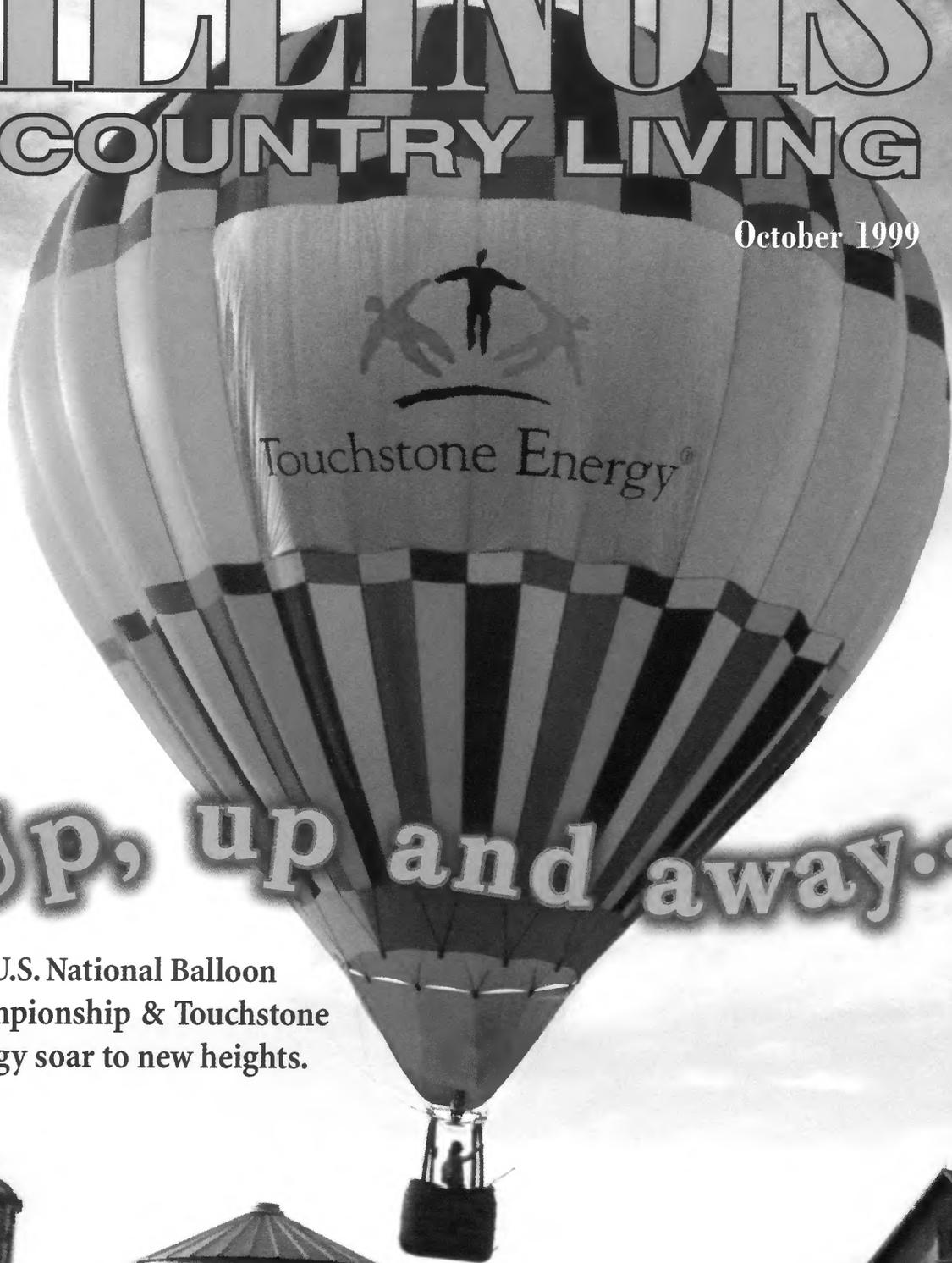


Do you know what's in your water? see page 14

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## COUNTRY LIVING

October 1999



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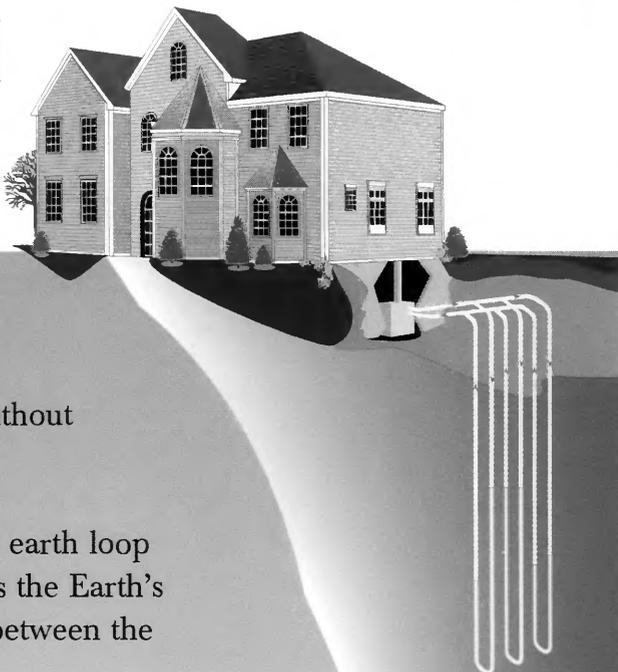
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## COVER STORY

### 10 Up, up and away . . .

The U.S. National Balloon Championship and Touchstone Energy® soar to new heights. On the cover: Touchstone Energy, Illinois electric cooperatives and balloonist, Cheri White, came out winners at the U.S. National Balloon Championship held in Rantoul. Cover photo by Chris Ritzo.



## DEPARTMENTS

### 4 ILLINOIS COMMENTARY

Tim Reeves, general manager of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative discusses his thoughts on power supply deregulation.

### 5 ILLINOIS CURRENTS

Learn more about electric deregulation and why it has already begun for some large commercial and industrial customers of investor-owned utilities in Illinois and find out why a group of Chinese government and agri-business leaders toured Illinois farms.

### 14 SAFETY AROUND YOUR HOME

George Czapar, Cooperative Extension Service educator, stresses the importance of high quality drinking water.

### 16 YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

Learn the importance of fallen leaves.

### 18 TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY AND YOU

Save money by investing in a good surge suppressor.

### 22 ILLINOIS' FINEST COOKING

Warm up your fall nights and fill your kitchen with the enticing aroma of home-made breadsticks from the recipe collection of Dewey Mennonite Church in Dewey, or satisfy your sweet tooth with apple pinwheels in syrup from the recipe collection of the Holy Cross Church in Newton.

### 26 ILLINOIS MARKETPLACE

### 29 ILLINOIS DATEBOOK

October is full of "spooktacular" events to explore. Spend a day on the Trail of Terror at the Blackhawk Waterway, or test your nerve at the Halloween Festival in Geneseo. If you are looking for something a little more relaxed, spend a day at one of the many Fall Festivals taking place this month.

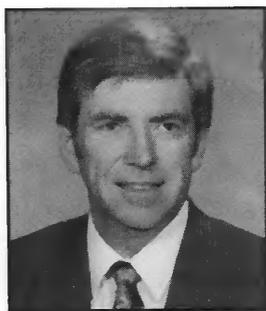


# Illinois COMMENTARY

## Is our power supply ready for deregulation

These are my personal thoughts on power supply based on past experience and what I foresee in the future.

The summer of 1999 is over. It was the second year in a row of high electric demands that have challenged the production and transmission capabilities of electric utilities. What happened to the good



Tim Reeves

old days of the 1980s when we had plenty of power? The answer to that question begins with the '70s.

In the early '70s, electric loads were growing at a fantastic pace and electric utilities were building many large power plants to accommodate existing and forecasted loads. Most of these plants were coal and nuclear-powered. Construction, including obtaining necessary permits, typically takes more than five years for a coal-fired plant and 10-12 years for a nuclear plant. The long lead-time, coupled with out of control inflation and high interest rates, escalated the cost of plants already under construction. Since the cost of a new plant was generally not passed along to consumers until completion, the financing costs of construction compounded, which further increased the final cost.

Then came 1973, with the oil embargo and energy crisis. Electric loads stopped growing. Plans for new businesses with large electric loads were scrapped. People were encouraged to conserve, and they did. Despite the curtailment in demand, most of the new power plants were either already completed or too far along to halt construction. As a result, electric rates increased dramatically in order to pay for the new plants. The energy crisis spawned a new appreciation for natural resources and in the late

1970s, the first clean air rules were enacted. While these rules weren't applied to existing plants, they affected plants under construction.

