

Water 2000

See page 10

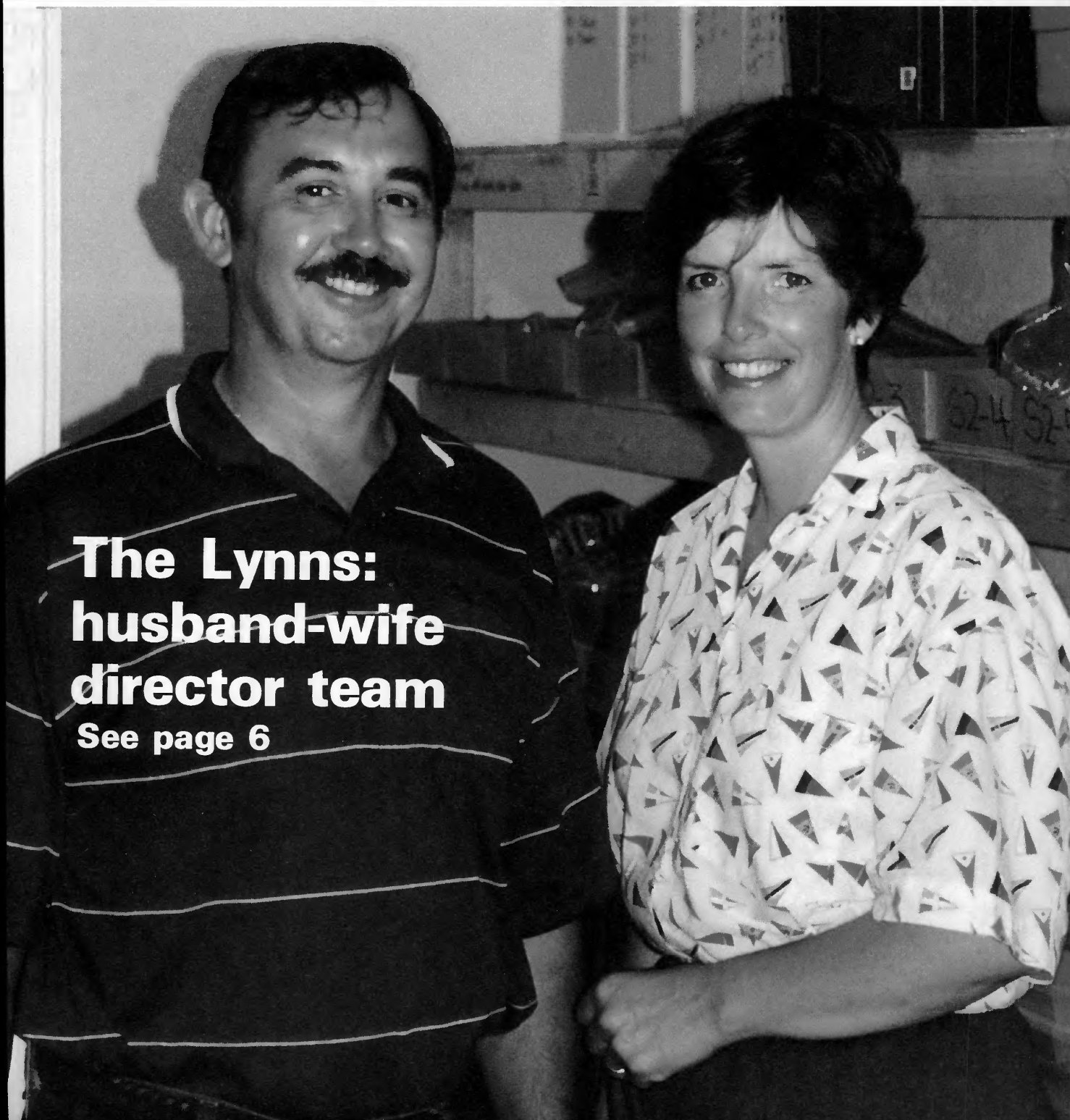
Plows, plows

See page 18

REN

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

September 1995



**The Lynns:
husband-wife
director team**

See page 6

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Illinois Rural Electric News

The continuing tradition of leadership

Sixty years ago, people in rural America began to take the federal government up on a partnership offer to get electricity into their homes and farms. Little of the nation's countryside had electric service in 1935. Rural dwellers throughout the country, using government loans from the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), did the job themselves and paid the money back to the government with interest. Electricity was the means to an end, which was a better quality of life.

A key to the success of the rural electrification program was, and is now, leadership. Stringing those first wires called for vision and foresight, along with hard work. Keeping electric cooperatives up to date and capable of meeting the growing needs of rural America calls for the same leadership qualities.

The REA doesn't exist any more, but the federal government is still an important partner in helping rural people help themselves. The reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture created a combined rural services agency called the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Despite advancements over the years, improvements in the quality of life in parts of rural America are hampered by the lack of adequate supplies of drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities. This reorganized agency works with rural interests to

develop water projects in addition to its electric and telephone programs.

An event in Southern Illinois in July (see pages 10-11) illustrates how effective strong leadership can be and how electric cooperatives provide that leadership. Officials of RUS traveled to the small Pulaski County community of Villa Ridge to kick off a national program called Water 2000. They came to Illinois to see first hand what is a model water project for RUS: SouthWater, Inc., a regional water system planned for rural areas of Alexander, Pulaski, Union, Johnson and Massac counties.

