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COUNTRY LIVING

April 1996



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lighting**
see page 14

■ **Illinois
recipes**
see page 20

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About the cover:

For such a simple device as the milk stool, hundreds of variations have been devised, from the store-bought to the home-improvised. The variety is well represented in Jean Mehl's collection.

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Illinois COMMENTARY

By James J. Stukel, president, University of Illinois

It is fitting that the University of Illinois president contribute a column to *Illinois Country Living*. Actually, it reestablishes an old link with this magazine's publisher, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

How? The university played a pivotal role in the electrification of rural Illinois in the '20s.



James J. Stukel

Lehmann recognized electricity's potential. In 1924, to show farmers that electricity would save money and improve their lives, he set up a three-year experiment that brought power — and tremendous change — to 10 family farms in rural Tolono in Champaign County.

University Extension representatives helped spread the success story to other parts of the state. Once Illinois farmers were convinced, their organizations led the long fight in Congress to pass the Rural Electrification Act.

From the beginning, partnerships with communities and families have been the tradition of this great institution.

Today, our 128-year-old institution — with

That connection is worth examining today, as we seek new partnerships in research and education.

In 1921, Emil Wilhelm Lehmann came to the U. of I. as head of the then-new Department of Farm Mechanics.

three campuses and some 66,000 students of all backgrounds — stands proudly among the world's preeminent public universities.

As the 15th president of this "crown jewel" of higher education, my mission is to chart a course into the new millennium. I intend to expand linkages with communities, enhance undergraduate education, operate more efficiently, and sustain our high-quality research.

In my first months on the job, I have crisscrossed Illinois and listened to the voices of the people. Taxpayers, alumni, government officials and others stress accountability. My task is to ensure that we serve the public interest, and to let people know what valuable assets they have in our three campuses.

In his Tolono project, Lehmann learned that he alone could not convince farmers to gamble on electricity. He needed the help of the farm families in his experiment to persuade others of electricity's advantages for farms and homes.

I seek support, too, and I hope historians a century from now will say we took the right course at the right time. I intend to update our land-grant mission to meet societal challenges that did not exist in the early years, and to set new priorities.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) has launched "Partnership Illinois," a project to reinvigorate its commitment to our land-grant heritage. Our Cooperative Extension Service had more than 1.4 million contacts with Illinois citizens last year, helping improve the quality of their lives. And UIUC engineering programs offer problem-solving technology to manufacturers throughout Illinois.

The National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) in Urbana has used its unique expertise to open the Internet to the entire country. Working with NCSA, my office has made Mosaic — an easy-to-use "computer doorway" to the World Wide Web and the

(continued on page 17)

James J. Stukel became U. of I. president in August 1995, having previously been chancellor of its Chicago campus. His professorial career began in 1968; he taught at both the Chicago and Urbana-Champaign campuses.

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30	10.95	9.70	11.50	11.40	18.75	18.55	35.42	35.00
31	11.05	9.85	11.50	11.40	18.75	18.55	35.42	35.00
32	11.15	10.10	11.50	11.40	18.75	18.55	35.42	35.00
33	11.25	10.35	11.50	11.40	18.75	18.55	35.42	35.00
34	11.50	10.65	11.50	11.40	18.75	18.55	35.42	35.00
35	11.80	11.00	11.50	11.40	18.75	18.55	35.42	35.00
36	10.21	11.40	11.80	11.60	19.38	18.96	36.67	35.84
37	10.63	11.80	10.25	11.80	20.42	19.59	38.75	37.09
38	11.13	10.21	10.67	10.09	21.46	20.21	40.84	38.34
39	11.71	10.63	11.17	10.59	22.71	21.46	43.34	40.84
40	12.34	11.05	11.67	11.34	23.96	23.13	45.84	44.17
41	13.00	11.46	12.25	11.67	25.21	23.96	48.34	45.84
42	13.71	11.88	12.84	12.25	26.25	25.21	50.42	48.34
43	14.50	12.30	13.59	12.67	27.71	26.25	53.34	50.42
44	15.34	12.80	14.25	13.00	29.38	27.30	56.67	52.50
45	16.25	13.34	15.34	13.34	31.05	28.13	60.00	54.17
46	17.21	13.96	16.50	14.00	33.13	28.96	64.17	55.84
47	18.21	14.63	17.84	14.67	35.00	30.00	67.92	57.92

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49	20.46	16.09	20.84	16.92	40.00	32.71	77.92	63.34
50	21.67	16.88	22.75	18.34	42.92	33.96	83.75	65.84
51	22.92	17.71	24.67	19.67	45.84	36.46	89.59	70.84
52	24.17	18.63	26.92	21.00	49.17	39.38	96.25	76.67
53	25.50	19.59	29.34	22.67	52.50	42.30	102.92	82.50
54	27.00	20.55	31.84	24.42	56.67	45.42	111.25	88.75
55	28.75	21.46	34.92	26.25	61.88	48.75	121.67	95.42
56	30.55	22.21	38.34	28.25	67.30	52.30	132.50	102.50
57	32.38	22.80	41.67	30.34	73.55	56.46	145.00	110.84
58	34.50	23.46	45.50	32.75	80.21	61.46	158.34	120.84
59	37.09	24.46	50.09	35.34	88.34	67.30	174.59	132.50
60	40.42	26.05	55.67	37.84	97.71	73.55	193.34	145.00
61	44.50	28.17	62.50	40.34	109.17	80.42	216.25	158.75
62	49.21	30.71	70.34	43.34	121.46	88.75	240.84	175.42
63	54.50	33.67	78.75	46.92	135.42	98.55	268.75	195.00
64	60.34	37.05	87.75	51.34	150.84	109.80	299.59	217.50
65	66.67	40.84	96.84	56.17	168.13	121.88	334.17	241.67
66	73.00	44.96	106.17	60.84	187.30	131.46	372.50	260.84
67	79.34	49.42	115.17	65.50	207.30	141.46	412.50	280.84
68	86.46	54.38	125.17	69.67	229.59	152.09	457.09	302.09
69	95.17	59.92	137.17	72.92	257.30	161.67	512.50	321.25
70	106.25	66.25	152.92	75.42	292.50	170.42	582.92	338.75
71	—	—	171.34	82.42	332.92	187.30	663.75	372.50
72	—	—	192.09	91.00	378.75	207.92	755.42	413.75
73	—	—	215.50	102.09	430.21	234.38	858.34	466.67
74	—	—	241.42	115.75	486.88	266.46	971.67	530.84
75	—	—	269.92	131.42	549.17	302.92	1096.25	603.75