The electric industry entered the '80s with a large surplus of power and high rates due largely to the significant costs of new power plants. Some companies were even accused of acting imprudently for building plants which were considered unnecessary and were precluded from recovering the costs. With energy conservation, improved efficiency in appliances and equipment and few new loads, the surplus continued throughout the decade.

The '90s have brought sustained economic growth and business expansion. Though we have new uses for electricity in our homes, few companies have constructed new power plants. With stable prices for the last 10-plus years, conservation has declined. In short, we have used up our surplus of electric power.

One might wonder why electric utilities haven't built new plants. I believe there are several answers to this question. We are entering a period of deregulation in the electric utility industry. Up until now, utilities were guaranteed a captive customer base and a guaranteed return on their investment. Deregulation will open the service territories of utilities that were once monopolies to competition from other sellers. Incumbent utilities are wary of investing in new power plants when the customers the plant is intended to serve may choose another power supplier. Some states have already deregulated, others are in the process and still others are studying deregulation.

Utilities that do choose to install generation may find it necessary to raise rates to recover the cost of the plant. Given that utilities will compete with others on the cost of power in a deregulated market, increasing rates is not an attractive proposition to utility executives.

More than 75 percent of the electricity in the United States is generated by nuclear or coal-fired plants. However, the nuclear share is shrinking due to plant closures. At this time, I believe it is safe to say no new nuclear plants will be built in the foreseeable future. Nuclear power does not create air pollu-

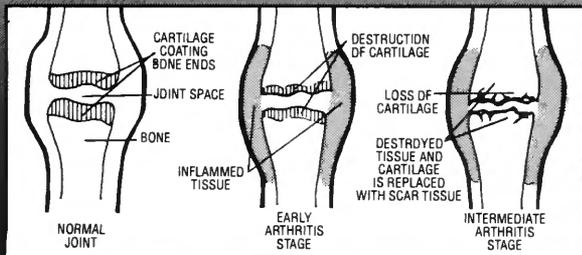
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*Tim Reeves is the general manager of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. The generation and transmission co-op owns four coal fired generating units and is forging new agreements with other co-op power suppliers to coordinate the supply of electricity in the region.*

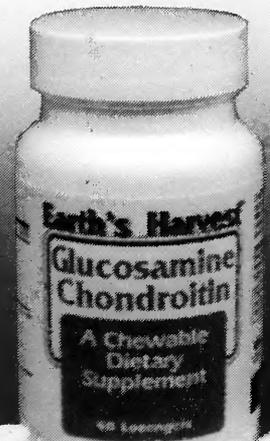
*continued on page 6*

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There are many reasons why you should try this Chewable Lozenger, but the best reason is that "It Works" You will feel improvement... your aches and pains will lessen and you will start to feel better. If you don't, simply return the unused Lozengers for a full refund of your purchase price (less P&H). No one can force you to try this product, but if you are suffering from joint pain and your lifestyle is suffering because you're uncomfortable... why wouldn't you want to receive relief from the pain?

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Continued from page 4

tion, but safety concerns and the high cost of complying with safety regulations have caused this type of facility to be uneconomic. Many plants have been closed or "mothballed" long before the end of their original intended lives.

The mainstay of the generation industry is coal-fired power plants. These plants represented 43 percent of installed capacity and 57 percent of electricity generated in 1997. Coal is plentiful and until the current decade, these plants were relatively free from burdensome regulations. However, the aforementioned 1970's era clean air rules were made substantially more stringent in the 1990s. Coal-fired plants are now heavily regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency. Further regulations are on the horizon, promising even higher costs and tougher standards for coal plants. Current and future rules call for the removal of a number of substances from plant emissions. The cost of removing sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, particulate and other pollutants is significant and consumes a portion of the power produced by the plant. Growing awareness of environmental considerations makes it unlikely that the regulatory climate will ease in the future.

This brings us to natural gas — the fuel of choice for electric utilities at the present time. Gas-fired turbines can be built quickly (two or three years) in relation to other types and they produce little pollution. Many utilities are now building gas-fired plants. In fact, the demand for these units has outstripped the capacity to build them and the waiting list to purchase a gas turbine is at least three years. Gas represented 19 percent of the installed capacity in the U.S. in 1997.

Gas units can be used for either peaking or built as base load plants. A peaking unit is intended to operate only on days when demand for power is inordinately high. A base load plant is intended to operate most of the time. In 1973, experts predicted shortages of natural gas and encouraged citizens to conserve. We must now wonder if the consumption of gas by new power plants will deplete gas reserves and lead to future shortages or increased prices. Only time will give us the answer to this question.

In the past only electric utilities built power plants. Today others are building and owning power plants. Independent power producers, natural gas companies, foreign utilities and others are building plants and selling wholesale power. Some are seasoned utilities, while others with little experience have recently entered the industry.

At present the United States does not have a

fully deregulated wholesale power supply market. Proponents of the deregulated marketplace say that the principle of supply and demand will take over in a deregulated market, and this will solve the power supply problem. It seems to me that we are unsure if the marketplace can supply the electricity we need. Price spikes, contract defaults and other widely publicized events indicate that some market participants are not ready to participate in a deregulated market.

In a perfect marketplace a product can be moved to where the demand is located. Electricity requires transmission lines in order to accomplish this task. At present, our country does not have the necessary power lines to move the quantity of power necessary

to accomplish this goal. Organizations called Independent System Operators (ISO's) are being formed to attempt to bring the various transmission systems owned by electric utilities under the control of one operator in several regions of the country. The idea is to be able to fully utilize the

transmission system and provide a uniform rate to move power across the region. ISOs are still in the planning stages. When they do become operational they will determine what additional transmission resources are needed and see that they are built. All of this will take some time to accomplish.

It is easy to see that the electric utility industry is undergoing great change. Customers expect utilities to satisfy their demand for electricity, even if it means constructing new plants. Utilities are faced with the responsibility of building necessary generation with no assurance that when completed, they will have customers for its output. If rate increases are necessary, the utility might price itself out of a competitive, deregulated market. The long lead-time, rising costs, evolving regulations and constraints in the transmission system add to the uncertainty. We've lost the security of a regulated power supply.

Many consumers are unaware of the factors affecting the utility industry, other than news reports of summer power shortages and blackouts or the occasional awareness of deregulation discussions by legislators. It is obvious that the current situation was not caused by an abrupt shift in the industry but rather a gradual evolution. From the monopolies of the past, we've moved into an era of deregulation, where the marketplace is expected to supply the power of the future.

*The opinions and views of guest commentators are their own and may not represent those of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives or the electric co-ops of Illinois.*

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*"Price spikes, contract defaults and other widely publicized events indicate that some market participants are not ready to participate in a deregulated market."*

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/s/John Lowrey

## Electric utility deregulation begins

At least it begins October 1 for some large commercial and industrial customers of investor-owned utilities in Illinois. Electric cooperatives and municipal utilities, because they are locally owned, have local control and can decide whether or not to enter into the deregulated market based on what is best for their community. Some believe deregulation will have benefits for all customers, others claim it will not help small residential customers.

Non-residential customers with electric demand of four megawatts or greater, or who own 10 or more sites that use a total of 9.5 megawatts will begin the phased in schedule this month. On December 31, 2000, all remaining businesses and other non-residential customers will be phased in. Not until May 1, 2002, will residential customers of investor-owned utilities be phased in.

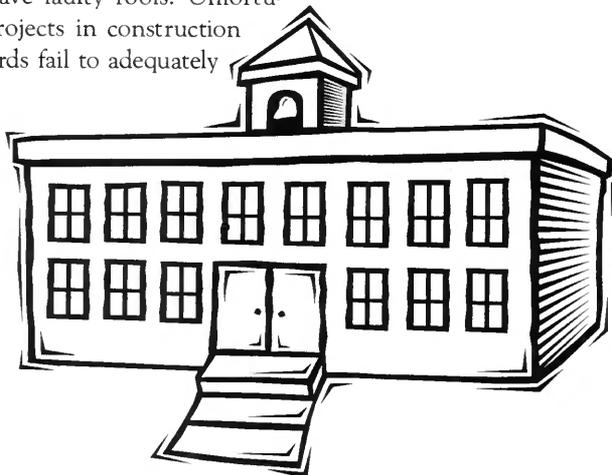
## EnergySmart Schools

Schools today are trying to figure out how to meet ever-increasing demands with limited funds. The EnergySmart Schools program helps schools address that dilemma through better use of energy. EnergySmart Schools is a joint effort of government and private organizations, led by the U.S. Department of Energy. The goals are: to reduce energy costs; use clean energy technology; improve the learning environment with better lighting, temperature control and air quality and increase student, teacher and community awareness of energy and related issues.

