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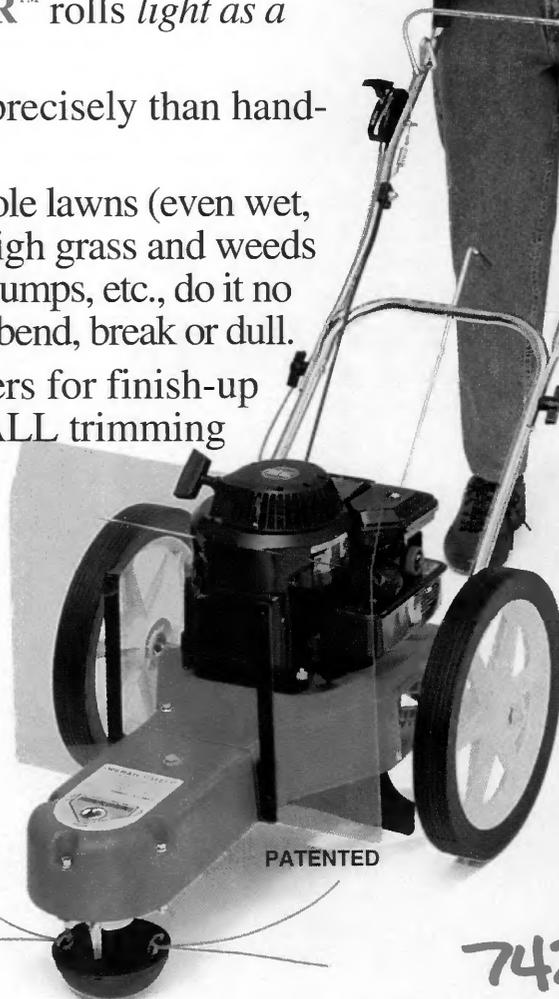
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COVER STORY

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Immortalized in song, literature and memory, Route 66 was the ribbon that tied Lake Michigan to the Pacific, connecting dozens of small communities along the way. What was the mystique that surrounded the world-famous highway and does it still exist? Read our primer, then hit the road to find out.



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Illinois COMMENTARY

Department on Aging serves seniors and their families

Nearly one and one half million people age 65 and older live in Illinois. While the majority enjoy relatively good health and complete independence, more than one third rely on outside sources to remain in their own homes and communities as long as possible. The Illinois Department on Aging helps older people achieve maximum independence.



Maralee I. Lindley

community-based agencies that comprise the Illinois Aging Network.

Services provided through this network are made possible through two main sources, state general Revenue funds – which pay for more than three quarters of the programs available to older Illinoisans – and federal Older Americans Act funds. State funds support in-home and community-based programs for frail seniors. Federal funds provide information and assistance, transportation, senior centers, home-delivered and site-based meal programs,

Maralee I. Lindley is director of the Illinois Department on Aging. Its \$212 million budget funds one of the largest in-home and community-based programs for the frail elderly in the nation, an elder abuse and neglect services program, and serves as an advocate on behalf of older persons through area agencies on aging and local service providers. She also serves as a member of the U.S. Committee for the Celebration of the United Nations International Year of Older Persons: 1999.

employment training and volunteer programs. While participation depends on specific eligibility factors, like income and assets, most programs are available to all Illinois seniors.

One of the most important factors in empowering older people to make knowledgeable choices about the services that are best for them is to provide appropriate information about those services. More than 80 information and assistance sites, located throughout the state, maintain up-to-date information regarding senior programs. The Department on Aging also operates a toll-free information and assistance service, the Senior HelpLine, (800) 252-8966 (voice and TTY), which can be accessed from anywhere in Illinois. Whether a person lives in a large metropolitan area like Chicago or Peoria, a small town like Thayer or Ullin or in the most isolated rural area of the county, help is at hand.

Outreach services target older adults who may not be aware senior services are available and those who are difficult to contact. Specially trained staff tell older people (or their representatives) about available benefits and programs, encourage participation and help them get there.

When older adults and their families need to decide about long-term care, case management services help them make informed choices. A case manager with one of Illinois' local Case Coordination Units will determine the person's needs, provide information about services, develop a plan of care and arrange for services.

The department on Aging's Community Care Program (CCP) is a national leader in providing in-home care to older adults who are at risk of losing their independence because of failing health and reduced income. This comprehensive, community-based entitlement program provides services to any person who applies and meets current eligibility requirements. To receive CCP services, a person must be age 60 or older, a U.S. citizen or legal alien, a resident of Illinois, have non-exempt assets of \$10,000 or less and have an assessed need for long term care. The program provides homemaker assistance, adult

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Land and Water Expo

The second Land and Water Expo will be held again this year in conjunction with the 50th Annual Meeting of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Land and Water Resources Conference of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

The conference will be July 26-29. The Expo, a free conservation trade show, will be July 28.

The conference offers sessions on

Illinois conservation issues ranging from urban sprawl and conservation partnerships to the marketing of wetlands and the Livestock Waste Act. The expo, a conservation trade show, has been expanded to include conservation tillage and no-till products and the latest in erosion and water quality control products.

"Each of the 98 Soil and Water Conservation Districts face challenges in both rural and urban areas," said Expo

planner Aaron Kassing of Nessen Co. "These districts oversee millions of dollars that are used for the construction and implementation of conservation practices and this Expo gives the SWCDs an opportunity to see what is available to make their efforts more effective." For more information about Expo, call (217) 744-9350; for more information about the conference, call (217) 744-3414.

Illinois commentary continued from page 4

day care, companion services and other support to over 32,300 Illinois seniors every month.

The Department on Aging also helps older people who are at risk at the hands of others. Through its Elder Abuse and Neglect Program, the agency responds to reports of alleged abuse, neglect and exploitation of older people who live at home. Financial exploitation is the type of abuse most frequently reported (over 50 percent of all reports). Elder abuse is quite clearly a family problem. Over three-quarters of alleged abusers are either the spouse, child or other relative of the victim. To combat elder abuse, the Department on Aging works with local legal assistance providers, law enforcement agencies and health care providers to intervene and resolve abusive situations.

The Department's elder rights services also are available to nursing home residents through the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Over 300 volunteers help investigate and resolve complaints made by or on behalf of

older adults who live in Illinois' licensed long-term care facilities. The program also works to prevent problems through educational sessions, consultations and interactions between ombudsmen and facility staff.

Although frail older adults are the department's top priority, our programs reach members of every generation — children who need help in school, teens who share their homes with grandparents, adults who worry about Mom and Dad living alone, new retirees who are looking for volunteer opportunities and seniors who want to know more about health care and benefits.

One of our most successful current initiatives is a statewide effort to reach and assist grandparents raising grandchildren. An estimated 70,000 Illinois children are living with a grandparent or other older relative rather than a parent. The Department on Aging, in cooperation with the Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Illinois, works

to locate, assist and promote awareness of older caregivers who are currently raising their family's children. The Department on Aging also has developed an information packet with tip sheets, resources and service contacts for grandparent caregivers, available from the department's Senior HelpLine.

The department also distributes a multitude of publications on issues of interest to an aging society, and loans nearly 1,000 videos upon request to individuals, organizations and agencies. Special health awareness programs — *Senior Health Watch* and *Older and Healthier* — are broadcast on radio and cable TV stations throughout Illinois.

As director, I am very proud of the Department on Aging and the work we do. With only 100 full-time employees working with a sophisticated network of regional and local agencies, we are helping thousands of Illinois seniors live happier, more independent lives in their own homes and communities.

Service, service, service

Illinoisans are beginning to get a picture of life after electric utility deregulation. Gov. Jim Edgar inked the legislation last winter and cooperatives, it turns out, may be in the best position to respond to the needs of residential users.

Two neighboring cooperatives this month will offer their memberships a vote on an opportunity to consolidate. Whether member-owners like the idea or not, the proposal has been discussed at public meetings and the decision nonetheless remains with them.

Several other cooperatives have switched electric power suppliers to capitalize on the new, attractive rates. One of those cooperatives saw fit to stay within the electric cooperative family, switching from one cooperative supplier to another.

Pictures are forming in other states as well. In California, Enron, a huge power marketer that had pursued Californians aggressively, pulled out of residential service after only a few weeks of marketing to residential customers. Of 10 million Californians now able to choose their electric suppliers, only 30,000 chose to switch to Enron. Cooperative watchers view this as a favorable trend for co-ops.

"Where for-profit companies see no market, cooperatives see great opportunities for providing consumers reliable and affordable electric service," notes *Cooperative Business Journal*, the journal of the National Cooperative Business Association.

There are efforts to form new cooperatives. In California, a cooperative recently incorporated to aggregate the purchasing power of members of several agricultural cooperatives. In New York City and a number of northeastern states, coopera-

tives are organizing to purchase electricity and a number of other energy related services to members.

Many electric cooperatives already have begun diversifying and many who hadn't recently asked their members to vote on bylaw changes that allow those co-ops to offer other services. Many members now look to their electric cooperative for such services as water, propane, home and personal security, communications and satellite TV.

And at least one Illinois cooperative is responding to those interested in purchasing "green" power. Jo Carroll Electric Cooperative in northwest Illinois has responded to some members who would like the option of buying all or a portion of their electricity from a renewable resource. The cooperative is offering a new program called Evergreen, which will generate electricity from wind, which will be harnessed at a "wind farm" yet to be built. Those who choose to participate agree to pay \$3 to \$4 more for each 100 kwh energy block that they have agreed to purchase through the program.

"Consumers recognize that we provide superior service," said Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He cited an NRECA study conducted last year showing that 80 percent of those now served by an investor-owned utility would choose to be served by a consumer-owned utility. The survey results showed that overwhelmingly, respondents said they preferred that profits be returned to customers instead of investors, that they like having a voice in their utility, and that they prefer their

What's best about your co-op?