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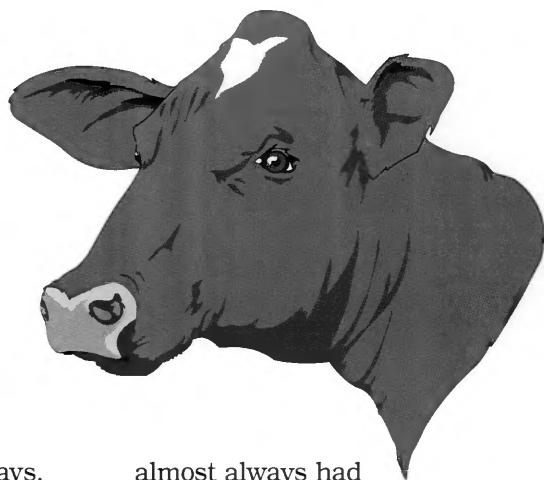
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Two-hundred Milking stools - and counting



Jean Mehl with some of the 200 milk stools she has accumulated.

Just about the time you think you've heard of every possible item that might be of interest to a collector, you learn about something new. The world is full of stamp and coin collectors, of course, and while any number of people collect everything from paperweights to bottle caps, Jean Mehl has a collection like few others have: she collects old milking stools!

The Corn Belt Electric member, who lives near Stanford, has some 200 milking stools of various shapes and sizes.

Back when family farms produced a little of everything,

Jean says, milking was largely done by hand. A farm might have corn as its main crop, and there'd be hogs for sale and for pork for the family. As likely as not, there'd be a flock of chickens for eggs and Sunday dinners. Cows provided milk for the family, as well as for sale to a nearby dairy. Of course, there were farms that specialized in milking dairy

cows.

"Families might have had any number of cows," she says, "and they were partly limited by how many cows they could get milked by hand. Milking was often a family affair. Each person who milked cows often had his or her own milking stool, and it's surprising how many variations there were on such a simple thing."

Many milking stools were simple one-legged devices that just enabled the milker to keep balanced as they half-squatted next to the cow. Others had more legs, and the multi-legged stools

almost always had three legs, rather than two, four or any other number.

Jean was at a farm sale, on the verge of buying a small lot of stuff. The auctioneer, eager to clinch a sale, kept tossing in bits and pieces "to sweeten the pot," as she puts it. "When he threw in the milking stool, I bought the lot."

But she didn't buy it to start a collection. In fact, she can't cite a specific reason that the casual addition of a simple wooden milking stool tipped the balance, prompting her to up her bid one more time.

"But I had one," she says, "and I got the one my husband, Harry, used when he was milking cows. I didn't know any better, so I painted it Prussian blue. I've since learned that painting them ruins the value, so I don't do that any more!"

Relatives gave her a couple more stools. With four, she had the basis for a collection, and finally got started in serious collecting. "It's gotten now to where friends and neighbors will look for them at farm sales for me," Jean says, "and my kids will give them to me as gifts, when they can find them."

"They're interesting," she says, "because it's amazing how many variations there are on a simple little device that's basically a T-shaped item."

"Some are just that," she adds, "and they're no more than two pieces of wood nailed together. But some have a brace on each side, while others are

braced both from side to side and from front to back. Others are more fancy. I have one that has a maple seat and the legs look like they're made of hickory. There are other examples, too. I have one that's made out of either a table leg or a porch post, I can't tell which. Some of the three-legged stools are smoothed and shaped, while others are still pretty basic."

Later on, more elaborate stools came into use, and they looked a bit like a cobbler's bench, with a little shelf that was designed to keep the milk pail up off the sloppy floor. Such stools were called "sanitary stools," she notes.

As time went by, sanitation became more important, and the federal government stepped in. Different kinds of milk were put into different classifications, and a dairyman who hoped to sell Grade A milk had to give up his wooden milking stool and get a metal one, which would be easier to keep clean.

"They started coming into use in about the 1920s," Jean says, "and a lot of companies started making them. I have two that were given to me by distant relatives who owned the Hohulin Fence Factory in Goodfield, Illinois. They made milking stools that were sold in the old Sears & Roebuck catalogs back in the 1920s and '30s. I have a 1929 catalog page that offered them for sale for 60 cents, postpaid."

But many farmers, faced with the prospect of having to get a metal stool and reluctant to cave in to raving extravagance, decided to build their own. "I have one that's made from the lid from a corn planter, which someone added angle iron legs to, and another was made from a Model T Ford brake drum. Still another was made from a milk can," Jean says, "and another interesting one was built from the top of an old wooden washing machine, with a flange from some

piece of farm equipment, and a couple of other scraps."