With over 110,000 K-12 schools, \$6 billion is spent on energy in schools each year. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, these schools can reduce their annual energy consumption 25 percent, leading to savings of \$1.5 billion each year. That money could be used to hire 30,000 new teachers or purchase 40 million new text books — not once, but each and every year.

A 1995 report by the General Accounting Office estimated that more than 70 percent of schools were built before 1960 and many need major repairs. Nearly 28,000 schools have less-than-adequate heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and 21,000 have faulty roofs. Unfortunately, many school projects in construction or on the drawing boards fail to adequately address energy issues.

For information about EnergySmart resources go to [www.eren.doe.gov/energysmartschools/help.html](http://www.eren.doe.gov/energysmartschools/help.html). Or call your local electric cooperative for energy saving advice.



## Aquaculture workshop October 9

Interested in starting an aquaculture business? Would you like to diversify your farming operation? Do you like to be involved in something new at the ground floor level? Is surface water an idle resource on your acreage?

Learn the ins-and-outs of aquaculture at a workshop sponsored by the Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) Office of Economic and Regional Development (OERD), SIUC Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program, Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR), and the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center. The one-day workshop will provide information about the many factors to consider before starting an aquaculture enterprise as a full-time business, for supplemental income, or as a hobby. The workshop will include presentations on species, systems, water quality, nutrition, diseases, marketing, and information sources.

The workshop will be held Saturday, October 9, 1999, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center in Carbondale, Illinois. Registration is \$25 and includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and three-ring binder with aquaculture bulletins and fact sheets. Pre-register by October 1, 1999, to reserve a space. Registration is limited to 100 persons. Unfortunately, a few interested individuals were turned away at the last moment last year. So, please reserve a space early.

For further information on the workshop, contact Dan Selock (dselock@siu.edu) or Dr. Sue Kohler (skohler@siu.edu), OERD, Mailcode 6891, SIUC, Carbondale, Illinois, 62901-6891. Or phone (618) 536-4451.

## Chinese group tours Illinois farms



*A group of 28 Chinese agribusiness leaders visit the rural Rochester farm of Jimmy Ayers. Learning about rural electrification as well as modern farming techniques, the group joined four generations of Ayers family members for a group photo.*

A group of Chinese government and agri-business leaders from Jilin province in extreme northern China spent a week in central Illinois visiting Illinois Department of Agriculture leaders and the Illinois State Fair, and learning about state government and the Illinois electric cooperative program.

The group visited the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in Springfield to learn more about the electric cooperatives and the role they play in American agriculture. Following a briefing session at the AIEC, the group traveled south to the rural Rochester family farm of Jimmy Ayers, president of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative and secretary of the AIEC board of directors. The group learned about modern central Illinois grain farming and marketing



*Jimmy Ayers, president of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, exchanges business cards with several Chinese visitors. They were part of a tour coordinated by the University of Illinois at Chicago.*

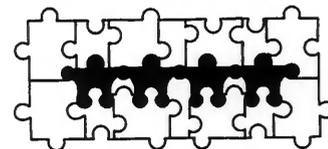
during their meeting with Ayers. Following the Ayers' farm tour and lunch, the group traveled by bus to the rural Chandlerville farm of Morris Bell, a director of Menard Electric and the AIEC. The group toured a Havana grain facility and an FS fertilizer plant, as well as the Bell farm fields, where the Chinese got a demonstration of irrigation technology.

## Co-ops helping you solve the puzzle

When folks have a problem, they often find the best solution by working together. That's what cooperatives are all about. A cooperative business belongs to the people who use it, people who have organized to provide themselves with the goods and services they need. All across America, 120 million people are solving problems and enjoying a better life because of their co-ops. People have formed 47,000 co-ops for farming, banking, housing, child care, health care, electric and telephone service, food retailing and other goods and services. They trust their co-ops to help them find solutions.

October is Co-op Month. For more information about cooperatives, visit [www.cooperative.org](http://www.cooperative.org).

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Now, an amazing new book reveals thousands of sources of fabulous freebies which are yours for the asking. Entitled “Free for Seniors”, you'll learn all about such goodies as how you can:

- ▶ Get free prescription drugs. (This one alone could save you thousands of dollars!)
- ▶ Get free dental care... for yourself AND for your grandkids.
- ▶ Get up to \$800 for food.
- ▶ Free legal help.
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- ▶ How to get up to \$15,000 free money to spruce up your home!
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- ▶ Here's how to get help in paying your electric bill.
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# Up, up and away



*A balloon's kaleidoscope of brilliant colors is reflected in a country pond.*

## **The U.S. National Balloon Championship and Touchstone Energy® soar to new heights**

*Story by Nancy Nixon*

*Photos by Jim Coleman, Chris Ritzo and Kevin Bernson*

**I**t was a warm August morning, and mist engulfed the prairie like veils of soft cotton.

The countryside was abuzz with the sights and sounds of the typical morning activities, and everything appeared to be "business as usual." This morning, however,

was not like most, and suddenly, out of the mist, nearly 100 brightly colored hot air balloons soared into the summer sky like intricate holiday ornaments. This signaled the beginning of the 1999 U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship in Rantoul, which was held August 6-15.

The national championship, which, this year, spent its second year in the heart of Illinois, left

some 40,000 to 50,000 spectators breathless with its beauty. Touchstone Energy, the national branding campaign for electric cooperatives nationwide, was in the spotlight of the event through a true winner's balloon sponsorship. Cheri White, who entered the competition as the top contender for the first ever ladies' division national championship and a promising contender for the overall national championship, proudly flew the Touchstone Energy banner throughout the competition. She proved her talent as a balloonist by placing first in the ladies' division and 10<sup>th</sup> overall, but she also proved her sportsmanship through a positive attitude and a gracious spirit.

A member of Fayette Electric Co-op in LaGrange, Texas, White has been ballooning for many years. Ballooning was a family past time when she was growing up and she bought her first balloon when she was just 19. White's father, Sam Edwards, is a world-class balloonist himself. White has several impressive ballooning titles behind her name. She was the 1993 national championship's "Rookie of the Year," she currently holds the title of Women's North American Championship and she earned her invitation to the 1999 Ladies' World Cup in France. Even with these credentials, she has a way of making everyone comfortable around her. Her down-to-earth attitude was a key element in winning over farmers' hearts when she landed in their fields during this year's balloon

championship's practice and competition events. When she gave the farmers a Touchstone Energy hat or shirt and her friendly smile, they couldn't help but like her. On one occasion, she encountered a rough landing in the thistle patch of Tom Foster's field. Foster, a member of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, came out to greet and assist her and was quite pleased to receive a Touchstone Energy hat. A few days later, as White was preparing to land, she saw a truck chasing the balloon. When she landed, Foster excitedly jumped from the truck and ran up, proudly wearing the Touchstone Energy hat she'd given him previously.

The U.S. National Balloon Championship is a serious competitive event. The best balloonists from around the country have



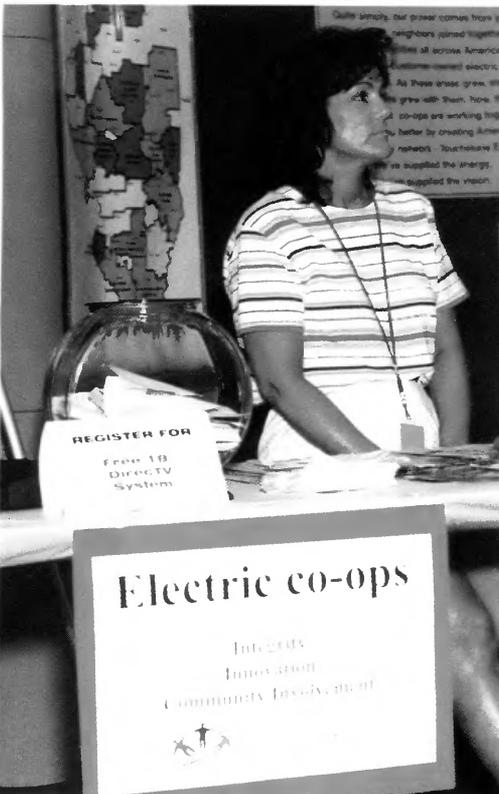
*After a harrowing landing in his field, Cheri White presents farmer Tom Foster with a Touchstone Energy hat.*

been competing in a number of regional balloon championships throughout the past year. The 100 pilots who accumulate the highest average of points during those regional events qualified for the national championship in Rantoul.