Surveys show that members love their cooperatives, but why? We could tell you what we think or what the surveys show, but we'd rather hear from you. What's best about your electric cooperative? Tell us in 100 words or less. We'll publish a selection in the August issue of *Illinois Country Living*, and if we use your pithy prose, we'll send you a personal-size Maglite flashlight. Your replies should be typewritten, e-mailed or in legible handwriting, and we reserve the right to edit. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative. Send your letters to: *Illinois Currents*, *Illinois Country Living*, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708 or e-mail them to aieinfo@fgi.net.

utility be local. In response to that survey, NRECA initiated a brand name, Touchstone Energy, to help consumers identify cooperative electricity service.

"This survey confirms what we've known and believed all along — being a cooperative is a very real and measurable competitive advantage," English said. "That's opportunity knocking on our door."

Utilities prepare for possible power shortage

Transmission line capacity and generating capacity are at critically low levels again this summer making the temporary blackouts a real possibility. Electric cooperatives and other utilities throughout the region are working hard to prevent blackouts, but also warning customers so they can prepare for the possibility.

The potential power supply shortage

is the result of several regional problems. Early this summer nearly 7,000 megawatts of nuclear generating capacity and 6,000 megawatts of fossil fuel generating capacity was off line. Although several generators are expected to be back on line before the summer's peak demand season, there will be less generating capacity than normal.

Warnings will be issued over broadcast news media. However, the decisions to interrupt power may have to be made quickly, leaving little time for notifications. The interruptions could last three hours or less. Members with portable generators are urged to use them safely. If you have any questions contact your local electric cooperative.

A guide to logging aesthetics

A new book describes logging practices that enhance wildlife, recreational and aesthetic qualities of the wood lot. The guide also describes programs administered by county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices that assist with the cost of seeding disturbed land to control soil erosion.

A Guide to Logging Aesthetics: Practical

Tips for Loggers, Foresters, and Landowners, which contains 50 color photographs, was written by Geoffrey T. Jones of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Collaborating were the Northeast Forest Resources Extension Council, the N.H. State Foresters Office, the U.S. Forest Service, and the North-

east Regional Agriculture Engineering Service (NRAES).

The book costs \$10.50, including shipping and handling, from NRAES, Cooperative Extension, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, New York 14853-5701. Call (607) 255-7654 or visit its website at <http://rcwpsun.cas.psu.edu.NRAES>.

Ethanol from soda pop waste?

Waste from producing soft drinks could substitute for corn as a cheaper ethanol source if soft drink makers have to pay large fees to dump that waste, says a Southern Illinois University researcher. Meanwhile, two other SIU researchers say a mid-sized ethanol plant located in one of the state's 36 southernmost counties could boost the region's gross domestic product by nearly .3 percent and support 545 jobs.

Robert L. Wolff, a specialist in alternate fuels at the university's College of Agriculture in Carbondale, notes a local bottler has to ship waste out of state in tanker trucks to dispose of it because it's too costly to flush down the sewer.

Even when manufacturers don't pay disposal costs, soft drink waste, mostly sugars from corn syrup, might still cost less than corn, as long as the soft drink and ethanol plants aren't too far apart — within about 80 miles of one another.

The project was begun when the Vienna Correctional Center, which has a small ethanol plant on site, started accepting the waste from a local bottler, Wolff said. "They asked us to figure out the econom-

ics of using waste soda from throughout the Midwest."

The price an ethanol plant must pay for raw materials is between half and three-fourths of its production costs, he said. A cheaper feed stock would make ethanol more competitive with gasoline, a need that will become more pressing in 2000, when current subsidies are scheduled to run out. And, turning waste into fuel packs an environmental punch as

well, especially in rural areas, he said. "Many plants dump it into municipal sewage plants, but if the sewage plants are small units (as they often are in small towns), it can create big problems," said Wolff. Smaller units don't have enough water to dilute the waste, which in turn upsets the bacterial balance. That means the water they dump out is contaminated, which leads to fines from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ever wonder why they call it . . .

Oblong? or Preemption? or Bone Gap? Illinois cities all, and you can read about their peculiar names in *A Place Called Peculiar: Stories about Unusual American Place-Names*. The new book was written by Frank K. Gallant, editor of *Rural Electrification*, the monthly magazine of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The book is published by Merriam Webster as part of a new series about the "lighter side of language." At \$14.95, it's available through bookstores, or visit the publisher's Internet web site: www.m-w.com. Next month in ICL: read how Grand Detour got its name.



Grant News now online

Grant News, a small quarterly chock full of notices for federal, state, and private grants for rural communities now is online.

Grant News is published four to six times annually by Illinois State University's office of applied social research unit. Its purpose is to

help residents, community development professionals, health and human services providers, and others interested in rural development find funding resources. The information is culled from several sources, including the *Federal Register*, various state and federal agencies, and private foundations.

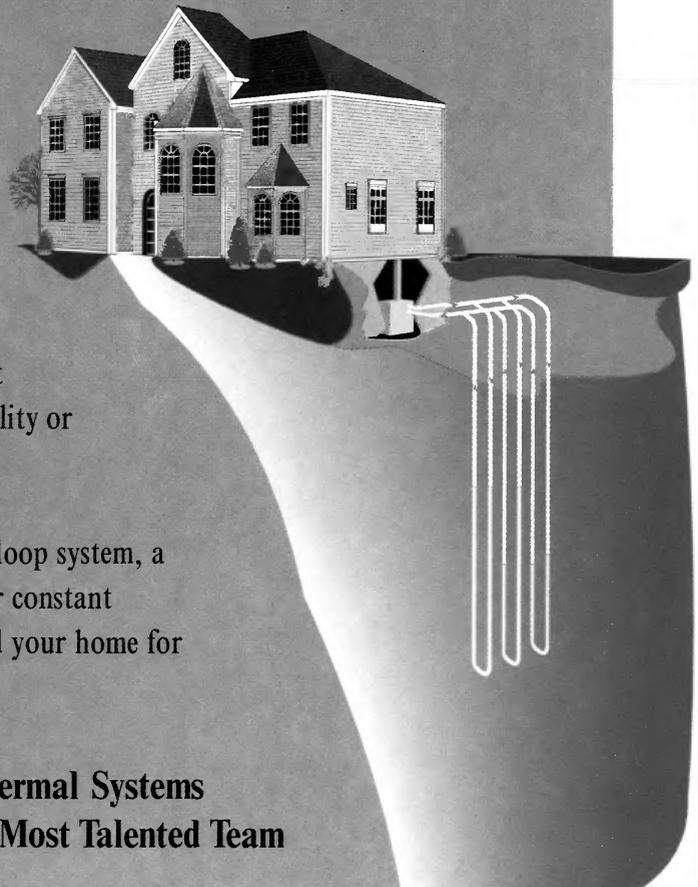
To access back issues, point your Internet web browser to www.socialresearch.ilstu.edu. Once there, click on "Applied Social Research Unit," then on "publications and project reports," then on any listed back issue of *Grant News*. For more information about *Grant News*, call (309) 438-7771.

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Route 66 Revisited:

The road to discovery, the road home

“**N**o matter how many times you travel 66, you always find something new,” says Rich Henry, vice president of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. “Old stores, businesses, tourist attractions. Maybe other highways are beautiful, maybe they’re scenic, but that’s it. Route 66 was what life was all about. There’s something mystical about it.”

Henry isn’t the first person to be moved by The Mother Road. Since its birth in 1926, thousands of travelers have rolled down U.S. Highway 66 in search of insight or adventure. Some 66 scholars say the road’s legendary status comes from the path it’s worn through American history: an avenue of escape during the Depression, a way home after the war. Some say it’s the countless rural American enterprises 66 carried on its shoulders for the better part of the century. Others write off the mystery as savvy marketing and nostalgia.

But nay-sayers notwithstanding, the lines sung by Troup and penned by Steinbeck (*see sidebar*) seem to be inspired by the road, rather than written for it. And while those same lines often spotlight the cities of 66, it was the country road that served as fore-runner for most of the highway. Like a national game of connect the dots, Route 66 drew a concrete line from farm to farm, community to community, economy to economy.



Consulting a map by the light of a '66 Buick LeSabre, vintage car buff John Coleman, of Greenville, pauses along a stretch of Route 66 southwest of Litchfield to mark his progress along The Mother Road.

“Those early businesses along 66 were there to serve the public. They were dedicated to the traveler,” says Henry, himself a 66 merchant. “The new ones that sprung up along the interstate . . . well, I think there was a feeling that was lost. You lost that personal touch. And that reflects on other things in our lives.”

While Henry laments the loss of commerce along 66, he also acknowledges the interstate highway system as a necessary step in infrastructure evolution.

“There’s no way we could have kept Route 66 as a dual lane, unlimited access highway,” he notes, citing the interstate’s ability to accommodate the volume, speed, and size of today’s traffic.

“But it’s nice to preserve as much as we can

of Route 66 — and other old highways — so people have a choice.”

The Route 66 Association of Illinois is doing just that. Since its creation in 1989, the association has worked to promote and preserve the Mother Road. In 1993, a push from the association propelled the Illinois Department of Transportation toward a study which ultimately earned 66 historic status. It also resulted in the brown badges that mark the route’s progress through Illinois.

The work continues. Even now the Route 66 Association is working to restore old barns, bridges, buildings and other milestones that stand along the highway. Efforts like theirs mean fragments of early Americana may still be standing when people like Melissa Ritter pass by. Two years ago, the then-reporter for the *Edwardsville Intelligencer* hitched a four-day ride up Illinois Route 66 with writers from the *Houston Chronicle*. “It really opened my eyes to what was on the road —

Route 66 Fact Finder

- 66 Commissioned in 1926.
- 66 Completed in 1937.
- 66 Decommissioned in 1985.
- 66 Connected smaller streets and rural roads across America.
- 66 Begins in Chicago, ends in Santa Monica.
- 66 Covers 2,448 miles start to finish.
- 66 At one time reportedly linked over 50 Main Streets.
- 66 Cyrus Stevens Avery, of Tulsa, Okla., is credited as one of the key proponents of the national highway system and the "Father of Route 66."
- 66 Original route doesn't appear on current maps (See next sidebar for route resources)
- 66 Path changed over time, resulting in several "alignments."
- 66 Historic Route 66 shields erected in Illinois in 1995.
- 66 Crosses eight states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.
- 66 Song "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" written by Bobby Troup while en route on 66 to Los Angeles.
- 66 Christened "The Mother Road" in John Steinbeck's 1939 novel "The Grapes of Wrath"
- 66 Formerly known as Illinois Route 4.
- 66 Aliases include the Main Street of America, U.S. Highway 66, the Mother Road, and the Will Rogers Highway.
- 66 Route 66 Associations exist in the United States, Canada, Japan, and several European countries.

all these mom-and-pop shops that existed. Route 66 was more than just a road that ran thousands of miles to California. It was really about each individual needing it as a method of transportation. People still use this road as their livelihood," says Ritter. "It's still really important to rural America."