The small farm was the backbone of American agriculture for decades, and nearly all had cows.

Even some town people had small barns behind the house for a source of fresh milk.

And nearly everyone had a milking stool, too. In addition to Illinois, Jean has found stools from Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington, as well as Canada and Mexico.

"The one from Mexico is interesting," she relates, "because someone took a bent nail and decorated it with a brand of some kind. But when the farmer found out it was for a collection, he said it was too humble. He added a couple of braces that don't really fit, so it's not as desirable a collector's item as it might have been."

As she got a worthwhile collection going, Jean decided to take them to the State Fair in 1988. She wanted to enter them in the antiques category, but the judges didn't let her. "I set up a little display in the dairy barn," she says.

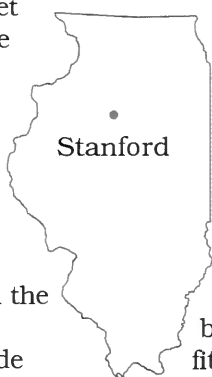
Since then, she has taken to displaying the stools at schools, senior centers and at club meetings of one kind or another.



Tractor seats and old planks are among pieces that have gone into homemade milking stools.

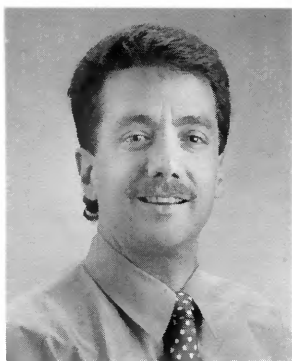
"It's really enjoyable to show them to senior citizens' groups," she says, "because they always appreciate it so much. Most of them can remember milking cows. They all have a story to tell about milking stools and cows."

Even with some 200 milking stools, Jean is always in the market for more, and as world travelers, the Mehls hope to find some in future travels. "We've been to China and Pakistan," she says, "but the language barrier made things difficult. A lot of the milking is done by women, and they don't use stools. They just squat beside the cow. Even so, we hope to add to the collection when we visit our friends and relatives in Germany and Switzerland."



Your YARD AND GARDEN

Landscaping basics DO's and DON'Ts



Dave Robson

April is the start of the gardening season, the time to physically start working the soil, planting trees and shrubs, and thinking about fertilizing the lawn. Hoes, rakes, spades, shovels, mowers and tillers are cleaned and sharpened in anticipation of the months ahead.

It's also time to take some of the landscaping concepts and incorporate them into the surroundings. Landscaping concepts aren't hard and fast rules. Think of them as partially set concrete — there is some foundation, but still some give and take.

We're going to take a look at the front yard or the so-called "public" area. This is what people see traveling down the road or street. Landscaping is more formal. The yard really isn't used for recreation or relaxing.

Below are some of the common rules, and some of the common mistakes. Take no offense if you are "breaking" one of the following rules. Keep an open mind and consider the reasoning and alternatives.

- Soften the edges of buildings. This is really the basic reason for landscaping.

The human eye enjoys curves more than straight lines. There are lots of analogies other than landscaping, some of them pretty darn close to being sexist. But it's a known psychological phenomenon — curves are more pleasing than straight lines.

It has to do with rhythm,

which was mentioned in previous columns. Curves indicate movement, and movement is rhythm. There are degrees of curves and thus degrees of rhythm.

Buildings are essentially vertical and horizontal lines. Plants are used to soften these lines, giving the landscape more of a natural appearance. However...

- Avoid the so-called "bird dog" landscaping approach. This is one of the common landscaping practices as we try to emulate our neighbors who we think know more about landscaping than we do, and actually don't.

Bird dog landscaping is setting tall, pyramidal forms (junipers, pines, firs, spruces and some yews) at the corners of the house and low growing plants (again, probably yews) in the front. What you end up with are plants that are "pointers" and "setters."

Pyramidal forms have strong vertical lines. When the goal is to soften the corners of the house with rounded forms, why would you use a pyramidal shape? A better choice would be to go with a small rounded tree such as a crabapple or a large rounded shrub such as a viburnum at the corner of the house. Of course this requires you to...

- Consider the "front door - eaves" rule.

Find the bottom center of the front door. Draw an imaginary line two-thirds to three-quarters up the side of the house to the eaves.

When plants are mature, they shouldn't be above this imaginary line. For trees, we view the center of the crown, canopy or limbs as
(continued on page 17)



David Robson is an Extension Educator, Horticulture, at the Springfield Extension Center, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois. You can write to Robson in care of Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Telephone: 217-782-6515. E-Mail: robsond@idea.ag.uiuc.edu

See Why... Vinegar Is More Than Just Sour Apples

CHICAGO (Special) - Research from centers around the world report what ancient healers knew thousands of years ago -- *that vinegar is the wonder elixir for a healthier life.*

Since ancient times a daily dose of apple cider vinegar has been taken to control appetite and maintain well-being.

Even Japan's feared Samurai warriors of years ago relied on a vinegar tonic for strength and power. A tonic you can make in your kitchen.

Today, countless reports and scientific studies praise the curative and preventive powers of vinegar as part of our daily diet.

And now after long research, for the first time, over 300 vinegar super-healing home remedies and recipes have been gathered by noted natural health author Emily Thacker in her exclusive new book, *"The Vinegar Book."*

It's the most complete collection since the discovery of vinegar 10,000 years ago.

You'll learn how to control your appetite to lose weight with a meal-time vinegar cocktail.

Find trusted home remedies to beat colds, ease painful arthritis, and other joint diseases.

Vinegar is nature's own drug-free anti-inflammatory.