What impressed RUS officials was the cooperative spirit that has been so important in getting SouthWater going. Credit for much of that spirit goes to Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, the Dongola-based electric cooperative that serves much of the affected area. The cooperative's board and management accepted the challenge of mobilizing local interests, and the results of that leadership are evident.

It has been 60 years since electric cooperatives began bringing a better way of life to rural America. Now, electric cooperatives such as Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative are continuing that tradition of leadership for the common good of rural America.

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REN


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Cover: Steve and Rose Marie Lynn already were plenty busy with their farm operation and ornament business when their electric and telephone cooperatives asked for their help. Now they are the state's only husband-wife director team. Steve is a director of McDonough Power Cooperative and Rose Marie is on the board of McDonough Telephone Cooperative. They were elected to those boards just days apart in 1994. (See article beginning on page 6.)

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BRIEFLY

IIRA study shows low wages in rural areas

Economic restructuring since the 1980s has been unkind to many rural workers, families and communities. A study recently completed by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) at Western Illinois University shows a relatively rapid increase in low wage service sector jobs in rural areas. According to Norman Walzer, director of IIRA, this is cause for concern. Between 1980 and 1990, rural Illinois experienced widespread declines in agriculture, forestry, mining and manufacturing jobs. In rural counties, natural resource jobs fell by 38.3 percent and manufacturing jobs declined 13 percent. However, employment in the service sector — business and professional services, finance, insurance, real estate and health services — grew 11.7 percent. “The shift from manufacturing to services means that many rural workers are moving from relatively well-paying manufacturing jobs to lower-paying service employment in many instances,” Jeff Crump, IIRA research associate, said. “The retention of manufacturing employment and high paying jobs is crucial to providing rural workers with high-quality employment opportunities.” In 1990, relatively low earnings were common in rural areas. More than 40 percent of rural workers had median annual earnings below \$12,000, putting them below the poverty line for a family of four. Only 22 percent of workers in collar counties (those surrounding Chicago) were in the low earnings category. At the same time, 16 percent of rural workers made more than \$30,000 while 33 percent in

collar counties made at least that amount or more. Even though services are the fastest growing source of employment in rural Illinois, the low earnings prevalent in this sector lead to increased numbers of working poor and increases in rural poverty rates. “Several midwestern states have tried to encourage the growth of rural business and professional services to provide sorely needed high-wage employment opportunities for rural workers,” Crump said. According to the IIRA study, for an individual breadwinner to lift his or her family out of poverty, the minimum wage would have to be raised to \$6.96 an hour. “It is likely that raising the minimum wage would help many rural residents, where work effort is high, but wages are disappointingly low,” Crump said.

EJ Water receives leadership honor from Effingham Chamber

EJ Water Corp. has received a 1995 ExCEL Award from the Greater Effingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The honor stands for Excellence in Community and Economic Leadership Award and is given to businesses in Effingham County which demonstrate exceptional community service, promote economic growth or support community projects. EJ was nominated by the First National Bank, Dieterich, noting that the water distribution system solved a trouble issue in the rural area by bringing water and growth into many communities. Delbert Mundt, president of EJ Water (also president of Norris Electric and vice president of the Association of

Illinois Electric Cooperatives board), said that the water service would have been impossible without many volunteers. "Receiving an award like this — it's a good feeling with all the volunteers we have putting in rural water. It's good for them," Mundt was quoted in Effingham news reports. Some 1,100 rural families are now served by EJ and an additional 700 families will receive service this year. Some 2,900 rural families have signed up for service and EJ has expanded its original goal of serving six townships to serving all or parts of six counties. "We're just getting started and we have a lot of work ahead of us," Mundt says.

Trickle down effect adds to pollution woes

Apparently water pollution is one of those issues that cannot fit the mold cast by politicians to return authority to the states.

Findings in a recently released U.S. Geological Survey report shows that states have less control over their water quality than they would like, adding that most of the water pollution in 18 states comes from another state. U.S. Geological Survey researchers Richard Smith and Richard Alexander sampled water from across the country for the chemical phosphorous. They used computers to analyze its movement. Not surprisingly, a check of phosphorous in streams, rivers and large reservoirs shows the biggest problem with out-of-state pollution along the Ohio, Missouri and Mississippi. States along those waterways that receive more than half their water pollution from elsewhere were Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and West Virginia. Significant problems were also found in the Northwest and in Middle Atlantic region. For example, other states with more than 50 percent outside pollution were Connecticut,

Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington, Utah and North Dakota.

Worldwatch predicts grain shortages

Grain reserves are being eaten away due to the growing world population with consumption exceeding production for the third straight year. This means reserves are literally being eaten away, said Lester R. Brown, president of Worldwatch Institute, an independent environmental research group. World grain stocks will dip to the lowest level in 20 years, leaving a record low 53-day supply next year that could result in rising food prices around the globe. The supply this year is considered enough to feed the world for 61 days, according to Brown. The tight grain supply will likely lead to worldwide increases in the price of bread, rice and breakfast cereal by the end of 1995. Prices that could also be affected are grain-produced livestock products such as beef, poultry, pork, eggs, milk and cheese early next year, stated Brown. There are those who are in disagreement with Worldwatch predictions. "The food situation is always characterized with temporary shortages which do cause problems but may not be indicative of long-term problems," said Mark Rosegrant, research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute funded by governments and aid agencies.

Name omitted from 'Tour' article

In our August issue, an article about the 1995 "Youth to Washington" Tour inadvertently omitted the name of a student on the "chip and pop" co-op board of directors: Carrie Scharf of Millstadt, representing Monroe County Electric Co-Operative.