As for the mystique that surrounds the road, Ritter suggests it wasn't so much what people found on the highway as what they brought to it. "It was the road that led to a lot of people's dreams," she says, speculating that today's travelers may be motivated by a similar search.

And though they may be searching for the American dream, there are more than Americans searching.

"I get to meet people from all over the world," says Bill Shea, a lifetime member of the Route 66 Association and proprietor of a Springfield Marathon station-turned-66 museum. Shea's guest book lists names from 19 countries and dozens of states. Far from surprised, Shea says he expects "out-of-towners" to visit a national monument. "That's what it is, really," he says, leafing through the guest book. "It's the longest monument in the United States. And it belongs to everybody."

Shea nods to a desk piled with snapshots, cards and letters, magazine articles and trinkets — greetings from fellow 66 owners. He plucks an envelope with a Peoria return address from the pile. It's filled with pictures from the Chain of Rocks Bridge, circa 1993. He pulls another envelope. More pictures — this time with a letter attached. A traveler who wanted to keep in touch.

And therein lies the life beyond the legend of U.S. Route 66.

Early travelers weren't driven by the road. They were moved by its people. The Santa Monica merchant who stopped to help a stranded motorist, the Oklahoma librarian who offered direction, the farmer from Illinois who gave a young couple a hot meal. All were joined by a slender, unbreakable thread. A sense of community.

It's that same sense of community that brings 66ers together today. That same sense that motivates them to save reminders of people and places that fell away, but are too important to forget. That same sense that inspires an elderly Illinois farmer to light a quiet roadside shrine where travelers can stop, reflect, pray. It's that same sense of community — especially in Illinois — that still makes U.S. Route 66 the road to a lot of people's dreams.

—story and photos by Joe Richardson

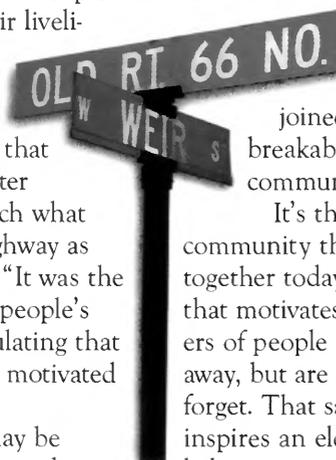


Photo by Randy Smith, Peoria, IL

Route 66 artist Bob Waldmire's work can be found in maps, books, magazines, galleries, and on the Internet. Waldmire, a Springfield native, also illustrated *Searching for 66*, author Tom Teague's journey down the highway.



Booking Travel on The Mother Road

So you'd like to travel Route 66 but don't have time for a weekend trip, much less a month-long expedition? No problem. You can still get a kick from Route 66 (you knew we had to use that sooner or later). The Mother Road is one of the best documented highways in history. Here are a few mile markers to get you started.

Traveling the New, Historic Route 66, by John Weiss. A turn by turn, town by town guide to Illinois Route 66.

Route 66 - The Mother Road, by Michael Wallis. A state by state look at Route 66. Interesting book offering an account of life on The Mother Road illustrated with full color photos.

The 66 News! The definitive source for up-to-date information on Illinois Route 66. Newsletter

includes text, photos, and illustrations. Published quarterly by the Route 66 Association of Illinois. For subscription or article information, contact Randy Smith, editor, at 309-699-2228 or via email at The66News@aol.com. Queries may also be sent to Marie Jibben at lisa66@sprynet.com.

Historic Illinois 66 website: www.illinois66.com. All the directions you need to successfully navigate your favorite Route 66 alignment from Chicago to St. Louis. Includes facts, photos, and a listing of events.

Illinois Route 66 (Madison County style): www.edwpub.com/route66. Hosted by the *Edwardsville Intelligencer*, this site focuses on 66 in



Madison County. Includes anecdotes and updates on Festival 66, the area's annual Route 66 celebration.

Historic Route 66: Where The Mother Road meets the Information Superhighway:

<http://route66.netvision.be/>
Outstanding state-by-state maps of the Mother Road. Includes mileage, fun facts, and site information. See this before you hit the road.

The Route 66 Association of Illinois. Dedicated to promoting, preserving, and enjoying the highway. Send queries to 2743 Veterans Parkway, PO Box 166, Springfield, IL 62704.

Route 66 Motor Tour. Annual 66 road rally which highlights historic points along various alignments. Held in June. Contact Jeff LaFollette, tour chairman, at 319/893-6653.



Photo by Randy Smith, Peoria, IL

Photo by Randy Smith, Peoria, IL

An Important Announcement to Illinois Homeowners with Equity . . .

What Would You Do With An Extra \$3,600 to \$12,000 per year?

How to Get a Fast Mortgage Loan To Pay Off All Your Bills** (Even If You've Been Turned Down By A Bank Or Mortgage Company)

Rockingham, N.C. - Ray and Becky were frustrated. They'd bought the house 12 years ago and it was five years old when they moved in. Becky laughed out loud when she thought back to that time. Back then it seemed so big and beautiful. But now, 12 years and 3 kids later, the house felt small and run down. The house needed a new roof and her two youngest girls, Emily and Katie, were doubling up in the small 10 x 12 bedroom.

Five years ago, Ray and Becky had a contractor come and talk to them about a new addition. Becky remembered how excited she and Ray both were. They even paid to have the plans drawn up. But that was the year before Ray lost his job at the plant. She poured herself another cup of coffee and recalled how depressed they both were. It was over a year before he got another job. And during that time, they got behind on everything.

No Summer Vacation

They were so strapped for money one summer, they couldn't even take Emily and Katie to the beach for a few days for their annual vacation. Sure they finally got all caught up when Ray went back to work, it took them two years and by that time it had ruined their previously perfect credit record, it was a vicious cycle. You know, getting paid on Friday, sitting down on Saturday to pay bills and running out of money before all the bills are paid.

"I Hit A Brick Wall"

After they got caught up they tried again to borrow the money for the addition. First they got turned down by the local bank, then a mortgage company in town rejected them. They just kept hitting the same brick wall. Even though Ray had gone back to work in another carpet mill making MORE money, the late payments that showed up on his credit reports scared the local banks and mortgage companies away. Ray felt like he was working JUST to pay his monthly bills and doing nothing for himself, Becky or the kids. Then he ran into Harvest Mortgage Company. Harvest helped him get a loan to pay off all his bills and consolidate everything into one single payment that was \$358 lower than he had been making. That saved him a whopping \$4,296 per year. TAX FREE. In the first year, that was enough money to close in the back porch, AND enough left over for new bikes for the kids.

Home Equity is the Key



Carole Eskew, Sr., V.P.

"If you have a minimum of 20% equity or more, there's a good chance we can help you save a lot of money every month by combining old bills and your old mortgage into one

new and much lower payment. Or, we can help you get cash out of your home to buy a vacation home, start a business, whatever."

Compare your budget to this:

Amt.	Owed	Payment
\$12,000	2nd Mortgage	\$200 ⁰⁰
8,500	Auto Loan	375 ⁰⁰
2,000	VISA	100 ⁰⁰
2,000	MasterCard	100 ⁰⁰

\$25,000 Current Payment \$775⁰⁰

-After Harvest Mortgage -

New Payment: \$187⁸²/mo.

APR 9.077% / 30 yr. term

You Save: \$587¹⁸/mo., \$7,046.16/yr.

** Rates subject to change*

"I couldn't believe it. We closed our loan 9 days after the first day I talked to them on the phone."

Debbie C., Dallas

"We ended up paying off all our bills and rolling them all into one single payment. After we did, our total monthly payments dropped by almost \$400 per month."

Billy and Judy., Columbus

"Thanks to you and your great company, we feel reborn. Words can not express the relief we feel. We are so glad this battle with the bills is almost over."

James and Laurie C.

Recent Loans Include:

- A \$45,000 loan to a borrower in bankruptcy.
- A \$100,000 loan to a borrower who couldn't verify income through tax returns.
- A \$95,000 bill-consolidation loan that saved the borrower over \$8,100 per year and a whopping \$124,000 over the loan period.
(No singlewides, please)

No Ivory Towers

"When you apply for a loan at Harvest Mortgage, your loan request is reviewed and decided upon by the people right in our office," says a Harvest executive. He added, "Since we are direct lenders, we don't send the information to some guys off somewhere in New York or California. We review and approve loans right here in town locally."

Fast Approval and Closing

That means we can get your loan closed in a matter of days, and you never have to go out of your living room until you're ready to close."

Loan For Purchase or Refinance

Harvest Mortgage officials report that whether you are buying, refinancing a house, just looking to consolidate some bills, get cash for your property, they have created programs to give you the money you're looking for.

Different loan programs include:

- Loans to Borrowers with good credit, with the most competitive rates in the country. These are available for purchasing a new home or refinancing.
- Loans to borrowers with a lot of equity homeowners who have slow credit or have even been bankrupt.
- Cash out loans for investment property with a lot of equity.
- Loans for borrowers who want to do additions or remodel their homes.

Check This Out For Free

To see how much money you may be able to get and exactly how much your payments would be, you can check it out by just picking up the phone and calling us. Be sure to ask for Carolyn Reid at 1-800-554-1314. All of this doesn't cost you a dime, so you owe it to yourself. Don't put this off any longer. Do it now while you're thinking about it! You have got nothing to lose and everything to gain. Call Now!

