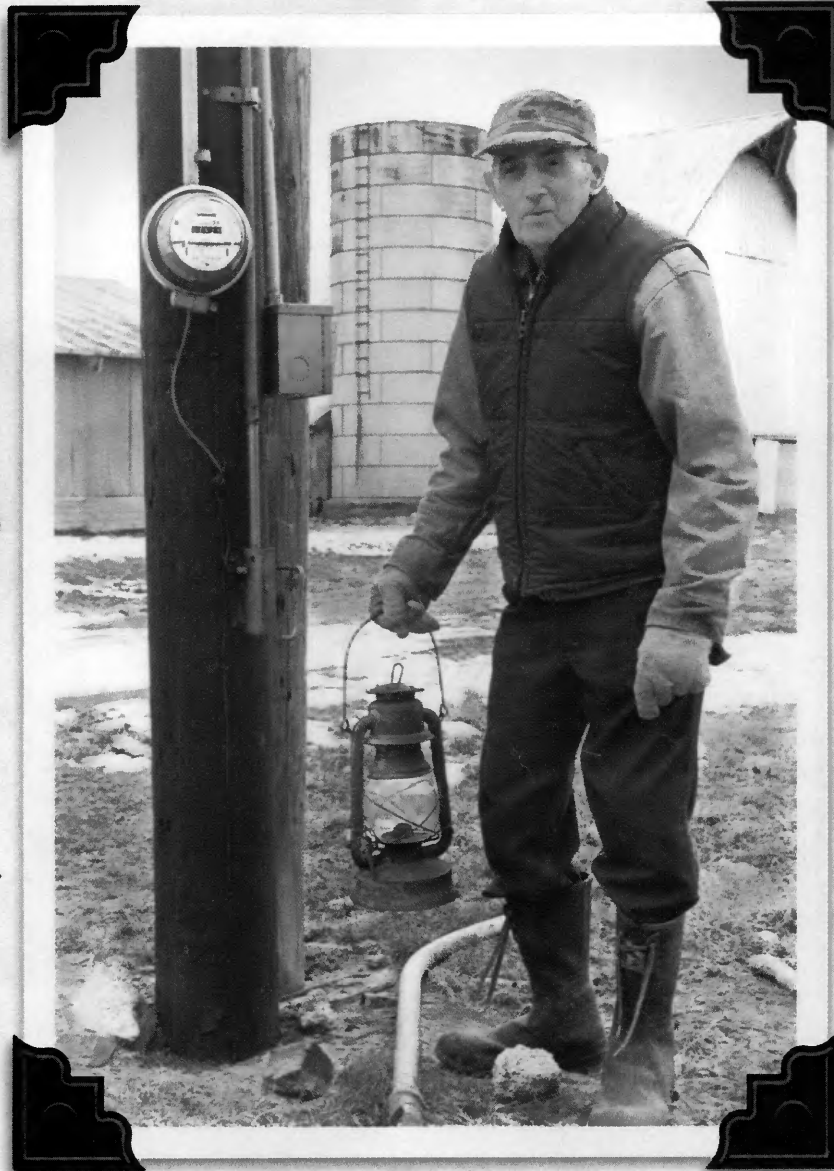


ILLINOISTM

COUNTRY LIVING

January 2000

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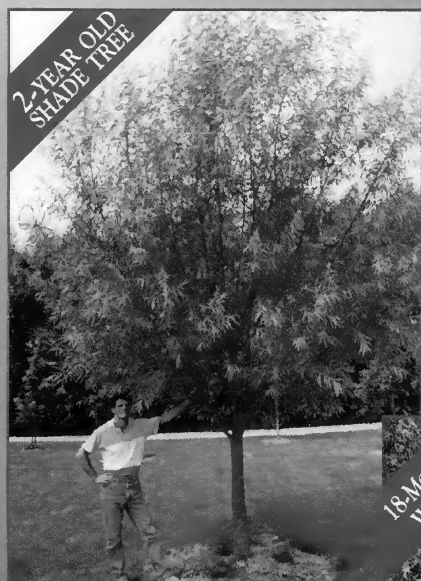