Rose Marie Lynn, a McDonough Telephone Cooperative director, runs an ornament business that has grown steadily over the years. She uses common items — flour, salt, water and food coloring — to create the ceramic-like decorations.

Lynns form state's only husband-wife director team

Last year, members at McDonough Power Cooperative's annual meeting elected Steve Lynn to the co-op's board of directors. A few days later, members of McDonough Telephone Cooperative elected his wife, Rose Marie Lynn, to that co-op's board during their annual meeting.

With that election, the Lynns became the only husband-wife director team in the state.

Both are lifelong area residents and Steve, like so many area men, farms. They live about halfway between Macomb and Bushnell. "We have about 650 acres in corn and beans," he says, "and we had a confinement hog operation for a long time, but we finally got out of that."

Rose Marie, on the other hand, has a business of her own. While some people are pleased to be



Steve Lynn, a McDonough Power Cooperative director, operates a farm between Macomb and Bushnell.

rolling in dough, she's happy rolling it out. She makes Christmas ornaments out of the stuff, for sale all over the country.

"About 13 years ago," she says, "my church group had a cousin of mine come down from Wisconsin and show us how to make these things for a church bazaar. We made a bunch of ornaments and sold them for a couple of dollars each. I was astonished at how well they sold, and we only did it that one year.

With her church group no longer involved, and with the strong sales record in mind, she decided to give it a try herself.

"It's a simple process," she says, "and you just make a dough of flour, salt and water, and roll it out like you'd roll out cookie dough. Then you cut it out — using cookie cutters — and decorate it with food coloring. Then you bake it. I was impressed because you could use just plain everyday materials that you'd find in nearly any household, and you could bake the things in a regular oven.

"They are really nice," she

continues, banging one on the edge of a table, "and they're tough, too. I've shown them to a lot of people who thought they were ceramic, but they're not."

It was that simplicity that attracted her to the ornaments at first. She literally started making them on the kitchen table, and baking them in the kitchen oven, with no expensive special tools or equipment needed.

She started selling them at craft shows and the like, and was doing quite well. Well enough, in fact, that the kitchen was no longer big enough.

"We remodeled an old wash house," she says, "and I moved into it, with a couple of ratty old kitchen ranges I bought at garage sales and places like that. They don't have to be nice, and it doesn't matter if the top burners work or not. All I need is a working oven. As time went by, I started a mail-order business, and I've had a full-color catalog printed up. One of the attractions of these ornaments is that I can personalize them for families, pets and so on."

Still, the success became a problem again. She outgrew the wash house. They moved the operation into a four-car garage, and she's well on the way to filling that up.

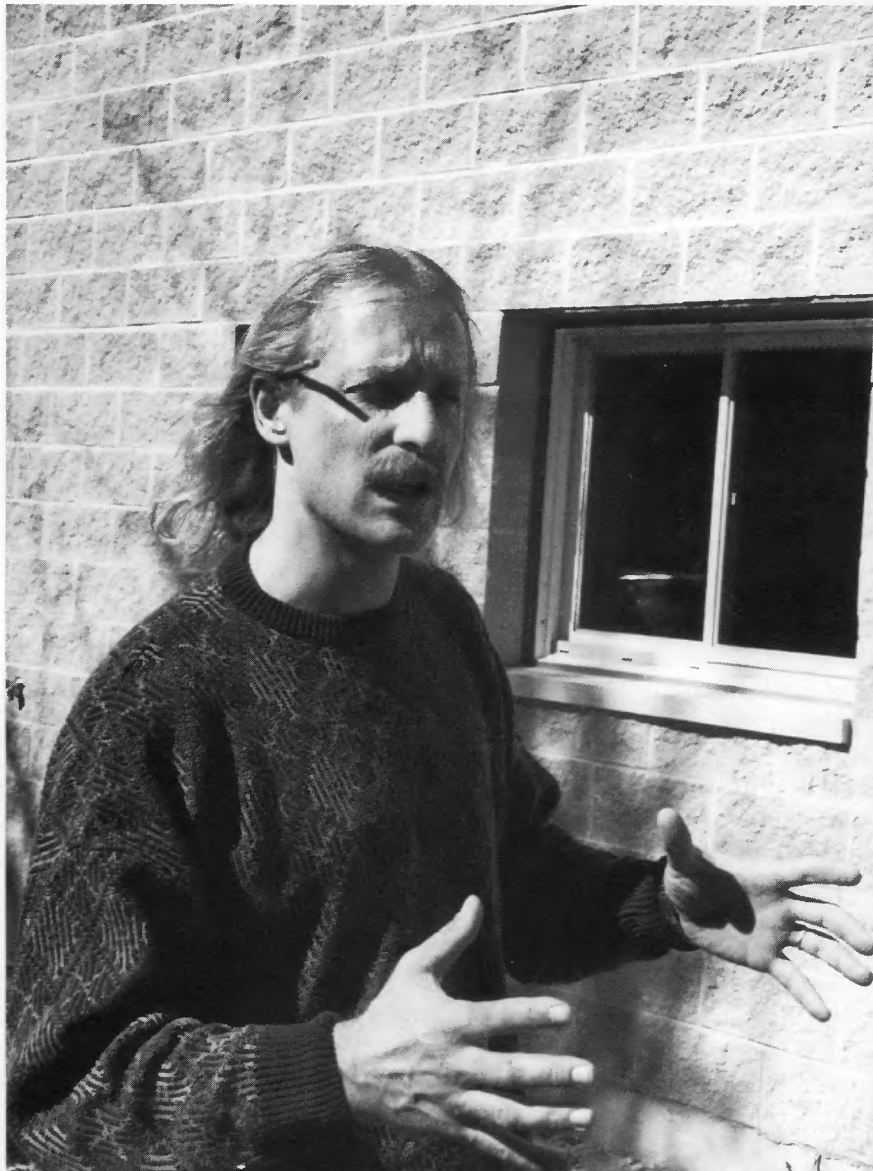
"I never thought I'd ever even come close to outgrowing this building," she says, "but I've heard that you expand to fill the space you have, and we're sure doing that."