Harvest Mortgage Company Inc.
Mortgage Bankers

Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee

**Subject to Qualification

1-800-554-1314

AROUND YOUR HOME

Are these the golden years?



Rebecca Douglas

There are over 2 million people over the age of 60 in Illinois, more of us in the golden years than ever before. And yet for some, these years are not as golden as we like to think. Many older adults are unable to live their final years in peace and dignity because they suffer at the hands of others.

How serious is the problem of elder abuse? According to the Illinois Department on Aging (see Commentary on page 4), an elderly person is abused, neglected or exploited every seven minutes in Illinois. More than half of these reports involve financial exploitation followed by emotional abuse and neglect. Physical and sexual abuse also are involved in about 29 percent of reports. The victims are most often over the age of 75 and usually women. While we don't want to think about it, the abusers are usually members of the family. Three out of four abusers are the spouse, child or other relative.

Most of us are asking, "How can this happen? Who would mistreat their own mother?" The answers are complicated of course. Sometimes abuse or neglect takes place because the spouse or children are unable to care for an ailing and increasingly needy elder. Perhaps they have health problems of their own, or do not have the skills and patience needed. Family members can be overwhelmed by the demands of taking care of a chronically ill or confused older person. Over half of abusers are caregivers to the elders, and only a small percentage are paid (16 percent).

Most often, the cause is money. Most older persons have income, and have often been providing income for other family members. Family members, often adult sons, who have drug and alcohol abuse problems will exploit aging parents for money. Most abusers are family members who are financially dependent on the

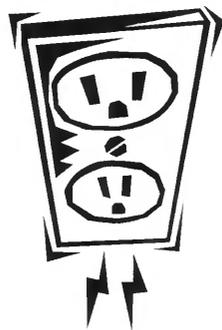
older person. Sometimes, elder abuse is family violence grown old.

The abuse of our elders is a well kept secret in many families and communities, yet there are steps we can take to prevent and stop this from happening. Every county in Illinois has an agency designated to serve as the elderly abuse agency. When you suspect that someone is being neglected, exploited or abused, you can call this number: (800) 252-8966. The call will be in complete confidence and persons who make reports in good faith cannot be prosecuted for reporting. The people at this number can connect you with the local Elder Abuse and Neglect Program.

The goal of the Elder Abuse and Neglect Program is to respond to reports and work with the older person to resolve the situation. These programs offer services such as: food, clothing, legal assistance, medical care, respite care, housekeeping services, adult day care and housing assistance.

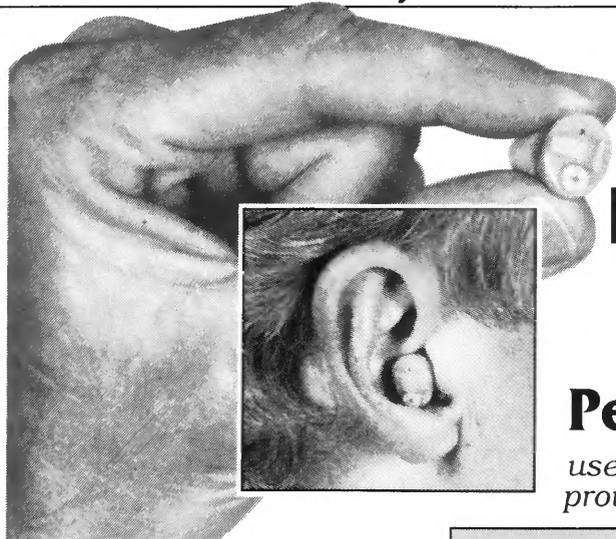
One of the most important principles of the program is the belief that the abused elder has the right to decide what will happen. The older person is involved in the development of plans and options available. Community based services are recommended rather than institutions. Often, fear of nursing home placement is greater than fear of abuse. Families are given support, and, while agencies must be direct in seeking solutions, there is an effort to avoid seeking blame. The agency respects the older person's right to privacy; therefore, information will only be shared with permission. The older person comes first, and his or her safety is the foremost concern.

While elder abuse is a concern in all communities, it is possible to do something to help. Let others know about the services that are available. Share the phone number with a friend. Make the call you need to make.



Rebecca Douglas is an extension educator, Family Life, at the Springfield Extension Center.

There are times when everyone would like a little extra volume to enhance their hearing!



It's So Small It's Almost Invisible

In the Ear...

MaxiSound™ Personal Sound Amplifier

uses sophisticated micro-miniaturized circuitry to provide affordable, in-the-ear sound amplification

by Martin Howard

For the last couple of years, I've constantly had to ask people to repeat what they just said to me... I've turned up the volume on the TV so loud that everyone in the house complains... and my wife and children tell me that I'm speaking too loud.

Naturally, I've denied everything. I didn't want to admit I knew that I was having a slight hearing problem. I was hoping it would go away, all by itself, without doing anything about it! But, deep down inside, I knew I needed a little extra help in the hearing department, and lately, I needed this extra help more and more.

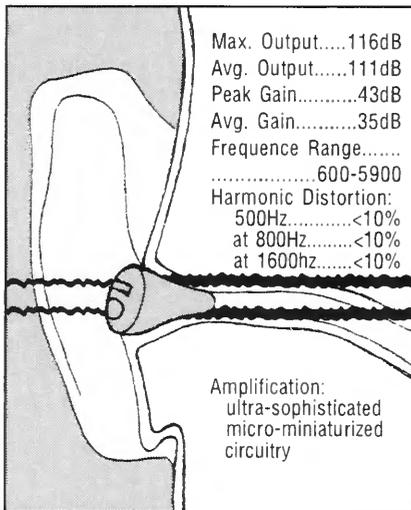
My wife was so tired of me asking her to either speak louder or repeat everything she said. We were having arguments over my hearing. Finally, she insisted that I get some help. She told me to buy a hearing aid.

Sure, just what I need. A bulky, ugly, ill-fitting and heavy hearing aid sitting behind my ear. And, the darn thing will probably rub the skin off my ear too!

She laughed at me. No, it's nothing like that - science and technology have revolutionized the audio industry. The product I'm talking about is called **MaxiSound**. It's a personal amplifier and is very different from the hearing aids you are describing.

MaxiSound is so small and compact that it fits inside the ear canal (it's almost invisible). There are no wires, no behind the ear devices and it doesn't cost a fortune. Not only that, but its super sensitive circuitry is designed to maximize your natural ability to hear sounds*. **MaxiSound** can make speech louder, and the sound is crystal clear, pure and natural.

MaxiSound worked so well for me that I am now marketing them direct to the consumer. And, I know that they'll work for you too! *It's great to be able to hear the TV clearly again.*



Let me tell you a little more about them. They are ideal for amplification of faint sounds like distant lectures or outdoor wildlife. Each amplifier features an individual on/off and volume control. Its one-size-fits-all is comfortable and comes with a replaceable soft rubber tip, 300 hour battery, cleaning tool, storage pouch and instructions. **MaxiSound** is made in the USA, and is comparable to other sound enhancement systems that retail for up to \$1000.00. Separate maintenance kit includes: 4 replace-

*Not sold for use as a medical device. Consult a hearing specialist if you have a serious hearing problem. Individual experiences may vary depending on severity of hearing loss.

"After seeing your ad in the newspaper, I decided to take a chance on your product. Imagine my surprise when I first tried your sound amplification product and it worked great. The amplification seemed to balance out the hearing between my left and right ear. I am completely satisfied with both the sound quality and amplification of your MaxiSound product."

Dr. George T. Stallings

ment tips, 4 batteries, extra cleaning tool and detailed care instructions.

Your satisfaction is guaranteed or return for a full refund of purchase price (less P&H). Because we work directly with the primary source, you can purchase a pair (left and right) **MaxiSounds** for less than one of our competitor's units. *That's guaranteed.*

COMPARE FOR YOURSELF SEE THE DIFFERENCE

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Required fitting	Yes	No	NO
Required testing	Yes	No	NO
Battery life	160 hr	320 hr	300hr
Impact resistance	Average	Excellent	Excellent
Feedback	Frequent	Limited	limited
Telephone use	Yes	Yes	Excellent
Retail price: each	\$1000.	\$299.85	\$149.95
pair	\$2000.	\$599.70	\$279.95

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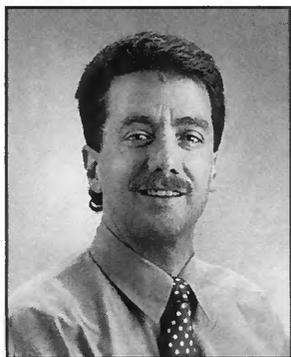
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Your YARD AND GARDEN

Itch . . . the season for poison ivy



Dave Robson

As I sit writing this, my legs, forearms and temple are swathed in calamine lotion. I look like a human pepto bismal tablet.

I know exactly when, where and how the poison ivy got on my body. I did everything I wasn't supposed to do, and knew it. And now I suffer.

You need to wear uncomfortable clothes when dealing with poison ivy. That means long sleeved shirts, heavy gloves, long pants, heavy socks and shoes. Shorts, a teeshirt, and tennis shoes don't cut it.

Poison ivy is one of the easiest plants to identify. If it has three leaflets, and grows wild in the woods, up and down plants, as a small shrub or vine, it's poison ivy.

If it has one large leaf, it's either grape or Boston ivy. If there are five leaflets, you're looking at Virginia creeper.

If it has a thick woody stem bigger than your arm, it's probably a tree or shrub. But if it has three leaflets and vines, it's poison ivy.

Poison ivy seems to be bothered of late by galls, little red bumps on the leaves. Unfortunately, the insect that creates these bumps isn't in large enough quantities to destroy the plant completely.

And maybe it shouldn't. Poison ivy berries are a great staple for many wild-life animals, from birds to squirrels. Those of us with susceptibility to the rash, though, have a hard time justifying nature's food for these creatures.