Scientific tests show organic vinegar is a natural storehouse of vitamins and minerals, including beta carotene -- over 93 different components -- to fight what ails you.

More than 70 different research studies have verified that *beta carotene lowers the risk of getting cancer and it boosts the body's immune system.*

When fresh apples are allowed to ferment organically, the result is a vinegar that contains natural sediment with pectin, trace minerals, beneficial bacteria and enzymes.

And pectin helps your body reduce cholesterol levels to lower the risk of cardiovascular disease.

"The Vinegar Book" will amaze and delight you with 308 natural ways to enrich your personal life and home. Time-honored folk remedies that show step by step how to mix vinegar with other kitchen staples to:

- Improve your metabolism
- Aid digestion
- Help lower cholesterol
- Uses for middle ear problems
- Condition problem skin
- Fight age and liver spots
- Gain soft, radiant skin
- Amazing hair treatments
- Relieve nighttime leg cramps
- Soothe sprained muscles
- Fight osteoporosis with calcium
- Help headaches fade away
- Corn and callus relief
- Aid to maintain health
- Skin rashes, athlete's foot
- Relieve insect bites
- Remedy for urinary problems
- Use for coughs, colds
- Destroy bacteria in foods
- Heart and circulatory problems
- Fight high blood pressure

And the above is only a brief sample of the 308 uses for vinegar you'll learn about.

You'll know how grandma's recipe for her famous pie crust depends on a spoonful of apple cider vinegar.

How a combination of vinegar and fruit juices relieves arthritis symptoms and other aches and pains.

Try a delicious low calorie, calcium-and-iron rich chicken soup and vinegar recipe.

Combine your favorite herbs with vinegar to create tenderizers, mild laxatives, mouth washes, tension relievers, and mouthwatering tasty salad dressings and more.

Of course, we all know the cleaning power of vinegar. But Emily Thacker's research has uncovered a host of new moneysaving ways to keep your home, laundry, clothing, brass, copper and other

possessions sparkling clean. And with less effort.

You'll also delight in making and bottling your own special vinegars. It's so simple to follow Emily's recipes. Homemade vinegars make such wonderful gifts. You could even end up selling your creations to food and gift shops.

And get ready for many compliments when the family and friends bite into those delicious pickle treats you make.

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Today's TECHNOLOGY AND YOU

Chilly or
stuffy:
Your misfit
room

Q: *My daughter's bedroom and our living room always seem chilly in the winter and hot and stuffy in the summer. What can we do to make all the rooms comfortable without pushing up our utility bills?—A.K.*

A: Almost every house with a central heating and air-conditioning system has a room or two that are never comfortable. Most people waste energy by setting their thermostats higher (or lower in the summer) to compensate.

There are several products to increase the amount of heated or cooled air going to each room—inexpensive do-it-yourself booster fans (in-duct and register mounted) and register deflectors for better air distribution.

Before purchasing a booster fan, make sure that the dampers in the ducts leading to the problem rooms are fully open. The open setting is usually with the handle parallel to the duct, but not always. Check the force of the air flow from the room register to determine the open position.

A small 250 cfm (cubic feet per minute) register booster fan is effective year-round. The enclosed fan is placed over any floor register or it can mount to a wall register. It plugs into a common 120-volt outlet and uses only 30 watts of electricity (costs about 2 cents per day.)

A built-in sensor and electronic brain measure and compare the

temperature of the furnace air and the room air. By turning an adjustment screw, you set the room temperature at which the booster fan automatically comes on.

When it senses the room is too chilly in the winter, the booster fan starts when the furnace comes on. When air-conditioning, set the switch to the cooling mode. If the room does not cool down, the fan starts automatically.

There are several do-it-yourself designs of in-duct booster fans to fit round or rectangular ducts. The round fans come mounted in a short piece of duct. Just cut out a section of the existing duct and slip the fan in place.

These are often wired directly to the furnace blower so they come on when it starts. Efficient variable-speed duct fans can be wired to a thermostat or humidistat to automatically control the speed for precise comfort control.

Improving air distribution with an inexpensive register deflector often helps. One design, Extend-a-vent, is flat and can extend out three feet from the register. This is ideal for under a sofa or under drapery that blocks the register's air flow.

Another deflector design, especially for air-conditioning, is tapered at the outlet. This increases the cool air velocity to force it upward. Complete do-it-yourself kits to add another heating duct are also available.

Write for Utility Bills Update No. 811 listing manufacturers of automatic register and in-duct booster fans, register deflectors, add-a-duct kits, cfm air flow capacities, price, and installation/operating instructions. Please include \$2.00 (with checks payable to Jim Dulley) and a business-size SASE, sent to Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708.

James Dulley is a mechanical engineer who writes on a wide variety of energy and utility topics. His column appears in a large number of daily newspapers.