The business is helpful for several reasons, she notes, and one is that it enables her to earn an income while still having hours that are flexible enough that she can help Steve when he's in a time crunch in the farming operation. And he can help her when the farming is slack and the dough-making is hectic.

"It works out well," she says, "and the operations complement each other nicely. We have four kids, and they've all helped too, although the oldest three are pretty much out of the picture now. Angela, our oldest, is a teacher at Abingdon High School, and Georgianna is a

(Continued on page 20)

(Clockwise from below) Bruce Busboom describes building techniques he used in the castle construction. Statues of mythical winged creatures overlook the entrance. One look at the structure tells you it is a castle.





This man's castle is his home

What's enormous, enchanting, whimsical, and weighs more than four million pounds? There's a mind-boggling home near Fisher that's all that and more. The unique manse is being built in a five-acre forest by Bruce and Marcia Busboom, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative members who have moved into the place while construction progresses.

It is, in fact, a castle, complete with towers, crenellated walls and gargoyles. Busboom echoes the comments many people make when they see the place, noting that you have to be either crazy or a far-out dreamer to build such a home.

"I think life's too short not to do a little dreaming," Bruce says, "and I'm just dreaming on a bigger scale than some people do. I've always been fascinated by castles, and I've always wanted to have one, so we can live happily ever after."

That is about as much of a rational explanation as you are likely to get. "But to put it simply," he continues, "building a castle like this is a lot like climbing mountains, traveling or any kind of adventuring: If you have to ask why, you probably wouldn't understand anyway."

His castle is more than just a big house with castle-like appendages stuck on. It is, in fact, built very much like some of the old castles, with heavy timbers, massive wooden doors and lots of masonry.

The main support beams are white oak, and each section weighs 750 pounds. They're notched and bolted to 8×8 red cedar posts. The drawbridge, or front door, is five feet wide, more than 10 tall, and 4½ inches thick. It weighs a third of a ton. It's big enough and sturdy enough that a knight and his steed could go through it comfortably — although they might well receive a chilly reception once they got inside. The door opens into the home, not into a courtyard.

"It's made of treated yellow pine," Bruce says, "and it was soaked in sealer. I used 180 stainless steel bolts to hold it together."

All in all, there are some 35,000 board feet of lumber in the place. In addition to the cedar and oak, Bruce used white pine, fir, redwood, red oak and larch. "I thought I heard the forest moan when I was planning this project," he quips.

While the forests may have receded a bit during the castle's construction, cement deposits were drawn down somewhat, too. The poured concrete footing is five feet deep and is three feet wide at the bottom. Bruce used some 170 cubic yards of concrete, and that doesn't include that used in the garage and sidewalks. There are 8,040 waterproof concrete blocks in the shell.

The place is the result of years of dreaming and planning — and scrimping and saving — Bruce

(Continued on page 14)

Southern Illinois water system is national model

Imagine the population of Dallas, Tex., living day to day without reliable, clean water coming through their household faucets. That's about one million people, and that's a minimum estimate of how many people across the U.S. are living just that way. It may be three or four million.

During the Depression, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) started the drive to make sure every citizen has access to affordable electric service. The REA's successor, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), is now beginning a campaign to bring water to regions in need. That endeavor is called Water 2000, to signify the target year for that goal.

So far three projects are being funded under the Water 2000 banner. One is on a Hopi Indian reservation in Arizona. There, the incidence of water-borne disease is 10 times higher than the national average. Another will assist an Appalachian community in eastern Kentucky. In those rural hamlets, seepage from abandoned coal mines has tainted community wells. The alternative water source: plastic gallon jugs of water from stores in distant towns.

The third Water 2000 project is in Southern Illinois. Named SouthWater, Inc., its plans call for a \$20 million regional water

system in Alexander, Pulaski, Union, Johnson and Massac counties. SouthWater is becoming a reality thanks to the leadership of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC).

In fact, the cooperative spirit behind SouthWater so impressed federal officials that it has become a model project of Water 2000. On July 17, the "national kickoff" for Water 2000 wasn't held in Washington, D.C., but in a little brick church at Villa Ridge (Pulaski County), about 10 miles north of Cairo. Attending were federal and state officials representing such funding sources as RUS and the Rural Economic and Community Development Service, formerly the Farmers Home Administration. In the audience were local people who had helped lay SouthWater's foundation — SIEC employees, village mayors and residents of the communities that launched the project and should receive its benefits.

It was appropriate to mark the event with a community meeting, because that's how SouthWater was born. In November 1993, Shawnee Community College near Ullin was the site of the first meeting about the idea. That gathering was held to encourage several small towns and water districts to unite and create a regional water system.

Many of the local towns have



older, inefficient water treatment facilities. Federal and state regulations make it difficult for these water systems to meet government standards.

