2 oz.) shredded mozzarella cheese

In medium bowl or covered blender container, beat together or blend eggs and milk until blended. In small bowl, stir together flour, Parmesan cheese, baking powder and garlic salt. Add to egg mixture. Beat or cover and blend until smooth. Pour into lightly greased 12"x7½"x2" baking dish. Dollop small spoonful of pizza sauce over top. Draw fork through batter, swirling sauce into batter. Sprinkle with olives, pepper and onions. Bake in preheated 325° oven 20 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake until knife inserted in center comes out clean, about an additional 5 to 10 minutes. Cut diagonally to form triangles. Serve hot or chill to serve cold.

SUNDAY CRESCENT ROLLS

- ½ cup warm water
- 2 tablespoons or pkg. yeast
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 cups milk
- 4 sticks melted margarine (Parkay)
- 8 cups flour

Dissolve yeast in warm water, set aside. Beat the 4 eggs and add sugar, salt, milk and the margarine while still warm. Slowly add the yeast and flour. Mix well and chill overnight. Divide dough into 4 equal portions, roll each into a circle about ¼" thick. Using a pizza cutter, cut each circle into 12 wedges. Roll each wedge starting at the large end. Place on a greased pan and let rise 2 or 2½ hours until double. Bake at 325° for 15 or 20 minutes. When mixing dough avoid adding more than 8 cups flour. The dough will be very soft before chilling. After it has chilled it will be easy to handle. This recipe works very well to make the night before, take out the next morning and bake for lunch.

BUTTERFINGER COOKIES

- ¾ cup sugar
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup margarine, cut in chunks
- 2 large egg whites
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla
- 1¼ cups chunky peanut butter
- 1 cup flour
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 5 reg. size Butterfingers

In food processor blend sugar, margarine, egg whites and vanilla. Stop processor and scrape sides once. Add peanut butter and process until combined. Add flour, soda and salt. Do not over-process. Add Butterfingers, broken up slightly. Process on and off a few times. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes (until cookies look dry and centers are still soft).

IIRA reports small gain in rural areas

Many rural Illinois counties have experienced a slight gain in population during the past four years, according to a recent report issued by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) at Western Illinois University. The study is based on population estimates for 1990 to 1994 recently released by the Bureau of the Census.

The IIRA study by Norman Walzer, Richard Longwell and Lori York shows that, on average, remote Illinois counties had a population growth of 1 percent, compared with an estimated population of 1.3 percent in counties adjacent to metro areas. The population increases appear to have reversed a trend during the 1980s in which nearly all rural Illinois counties lost population.

Illinois counties are compared with other states. Illinois counties with farming as a major income source fared better than their Midwest counterparts, with 69.2 percent of Illinois counties reporting growth while only 33.2 percent of similar counties in the Midwest gained population.

In the Midwest as a whole, 50.5 percent of rural counties had a population increase, compared with 67.6 percent in Illinois.

"The 1980s were difficult for small cities, with more than three-fourths of them experiencing population declines," according to Walzer. "A similar trend exists with small counties, but even in the smallest size group, there seems to have been a reversal."

According to U.S. Bureau of Census estimates, between 1990-92 and 1992-94, 51 Illinois counties (28 rural) gained population in both of the two-year periods.

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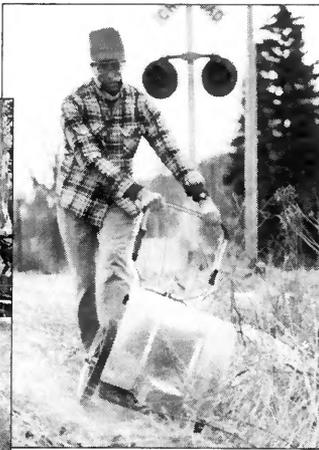
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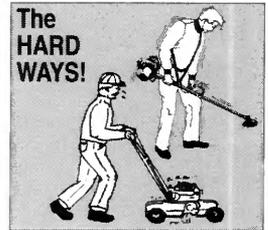
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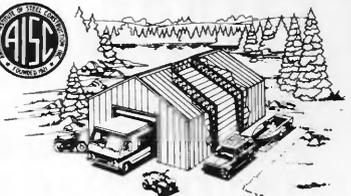
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This extraordinary health guide was inspired by a collection of little-known folk medicines gathered by the home remedy editor of a magazine published for the Amish.