In the woods, poison ivy may be just fine. You recognize what it is and where it is, and leave it alone. In the yard, it's another story.

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

Poison ivy will creep all over the place, and make gardening difficult. That's why we try to get rid of it, and end up covered with blistering pustules of ooze. (Sorry, if you're eating at this time.)

Unfortunately, there aren't too many great ways of removing the plant. Pulling and digging it out seems to be the best, but has the most potential for the "itch" poisoning. It doesn't help that every single part of the plant, including the roots, contains the alkaloid that gets on your skin.

Some herbicides or weedkillers are available. The biggest problem with them is that they can kill desirable plants nearby. Make sure to read and follow the label. You might be able to protect the plants you want to save by covering with a cardboard box.

If you're left with no choice but physical removal, make sure you're properly attired. Do it early in the morning or early evening when the temperatures are cool. That way you won't have to wipe the sweat off your brow and end up with the rash on your forehead and temple.

Immediately after coming in contact with the plant, wash your skin with a good strong soap. It only takes a couple of minutes for the compounds to penetrate the skin. The poison can also remain on the clothes, so wash them thoroughly in hot, soapy water. Line dry is best.

There are many home remedies that are supposed to work to remove the rash.

I had a neighbor who suggested dousing the skin with bleach. He showed me the before and after effects. All I noticed was the white patch of skin where it was tanned before. It still never tans.

Also remember that garden tools and animals can act as carriers for the compounds. Thoroughly clean spades, pruners and other tools after contact with poison ivy. Keep Fido and Tabby away from areas with poison ivy, or at least stay away from hugging them until they're bathed.



Are you over 55? "It's All Free for Seniors"

Washington DC (Special) An amazing new book reveals thousands of little-known Government give-aways for people over 55.

Each year, lots of these benefits are NOT given away simply because people don't know they're available... and the government doesn't advertise.

Many of these fabulous freebies can be yours regardless of your income or assets. Entitled "Free for Seniors", the book tells you all about such goodies as how you can:

- ▶ Get free prescription drugs.
- ▶ Get free dental care.
- ▶ Get up to \$800 for food.
- ▶ How you can get free legal help.
- ▶ Get help in paying your rent.
- ▶ \$15,000 free money to spruce up your home!
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There's more! Much, much more, and "Free for Seniors" comes with a solid no-nonsense guarantee. You can learn more by simply writing for MORE information. To get your copy, send your name and address today to: Free for Seniors, Dept. FS1058, 718 - 12th Street N.W., Box 24500, Canton, Ohio 44701. To help us cover printing and postage, \$1 would be appreciated, but not necessary.

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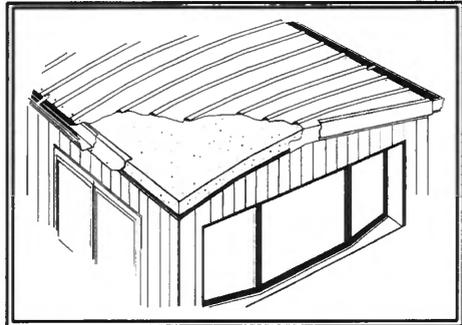
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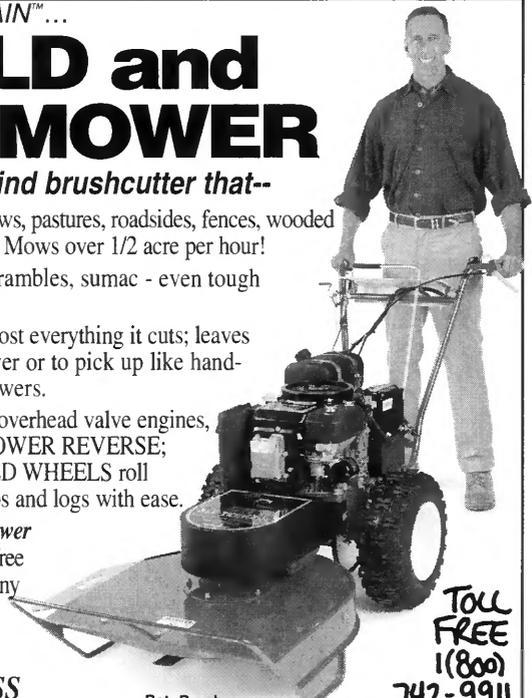
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with hand-held brushcutters that are so dangerous, slow and tiring to use... OR with sicklebar mowers that shake unmercifully and leave such a tangled mess?

Pat. Pend.

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TECHNOLOGY AND YOU

Geothermal — Earth friendly energy miser

Q: *I recently heard about earth-friendly geothermal heat pumps that can cut my utility bills year-round. How do they work and will they provide comfortable heating and air-conditioning? - Michael M.*

A: A geothermal heat pump is an ideal year-round system for almost every home. If you now have an old heat pump, you will be amazed at how comfortably warm the heat is from a geothermal heat pump. In the summer, it can provide plenty of low-cost cooling, even on the hottest afternoons.

These systems are extremely efficient. In the winter, for each \$1 on your utility bills, you get up to \$4 worth of heat (\$3 free heat from the earth). Basically, a geothermal heat pump uses the ground around your house for its heating and cooling capacity. Over its life, a geothermal heat pump can save thousands of dollars and be less expensive than oil or propane.

In the summer, the savings are also great. Whereas your old central air-conditioner may have an efficiency of 8.0, some geothermal heat pumps have efficiencies as high as 20. Even more important is the steady cooling capacity for comfort and good dehumidification (for allergy sufferers).

A geothermal heat pump can also cut your water heating costs substantially. In the summer, an optional desuperheater diverts the waste heat from the air-conditioner to the water

heater. This provides free hot water as a by-product of air-conditioning. During the winter, the geothermal heat pump can use the ground to heat your water at half the current costs.

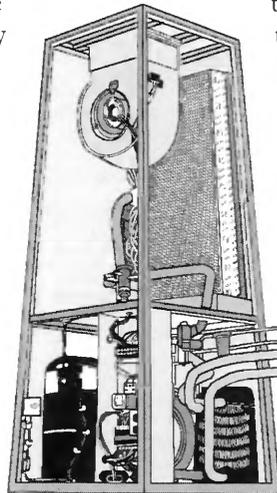
Geothermal heat pumps attain high efficiency because the ground temperature stays fairly constant year-round. You can imagine how much easier and more efficient it is to draw heat from the ground at 50 degrees than from the frigid outdoor air. In the summer, the situation is reversed and the cooling output remains high no matter how hot the weather is.

Most geothermal heat pumps use a water/anti-freeze-filled plastic pipe loop buried in your yard. This earth loop is used instead of the typical noisy outdoor condenser fan unit. This results in a simpler system with the small, quiet mechanical unit located indoors (garage, utility room or basement) for protection. If you have

wells or a pond, they can be used instead of the ground loop.

There are many designs of geothermal heat pumps to choose from depending on your budget, yard and specific needs. The ground pipes are normally buried in a very narrow horizontal trench dug with a backhoe or ditcher. If your yard is small, the pipes can be placed in vertical holes drilled into the ground. Both methods are equally effective if designed properly.

For the best comfort and efficiency, select a geothermal heat pump with multi-level (two or three) heating and cooling outputs. Two-level output models use either two small compressors or a single two-speed compressor and a variable-speed blower. This allows them to adjust the output to match the changing heating and cooling needs of your house.



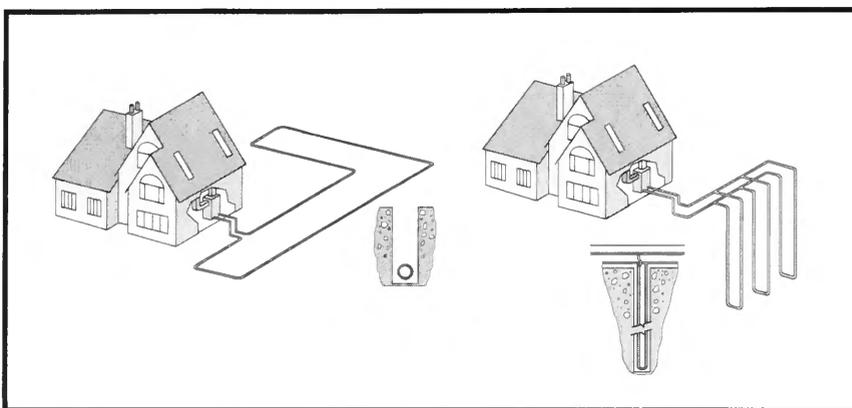
James Dullely is a mechanical engineer who writes on a wide variety of energy and utility topics. His column appears in a large number of daily newspapers.

Copyright 1998 James Dullely

Three-level models use two different-sized compressors. In mild weather, they run on the smallest compressor. In moderate weather, they run on the larger compressor. In severely hot or cold weather, the two compressors run simultaneously. These types of units are ideal for warm humid climates where summertime dehumidification is as important as actual cooling.

In cold climates these multi-level heat pumps are an excellent fit. The high-output level is sized to the maximum heating requirement. In the summer, with the lower air-conditioning requirements, it runs in the low-output level for excellent comfort.

Geothermal heat pumps are available as complete systems with blowers, air cleaners, water heaters, etc. If your budget is limited and your existing furnace or heat



pump blower still works, you can install just the compressor unit and loop and use your existing equipment.

For more information on geothermal heat pumps call your local electric co-op or your local heat pump dealer (see ads on pages 9 and 31.)

Write for Utility Bills Update No. 793 - buyer's guide of 15

single and multi-level geothermal heat pumps, efficiencies, outputs, features and a fuel cost comparison chart. Please include \$2 (with check payable to Jim Dulley) and a business-size SASE. Mail to: Jim Dulley, Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. For instant download, go to <http://www.dulley.com>

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Illinois

FUNNYBONE

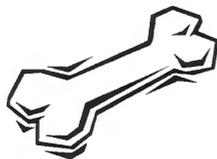
Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank — proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too!