Homes that aren't on a municipal water system sometimes fare even worse. Some private wells become contaminated, and families are faced with the expense of digging a new well or hauling water to their homes. There are even houses that have never had piped-in water. Some people drink rain water from cisterns.

Wally Beyer, RUS administrator and a guest speaker at Villa Ridge, has said, "Urban and suburban residents I speak with are surprised, concerned, even startled to learn that such a large group of Americans, larger than the combined populations of Wyoming and Vermont, still live without something the



Joseph Kerr (left) of the Southern Seven Health Department describes a makeshift well pump at the home of Edward Tucker near Villa Ridge. The pump is housed in an old refrigerator body sunk into the earth. Tucker (second from left) and his grandson, Derrick (third from left), look on with Wally Beyer (second from right), RUS administrator, and Wally Furrow, state director of the Rural Economic and Community Development Service. The home was one stop on a tour of sites illustrating southern Illinois water problems.

since late 1993 has been measured by community meetings, trips to Washington and stacks of applications for funding.

Though the public feedback SIEC has received favors the proposal, replacing hometown water companies with a large system may give some residents pause.

"They had to sacrifice a lot," stated Marvin Teckenbrock at the Villa Ridge event. The district director of the Rural Economic and Community Development Service said, "The towns had to be willing to give up their water districts. Some of them compare it to giving up a school. This thing would not be feasible today without the communities' cooperation."

Though no pipe is in the ground yet, SouthWater looks as if it is heading toward its goal. But will the larger goal of Water 2000 be reached?

The RUS's John Romano, deputy administrator designate, said at the Villa Ridge event that according to the 1970 and 1980 censuses, the recorded number of people lacking adequate water was three to four times as large as today's figure. That trend would say the goal is nearer.

One critical factor is government commitment. On the day of Water 2000's kickoff, legislators on Capitol Hill were looking at reducing funds for rural water and waste water projects.

great majority of us considers so basic."

Though public health is the main concern, a quality water supply is also vital to the economic health of an area. New businesses and industries would naturally be less inclined to settle in regions that can't furnish water along with transportation and other basic necessities of commerce.

The Water 2000 action plan encourages the development of regional water systems to serve numerous communities, rather than the costly renovation of existing waterworks at scattered locations.

It is important that such a plan starts at the local level. Wally Beyer pointed out that his agency can't go into an area and whip up a water system from scratch. In SouthWater's case, local support and an engineer's

design of the proposed system were arranged before RUS was approached for funding. The \$20 million price tag was more than the agency is used to confronting, but the long-range scope of the plan and the groundwork already done made the proposal more appealing. Ultimately, the funding was divided among RUS and other sources. The water system construction has also been separated into phases, with the first round to cost \$8.2 million.

"This particular project has a lot of the aspects we like," Beyer said. "The rural electric cooperative is involved in a leadership role, and several communities are coming together. When this happens, we can help. We're going to target our resources, human and financial, to projects such as this one."

The progress of SouthWater

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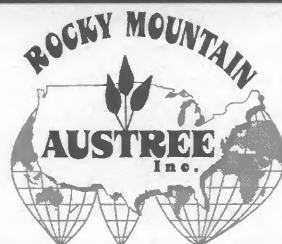
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Festive favorites

PASTA PLENTIFUL SALAD

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1/3 cup tarragon wine vinegar | 6 oz. rote (wheel-shaped pasta),
cooked and drained |
| 2 tablespoons water | 6 hard-cooked eggs*, wedged |
| 2 tablespoons cooking oil | 1 cup chopped fresh broccoli |
| 1 teaspoon basil leaves, crushed | 3/4 cup chopped tomatoes |
| 1 teaspoon oregano leaves, crushed | 1/2 cup shredded carrots |
| 3/4 teaspoon garlic salt | Fresh spinach leaves, optional |

In large bowl, stir together vinegar, water, oil and seasonings. Add remaining ingredients except spinach leaves. Lightly toss until evenly coated with dressing. Cover and chill to blend flavors. Garnish with fresh spinach leaves, if desired.

STIR-FRY SHRIMP SCRAMBLE

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 tablespoon cooking oil | 1 can (8 oz.) sliced water
chestnuts, drained |
| 1 pkg. (6 oz.) frozen pea pods | 6 eggs |
| 4 oz. medium to large frozen shrimp | 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger |
| 1/4 cup chopped green onions with
2 cloves garlic, minced | 1/2 teaspoon salt, optional |
| | Green onion fan, optional |

In 10-inch omelet pan or skillet over medium heat, cook pea pods, shrimp, onions and garlic in hot oil until pea pods can be broken apart with fork. Stir in water chestnuts. Cook, stirring occasionally, until heated through, about 5 minutes. Beat together eggs, ginger and salt, if desired, until blended. Pour over vegetables. With pancake turner, gently lift and turn mixture until eggs are thickened but still moist. Garnish with onion fan, if desired.