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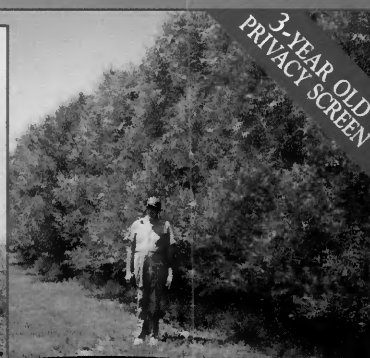
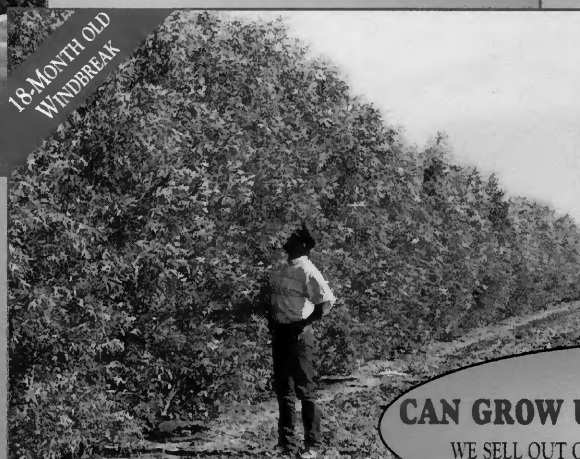
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COUNTRY LIVING

January 2000
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Number 9

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COVER STORY

10 From darkness to the dawn of a new century.

On the cover: The late Carl Gaffner of Greenville holds a lantern next to his electric meter. Carl was one of the first members of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., paying his dues on Dec. 10, 1938. His son, C. W. Gaffner, remains active in the co-op and his grandson, Jerry, lives on the farm.



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Illinois COMMENTARY

In praise of local ownership

I read the other day that Art Modell, current owner of the Baltimore Ravens football team, is putting a part of his franchise up for sale. For a paltry \$125 million you too can own a small portion of a big league sports franchise.

You don't have \$125 million? Well, neither do I. Being an owner of a major league sports franchise is just a benign fantasy for most. The attraction goes beyond the great view of the game you get from the owner's box. There is something about the value of ownership and the sense of control you get when you own a piece of something as seemingly important as a major sports franchise. And while we may not have the money to take our place among the sporting elite, my guess is that someone will approach Mr.



Ronald D. Earl

Modell with a big checkbook in return for that feeling of ownership and control.

Owning a utility is another hot item right now. You can't pick up the business section of the newspaper without seeing another merger or acquisition. Dynegy buys Illinois Power. Central Illinois Public Service Company merges with Union Electric. PECO and Commonwealth Edison make themselves even bigger and more powerful by wrapping their arms around each other. And Central Illinois Light Co. is purchased by AES Corp., one of the largest energy companies with interests in 105 power plants. Being the owner of an electric utility may not have the glamour of owning a sports franchise, but there is no denying the value of ownership and control.

This puts electric cooperative members and the citizens of the state's municipal electric systems in pretty fast company. After all, each of them is a utility owner. OK, so it's not as exciting as owning the Cubs or Cardinals,

and your ownership doesn't come with a luxury box behind home plate. But membership in a cooperative or being a citizen of a municipal system brings with it something most consumers can only dream of, a measure of true control over their electric utility.

Think about what this means. If you belong to an electric cooperative or are a citizen of a municipal electric system you actually choose the people who run the utility. Through them you control how the utility is run, how it is maintained, how it will prepare for the future. And if you don't receive the level of service and attention you think is appropriate, you and the other members have the time-honored right to throw the rascals out and put in people who will do the job the way you want it done.

This is the other remarkable part about being an owner of your electric system. Ownership buys responsiveness. I bet the phone number of your cooperative manager is right there in the book. I know mayors field calls at all hours of the day and night because our citizens expect not only a high level of service, but also responsiveness and accountability. Such closeness to the customer will become even rarer for most people as mergers push repair trucks further away to centralized locations and calls to an 800 number become the closet contact with most utilities.

Other folks know how lucky we are. We receive a number of calls each year from communities that would dearly love to own their electric system. The problem is, it's very tough to get into the business now. The cost is high and the politics complex. Given the changes going on in the industry today, creating a new municipal system or a new cooperative won't get any easier. Which simply underlines just how blessed members of a cooperative or citizens of a municipal electric system are. They already have a level of self-determination that is the envy of other utility customers. The ownership and control of our electric systems are things that we should guard jealously. As an old song says, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone."