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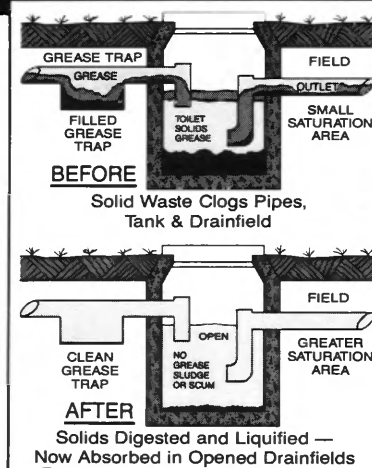
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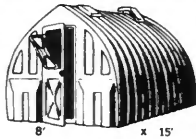
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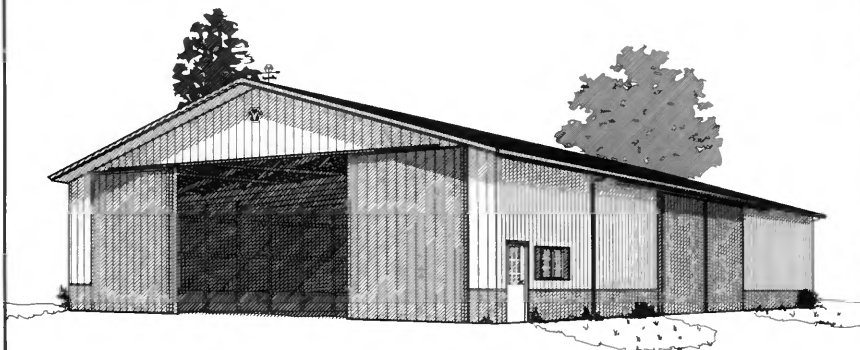
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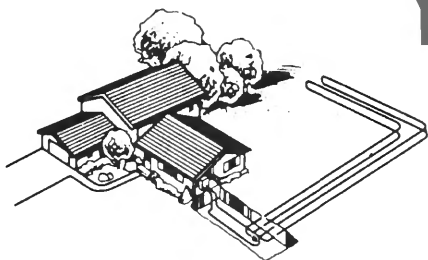
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Bill Campbell

Let's take a look at your house. You have worked hard to maintain it and make it a pleasant sight inside and out. Landscape plans with paths, plants, and perhaps deck plans are being formed or are in various stages of completion. Stop for a minute and consider how your home and yard will look as night approaches this summer. Will there be areas that need a small amount of light to improve safety and security in your yard? Are there special landscape designs or certain plantings you wish to highlight for all to see and enjoy even after the sun goes down? You might want to consider using some form of landscape lighting to enhance the beauty and security of your home and yard.

There are several types of lighting available. The standard 120-volt lighting tends to be best suited for bright security applications and is often considered too harsh for most landscape service. Harshness can be controlled by using low wattage bulbs in well-planned systems. Poor planning results in areas that are too bright and contrasting deep shadows that may raise safety and security concerns.

This type of lighting circuit must be installed according to National Electric Code wiring practices. As I said last month, KNOW THE CODE before you attempt installation of these circuits to ensure the safety of

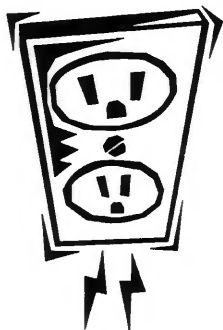
all who might come in contact with these fixtures or wiring. Another problem with this type of landscape lighting is how difficult it is to modify once installed. All insulation materials and fixtures need to be approved for ground contact or ultraviolet exposure, depending on the application.

A second type of outdoor lighting is the "low voltage" variety. This popular type of lighting uses a transformer to lower 120-volt current to 12 volts. The lower voltage provides light that is less severe and more adaptable than the 120-volt systems. Low voltage lighting is also easy to install, since wiring codes are generally not as stringent for these systems.

Installation consists of inserting light bases in the soil and stringing low voltage cable from fixture to fixture. This cable is then attached to the transformer power pack, which may contain a timer, photo switch or motion detector switch. Transformer packs are generally plugged in to a standard 120-volt grounded outlet. Once your layout is perfected, the cable is buried or covered with landscape materials.

The popularity of this type of lighting has caused manufacturers to develop a variety of fixtures to meet your needs. The traditional tier lights are used for walks, paths, steps and landscape highlights, while newer designs like edge lights, flare lights, well lights and brick lights allow you to tailor your system to meet your specific needs. These systems are available from most hardware and do-it-yourself stores. System suppliers offer design booklets to aid you in planning your layout.

The final type of lighting system offers the greatest flexibility and
(continued on page 18)



Bill Campbell is an Extension Educator, Farm Systems, at the Springfield Extension Center, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois. You can write to Campbell in care of Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Telephone: 217-782-6515. E-Mail: campbellw@idea.ag.uiuc.edu

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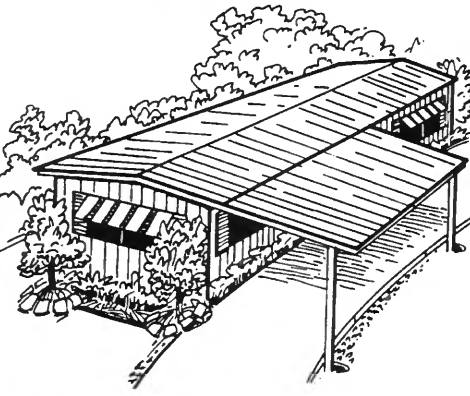
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Illinois Commentary

(Continued from page 4)

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Chicago (UIC) is winning kudos for academic quality and its Great Cities initiative, which focuses UIC's teaching, research and public service on improving the quality of life in metropolitan areas.

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I'd like to hear from you.

Your Yard and Garden

(Continued from page 8)

the top part, not really the top branch. For shrubs, we consider the top of them.

This doesn't prevent you from using "setters." It allows you to vary the heights of the plants. You can use some yews as hedges, but can add other plants as well. Remember, though...

- Keep it as natural looking as possible. The landscape shouldn't call dramatic attention to itself. The land, house and plantings should appear as one. This is difficult to comprehend at times.

Extend some plantings out from the corners. You might put some groundcovers or low growing shrubs under a tree or stemmy shrub at the corner of the house. The object is to keep the eye moving around or away from the house. Extending a row of yews past the corner softens the edges.

There is no written law that evergreens have to be used in the front. We tend to choose them because they provide some greenery throughout the year. Consider incorporating some small deciduous shrubs for variety, but...