SAVORY SPINACH MUNCHIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 tablespoons reduced-calorie
mayonnaise | 1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen chopped
spinach, thawed, drained and
pressed or 3 cups chopped fresh
spinach |
| 1 to 2 tablespoons horseradish
mustard | 1/4 cup chopped sweet red pepper |
| 1 tablespoon instant minced onion | 24 slices cocktail rye bread, toasted
or 12 frozen potato skins |
| 1 teaspoon garlic salt | 3/4 cup (3 oz.) shredded mozzarella
cheese |
| 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice | |
| 6 hard-cooked eggs, chopped | |

In medium bowl, stir together mayonnaise, mustard, onion, garlic salt and lemon juice until thoroughly blended. Stir in eggs, spinach and pepper. Spoon about 2 tablespoons of the egg mixture onto each bread slice or about 1/4 cup onto each potato skin. (Skins may vary in size.) Sprinkle each slice with 1 1/2 teaspoons or each skin with 1 tablespoon of the cheese. Bake in preheated 425 degree oven until heated through and cheese is melted, about 10 minutes for bread slices, 15 to 20 minutes for potato skins.

ASPARAGUS MUSHROOM FRITTATA

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen asparagus
spears | 1/2 cup low-fat (1%) cottage cheese
or part-skim ricotta cheese |
| 1 cup (4 oz.) sliced fresh mushrooms | 2 tablespoons lemon juice |
| 1 cup sliced onion | 1/2 teaspoon dill weed |
| 1 tablespoon cooking oil | 1/4 teaspoon salt, optional |
| 8 eggs | Fresh dill sprigs, optional |

In 10-inch omelet pan or skillet with ovenproof handle over medium heat, cover and cook asparagus, mushrooms and onion until onion is tender but not brown, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Set aside 8 asparagus spears and 8 mushroom slices. Cut remaining spears into thirds and return to pan. Stir in oil. Beat together eggs, cheese, lemon juice, dill weed and salt, if desired, until blended. Pour over vegetables. Reduce heat to low. Cover and cook until eggs are almost set, about 7 minutes. Remove from heat. Uncover. Arrange reserved asparagus spears in spoke-fashion over eggs. Place reserved mushroom slices between asparagus spears. Broil 6 inches from heat until eggs are set, about 3 to 5 minutes. Garnish with dill sprigs, if desired. Cut into wedges and serve from pan or slide from pan onto serving platter.

APRICOT ALMOND BREAD PUDDING

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 3 cups cubed day-old whole
wheat bread (about 3 slices) | 4 eggs |
| 3 oz. dried apricots, halved
(about 3/4 cup) | 2 cups skim or low-fat (1%) milk |
| 1/4 cup chopped toasted almonds | 1/2 cup sugar |
| | 1/2 teaspoon vanilla |
| | 1/2 teaspoon almond extract |

In greased shallow 1 1/2 quart casserole, lightly toss together bread cubes, apricots and almonds. In medium bowl, beat together eggs, milk, sugar and flavorings. Pour over bread mixture. Cover and refrigerate several hours or overnight. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven until knife inserted near center comes out clean, 45 to 55 minutes. Serve hot or refrigerate to serve chilled.



BEST BEAU CUSTARD

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 pint half and half cream | 1 teaspoon vanilla |
| 4 egg yolks | Dash of salt |
| 2 rounded tablespoons sugar | |

Scald cream. Beat egg yolks and add sugar, vanilla and salt. Then pour cream over. Pour into 4 custard cups. Bake 55 minutes at 325° in a pan of water.

TAMALE PIE

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 onion | 1 can tomato sauce |
| 1 bell pepper | 1 can whole corn |
| 2 or 3 hot peppers | 1/2 pkg. egg noodles pre-cooked |
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 can tamales (layer) |
| 1/2 cup graded American Cheese | |

Cut up onion, bell pepper and hot peppers and brown in 1 teaspoon of oil. Then brown and strain ground beef and add all ingredients together. Top with slices of cheese and put in oven for 20 to 25 minutes to heat through.

CHOCOLATE PIE

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1/4 cup sugar | 2 1/2 cups milk |
| 1/3 cup cocoa | 3 small eggs |
| 1/8 teaspoon salt | 1 teaspoon vanilla |
| 1/4 cup flour | 1/4 stick butter |

Mix sugar, cocoa, flour, salt and cups of milk. Cook on low until it thickens. Beat egg yolks and add to 1/2 cup milk and stir into the above mixture, cook stirring constantly for about 5 minutes. Remove from heat, add butter and vanilla. Beat until cool. Pour into baked pie shell. Top with meringue.

RAISIN PIE

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 cup raisins | 1/2 stick butter |
| 1 1/2 cups water | 1 teaspoon lemon juice |
| 1/2 cup sugar | 1 teaspoon vanilla |
| 3 egg yolks well beaten | pinch salt |
| 2 tablespoons cornstarch | |

Cook raisins with water and sugar until raisins are done. Add cornstarch, egg yolks, butter, lemon juice. Cook for 5 minutes. Cool. Add vanilla. Pour in pie shell. Strip top with pie crust. Bake at 350 degrees till brown.

Castle

(Continued from page 9)

emphasizes. "A lot of people think you have to be doing something illegal to be able to build a place like this, but that's not the case at all. I've saved for years and worked at two or three jobs at a time, just to put money away. And before the children came along, Marcia helped with the funding."

Now she stays home with Brittany, 5, and David, 3, since the Busbooms believe children need a mother's care, especially when they're young.

A 15-year employee at the University of Illinois, Bruce is now a carpentry subforeman there. To help fund the dream, he had a disk jockey business for several years, working wedding receptions, reunions, anniversaries and similar functions. All in all, "Busboom Power and Light" performed some 1,000 "gigs" in nine years. Bruce sold the business, which has since been renamed BBG Power & Light Co.

After all the years of working and saving, the day finally came when it was time to start

working on a dream. Bruce still gets a catch in his voice as he describes the joy of having several volunteer craftsmen show up and help put up some of those meticulously crafted beams that undergird the whole place.