Rita M. Johnson, Chester

An Eskimo won a trip to New York as a prize for catching the most seal in a season. When he returned home, he brought with him a length of pipe, which he set up in his igloo so it protruded through the roof.

His wife asked what it was for and he replied, "That's a trick I learned in New York. When you want more heat, you bang on this pipe."

Mary Parks, Marion



Is there a joke 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.

A seven-year-old made coffee for his grandma who thought it was the worst cup of coffee in her life. When she got to the bottom, there were three little green army men in the cup.

She said, "Honey, what are the army men doing in my coffee?"

Her grandson piped up, "Grandma, it says on TV, the best part of waking up is soldiers in your cup!"

Rositta Brewster, Murphysboro

Written on a tombstone

As you are, I once was.

As I am, you soon shall be.

So prepare yourself, to follow me.

(Someone had scribbled in chalk)

To follow you, I can't consent,

Because I know not

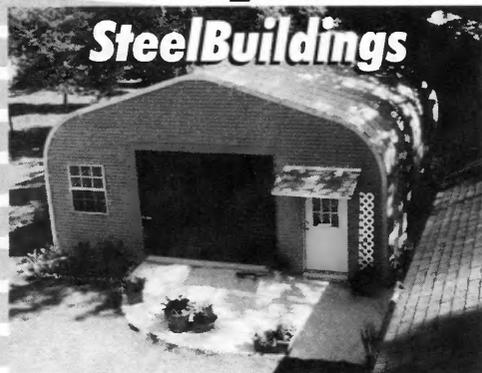
which way you went!

Ruth Smith, Kirkwood

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31	11.43	10.44	19.13	16.65	31.95	27.00	12.15	11.07	20.93	18.23	35.55	30.15
32	11.52	10.53	19.35	16.88	32.40	27.45	12.24	11.16	21.15	18.45	36.00	30.60
33	11.70	10.62	19.80	17.10	33.30	27.90	12.33	11.34	21.38	18.90	36.45	31.50
34	11.88	10.71	20.25	17.33	34.20	28.35	12.42	11.52	21.60	19.35	36.90	32.40
35	12.06	10.89	20.70	17.78	35.10	29.25	12.60	11.70	22.05	19.80	37.80	33.30
36	12.33	11.16	21.38	18.45	36.45	30.60	12.87	11.97	22.73	20.48	39.15	34.65
37	12.69	11.52	22.28	19.35	38.25	32.40	13.32	12.33	23.85	21.38	41.40	36.45
38	13.05	11.88	23.18	20.25	40.05	34.20	13.86	12.78	25.20	22.50	44.10	38.70
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43	16.20	14.04	31.05	25.65	55.80	45.00	17.73	15.39	34.88	29.03	63.45	51.75
44	17.01	14.49	33.08	26.78	59.85	47.25	18.81	16.02	37.58	30.60	68.85	54.90
45	18.00	15.03	35.55	28.13	64.80	49.95	20.07	16.74	40.73	32.40	75.15	58.50
46	19.08	15.66	38.25	29.70	70.20	53.10	21.51	17.55	44.33	34.43	82.35	62.55
47	20.25	16.29	41.18	31.28	76.05	56.25	23.04	18.45	48.15	36.68	90.00	67.05
48	21.51	17.01	44.33	33.08	82.35	59.85	24.66	19.44	52.20	39.15	98.10	72.00
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52	27.18	20.52	58.50	41.85	110.70	77.40	32.31	23.85	71.33	50.18	136.35	94.05
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54	31.23	22.77	68.63	47.48	130.95	88.65	37.35	26.55	83.93	56.93	161.55	107.55
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63	65.16	39.15	153.45	88.43	300.60	170.55	79.29	48.42	188.78	111.60	371.25	216.90
64	71.55	42.48	169.43	96.75	332.55	187.20	87.39	52.29	209.03	121.28	411.75	236.25
65	78.57	46.17	186.98	105.98	367.65	205.65	96.57	56.52	231.98	131.85	457.65	257.40
66	86.31	50.31	206.33	116.33	406.35	226.35	107.01	61.11	258.08	143.33	509.85	280.35
67	94.86	54.99	227.70	128.03	449.10	249.75	118.98	66.15	288.00	155.93	569.70	305.55
68	104.40	60.39	251.55	141.53	496.80	276.75	132.75	71.82	322.43	170.10	638.55	333.90
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Illinois' FINEST COOKING



White County Homemakers Extension Association is housed in the Farm Bureau Building in Carmi, Illinois. The association shares its 1993 239-page cookbook this month; it is soft-backed and spiral bound. The cookbook can be purchased for \$7 plus \$2 postage. Order from Phyllis Cox, 2252 County Road 1850 N, Crossville, Illinois 62827, or call her at (618) 966-3418.

The community of Easton, Illinois is celebrating its quinquicentennial July 10 and 11. The local women's Etc Club organized a community cookbook to celebrate its 125 anniversary. The 1998 cookbook can be purchased from Kathy Montgomery, 8936 County Road 2650 E, Easton, Illinois, or call her at (309) 562-7534. It is soft-backed and spiral-bound and costs \$7 plus \$2 postage.

White County HEA

FRESH BROCCOLI MANDARIN SALAD

JoAnn L. Mundy

4 C. fresh broccoli florets, 1-inch cuts
1/2 C. golden raisins
6 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
2 C. sliced fresh mushrooms

1/2 C. slivered almonds
1 can (11 oz.) mandarin oranges, drained
1/2 medium red onion, sliced in 1/8-inch thick rings

Custard Dressing:

1 egg plus 1 egg yolk, lightly beaten
1/2 C. sugar
1 1/2 tsp. cornstarch
1 tsp. dry mustard

1/4 C. vinegar
1/4 C. water
3 T. butter, softened
1/2 C. mayonnaise

In top of double boiler, whisk together egg, egg yolk, sugar, cornstarch and mustard. Combine vinegar and water. Slowly whisk into egg mixture. Place over hot water and cook, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens. Remove from heat. Stir in butter and mayonnaise. Chill. Toss dressing with rest of ingredients in serving bowl. Serve. Store chilled.

MEXICAN MUNCH

Martha Knowlton

2 C. Corn Chex
3/4 C. Spanish peanuts
1 (3 oz.) can French fried onions
1 (4 oz. can potato sticks

1/4 C. margarine
1/2 (1 1/8 oz.) pkg. taco seasoning mix

In a 9x13-inch baking pan, combine onions, cereal, peanuts and potato sticks. Melt margarine; stir in seasoning and drizzle over mixture, stirring well. Bake in 300° oven for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool and store in airtight container.

1ST PLACE CHICKEN CASSEROLE

Bobbi McCall

3 cooked, diced chicken breasts
3 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
1 C. cooked rice
1 1/2 C. celery, chopped
1 can cream of mushroom soup

1 can cream of chicken soup
1 (3 oz.) pkg. slivered almonds
2 T. lemon juice
1 C. mayonnaise
2 T. oleo
1 C. bread crumbs

Mix all ingredients except the oleo and bread crumbs. Put in a 9x13-inch pan. Brown bread crumbs in oleo. Sprinkle over casserole. Refrigerate overnight. Remove from refrigerator 1 hour before baking. Bake 40 to 45 minutes at 350°.

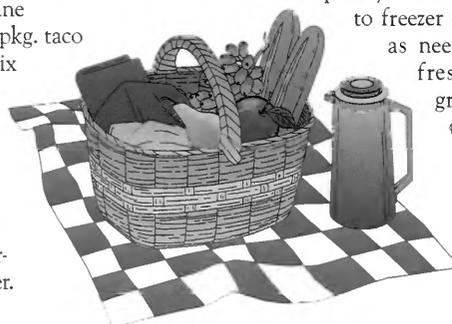
SPAGHETTI MEAT SAUCE

Jennavee Vaupel

1 large onion, chopped
1/4 C. oil
2 1/2 C. tomatoes, or 1 lb. can
1 (6 oz.) can tomato paste
1/2 tsp. pepper

1 clove garlic, minced
1 lb. ground beef
1 C. water
1 tsp. salt
1 bay leaf

Saute onion and garlic in oil. Add meat and cook until browned. Add remaining ingredients and simmer slowly, about 1 hour. Cool quickly and freeze in trays with dividers. Transfer cubes to freezer container. To serve, heat as many cubes as needed over low heat. Spoon sauce over freshly cooked spaghetti. Sprinkle with grated cheese. (Ready for a spaghetti supper whenever you want to have one).



The coldest part of any refrigerator is the top back shelf.

THROWED ROLLS

Norma Healy

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 tsp. sugar | 1/4 C. melted butter |
| 1 pkg. dry active yeast | 1/4 C. sugar |
| 1/4 C. tepid water (105° to 110°) | 1 egg, beaten |
| 1 C. warm milk | 1 tsp. salt |
| | 4 C. all-purpose flour |

Combine sugar and yeast in tepid water. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes until yeast begins to foam. Thoroughly mix milk, butter, sugar, egg and salt in large bowl. Stir in the yeast mixture and 3 1/2 cups of flour, adding a bit more if necessary to make a soft, pliable dough. Turn dough out on floured board and let rest while you clean and butter bowl. Knead dough gently 4 to 5 minutes, adding flour if necessary, until dough is smooth and silky. Return to bowl; cover with plastic wrap and let rise in warm place until doubled in size. Butter a 12-cup muffin tin. Punch down dough. Pinch off pieces about 1 1/2-inches in diameter (enough to fill 1/2 of muffin cup) and roll into smooth spheres. Place two such pieces in each prepared muffin cup (it should be a tight fit). Cover dough loosely with plastic wrap for 45 minutes. Preheat oven to 350°. Bake rolls 20 to 25 minutes or until light brown. Serve as soon as they are cool enough to throw.