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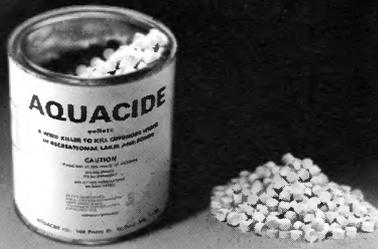
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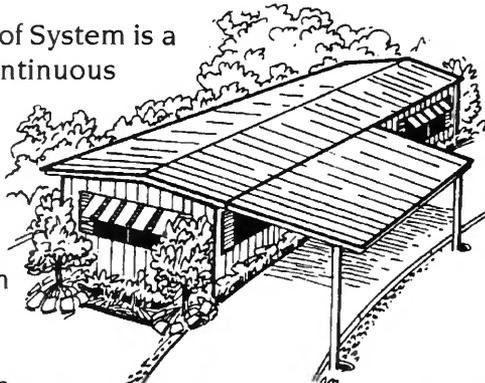
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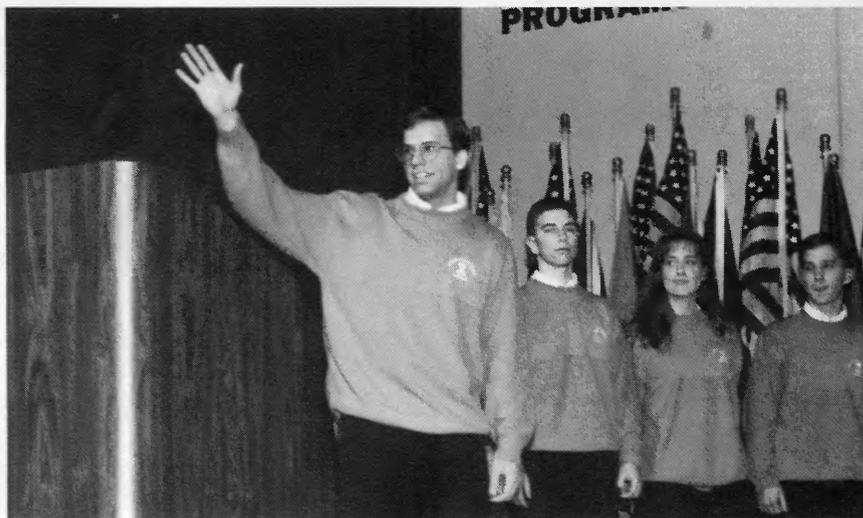
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Mark Guzzardo of Kewanee waves as he is introduced to the crowd attending the 53rd annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Mark, a winner in the Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative youth tour competition and a Kewanee High School senior, served as an NRECA staff aide during the meeting. He is the Illinois representative on the NRECA Youth Consulting Board.



RE leaders urged to meet challenges

"We must meet the competitive challenge by helping our consumers reduce their energy costs, by offering new technologies and by achieving greater efficiencies." Glenn English, general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), was talking to 12,000 electric cooperative leaders at the NRECA annual meeting Feb. 28-March 1 in Orlando, Fla. He was referring to coming changes in the electric industry. These will likely affect the nation's electric distribution system and rural America's access to the exploding telecommunications field.

English said members of America's 1,000 electric cooperatives will want the same conveniences and opportunities as city residents, a situation that created the cooperatives in the first place. Though reliable and affordable electricity is their top priority, the cooperatives are a structure already in place to help meet other needs of members, and these needs include safe water supplies, increased rural job opportunities, and access to the computer information networks known as the "Information Superhighway," he added.

English noted that deregulation

in the electric industry will step up competition among utilities. As in the deregulated telephone industry, this will push electric providers to offer more services. Rural customers must not be left out of the benefits and they should look to their own cooperative as the provider, he said.

J.C. Roberts of Lubbock, Tex., retiring president of the NRECA board of directors, reminded the crowd that the electric cooperatives also deliver to their members something just as important as electricity.

"I believe we deliver hope, hope that things can be better, that problems can be solved," Roberts said.

He said a common characteristic of these member-owned utilities is to meet their challenges head-on. "We did not resist when the Department of Agriculture expanded our role to include providing water and waste water treatment. Instead, we responded by forming a task force to determine how best we could take advantage of this new opportunity," Roberts said.

During the meeting that task force, of which Larry Lovell, manager of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, is

a member, reported on its work.

Task force chairman James A. Vann Jr., of the Alabama Electric Co-op, said that the decision for a cooperative to provide water service should be a local one. The federal government has already concluded that the electric cooperatives can logically meet this need, he said.

"Unless we have clean water and wastewater disposal in our service areas, people and business will not be able to locate in our communities. Without dependable water, a terrible thing happens to rural economic development — nothing," Vann stated.

Also at the annual meeting:

- Voting delegates adopted 40 resolutions stating NRECA's position on a variety of issues. These include urging Congress to develop health care reform that addresses the unique problems of rural areas, vigorous opposition to the sale of federal power marketing administrations, and support of changes in government housing programs whose requirements are unrealistic for rural areas.

- Thomas H. Moore, for 33 years the general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, received the Clyde T. Ellis Award for "his untiring leadership and devotion to building, protecting and enhancing rural electrification at the local, state and national levels." Moore retired in 1994.



Raymond C. Mulholland (seated left) of Marissa has been elected president of the Southern Illinois Power Co-operative board of directors. The election took place Thursday, March 30, at SIPC's Lake of Egypt headquarters near Marion. George R. Inman (seated center) of Grand Chain was elected vice president, and James M. (Mick) Cummins (seated right) was elected secretary-treasurer. Standing is Tim Reeves, executive vice president and general manager of SIPC.

Sound financial base supports SIPC

The solid financial foundation of Southern Illinois Power Co-operative (SIPC) is a primary factor enabling the cooperative to provide low-cost power to residents throughout Southern Illinois. In reports presented during the cooperative's annual meeting March 30 in Marion, officials cited a number of accomplishments that helped make 1994 another successful year for the power cooperative.