"It was one of the happiest days of my life," he says simply.

As time went by, the castle's form took shape fairly quickly. The main structure is 48 feet square, and there is a 34-foot tower about 12 feet square at each front corner, in addition to the one that houses the drawbridge.

The home will have four bedrooms, three full and two half-baths, and 10 more rooms. It's surrounded by 58 windows, and the great hall is 22 feet wide, 22 feet tall and 48 feet long. The exterior walls are 15 inches thick, and are heavily insulated.

There's no moat, although he kind of laments that fact. "Maybe later, when the kids are bigger," he says, "we'll be able to have one. But for now, no way. The silly thing would require as much maintenance as an in-ground pool, and I just don't want to be bothered. And

it'd be a breeding ground for mosquitoes, too."

But it does have a couple of "required" castle things. "There's a secret passage, because all castles have to have them," he chuckles, "and there's a dragon, too, even though it's just inflatable plastic."

Bruce notes that he's nearly finished with the place, even though an occasional funding shortfall tends to slow the process sometimes. "But I put in 350 sheets of half-inch chip-board not long ago, and I covered that with another 350 sheets of half-inch drywall. The place will be pretty solid when it's finished."

So solid, in fact, that an engineer saw fit to mention the fact that the place was a smidge overdone. "He said, 'I can tell you didn't have an engineer design the place, because it's way, way overengineered,'" Busboom chuckles, "and I told him I knew it was overengineered, and that I wanted it to last for generations. I wanted to make a statement for the future."

There's no denying that he's done that!

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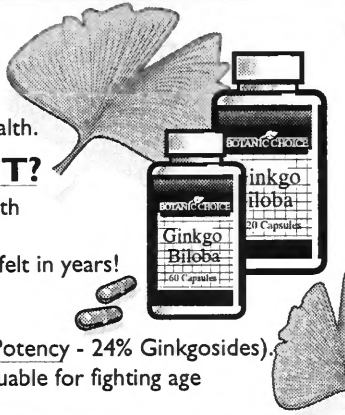
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Ralph Bromm takes his plow collecting seriously. He sees it as a way to preserve farming heritage. Right: he shows off an unusual model. Below: These are a few of the more than 100 plows he has.



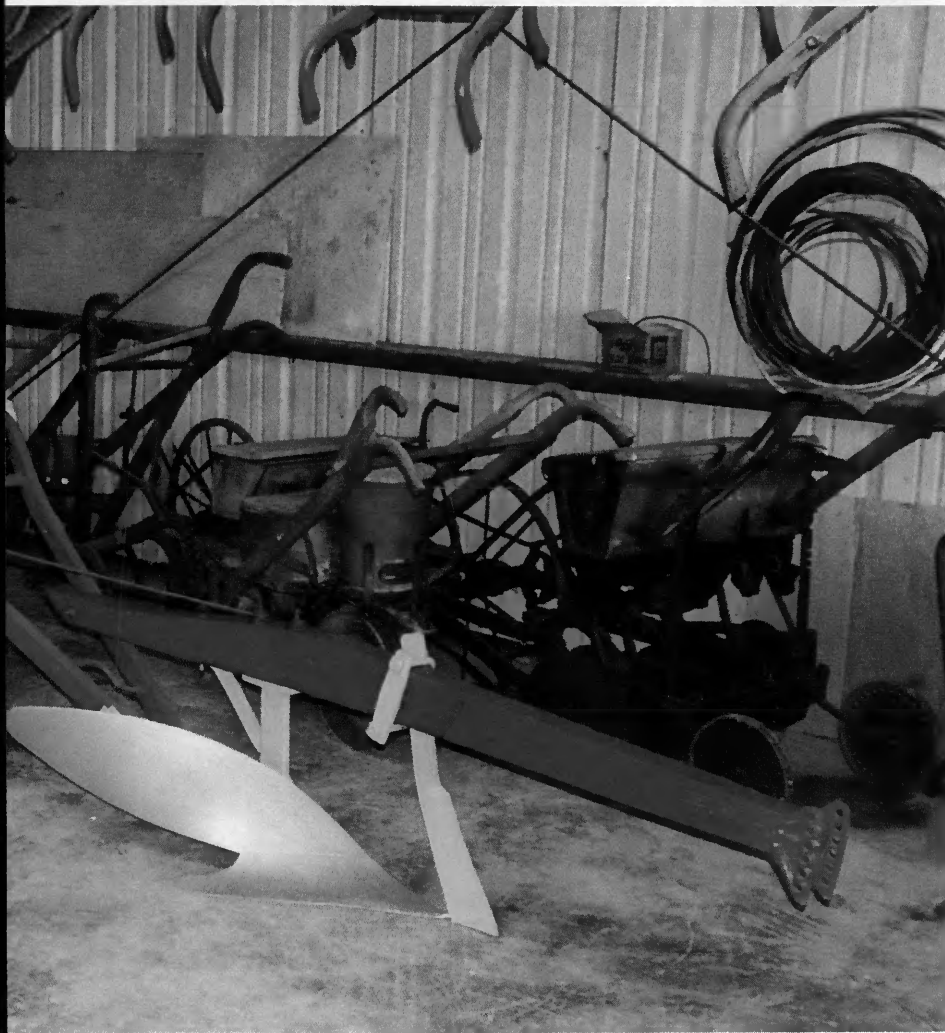
Plows are Ralph Bromm's fascination

When is a plow not a plow? Ralph Bromm of rural Dundas knows that a plow's not just a plow when it's a specialty plow. And he has all kinds: more than 100 of them, in fact.