HILLARY'S CHIPS

Myrtle Sutton

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 1/2 C. unsifted all-purpose flour | 1/2 C. granulated sugar |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | 2 eggs |
| 1 C. solid vegetable shortening | 2 C. old fashioned rolled oats |
| 1 C. firmly packed light brown sugar | 1 (12 oz.) pkg. semi-sweet chocolate chips |

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease cookie sheets. Combine flour, salt and baking soda. Beat together shortening, sugars and vanilla in a large bowl until creamy. Add eggs, beating until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in flour mixture and rolled oats. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop batter by well-rounded measuring teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until golden. Cool cookies on sheets on wire racks for 2 minutes. Remove to wire rack to cool completely.

Remember that every time you open the oven door the temperature drops about 25 degrees.

Village of Easton**GOLDEN FRUIT SALAD**

Jane Bruce

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 C. mandarin oranges, drained | 1 jar maraschino cherries or bunch of grapes |
| 1 large can pineapple chunks, drained (save juice) | 2 bananas, cut up |

Dressing:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1/2 C. water | 3 T. cornstarch |
| 1 C. sugar | Juice from pineapple |

Cook until thick; cool and mix with fruit. Stir in nuts, if desired.

SKILLET MOSTACCIOLI

Linda Bell

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 1/2 C. water |
| 2 C. uncooked mostaccioli | 1/4 tsp. salt |
| 1 (15 1/2 oz.) jar spaghetti sauce | 4 oz. shredded Mozzarella cheese |

In 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat, cook and stir beef until it loses its pink color. Drain. Stir in mostaccioli, spaghetti sauce, water and salt. Sprinkle with pepper. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 30 minutes or until pasta is tender, stirring every 10 minutes to prevent sticking. Sprinkle with Mozzarella. Leave until it melts, about 2 or 3 minutes.

BROWN'S BAY BANANAS

Susan Phelps Rodger

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1/2 banana, peeled | Vanilla ice cream |
| Puff pastry | Cinnamon sugar |
| Caramel sauce | |

Cut a 2x10-inch strip of puff pastry and wrap the banana. Deep fat fry at 400° until golden. Drain and roll in cinnamon sugar. Serve with caramel sauce and vanilla ice cream.

WILLIAMSBURG BREAD

Christy VanEtten

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 2 (8 oz.) pkg. crescent rolls | 1 egg, divided |
| 1 (8 oz.) cream cheese (lowfat cream cheese works well) | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 2/3 C. sugar | Cinnamon |
| | Sugar |

Spread 1 package rolls on bottom of a greased 9x13-inch pan. Pinch seams together to seal. Cream sugar, cream cheese, and egg yolk together. Add vanilla. Spread over dough in pan. On a sheet of waxed paper, spread and pinch together remaining package of rolls. Carefully invert the paper with dough attached over the dough and filling. Peel off paper as you spread the dough onto filling. Press edges together to seal lightly. Brush top with egg white. Mix cinnamon and sugar for topping and sprinkle over egg white. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Allow to cool and set before cutting.

CABBAGE AND BEEF SOUP

Glendora Blakeley

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground round beef | 1/2 medium head cabbage, chopped |
| 1/2 tsp. garlic salt | 1 (28 oz.) can tomatoes, chopped |
| 1/4 tsp. garlic powder | 1 tomato can of water |
| Dash of pepper | 4 beef bouillon cubes |
| 2 celery stalks, chopped | Chopped fresh parsley |
| 2 carrots, sliced | |
| 1 (16 oz.) can kidney beans (undrained) | |

In a Dutch oven, brown beef and add all remaining ingredients except parsley; bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 1 hour. Garnish with parsley. *Soup can be frozen in serving-size portions to enjoy months later.*

Give mashed potatoes a beautiful whipped cream look by adding hot milk to them before you start mashing.

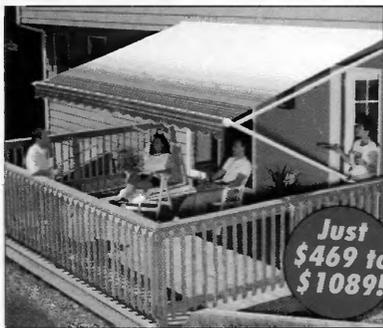
HOMEMADE VANILLA ICE CREAM

Haylie Stone

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 4 eggs | 4 C. light cream |
| 2 1/2 C. sugar | 2 T. vanilla |
| 6 C. milk | 1/2 tsp. salt |

Beat eggs until light. Add sugar gradually, beating until mixture thickens. Add remaining ingredients; mix thoroughly. Freeze in ice cream freezer. Make 1 gallon.

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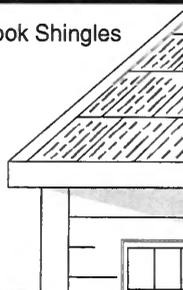
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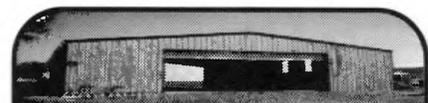
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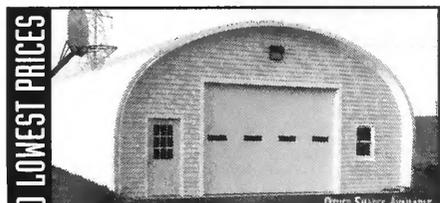
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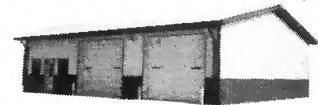
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Farm living is the life for me

by Susan Wildemuth

Fifteen years ago, I married a farmer and the world as I knew it changed. I had spent my growing-up years living in a city where there was an abundance of things to do and see, like museums, art galleries, libraries, a myriad of movie theaters, shopping districts, sporting events — all easily reached by climbing on a bus, hailing a taxicab, or getting in the car and arriving at your destination in under ten minutes. I was used to anonymity, people mowing their yards at six in the morning, honking horns, traffic jams, and young people with new driver's licenses "riding the ones" (driving the one-way streets of Davenport), mingling with other young people with new driver's licenses. The secret being to see who could play their music the loudest without causing permanent hearing damage.

I knew about the existence of tractors and combines. I'd seen pictures. Sub-soilers, bat-wings, choppers, and mulchers were beyond my comprehension, but I would eventually learn to recognize them and what farmers used them for.

I've finally figured out where Little's Corner is at, but even after years of remedial tutoring on the subject, trying to find the north, south, east, or west side of anything is still a challenge for me. I think in terms of left and right so I spent a good deal of those first 15 years being lost once I left the main highway.

Almost everyone out here has a nickname pinned on them at an early age, so it took me awhile to figure out who Peapod, Shorty, Clark Kent or the Swede were. People were very patient with my ignorance, but then farm folks are some of the nicest people I know and Husband and I are lucky to be surrounded by the cream of the crop. Grandpa and Grandma, H and B, Carrier and her kids, Dot, Green Thumb, Mr. F and son, and Sister's Family make up the list of our immediate country neighbor-

hood. They are the type of people who wave at you when they see you, forgive each other's idiosyncrasies, and respect their neighbor's privacy. Over the years we have grown to truly care about each other like a surrogate family, and never is this more evident than when one of us is in trouble.



A newly widowed woman with a crop still in the field can count on a caravan of combines, grain trucks, and tractors pulling wagons to come rumbling down the gravel road when the corn and beans are ready to be harvested. The women, not wanting to be left out, will drop by throughout the morning for a short visit, each bringing a casserole dish, pie plate, cake pan, basket full of homemade bread or one of her specialty dishes. Grandma, my M.I.L. (mother-in-law) makes apple pies so tasty you'd walk barefooted over glass to get one. All these culinary delights help the new widow feed the teams of hungry men who will fill her picnic tables at noon. It's the way things have been done out here for years, and if you ask me, it's a mighty good way of doing things.

In the country, the perfect Fourth of July picnic site lies within walking distance of your

own back door, and you know after your brood has guzzled a gallon of sodas that the bathroom door will not be locked. The farmer and I have hosted many Independence Day picnics for my out-of-town relatives, who look forward to visiting our *park* every year. There is plenty of room and camouflage for the annual Fourth of July squirt gun fights, and the old horse pump makes a good source for ammunition for the young and young-at-heart in the family. Even though our very tame (some would even say lame), firework displays cannot touch the ones the Jaycees put on each year at the hillside park in the nearby Victorian Village, they must not be too bad — we get repeat visitors every year.

The farm is a great place to raise crops and kids. On hot summer nights after the chores are done, you can go out in the backyard wearing your nightgown, sit on the stoop, and watch your children run around in nothing but their diapers or Fruit-of-the-Looms, chasing fireflies, without having anyone turn you in for running a peep show. On some mornings you can find the blue-tinged Mason jars with air holes punched into their lids on our picnic table, but most of the time we practice the catch-and-release program. If it works for fish, it can work for fireflies, right?

Over the years, I have adjusted and come to the realization that farm living is the life for me. I love our little piece of the earth, can't imagine wanting to live anywhere else. Especially on clear nights when the sky is illuminated with a blanket of stars, it's a nice place for old married couples who have the little ones tucked away in bed to spend some time alone together talking about the future, reminiscing about the past, watching for shooting stars, and catching up on a little sparking.

Susan Wildemuth is a writer who lives in rural Illinois with her husband, son, and Spud the Dog.

July DATEBOOK

1-30, **Midwest Heritage Quilt Show**, Vermilion County Museum. Danville. (217) 442-2922.

2-4, **Walleye Festival**, Findlay. Entertainment, crafts and lots of walleye. (217) 756-4106.

3-4, **Old Gold: Tractors, Toys & Tradition**, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield. Antique tractor show, farm toy show, pedal tractor pulls, tractor parades, memorabilia show & auction, farm toy auction, antique tractor auction. (309) 664-0526.

5, **1845 Independence Day**, Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, near Charleston. Many of Lincoln's neighbors will gather at the Lincoln farm (about 8 miles south of Charleston) to celebrate an 1845 Independence Day with militia activities, patriotic speeches, songs, a tableau, a temperance rally and a town ball game. Lots of children's activities. (217) 345-1845.