To accumulate the necessary points to place in the U.S. National Championship, the balloonists are asked to complete a series of tasks to demonstrate their skills. The many different tasks involve balloon racing and dropping markers from balloons at targets below. While it may sound simple, it is exhausting, frustrating and sometimes dangerous, especially when one considers the wind and other unpredictable factors. White overcame those elements and became the first woman balloonist to ever place

in the top 10 finalists of the overall national championship.

White is an advocate of family-oriented events and was the ideal spokesperson for Touchstone Energy during the balloon competition. In fact, her family, including her twins, travels to most of the balloon events with her. Greg Nieman, vice president of marketing/business development for Soyland Power Cooperative, Decatur said, "Cheri White was a great ambassador for the co-ops. She emulated the co-op philosophy of family and community. She really embraced Touchstone Energy's theme, 'the power of human connections.'" Not only was White a winner competitively, her attitude epitomized what electric cooperatives have always stood for — integrity, accountability, innovation and community involvement. She made a point to recognize and thank Touchstone Energy for its sponsorship in her acceptance speech at the balloon championship. In return, the Illinois Touchstone Energy cooperatives presented her with a recognition plaque for



*Volunteer Sharon Delaby, wife of Lou Delaby, manager of operations and maintenance at Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, Auburn; watches over the Touchstone Energy display during a shift at the balloon championship.*

competing "with integrity." Each of her crew members received a team photo for their efforts as well.

It is certainly no accident that electric cooperatives became involved in the balloon championship. Spearheaded by Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Paxton; Soyland Power Cooperative and seven other electric cooperatives throughout the state of Illinois, quick work was done to promote the event statewide. With the exception of a couple of days of bad weather and minor unexpected events, the event came off smoothly. Video and photography experts, Jim Coleman, Kevin Bernson and Chris Ritzo, from Shelby Electric Cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), captured all the color, gracefulness and excitement of the championship event. Photography and video coverage of the event was included in press releases and media packages to recognize Cheri White and Touchstone Energy.

Participating co-ops also sent crews, totaling 70, over the 10-day event. Gary Van Gorden, key accounts representative from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative said, "It was a tremendous cooperative effort. Every day, a new team of co-op employees came in to volunteer. They were willing to pitch in and do their part and enjoy themselves at the same time." And their hard work paid off. According to balloon championship committee member, Byron "Skip" Denhart of St. Joseph, championship organizers were able to reduce last year's deficit by \$150,000 and break even for this year's championship. In addition, Touchstone Energy co-ops that participated in the event assisted organizers in receiving an \$85,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (IDCCA) to support the championship.

The Touchstone Energy cooperatives that participated in the event were: Soyland Power Cooperative; Coles-Moultrie Electric, Mattoon; Eastern Illini Electric; EnerStar Power, Paris; McDonough Power, Macomb; Illinois Rural Electric, Winchester; Norris Electric, Newton; Rural Electric Convenience, Auburn and Shelby Electric, Shelbyville.

The U.S. National Balloon Championship was successful, and it will return to Rantoul in 2000 in part because of the cooperative efforts of Touchstone Energy electric co-ops. This shows how important community involvement is for the co-ops.

So remember, wherever you are, whether it's in Illinois or in other states across the nation and you see the Touchstone Energy logo, remember your local electric cooperatives and their "power of human connections."



## A Touchstone Energy

**F**or many years, you've known your hometown electric cooperative as your reliable source for power as well as other products and services. But, if your co-op is affiliated with Touchstone Energy, you are part of a much larger network, made up of local, consumer-owned utilities nationwide, comprising the largest utility in the country. And, we're not just talking about a few co-ops, we're talking about 558 electric co-ops, representing more than 5.6 million households and businesses, reaching more than 15 million people in 37 states.

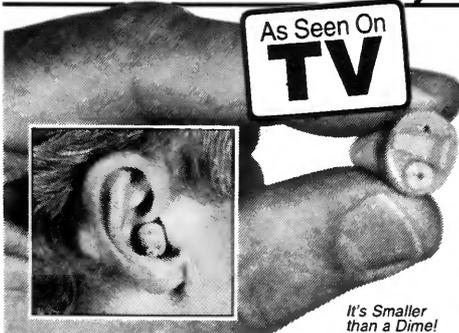
Touchstone Energy, which drives home the importance of the hometown electric cooperative as the energy provider of choice, reinforces the co-op's pledge to serve its members with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. And the word "member" is key here. You are not customers of your co-op, you are **owner/members**, which means you and how you feel about your co-op matter. You're not a number. Members have come to expect personal service and small-town friendliness from their co-op, which seems unique in this fast-paced age of mega-mergers and quantity, not quality. Co-ops nationwide have joined Touchstone Energy so their members can still enjoy the attributes their local co-op brings them, while gaining access to the resources of a national network.

Your co-op is a member of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), which exists solely to support the needs of electric cooperatives in the state of Illinois. One service offered by the AIEC, which has affected each of you at one time or another, is the Illinois Electric Cooperative Emergency Work Plan. During storms and other emergencies, the AIEC staff sends out an alert to other cooperatives located outside the outage area that your co-op needs help. Other cooperatives respond to the call and, in turn, send crews and equipment to the affected area. The crews work until the problem is eliminated, then return to their respective cooperatives. After a severe storm, the crews work until the job is done, perhaps several weeks, to restore power to you as quickly as possible.

These two programs, one statewide and the other nationwide, are proof of the importance of cooperation among the co-ops, not just in their own back yards, but on a much larger scale. It is truly the "co-op way" to work together to create a better community, state and even a better nation.

So, the next time you think your co-op is "small potatoes," remember Touchstone Energy and the AIEC, working cooperatively to make your life better. For more information about Touchstone Energy or the AIEC, call your local co-op today.

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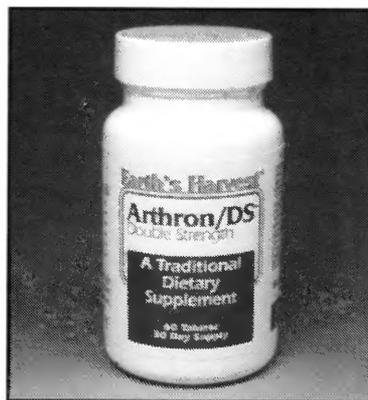
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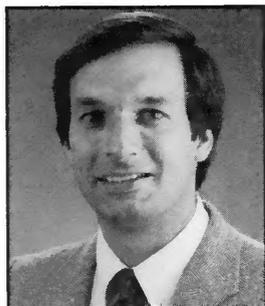
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# AROUND YOUR HOME

## Do you know what's in your water?

Whether your water comes from a public utility or a private well, it is important to know that you have high quality drinking water.

Public water supplies must sample four times a year for over 80 different contaminants. Beginning in 1999, all public water supplies are required to provide their customers with an annual drinking water quality report.



George Czapar

The report will include information about the source of drinking water, such as a lake, river, or aquifer and whether it meets federal drinking water requirements. It will indicate how susceptible this local drinking water source is to contamination and will identify

potential sources of contamination. It will list the contaminants detected in the water supply, and will outline the potential health effects of any contaminant found in violation of an EPA health standard.

Part of the right-to-know provisions in the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the reports are aimed at improving public information about drinking water and increasing participation in water quality protection efforts. More information is available on EPA's drinking water website at: <http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw> or from the Safe Drinking Water hotline (800-426-4791).

If the main source of your drinking water is from a private well, it is your responsibility to test the water on a regular basis. Water testing can be done by the Illinois Department of Public Health or by private labs. A basic test analyzes water for two common contaminants, coliform bacteria and nitrate. The best time to test for these contaminants is during spring or summer following a period of heavy rainfall. These tests should also be conducted after repairing or replacing an old well and after installing a new well or pump.

Coliform bacteria is an indicator of overall water

quality. A survey of private drinking water wells in Illinois found that 44 percent of the wells tested positive for coliform bacteria.

Although chemical disinfectants such as chloride tablets or bleach can be used to treat wells, it is important to identify potential sources of contamination. It might be due to contamination from soil or surface water or may indicate problems with well construction or location.

High nitrate levels in water are a concern for pregnant women and infants under six months of age. The standard for nitrate-nitrogen in drinking water is 10 parts per million. Boiling the water will not reduce nitrate levels, and actually makes the problem worse.

Two publications about water testing are available from your local University of Illinois Extension office. *Planning Your Well: Guidelines for Safe, Dependable Drinking Water* (Land and Water Publication Number 14) provides information about water quality, planning and installing a well, and understanding geologic conditions that affect groundwater.