To many of us who even notice such things, old horse-drawn plows all tend to look pretty much alike. There's a thing sticking out the front where you attach a horse, a beam, a blade down below, and a pair of wood handlebars that the driver works. Actually, there's more to many plows than that.

If you don't know that, Ralph, a Norris Electric Cooperative member, can set you straight in a hurry. He'll tell you that there were many, many different kinds of plows, and they were all made for different purposes.

Actually, his collection is not, strictly speaking, made up of



plows. It consists of mostly plows, but many other horse-drawn implements used to plant, cultivate, side dress and harvest all kinds of crops that are just about unheard of now.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves. Ralph, who has farmed for years, is about to retire. While he has found the old-time equipment fascinating, he's also watched while it has gradually disappeared from the scene.

"I've always been interested in these things," he says with a sweeping gesture over a trailer load of plows, "and I'm afraid they're vanishing. I think they're an important part of our heritage, and I hope to save as many of them as I can.

"I set out to obtain different kinds of equipment, and I restore it to like-new condition. Then I'll take it to various antique shows, so others can get a

look at some of the equipment used to farm from around the turn of the century and up into the years just following World War II. I'll go to the county fair this year and I expect to take a dozen or so pieces they've never seen before.

"I have a lot of regular plows," Ralph continues, "and one of them is a John Deere right-handed walking plow that cost \$14 when it was new. They stopped making them in 1940. I also have a P & O cane and corn planter, built by the company that later became International Harvester.

"I have a little three-row wheat planter from Charlotte, North Carolina. It was a neat little machine with two hoppers. One was for the seed, and the other was for fertilizer. There were individual levers to control the flow of seed and fertilizer, and everything was gear-driven

off a wheel in front of the unit," he says.

There are potato plows that lift up the soil as they go along, bringing potatoes up with them. A slatted platform behind the plow is shaken by a cam so the dirt falls back through, and the potatoes roll off and lie on top of the ground to be harvested easily. There is a Lanet sweet potato plow with a wide sweep and an Oliver slotted moldboard plow. Minneapolis-Moline is represented in the collection, and so is Vulcan. There is a Galarron root plow, and another that's missing a front strap, with no manufacturer's marking anywhere on it.

Other plows are reversible. A farmer could plow the length of a field, turn around at the end, reverse the plow, and plow back the other way, leaving each row with the turned earth on the same side. There are strong plows with long, narrow blades, used for subsoiling, and small plows to make small furrows. Still others build ridges.

"They had different kinds of plows for different things," Ralph says, "and I hope eventually to have a sample of each one. I've got a pretty good start now. I think it's important to save as much of our farming heritage as possible."

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Director team

(Continued from page 7)

nursing student. Our oldest son, Mitch, is a senior at Western Illinois University and is in Albania now, doing civic work with the Marine Corps Reserves. Our youngest son, Curt, is 12. We call him our second crop. He'll start at Macomb Junior-Senior High School this fall."

With the kids gone, for the most part, Rose Marie has several friends and neighbors who help out, as well as her mother-in-law. As might be expected, the busy season begins about in August, with the really busy season starting in late October and running right into the beginning of December.

The Lynns note that it's interesting being members of the boards of two separate entities, and that it's a learning experience, too.

"We've both been to different workshops and retreats that are put on by our state and national associations," Steve says, "and they're interesting and informative. There's some difference between the telephone business and electric utility operations, but there are a lot of similarities, too. Good business practices are good business practices, no matter what you're dealing in, and that's what we're learning."

They both note that being members of different boards and going to different workshops helps, because they can compare notes and learn from each other's meetings.

"We've been involved in various civic activities for as long as I can remember," Rose Marie says, "like 4-H and Girl Scouts and the like, and I was really proud and pleased when the members of McDonough Telephone Cooperative elected me to represent them."

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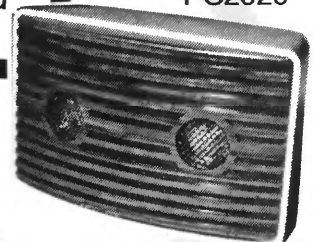
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- Dual Speakers
- Protects 1000 sq ft
- Powerful 148+db output
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Model PC2020



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Uses standard household current.

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OUR UNIT USES NO DANGEROUS POISONS OR DIRTY TRAPS!

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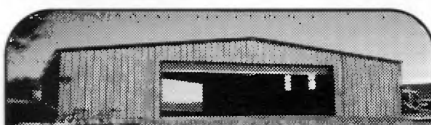
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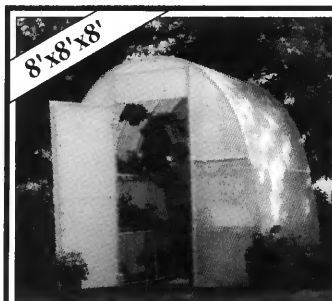
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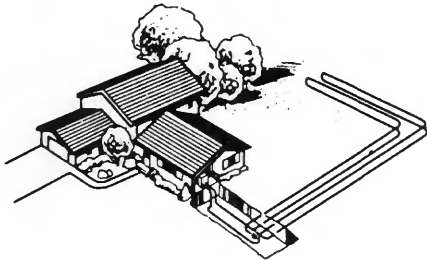
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