3-5, **Pride of the Prairie**, Decatur. This country dance festival, at the Holiday Inn Select, is billed as the largest indoor festival of its kind, attracting enthusiasts from nearby states. About 30 workshops featuring instructors from around the Midwest will be on hand. (217) 243-3159.

5, **Clear Creek Fair**, McNabb. The 141-year-old Magnolia Grange building and grounds between Magnolia and McNabb is the site of this 5th annual event featuring an old tractor and engine show and a pottery and stoneware show. Sponsored by the Clear Creek Area Preservation Council.

1-5, **Cornerstone Festival**, Bushnell. Now in its 15th year, this Christian music and art festival draws more than 22,000 people nationwide for music (150 bands in 15 distinct venues), seminars, workshops, panel discussions, and sporting and recreational activities. Art Rageous, described as a festival within a festival, offers an art gallery, hands-on workshops, on-grounds demonstrations, and seminars focusing on practical and spiritual issues. (773) 989-2087 or point your browser to <http://cornerstone.jesusfreak.com>.



8, **We Serve Seniors**, Northwoods Mall, Peoria. A day of recognition for senior citizens. Prizes, gift bags, business and non-profit displays, a celebrity master of ceremonies, educational speakers and entertainment. (217) 656-3650.

8-10, **Massac County Youth Fair**, Youth Fairgrounds, Metropolis. Western and gaited horse show, dog show, farm toy show, antique farm machinery exhibit and volleyball tourney, along with games and contests. (618) 524-2909

11-12, **Air Rendezvous**, Capital Airport, Springfield. Aviation daredevils from around the country. (217) 789-4400.

11-12, **Summer Festival at New Salem**, Petersburg. The pioneer village of Abe Lincoln comes alive during a re-enactment of a typical Illinois summer day in the early 1830s. (217) 632-4000.

12, **Antique Show**, Bishop Hill. It's on the lawn of Colony School. (309) 932-2831.

18, **Stewardship Saturday**, Pulaski County. Cache River Wetlands volunteer work day. Meet at Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge on Shawnee College Campus. (618) 634-2231.

18, **River to River Trail Society Hike**, Southernmost Illinois. A guided and interpreted hike rain or shine. Pack a lunch and bring water. (618) 658-8409 or e-mail bridges@accessus.net.

17-19, **Beef Ag Days**, Princeton. Arts & crafts, ribeyes, sand volleyball, children's petting zoo, roast beef sandwiches, continuous entertainment, beef hot dogs, dancing, and did we mention lots of beef? (815) 875-2616.

17-19, **Western Days**, Stockton. Includes a parade on Saturday. (815) 777-6666.

18-19, **Galena Arts Festival**, Galena. It's the 27th annual. (815) 777-1948.

18, **Ways of Weaving**, Dickson Mounds Museum, Lewistown. Introduction to American Indian finger weaving traditions, patterns and fiber and dye resources. (309) 547-3721 or visit www.museum.state.il.us.

18, **Spiders from Shell**, Dickson Mounds Museum, Lewistown. Shell carving using modern tools to cut and engrave a shell disc to create a spider-design pendant like those of the Mississippian Indian culture. (309) 547-3721 or visit www.museum.state.il.us.

Don't play with fireworks

Attend a public display

Fireworks send dozens of Illinoisans (136 in 1996) to the hospital each year, most of them children, reports Thomas Armstead, Illinois State Fire Marshal. Many suffered from second- and third-degree burns, while others lost their sight or their hearing.

M-80s and bottle rockets are responsible for most of the injuries (25 percent), with sparklers (11 percent) and firecrackers (10 percent) close behind.

In Illinois, all fireworks are illegal unless authorized by local jurisdiction permits for supervised public displays. The term "fireworks" does not include sparklers, smoke devices, snake and glow work pellets, trick noisemakers, and most forms of toy pistols using plastic or paper cups. Even these seemingly harmless devices can be dangerous; misuse of them by children can create dangerous situations.

Fireworks also cause dozens (184 in 1996) of devastating fires in Illinois. "Matches and lighters in the hands of children and careless adults are already dangerous weapons, and then adding an explosive such as fireworks can be lethal," warned Armstead.

Armstead urges families to attend public fireworks displays. "Let's make July 4th and the entire year fireworks safe. Observe all fireworks safety rules, and leave fireworks use to the professionals.

Virtually every community in Illinois sponsors some sort of fireworks display and July 4th celebration. Contact your local chamber of commerce, or call the Illinois Department of Tourism at (800) 2CONNECT (that's (800) 406-6418) for details in your area.



4, 19th Century Children's Festival, Old State Capitol, Springfield. Kids of all ages can step back into the 1800s at the 7th annual children's festival at the old capitol. Abe will be on hand, along with a regimental band performing Civil War-era songs. Also, a juggler-magician-slack rope walker will delight, and an immigrant woman will tell tales of prairie life and make corn husk dolls. Also, a maypole dance, and Punch & Judy puppet show. For festival details, (217) 785-7960 or (217) 785-7290.

20-25 Bagelfest, Mattoon. Street fair featuring world's largest bagel breakfast, entertainment and more than 100 food & craft vendors. (217) 235-6551.

22, Preserving America's Heritage: The Park Movement, Early American Museum, Mahomet. Robert Espeseth, a professor of leisure studies at the University of Illinois, shares the history of our local, state and federal park system. (217) 586-2612.

24-26, Western Illinois Bluegrass Festival, Old Lake Hillsboro. Bluegrass music performed in a natural amphitheater on a covered stage by groups from several Midwestern states. (618) 539-5931 or (217) 532-6332.

25, Archeology Day, Center for American Archeology, Kampsville. Learn how an archeological site is excavated. A full day of excavations, interactive demonstrations, displays and lectures showcasing regional prehistory, traditional technologies and current research. Bring your collection and have your artifacts identified. (618) 653-4316 or www.caa-archeology.org.

25, Antique Car Show, Bishop Hill. Sponsored by the Bishop Hill Old Settlers' Association. (309) 927-3345

25-26, Rod Run & Car Show, Galena. It's the Antique Town Rods' 21st show. (815) 777-0677.

25, School Days, School Days, Early American Museum, Mahomet. Get ready for the new school year with readin', 'ritin', 'rithmetic and recess, recess, recess in a one-room school. (217) 586-2612.

25-26, Living History Weekend, Metropolis. Fort Massac State Park. Crafts and a visit with the Massiac Marines. - (618) 524-9321.

26, Choctaw Festival, Dickson Mounds Museum, Lewistown. A day-long event presented by members of an extended family of the Choctaw tribe of Tennessee reflecting ancient traditions, including crafts, cooking, a cycle of social dances, and a stick ball game. (309) 547-3721 or visit www.museum.state.il.us.

28-30, Frog Jump, Morrisonville. It's really the Morrisonville Picnic & Homecoming, with the "world's largest frog jump," a car show, parade, carnival and entertainment. (217) 526-3521.

Ongoing

Through 8/8 – The Illinois Shakespeare Festival, the Midwest's leading outdoor homage to the Bard. Enjoy a serenaded picnic dinner on the lawn of historic Ewing Manor plus mini-plays for kids and stage combat demonstrations. (309) 438-2535, or visit the festival's web site at www.orat.ilstu.edu/shakespeare.

Mark Twain and the Laughing River, Trolley Depot Theatre, Galena. The Smithsonian calls Jim Post's original show a "gem" that is "nothing less than brilliant." Tuesdays-Saturdays Memorial Day through October. (815) 777-1248.

"A Look Back at the World Wars," Madison County Historical Museum, Edwardsville. Featuring uniforms, photographs, posters, and memorabilia from World Wars I & II. Runs through Aug. 30. (618) 656-7562.

Rendezvous in Old Nauvoo, Cultural Hall, Nauvoo. Free historical musical performed by missionaries each Friday and Saturday in the restored Cultural Hall through May. *Rendezvous in Old Nauvoo* focuses on the personal histories of families and individuals of early Mormons, including Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, who settled Nauvoo before journeying to Utah. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, performances of *Nauvoo Adventure* are nightly except Sunday. This story tells how the early Latter-day Saints turned swamp land into what once was Illinois' largest city. Don't miss the quilt display on the second floor. (800) 453-0022 or (217) 453-2237.

Early American Museum, Mahomet. *Pastimes: The Changing Role of Leisure 1830-1960:* A look at the changing types of entertainment in a cooperative venture between the museum and the Eastern Illinois University historical administration graduate program. Runs through December. (217) 586-2612.

Center for American Archeology, Kampsville. Exhibits and media presentations showcase the history and prehistory of the Lower Illinois Valley and surrounding region. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, noon to 5 Sundays. (618) 653-4511 or (618) 653-4316.

Prairie Aviation Museum, Central Illinois Regional Airport, Rt. 9 East, Bloomington/Normal. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this museum boasts a restored DC-3 and a Cessna 310. Also, try out the new DC-3 simulator. Free (donations appreciated) 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. (309) 664-5004.

Christian County Historical Museum, Taylorville. Walk through a log home, farm home, school, depot, and courthouse all built between 1820 and 1870 at the last stop on Abe Lincoln's circuit. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays from December through March.

Dickson Mounds Museum, Lewistown. *The Gift of Spiderwoman: Weaving of the Americas:* A major special exhibit featuring textile arts of North and South American tribes from Illinois State Museum collections featuring rarely viewed rugs, blankets, containers, and a wide variety of garments, and tracing the development weaving. Runs through August. *Journey to Other Worlds,* a collection of archival photographs from the Russian Museum of Ethnography, St. Petersburg, Russia, documents the life of Siberian reindeer hunters. Opens June 1. The museum's Hickory Ridge Coffeehouse also offers folk music performances every third Saturday, and periodic dulcimer workshops. (309) 547-3721.

Illinois Country Living publishes event listings as space allows, giving preference to events of regional or statewide interest. Event listings are provided by the event sponsors and the Illinois Bureau of Tourism. The magazine assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of information submitted for publication and advises calling ahead to confirm dates and times. To be considered for inclusion, send listings and photographs to Illinois Datebook, Illinois Country Living, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708-3787.