*Safe Drinking Water: Testing and Treating Home Drinking Water* (Land and Water Publication Number 17) contains information about water testing, types of contaminants, and treatment devices that are available. This publication also includes a list of labs that are certified by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to test home drinking water.

Water testing is only part of a well owner's responsibility. Reducing the risk from potential contaminants is also important. Septic systems, for example, should be properly maintained to minimize the chance of groundwater contamination.

Pesticides and fertilizers applied to the lawn and garden should be used carefully. Always follow the label directions for use and properly dispose of excess material. Similarly, used motor oil always should be recycled to prevent contaminating water supplies.

Finally, abandoned wells are a threat to water quality and a significant health and safety concern. An abandoned well may allow contaminants to bypass the natural filtering process that takes place in the soil. *Sealing an Abandoned Well* (Cutting Edge 98-1) is a fact sheet available from your local Extension office. Information is also available at the Abandoned Well website at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/eq/well/trial.htm>.

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George Czapar is an Extension Educator, Integrated Pest Management at the Springfield Extension Center, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois. Telephone: (217) 782-6515. E-Mail: [czaparg@idea.ag.uiuc.edu](mailto:czaparg@idea.ag.uiuc.edu)

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## Deskunk your dog (or anything else)

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*Why* you should prepare for year 2000. *What* it means when your corn turns purple. *Where* to get open pollinated seeds. *When* to plant head lettuce. *How* to make good whole wheat bread. Manage your woodlot. Make a solar oven—for \$2. Home school. Start a food storage program. Build low-cost gates. Make and use compost. Make a quilt frame for under \$20.



Read letters from "country neighbors" who live next door—and in the wilds of Alaska!

Really enjoy your magazine. It's like having a houseful of friendly neighbors in for the afternoon.

Being 73 years old, of course I lived through the big Depression. My folks had always practiced frugal ways, having been brought up that way, so it wasn't as hard for them as for some. I find many of the same money-saving hints we used then (and I still do) but also quite a number of new ones. We never get too old to learn.—*Ruth S., Idaho*

I'm hooked! Your magazine is a true gem! My only question is, where have you been all my life? The other magazines with "country" in the name have lots of pretty pictures, but no depth or purpose other than shallow entertainment. I'm completely mesmerized by each issue of COUNTRYSIDE I get, and cannot put it down! It's the most-read magazine I've ever had. I even read all the ads! Cover to cover, you're the best.—*Cheryl, Pa*

I continue to enjoy this magazine. Fascinating people, ideas, opinions, observations and hopes, as well as information and practical advice abound.—*Harland C., Maryland*

Thank you for 17 years of COUNTRYSIDE. We love it and the reasons for it!—*Mrs. G.H., NY*

Okay—you got me! And I'm glad! I sent for a sample issue, mailed back the invoice with "No thanks" written across it, and then read the magazine... cover to cover, every word, including the advertising, and decided I *need* this magazine. I had no idea there were so many people who felt the way I do.—*Carol S., Ohio*

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- USE the wool from your sheep
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- MILK a cow or goat
- MAKE 10 kinds of vinegar
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- HELP your hens cope with the heat
- START RIGHT with goats or rabbits
- BUILD a nifty feeder for small cattle
- DETERMINE the value of land
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**PLEASE NOTE:** Articles listed here have already appeared in print, and not all back issues are available — another good reason not to miss any more!

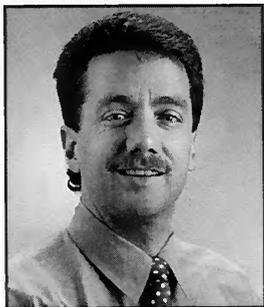
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910EIL

# Your YARD AND GARDEN

## Should you rake leaves, or leave them?

Fall is one of the most brilliant times in the state, with trees a multitude of hues from Cairo to Rockford. Reds, yellows, oranges, purples and all their shades, tints and tones will be in abundance from the lowly redbud to the majestic oak.



David Robson

raked was to get the leaves away from the foundation and shrubs.

For some reason, the leaves were gone by the next spring. I'm sure they ended up in a county or two to the east. They just disappeared. One October day they're there and the next March they're gone. Sure, some were caught in the fencerows back when people had fencerows.

Those who really wanted to, and they were few and far between and always the subject of behind-the-back whispering, would rake the leaves and burn them, carefully making sure they weren't near the corn stubble or the farm buildings.

Twenty years ago you could burn leaves in most cities and towns. With changing times and a more enlightened society (though some will argue this point), leaf burning was banned. The crisp fall air was filled only with crispness and not the cough-inducing haze that leaves produce.

Some communities still allow burning, and others do with some restrictions. Most farm folks, if they want to, can still burn.

Leaves are a valuable source of organic matter. Mother Nature doesn't rake her leaves, but allows

Of course, that presents us with another problem - what to do with the leaves?

Growing up on a farm, we'd only rake leaves for one of two reasons. The first was to make a pile to jump and frolic in. There was nothing like chasing each other, or having the dog and cats chase you, through the leaf pile.

The only other time we

them to fall beneath the trees, disintegrate and recycle the nutrients into the soil. The trees end up growing year after year.

When we rake up leaves in the yard, we sever the plant's ability to draw nutrients from the soil. In most cases, it doesn't hurt since we tend to fertilize the lawns to the point where the extra nutrients help the trees.

If we let the leaves remain on the yard, they could end up smothering the turfgrass, which, in turn, could lead to more weed problems next spring. It would be better to remove them for the sake of the lawn, if the lawn is key to your landscape.

On the other hand, mowing the leaves into small pieces will allow them to fall between the grass blades. They'll break down and recycle their nutrients and little smothering will occur. My mower allows me to go over the leaves a couple of times without bagging them. I can still see leaf pieces in the yard, but the grass is still there.

Just make sure the mower blade is sharp. Leaves will dull it quickly.

Now, if we had another hand, we'd have to say the leaves could contribute to a thatch problem if the soil was clay-heavy or we tended to mow improperly. The thatch wouldn't hurt the trees but end up weakening the turf.

Applying a late fall fertilizer to the turf helps. The nitrogen helps break down the leaves.

Of course, after mowing the leaves a couple of times, you could reattach the bagger and suck up the leaves. Since they've been chopped up, they take up less space. You end up with fewer bags. The bagged shreds could also be added as mulch around tender perennials or roses when the ground starts to freeze.

The vegetable garden is another place to put the leaves. You can till them easily in the garden and help improve the soil for next spring's planting.

Finally, don't forget the compost pile. Add the leaves, a sufficient quantity of water to wet them, and a handful of fertilizer. Turn the leaves weekly to help them break down faster. Keep the pile moist but not damp. By next spring, the leaves should be ready for use.



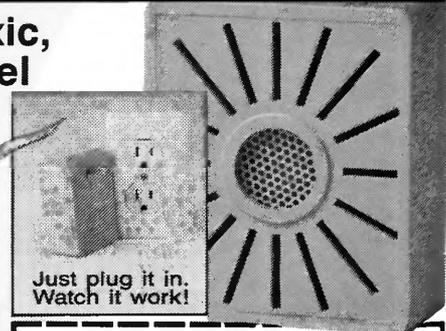
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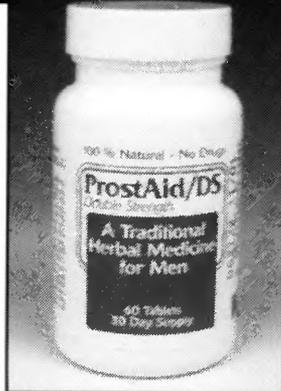
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**ProstAid/DS** also contains 30 mg. Pumpkin Seed Oil, 30 mg. Panax Ginseng Root, 30 mg. Beta Sitoserol, 15 mg. Golden Rod (herb) and 500mcg. Tomato Lycopene. Daily dosage is 2 tablets.

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Today's

# TECHNOLOGY AND YOU

Want to save money? Spend some on a good surge suppressor!

**Q.** My answering machine, VCR, microwave, telephones, etc., don't seem to last very long even though I use plug-in voltage surge arrestors. Would installing a powerful whole-house surge suppressor help? — Mary G.

**A.** Today's homes have many devices and appliances that use sensitive solid state components. In addition to the common electronic equipment you mentioned, most new major appliances (refrigerators, dishwashers, clothes dryers, etc.) have electronics that can be damaged by voltage surges.

Although you are not aware of it, there can be hundreds of very short duration 1,000 plus-volt surges in a typical home's wiring every day. The frequency and intensity of the surges depend on your specific location.

Your electric co-op does everything it possibly can to minimize these voltage surges, but it is impossible to eliminate them. The source of the surges is not your utility company's generators.