- Don't cover the foundation entirely. Sometimes leaving

gaps in the landscape so people can see the foundation gives the landscape a more informal approach. More importantly, it avoids the "floating" house syndrome. The foundation ties the house to the ground; blocking it completely may make the house appear on air.

Usually, not blocking the view of the front steps is enough to keep the house tied down. Stand back in the yard and look at the house. If it floats, consider removing or replacing some plants. If the front steps are old and in poor condition, consider replacing them. The same applies with sidewalks.

Another key aspect of naturalizing the surroundings is the placement of rocks and boulders. Neither is found lying on top of the ground by itself. Usually, large stones are partially buried and in groups. Try to do the same. It may mean digging a shallow hole and backfilling, but the look is more pleasing. Whatever you do...

- Don't use white rock in the landscape around plants. Ever. I'd like to say avoid it altogether, but that's difficult considering rural roads and driveways.

White is the most

dominant color. Close your eyes in a restaurant sometime and then open them. The first color you see is white, whether it's the napkins, tablecloths, plates, clothes or food.

Is the point of landscaping to see white rock under plants? Hardly. We don't want to call attention to the rock. Besides, the white rock usually starts altering the soil pH, leading to chlorosis and death of plants.

Limestone is relatively cheap and easy to come by, hence the reason we use it. Marble chips are just a fancy form of limestone and eventually do the exact same thing.

If you are going to use rock, use river rock or pea gravel. The grays and browns of the rock are more natural looking and less likely to affect the soil chemistry. The cost isn't that much more for landscaping purposes.

- Before you start digging, locate all gas, electric, water, sewer, septic, telephone and other utility lines. That may mean calling JULIE at 1-800-892-0123 to get the utilities to locate the lines for you. Don't rely on your memory.

(Next month, some more rules, and landscaping the backyard or private areas.)

Today's Technology

(Continued from page 10)

Q: I'm tired of my old shower curtain and I am considering installing a glass shower door instead. Is there any advantage of an expensive

shower door over a curtain?—H.J.

A: There actually is an energy advantage of a shower door instead of a curtain, especially if you use an energy saving low-flow shower head. The water droplets from a low flow shower head are very fine. They

can cool down before they reach your body, sometimes requiring hotter water.

A shower door seals out more air currents (caused by the warm water) than a curtain does. This allows you to shower in cooler water and save energy.

Safety Around your Home

(Continued from page 14)

ease of installation, but is also the most expensive per fixture. This system uses a photo-voltaic (PV) cell and batteries on each fixture, so no wiring is required. The PV cell converts solar energy to electric current and charges the battery during the daylight hours. A photo switch turns the light on at dusk, and it stays lit until the battery is drained of charge. The amount of time the light stays on depends on the

intensity and duration of sunlight on the PV cell during the day.

PV fixtures work well if you want to light areas that are remote from power sources, or if you want to be able to move the fixture often during the season. Moves are as simple as pulling the fixture out of the ground or base and remounting it where it is needed. No wires, no digging, no mess. However, they do not perform well in shaded areas. The cost is \$50-\$100 per fixture depending on the quality of the battery and the

type of switch used to turn on the light. Photo switches and motion detectors are commonly used.

Your outdoor lighting needs can be met with one or a combination of the systems described. With a little instruction or self-study, you should be able to install any type of system you want. Just be sure to do it with safety in mind. Landscape professionals can be consulted for lighting tips to help bring out the beauty and security of your home as you complete your latest plans.

Illinois FUNNYBONE

- Three farmers were sitting on the bank fishing when they struck up a conversation about what they would do if they won a million dollars. The first farmer said, "I would travel all over the world." The second said, "Oh, I would just sit here and fish every day." The third said, "Well, I would just keep on farming 'til it was all gone!"

Mary Solich
Waterloo

- A farmer who was not a very nice and well liked person in his community died suddenly and found himself before the devil. The devil had set the heat at 1,000 degrees and said, "How do you like that, Mr. Farmer?" The farmer

replied, "I can take that. I have shocked oats in the hottest summers." The devil in response turned the heat to 2,000 degrees and said, "How about that, Mr. Farmer?" The farmer, not a bit upset, said, "I have bailed hay in the hottest temperatures of summer. This is nothing." The devil, getting angrier, dropped the temperature to 50 degrees below zero. The shivering farmer said, "Did the Cubs win the pennant?"

Ken Bouxsein
Granville

- One evening at the dinner table, I was cleaning the food from my upper and lower plates.

This particular evening my grandson was visiting, and he was watching me when I took out my lower plate first, to clean it. Then I took out my upper plate to clean it. My grandson said, "Grandpaw, does your tongue come out next?"

Tony Wysocki
Findlay



Is there a funny story in YOUR family (that's proper for a family magazine)? Illinois Country Living pays \$5.00 for each joke chosen for Illinois Funnybone. Send your humorous story to Illinois Funnybone, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708-3787.