President Kenneth R. Webb of Tunnel Hill said, "Having a sound financial footing is a prerequisite to being a low-cost provider. In 1994, SIPC continued its financial prosperity. The cooperative ended the year with margins of \$3,127,174." He added that such margins created a financial condition well above the requirements of the Rural Utilities Service and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, the cooperative's bankers. Webb went on to say that SIPC's equity stands at 27.66 percent, while the combined equity with the three member distribution cooperatives is now 38.53 percent.

SIPC's three member systems are Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Steeleville; SouthEastern Illinois Electric

Cooperative, Eldorado; and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola. Combined, the three serve more than 42,000 meters in 19 Illinois counties.

Manager Tim Reeves said, "Competition and deregulation are words commonly used in today's utility industry. Utilities across the country are preparing now for retail competition and the deregulation of the industry by merging, consolidating, and reducing their costs so that they will be better able to compete. SIPC must strive to be a low-cost provider of wholesale energy to enable our distribution cooperatives to be competitive."

Webb said fuel accounted for the largest single expense during 1994, costing more than \$12 million. He added that the cooperative purchases coal from three companies and burns a blend of 60 percent coal and 40 percent carbon (coal fines) to help control SIPC's electric production costs.

Secretary-treasurer George R. Inman of Grand Chain reported that cooperative sales totaled \$44,603,806, representing slightly more than one million megawatt-hours. He noted that sales were down somewhat from 1993, attributing the decline

to economic uncertainty — primarily the loss of several coal mines — and the loss of one of SIPC's long-term municipal customers. "We are optimistic that new opportunities in Southern Illinois will allow SIPC to grow and exceed our 1994 sales," he said.

Reeves distributed capital credit payments to the three member systems. The cooperatives received the following checks for these amounts: Egyptian Electric, \$201,155.56; SouthEastern Illinois Electric, \$504,529.78; and Southern Illinois Electric, \$157,990.45

During the meeting, 12 representatives of the three member systems were elected to the board. They are: Egyptian Electric: Harold I. Dycus of Carbondale, Archie Hamilton of Ava, Raymond C. Mulholland of Marissa, and Harry W. Kuhn of Steeleville; SouthEastern Illinois Electric: Bill Cadle of Marion, Robert Tiberend of Benton, Kenneth R. Webb of Tunnel Hill, and James M. (Mick) Cummins of Eldorado; and Southern Illinois Electric: George R. Inman of Grand Chain, David L. Martin of Metropolis, Richard Moss of Tamms, and Larry Lovell of Dongola.

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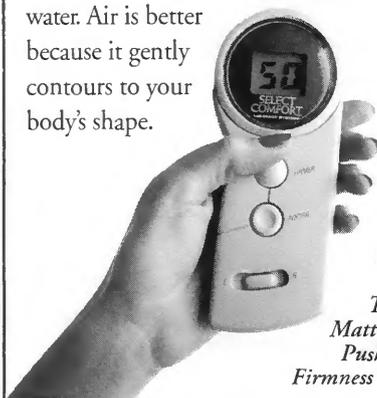
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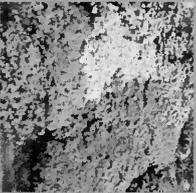
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ZIP _____

HOW MANY	CAT. NO.	ITEM	COST
	10637	Tulip Bulbs (50/\$2.99 - 100/\$5.88 - 200/\$11.48)	
	06601	Daffodils (10 for \$2.99 - 20 for \$5.78)	
	02600	Hardy Primrose (3 for \$3.99 - 6 for \$6.98)	
	02717	Creeping Phlox (12/\$4.99 - 24/\$7.98 - 48/\$16.96)	
	05033	Lilies for Naturalizing (10/\$7.99 - 20/\$13.98)	
	02832	50-pc. Perennial Garden (1/\$12.95 - 2/\$22.90)	
	08425	Riot Of Color Garden (1/\$9.99 - 2/\$16.98)	
6	FREE	Grape Hyacinths with any order.	0.00
6	FREE	Alpine Rosy Bells if order totals \$7.00.	0.00
6	FREE	Sunny Twinkles (plus 6 Alpine Rosy Bells), if order totals \$10.00.	0.00
8	FREE	Glory of the Snow (plus 6 Alpine Rosy Bells and 6 Sunny Twinkles) if order totals \$14.00.	0.00
Subtotal \$			
Shipping & Postage \$			1.90
Sales Tax \$			
Total \$			

Payment enclosed. Bill on my credit card below.

Exp. Date _____

Credit Card # _____

MasterCard American Express
 VISA Discover

Passage & Postage \$1.90
SALES TAX: MI 6.25%
TN and 6.25%
MO add 5.225%

MICHIGAN BULB'S
LIFETIME
GUARANTEE

If you're not happy with any item you order from us, simply return it within 15 days for a full refund or replacement, whichever you prefer. What's more, any items that do not grow and flourish to your complete satisfaction will be replaced FREE - with no time limit - for as long as you garden.

MAIL THIS MONEY-SAVING COUPON TODAY!