Surges are usually caused by lightning or when electrical equipment, often large motors in nearby commercial businesses, switches off. They can even be generated inside your own home when your air conditioner compressor stops or you are running your dishwasher or clothes washer.

Although small plug-in surge arrestors help, they do not provide the best protection. Even if the voltage surges are not strong enough to destroy the electronic components, frequent smaller surges can slowly break down wiring insulation.

This can cause premature device failure or just faulty operation. Microwave ovens have been known to start on their own. Your computer may get glitchy. Your telephone answering machine may miss messages.

A combination of a high-quality whole-house surge suppressor and small plug-in units (on sensitive electronics) provides the best protection. If you have a

computer, VCR or any newer appliances, you should install a whole-house unit. Many electric co-ops sell or lease whole-house surge suppressors. Check with your local co-op for details.

There are three basic styles of whole-house surge suppressors that are commonly used. One design mounts on the circuit breaker box with wires (I use this type in my own home). Another design has the surge suppressor built into a snap-in circuit breaker. The third design, and often the most powerful, mounts directly under the electric meter.

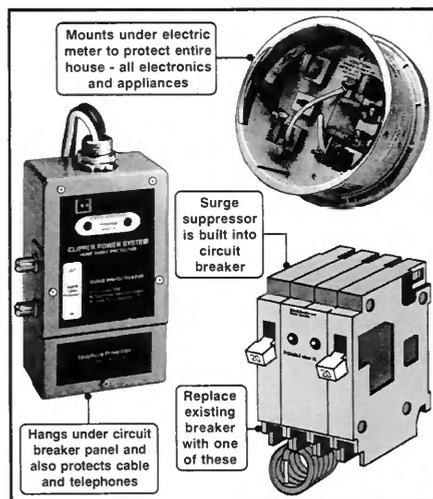
To understand how they work, think of a large "electric sponge". When a voltage surge hits, instead of burning out your equipment, the sponge (usually an MOV material) absorbs the energy. Since the surge is of very short duration, the sponge dries out and is ready for the next surge. A bigger sponge can absorb a bigger surge without being fried itself.

Be thorough when selecting a whole-house surge suppressor. There are significant differences in the level of protection of the many surge suppressor models available. You cannot judge a unit's quality and level of protection by just looking at it or weighing it.

Compare the following specifications. The maximum surge current indicates the surge strength that it can withstand. A higher number is better. A reaction time of one nanosecond or less is adequate. A lower clamping voltage is better because it begins to block the surges while they are still small.

Some of the newest models also provide protection for your telephone and TV cable lines. Many computer and fax machine modems have been destroyed by surges through the telephone lines from a distant lightning strike. Again, check with your electric co-op if you have any questions.

Write for (or instantly download — [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com)) Update Bulletin No. 405 — buyer's guide of the 10 best whole-house and plug-in surge suppressors, designs, reaction times, max. surge, clamping voltage and features. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE. Mail to: Jim Dulley, 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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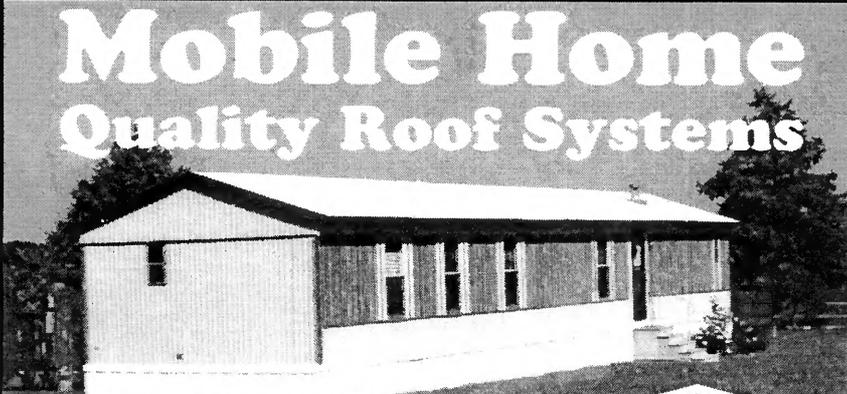
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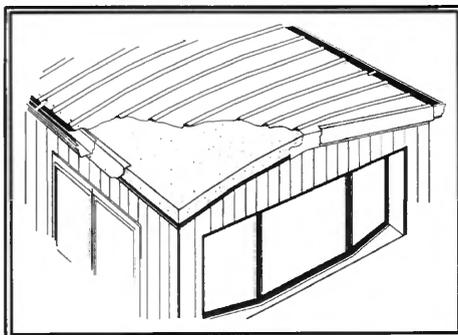
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# Illinois' FINEST COOKING



Dewey Mennonite Church, Dewey, Illinois submits its 1998 cookbook. It is soft-backed and spiral-bound and contains 125 pages of recipes and helpful hints. They comment that some men in the church have submitted recipes. Order from Dewey Mennonite Church, 16 Third Street, Dewey, Illinois 61840. The cost of the cookbook is \$10 plus \$2 for postage.

Holy Cross Church, Newton, Illinois shares two cookbooks; one celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1981 with 131 pages, and "Thank Heaven for Home Made Cooks," prepared in 1991, with 158 pages. Both cookbooks are soft-backed and spiral-bound, and cost \$5 plus \$2 each. Order from Holy Cross Church, Star Route Box 9, Newton, Illinois 62448.

## Dewey Mennonite Church

### FRUIT DRESSING

2 T. flour	1 C. pineapple juice
1/2 C. sugar	2 T. vinegar
Pinch of salt	2 T. butter
1 beaten egg	1/2 C. marshmallows

Cook all ingredients together over medium heat until thickened. Add 1/2 C. marshmallows to melt. Use over canned or fresh fruit in desired combinations.

### BREADSTICK DOUGH

1 pkg. dry yeast	1 T. honey
1 1/2 C. warm water	3 C. all-purpose flour

Dissolve yeast in warm water (105° to 115°) in a large mixing bowl. Add honey; beat at medium speed until blended. Gradually add flour, beating until smooth. Knead dough until smooth. Divide into 16 equal parts; shape each part into an 8-inch long rope. Place on greased baking sheet; brush with melted butter and sprinkle lightly with coarse salt. Let rise in a warm place; free from drafts, for 30 minutes or until doubled in bulk. Bake at 400° for 10 to 15 minutes or until golden. Make 16 breadsticks.

### LIGHT FETTUCCINI ALFREDO

4 qt. water	2/3 C. evaporated skim milk
3 tsp. instant chicken bouillon	1 1/2 C. grated Parmesan cheese
12 oz. fettuccini	Salt and pepper to taste

Bring water to boiling; add bouillon to large saucepan. Add pasta and cook 1/2 the time recommended on package. Remove from heat and let pasta stand in bouillon water for several minutes, then

Priscilla Knox

drain. Combine cheese and milk and add to pasta. Toss gently to coat. Serve immediately on warm plates.

### SWEET-AND-SOUR CHICKEN

Sharon Reed

Remove skin from chicken pieces. Place in baking dish.

Mix the following and pour over chicken:

8 oz. Russian dressing	1/4 C. water
8 oz. apricot preserves	*pineapple chunks
1 pkg. (dry) onion soup mix	*green pepper

Bake at 350° for one hour, covered, then uncover. \*Place pineapple chunks and green pepper on chicken. Bake uncovered for another 30 minutes.

### BAKED CAVATELLI

Debbie Birkey

2 1/2 C. wagon wheel pasta	14 oz. spaghetti sauce with mushrooms
12 oz. fresh Italian sausage links, sliced 1/2-inch thick	4 oz. shredded Mozzarella
2 cloves garlic, minced	1 tsp. crushed Italian seasonings
15 oz. tomato sauce	

Cook pasta and drain. Brown sausage and drain; reserve some fat to cook garlic until tender. Combine all ingredients (except 1/2 of the Mozzarella) in casserole. Cover and bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes. Uncover and sprinkle with rest of cheese; bake 5 to 10 minutes more.

Jill Rogers

**PUMPKIN PIE CAKE**

Lynn Rogers

1 can pumpkin  
1 can evaporated milk  
1 yellow cake mix  
1 C. chopped nuts  
1 stick butter, melted  
3 beaten eggs

1 C. sugar  
1 tsp. nutmeg  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. cloves  
1/2 tsp. ginger

Mix pumpkin, milk, eggs and sugar in a large bowl. Blend in spices. Pour into a greased 13x9-inch floured pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix and nuts on top. Drizzle melted butter over top. Bake at 350° for one hour.