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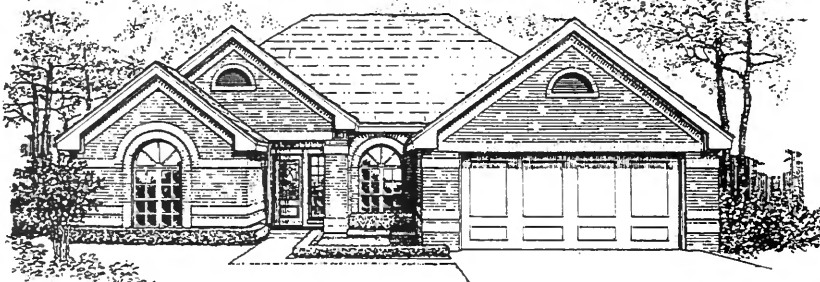
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Our cookbooks this month are from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marion, the Raleigh Historical Society in Raleigh and the RLDS Church in Flora. The 160-page Redeemer offering costs \$10, plus \$2.50 for shipping. It's available from the church at 1500 E. DeYoung, Marion, IL 62959. You can call Rosalee Bayless at (618) 996-2669 for more information. The Raleigh book has 70 pages and costs \$6, plus \$1.70 for postage. It's available from the Raleigh Historical Society, c/o Peggy Peyton, P.O. Box 82, Raleigh, IL 62977. Her phone number is (618) 268-4137. The RLDS book has 44 pages and is available from Donald Bunnell, 901 Shadwell, Flora, IL 62839, for \$6.50 postpaid. His phone number is (618) 662-4193. If you notice style differences in the recipes we print, it's because we're trying to keep them as similar as possible to those in the books, so you can get an idea how easy or difficult the ingredient lists and instructions are.

Our Redeemer Lutheran

Creamy Brats and Taters

1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup shredded carrot
1 tablespoon margarine
2 cups sliced potatoes
1 1/2 cup chicken broth
1 cup milk

In a 3-quart saucepan, cook onion and carrot in butter until onion is tender. Add potatoes and broth. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Cover and simmer 20 minutes or until potatoes are tender. With a fork or potato masher, slightly mash potatoes. Stir milk into flour; add to potato mixture along with bratwurst, peas and hot pepper sauce. Cook and stir until bubbly. Cook and stir 1 minute more. Makes 4 servings.

Rosalee Bayless

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
12 ounces fully-cooked bratwurst, sliced
1/2 cup frozen peas
Dash of bottled hot pepper sauce

Ham and Cheese Puffs

1 cup water
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard

Kristen Sprenger

1 (4 ounces) package, sliced cooked ham, diced
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
4 eggs

About 45 minutes before serving, grease a large cookie sheet. In a 2-quart saucepan, over medium heat, heat water and butter until butter melts and mixture boils. Remove saucepan from heat; with wooden spoon, vigorously stir in flour and mustard all at once until mixture forms ball and leaves sides of pan. Preheat oven to 375°. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition until mixture is smooth; beat in ham and cheese (cheese does not need to melt). Drop batter, using a large spoon and pushing off with rubber spatula, onto prepared cookie sheet into 12 mounds about 2 inches apart, swirling top of each. Bake 35 minutes or until golden. Serve as bread with soup, salad or main course. Makes 12 puffs at 145 calories per puff.

Broccoli Salad

3 cups broccoli flowerets
1 cup Spanish peanuts or sunflower seeds
1 cup raisins

Clara Mifflin

2 green onions, chopped
1 cup salad dressing
1 tablespoon sugar
1 tablespoon vinegar

Toss broccoli, peanuts, raisins and green onions. Combine other ingredients; stir into broccoli mixture. Garnish with more peanuts or green onions. Makes 8 servings.
Very interesting flavor and good.

Party Mashed Potatoes

12 servings instant potatoes
8 ounces cream cheese
1 cup sour cream
garlic salt, to taste (optional)

Rosalee Bayless

1/2 small onion, finely chopped (optional)
paprika
butter

Prepare potatoes according to directions on box. Add cream cheese, sour cream, onions and garlic salt (optional). Put potatoes in greased 9x13-inch pan. Dot with butter and sprinkle with paprika. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 30 minutes.

Note: Can be prepared ahead and kept in refrigerator until time to bake; increase baking time, if refrigerated.

French Pecans

1 egg white
3/4 cup light brown sugar
4 cups pecans

Lottie Taake

2 tablespoons self-rising flour*
1 teaspoon vanilla

*May add a pinch of baking powder to all-purpose flour. Beat egg white until stiff. Add sugar, flour and vanilla. Beat well. Stir in pecans. Lay pecans, one at a time, on a greased cookie sheet. Bake in a 250° oven for 30 minutes. Turn off oven and keep pecans in oven until cold.



Lemon Cookies

1 package lemon cake mix
2 cups Cool Whip®

Connie Ashe, Meredith Boone

1 egg
1/2 cup powdered sugar

Combine cake mix, whipped topping and egg. Use a teaspoon to drop batter in powdered sugar, roll into a ball. Bake at 350° for 8 to 10 minutes, or until done.

Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Whole Wheat Crescent Rolls

1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
1 1/2 cups white flour
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
3 tablespoons yeast (or 3 pkgs.)

4 tablespoons firmly packed
brown sugar
2 1/2 cups hot water

Mix all dry ingredients together. Add oil and water. Mix together (will be sticky). Oil bowl and let rise until doubled. Add enough flour to handle. Knead 1 minute. Roll out in a circle and cut into 12 pizza-shaped pieces. Roll up each piece starting with the large end. Place on greased cookie sheet and let rise until doubled. Bake approximately 20 minutes at 350° or until golden brown. Yield: 12 large rolls.



Angle Burkett

Apple Dumplings

Recipe for 6 dumplings.
Pastry:
2 cups flour
1 cup Crisco

1/2 cup water
1 tsp. salt

Preparation of dumplings: Peel and core apples.

Mix together 1/2 cup sugar and 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon. Roll pastry into circle large enough to cover apple. Place apple on pastry and fill cavity with mixture of sugar and cinnamon and add slice of butter on filled apple. Wrap the dough around apple. Repeat for the rest of apples.

Boil together for 3 minutes:

1 cup sugar
2 cups water
Place apples in baking dish. Pour hot syrup around them. Bake at 425° for 40 to 50 minutes.