**MELT IN THE MOUTH COOKIES**

Daisy Smith

1/2 C. oleo or butter  
1 C. brown sugar, packed  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1 egg, beaten until light

3/4 C. flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 C. nuts, finely chopped

Cream butter. Add brown sugar, vanilla and egg. Beat thoroughly. Add sifted flour, baking powder and salt to creamed mixture. Add nuts. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheet. Bake in 400° oven for about 5 minutes. Cool for 1/2 minute. Remove to wire racks. Cookies will get crisp when cooled. Makes about 3 dozen.

**Holy Cross Church, Newton****GREEN GODDESS DIP**

Ellen Kuhl

1 C. sour cream  
1 C. real mayonnaise  
raw vegetables

2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped  
1 envelope Green Goddess-  
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Mix all ingredients and serve with raw vegetables.

**COMPANY CAULIFLOWER**

Gerry Carter

1 cauliflower  
1 large onion, chopped  
1 C. cream of mushroom  
soup  
1 C. milk

1 C. grated cheddar cheese  
1/2 lb. peeled shrimp  
1/2 lb. sliced mushrooms  
1 stick butter or margarine  
salt and pepper to taste

**COCKTAIL MEATBALLS**

Hermena Medernach

**Meat:**  
2 lb. ground chuck  
1/2 pkg. onion soup mix  
1 egg

2 tsp. Accent  
1/4 C. bread crumbs

**Sauce:**  
2 T. butter  
1 (32 oz.) bottle catsup  
2 tsp. oregano

1/4 tsp. garlic  
1 (10 oz.) jar apple jelly

Combine meat, soup mix, eggs, Accent and crumbs. Let stand overnight (if possible) or several hours in advance. In separate bowl combine butter, catsup, oregano, garlic and apple jelly; let stand overnight or several hours also. Make meat mixture into balls and brown. Drain. Heat sauce mixture and simmer 5 minutes. Add meat balls to sauce and simmer about 30 minutes.

Wash and cut off bottom leaves of cauliflower. Place whole cauliflower in steamer and cook until tender when pierced with fork. Set aside and keep warm. Melt 4 T. butter in a saucepan; sauté onion until transparent and set aside. Melt 2 T. of butter in a saucepan; sauté mushrooms until dark brown in color and set aside. Sauté shrimp in 2 T. butter until pink and set aside. In a large bowl, combine soup, milk, cheese, salt and pepper. Mix ingredients thoroughly; transfer to a large pot, simmer until cheese is melted. Add onions, shrimp and mushrooms to mixture; cook until all ingredients are hot. Place cauliflower in a plate that has a small border. Pour mixture over cauliflower. Delicious and attractive.

**STIR FRY CHINESE**

Marge Iffert

4 C. cooked chicken  
4 C. thinly sliced carrots  
1 C. chicken broth  
2 C. celery, slice thin  
4 C. chopped or shredded  
cabbage

2 (4 oz.) cans slice mushrooms  
1 large or 2 small onions  
2 envelopes Kikkoman chow  
mein seasoning  
1 to 2 T. soy sauce

Put chicken, a little broth, carrots and celery in a wok or large skillet and cook on low until carrots are starting to get soft, then add cabbage and onions and the rest of the broth. Simmer. Add the mushrooms, chow mein seasoning and soy sauce and simmer a little longer. Good served on rice or eaten alone.

**APPLE PINWHEELS IN SYRUP**

Kathy Kuenstler

Pastry for two-crust pie  
4 C. grated apples  
1 tsp. ground cinnamon  
3/4 C. sugar

1/2 C. dark brown sugar, firmly  
packed  
4 tsp. vanilla  
2 C. hot water

Roll pastry into 14x12-inch rectangle. Combine apples and cinnamon. Spread over pastry evenly, then roll up as for jelly roll. Slice in 1-1/2-inch pieces, sealing edges with toothpicks and place in 11x7x1-1/2-inch pan, sealed side down. Bake in 400° oven for 15 minutes. Combine remaining ingredients in 2-quart saucepan and bring to a full boil. Pour over apple pinwheels. Return to oven and bake 15 to 20 minutes more, basting twice, until apples are tender.

**DELUXE CHICKEN BARBECUE**

Anna Volk

1/2 C. Mazola oil  
3/4 C. vinegar  
1/4 C. water  
1 1/2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

1 1/2 T. salt  
3 T. sugar

Heat, keep hot while basting chicken on grill. Double recipe if using three chickens or more.

**RHUBARB CRUNCH**

Linda Volk

4 C. diced rhubarb  
1/2 C. pancake mix

1 C. sugar

Toss together and put in greased baking pan.

**Mix:**  
2/3 C. sugar  
1 C. pancake mix

1 egg

Mix until crumbly and pour over rhubarb mixture. Melt one stick margarine and sprinkle over mixture in pan. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes.



# Rustic Creations

*Seeing something wonderful in the discarded*



*Bill and Jane Richey, members of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative near Galatia, created a business by seeing something wonderful in the discarded.*

and such. The porch has its share of goodies too. A handmade wheelbarrow filled with flowers can be seen nearby.

Bill enjoys making something out of nothing. He built a small cabinet using a window from his father's barn. Nothing went to waste. Even the window frame itself was used. One pane of glass has a small crack in it. As he ran his finger across the crack, he said he remembered watching his Dad put the piece of tape over it.

The Richeys really have an eye for creating things with a rustic flair. Each piece is a work of art. All furniture is custom built to meet the client's specifications. Much of their furniture has traveled to other states and is highly sought.

The Richeys attend various shows and flea markets that are geared toward people who enjoy the simple country charm of their furniture and the other items they make. Should your path ever cross Galatia, be sure to stop by the Richeys. They'd be glad to see you!

*Story and photos by: Doris Wilce/ Revelations Photography.*

**B**ill Richey is a visionary. He can look at a piece of discarded wood, be it a board or even an old stick, and "see" it as something wonderful. Bill and Jane Richey of rural Galatia create interesting things on their farm in Saline County. Rustic Creations, that's what they call their business, but their creations are useful and last for many years. Each piece is skillfully hand-crafted with quaint country charm and each is unique. So what do they make?

Bill has built hundreds of things, from bird houses and baskets to tables and chairs. He gathers various types of wood, branches, tree trunks and twisted limbs from the neighboring woods. Wild grape vines add a decorative touch. His favorite things to build are settees, (a chair for two). One settee he built measured 7 feet tall. A young couple planning to get married saw one and bought it especially for their wedding ceremony. Another woman saw his birdhouses and wanted him to make her one, "but don't put a

real hole in it, just paint one on. I don't want any birds in it," she said. Can you imagine a bird sitting on the perch, looking at this black "hole" and wonder-

ing how in the world it can get inside? The Richeys have a log cabin on their place, built by Bill, of course. Walking through the door is like walking back in time. It is furnished with all the necessities one would expect to find from days gone by. Antique dishes and oil lamps, a table with chairs and a cook stove dominate the main room. The back room has sleeping quarters with a bed and antique quilts, a dry sink, a dresser and trunk for storage. Its appearance is so authentic, it's hard to believe that the cabin was only built a few years ago.

The outside of the cabin is as interesting as the inside. Whitetail deer antlers clutter one side of the cabin. The back is covered with a wide variety of wash tubs



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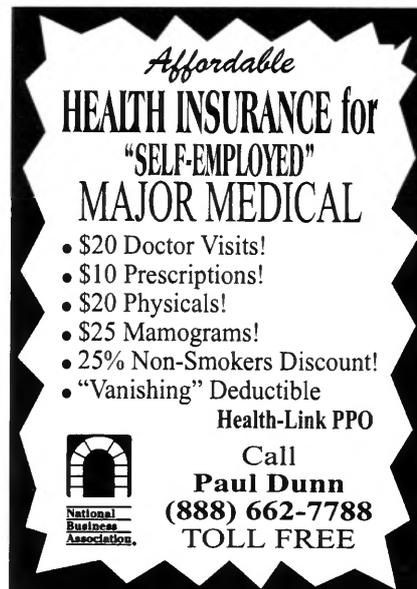
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**1-31, U-Pick-Pumpkin Patch** in Tiskilwa. Come and pick your own pumpkin right off the vine, plus enjoy a corn maze, hayrides, a petting zoo and more. (815) 646-4551.

**1-3, Fall Arts and Crafts Show** at the Village Square Mall in Effingham. (217) 347-0623.

**1-3, Long Grove Apple Festival** in Long Grove. (847) 634-0888.

**1-3, Pumpkinfest** at the Decatur Civic Center. (217) 423-7000.

**1-23, Frightful Surprises** at the Grafton Orchards. Come and see two acres of overgrown Christmas trees transformed into a haunted forest, journey through a scary swamp or take a haunted orchard hayride. (618) 233-0513.

**2, The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Iroquois County Historical Society Harvest Daze Craft Show** at the Iroquois County Museum in Watseka. (815) 432-5907 or (815) 432-4836.

**2-3, Southern Illinois Largest Antique Show and Flea Market** in McLeansboro. (618) 643-3451.

**2-3/9-10/16-17, Arnold's Fall Farm Festival and Pumpkin Patch** in Elizabeth. Go "Hog Wild" in their



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**2, Fall Fest '99** in Troy. (618) 667-8769.

**2, The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Apple Day** in Greenville. (618) 664-9272.

**2-3, The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Barry Apple Festival** at Apple Basket Farms. Over 70,000 people join this quaint historic town to celebrate the apple industry. Enjoy old-time crafts, specialty foods, entertainment, apple dumplings, apple pie, apple cake, apple fritters and fresh squeezed apple cider. (217) 335-2670.

**2-3, The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn on Parade Festival** in Oregon. Celebrate the splendor of autumn with food, music, arts & crafts, classic cars and more. (815) 732-2100.

**2-3, Appl-icious Fun Fest** in at the Eckert's Farms in Belleville. (618) 233-0531.

**3, L'anniversaire de Pierre Menard** (Birthday Observance) at the Pierre Menard Home in Ellis Grove. (618) 859-3741.

**3/ 9-10, Family Fall Festival** hosted by Sacred Heart Church in Oconee. The festival will include hayrides, a barnyard petting zoo, barnyard golf, craft and bake sales, face and pumpkin painting, games and a challenging 2,000 bale straw maze. Plenty of delicious old-fashioned food will satisfy any appetite. (217) 562-3911.

**3, Columbia Model Railroad Club Show & Swap Meet** in Columbia. (618) 281-5393.

**8-9, Highland Oktoberfest and Arts & Crafts Days**, Downtown Square and Northtown Shopping Mall. (618) 654-3721.

**8-10, St. Charles Scarecrow Festival** at Lincoln Park in St. Charles. (630) 377-6161.

**8-11, Scarecrow Daze** in Shelbyville. (217) 774-4723.

**8-10, Civil War Re-Enactment** in Princeton. This event will feature battle demonstrations and music from the Fourth U.S. Artillery Regimental Brass Band. (815) 875-2616.

**9-10, The Second Annual Bluegrass Apple Jamboree** at the Apple Basket Farms in Barry. Join the fun for two days of Bluegrass. Bring your dancing shoes and join our cloggers for some down home entertainment. (217) 335-2670.

**9-10, Autumn Craft Fair** at the River Ridge High School in Elizabeth. Over 85 tri-state artisans will be selling their wares of handcrafted country and folk art at this 7<sup>th</sup> annual show. (815) 598-3147.

**9-10, Ethnic Festival** at Our Lady of the Snows church in Belleville. A weekend celebration featuring cultural foods, displays and entertainment by various ethnic groups. (618) 397-6700.

**10, The Second Annual Apple of your Eye Car Show** at the Apple Basket Farms in Barry. (217) 335-2670.

**10, Eckert's Orchards Walk** in Belleville. (618) 451-2980.

**10, Oktoberfest** in downtown Maestown. More than 60 artisans

will be displaying and creating their crafts. Woodworking, pottery, basket weaving, dried flower arranging and apple butter making are just a few of the fascinating skills. (618) 458-6660.

**16, Auburn Harvest Fest** on the town square in Auburn. Old time arts and crafts, a bluegrass band, an antique car cruise and a city-wide garage sale. (217) 438-3405.

**16, Halloween Festival** in Geneseo. The lamp posts will come alive as The annual scarecrow competition begins. Enjoy the farmer's market autumn harvest. (309) 944-2686.

**16, The Beecher City Harvest Fest** at Beecher City's community park. An entire day of fun is planned. Some scheduled events include a car show, garden tractor pull, cake walk, free kids' games, hayrides, arts and crafts, a flea market, great home-cooked dinners, homemade pie and more. (618) 487-5634.

**16-17, Pike County Illinois Color Drive** in Pittsfield. This year's drive will include 15 activity stops and will feature the "fine artists" of Pike County with art shows held in many of the towns. (217) 285-2971.

**16-17, Halloween Hoopla** at the Eckert's Farms in Belleville. (618) 233-0513.

**21, Hunchback of Notre Dame Silent Film and Pipe Organ** at the Lincoln Theater in Belleville. (618) 233-0018.

**22-23, Little Trail of Horrors** at the Little Prairie Nature Trail in Carlyle. (618) 594-2484.

**22-31, The Second Annual Farmer Jack's Haunted Hayride** at the Apple Basket Farms in Barry. For the brave and not so brave of

heart. Ride through 140 acres of orchard for the time of your life. (217) 335-2670.

**23, Halloween at Clover Lawn: Snap Apple Celebration** at the David Davis Mansion in Bloomington. Children of all ages may trick-or-treat in costume at this Victorian mansion, while enjoying an Irish Halloween celebration with music, games, ghost stories and entertaining skits. (309) 828-1084.

**23-24 Halloween Spooktacular** at the Eckert's Country Store & Farms in Belleville. (618) 233-0513.

**23, Collectors of Illinois Pottery and Stoneware Show and Sale** at the Mark Twain Hotel in East Peoria. See displays of pottery and stoneware made by the early Illinois potters. (309) 367-2391.

**23-24, Fall Craft Fair** at the Triad High School in St. Jacob. (618) 667-6577.

**23-24/30-31, Haunted Woods** in Evansville. (618) 853-2613.

**24, Pumpkins on Parade** at The Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown. The museum's annual Halloween program will feature pumpkins and their relatives - other members of the squash family. Games, crafts and stories on this topic will be presented. (309) 547-3721.

**28, Lions' Halloween Parade** in Vandalia.

**30, Halloween Hi-Jinks** in Columbia. (618) 281-7144.

**30, Pumpkin Patch** in Downtown O'Fallon. (618) 624-4503.

**30-31, Smash Bash** at the Eckert's Country Store & Farms in Belleville. (618) 233-0513.

**31, Phantom of the Opera Silent Film and Organ Concert** at the Lincoln Theater in Belleville. (618) 233-0018.

**31, Troy Kiwanis Children's Halloween Party** in the Troy Center in Troy. (618) 667-6877.

### 21-23/29-30, The Historic Haunted Fort

at Fort de Chartres in Prairie du Rocher. St. Anthony's Fire is the horrifying menace that has struck Fort de Chartres this Halloween time. During historical times, an unexplained terrifying madness struck whole villages - "Le Feu de St. Antonie," or St. Anthony's Fire. This sickness was the result of a poisonous mold that formed on wheat and rye in storage. Once baked into bread, this poison would affect all that ate it.

Prepare yourself for terror and fright that no other Halloween site can produce. Through the darkness and the silent stone Fort buildings, all the ghosts and goblins since 1700 await your presence. Proceed at your own risk, for there is nothing that can save you. A little warning - don't eat the bread. Make sure you are gone by midnight or you might join those eternally there. (618) 284-7230 or (800) 442-1488.



*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 (If sending photographs please include self-addressed stamped envelope) to Illinois Datebook, Illinois Country Living, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708-3787. The deadline for submission is 45 days prior to the publication date.*



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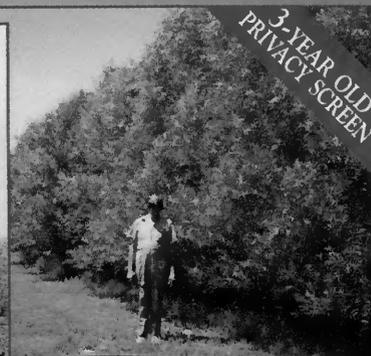
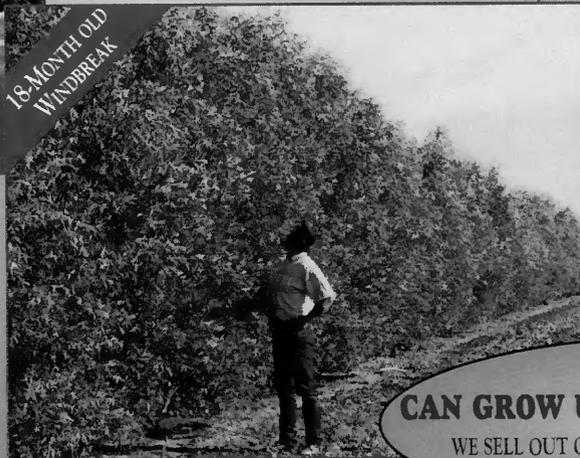
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