3 tablespoons butter
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon.

Peanut Candy

1 cup white sugar
1 cup white syrup
Boil 1 minute. Add and mix:
1 cup peanut butter
Stir In:
4 cups corn flakes
2 cups rice krispies

1/2 stick butter or oleo

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 cup salted peanuts

Spread mixture on cookie sheet, cool and cut into squares.

Shirley Mason

Chicken Tetrazzini

1 large chicken, cover with water and cook, with some carrots, celery and onion. Cool and debone, cut into cubes. (Keep broth from the chicken and cook the spaghetti in it).

1 pound spaghetti, cooked in broth until tender.

Saute in 3 tablespoons oleo:

1 1/2 cups chopped celery
1 cup chopped onion

2 large green peppers

Add to chicken and spaghetti: the celery, green peppers and onions.

Add:

1 can sliced mushrooms
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 1/2 teaspoons Greek seasoning
1 1/2 pounds cubed Velveeta® cheese

1 can pimentos, chopped
1 can mushroom soup,
diluted with 1 can milk
salt and pepper to taste

Pour into baking pan, bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. (I put both cans of mushroom soup and the one can of milk in a saucepan and heat until mixed well, then put the Velveeta cubes in it until melted, then mix it with the spaghetti, chick and green peppers, celery and onion mixture).

Mary Bunnell

Yellow Summer Squash

6 cups yellow squash, sliced
1/4 cup chopped onion
1 cup sour cream
1 cup shredded carrots

1 can cream of chicken soup
1 8 ounce package herb
seasoned stuffing mix
1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted

Cook squash in salted water for 5 minutes, drain. Combine soup and sour cream. Stir in carrots and onions and fold into squash. Combine stuffing mix with melted butter and spread half on bottom of 12x7- 1/2x2" pan. Spoon vegetables on top and sprinkle with remaining stuffing mix. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

Mary Bunnell

Raleigh Historical Society

Spaghetti Salad

1 1/2 to 2 lb. spaghetti
1 (16 ounce) french or italian dressing
1/2 to 1 (2.75 ounce) bottle
McCormick Salad Supreme®

1 large onion
1 green pepper
1 tomato, seeds removed

Cook spaghetti until done. Rinse, drain and cool. Chop onion, green pepper and tomato. Add Salad Supreme. Blend ingredients together; mix well and chill. Makes large amount. Serve with french bread.

Jenny Jones

Smokey Mountain Fruit Cobbler

1 stick oleo
1/2 cup Crisco®

1/3 cup milk
1 1/2 cup self-rising flour

Melt oleo in a 9x13-inch pan. Let cool. Mix flour and Crisco® to look like cornmeal. Add milk. Roll half of dough and cut into strips. Lay in melted oleo. Layer fruit on top. Roll rest of dough, cut into strips and lay on fruit.

Bring to boil:

2 cups water
2 cups sugar
Pour over fruit and dough. Bake at 350° for 1 hour.

Francis Minner Webb

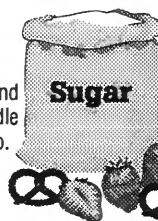
Better Than Sex Cake

1 yellow box cake
2 cups sugar
1 large can crushed pineapple
1 (3 ounce) box instant vanilla
pudding

1 (8 ounce) carton Cool Whip®
1 cup pecans
1 cup coconut

Bake yellow cake mix as directed. Simmer together sugar and pineapple. When cake is done punch holes in cake with handle of wooden spoon and pour hot pineapple mixture over top. Cool.

Mix instant pudding as directed: fold in Cool Whip®. Nuts and coconut are sprinkled on top of Cool Whip®.



Dorothy Oxford

Strawberry Pretzel Dessert

2 cups pretzels, crushed
3 tablespoons sugar
3/4 cup butter
8 ounces cream cheese
1 cup powdered sugar

1 (8 ounce) Cool Whip®
1 (6 ounce) strawberry Jell-o®
1 (16 ounce) strawberries
3 cups hot water

First step or layer: Mix and pat smooth in bottom of 9x13-inch pan, the pretzels, sugar and butter. Bake 8 minutes in 400° oven and cool.

Second step or layer: Beat cream cheese, powdered sugar and Cool Whip®.

Third step or layer: Mix Jell-o®, strawberries and hot water.

Bake crust: let cool. Pour 2nd step on cooled crust. Mix hot water and strawberry Jell-o®; let jell. Mix in strawberries and pour over 2nd step. Chill. Will keep for several days.

Marilyn Lane

Outche

1/3 c. finely chopped onion
1 Tbsp. margarine
6 slices bacon
1/4 lb. Swiss cheese

4 eggs, beaten
2 c. light cream
1/8 tsp. white pepper
1/8 tsp. nutmeg

Saute onion in margarine until tender. Fry bacon crispy and crumble it. Set onion aside to cool. Line prepared crust with bacon and diced cheese. Combine eggs, cream and remaining ingredients. Pour into crust. Bake at 375° for 35 minutes.

Anna Mae Stafford Risinger

Tuna Casserole

1/2 lb. cooked noodles
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1/4 tsp. pepper

1 small can tuna
1/2 c. cracker crumbs
1 tsp. lemon juice

Combine noodles, tuna, soup and seasonings in a quart casserole. Cover with cracker crumbs and bake in 400° oven for 30 minutes.

Tonya Shea

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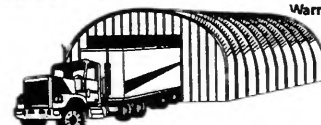
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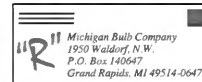
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