So go ahead and daydream about owning a piece of your favorite sports franchise. Then when you snap back to the here and now, remember that you are already an owner in another important industry.

And on Sunday it's the product of your company, electricity, which lets you watch the game right there in that luxury box known as your living room.

Ronald D. Earl is general manager and chief executive officer of the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency. The Illinois Municipal Electric Agency is a not-for-profit unit of municipal government comprised of 39 of the states' 42 municipally operated electric systems. Earl also serves as a member of the board of the American Public Power Association and the Mid-America Interconnected Network (MAIN) and is a member of the advisory board of the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO).

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.

Capital City Farm Show

January 14-16, 2000

Prairie Capital Convention Center • Springfield, Illinois

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- Overseas biotechnology issues: Kim Nill, American Soybean Association
- Marketing through farmer guilds: Frank Beurskens, Beurskens Consulting
- SCN management: Suzanne Bissonette, University of Illinois
- Stu Ellis from the University of Illinois covering "Contract Farming"
- Jerry Harrington the Public Relations Manager from Pioneer Seeds will be covering Biotechnology issues.
- A representative from Consolidated Grain and Barge will be covering foreign demand.

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Illinois' Touchstone Energy co-ops sponsor Farm Home Expo

The Capital City Farm Show will be held January 14-16 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. More than 8,000 people are expected to see the state's agriculture leaders, sample Illinois products, and check out the latest agriculture business products and equipment.

This year an expanded Farm Home Expo area will be hosted by several of Illinois' Touchstone Energy Co-operatives. The electric co-ops will be featuring new technology like a fuel cell power source, surge protection equipment, geothermal heat pumps, security systems for the farm or home, Internet service and communication technology for the farm. Representatives from *Illinois Country Living* magazine will also be on hand.

The Farm Home Expo will also feature the Farm Wellness Center for blood pressure checks, skin cancer screening and more. Representatives from Rural Route 2, a farm crisis program of the University of Illinois, will be there to assist those dealing with financial and other difficulties. There will also be games and entertainment for the kids.

Other presentations will include: Farm Credit Services' risk management workshop, genetically modified organisms, market outlooks, value-added and specialty crops, tree trimming and gardening.

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Legislation allows local broadcast on satellite TV

In order to pass a satellite TV bill containing other pro-consumer provisions before recessing, the United States Congress dropped a provision that would have enabled Rural Utilities Service to guarantee \$1.25 billion in loans to facilitate getting more local programming into rural areas. The "Rural Viewers Amendment" was removed from the bill, with the understanding that when Congress returns from recess in January, it will begin work on a bill ensuring that all viewers have access to network services.

To demonstrate its commitment to rural America, the Senate agreed that if a bill guaranteeing local-into-local services for rural America is not presented for a vote by April 1, 2000, the Rural Viewers Amendment will be passed as it stands.

The Rural Viewers Amendment will help make it possible for all Americans to access, via satellite, to their nearest ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC broadcast network stations. This means that many rural Americans would, for the first time, have access to the local news, emergency information and weather that viewers in urban areas have always enjoyed.

"We have worked for a long time to help Congress to understand that rural markets are under-served and to appreciate the economic realities that would likely keep them under-served well into the future," said Bob Phillips, president and CEO of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC). "NRTC is pleased Congress has recognized that a plan containing incentives to serve rural America is the only way to ensure that no one is denied access to this important service."

NRTC officials say Congress has a better understanding of the issue thanks to rural satellite TV viewers and the hundreds of thousands of calls, letters and e-mails to Congress that ensured a solution for rural consumers.

Illinois Products Expo ... A Food and Cooking Extravaganza

The second annual Illinois Products Expo ... A Food and Cooking Extravaganza is a food and agricultural product showcase designed to allow Illinois food companies and agricultural groups to promote, sample and/or sell their products to the public. The Illinois Products Expo will be held March 10-12, 2000 in Springfield. Friday, March 10, will be an invitation only show for distributors, media and local guests. Saturday and Sunday shows will be open to the public and targeted to consumers within a 50-mile radius of Springfield. There will also be product demonstrations, cooking demonstrations and a BBQ cookoff for the media.

The Illinois Products Expo is designed for Illinois companies to promote their products and generate sales, educate consumers and increase consumer awareness of new uses associated with familiar Illinois food and agribusiness industries. The cost for a 9' X 9' exhibit space on the main floor is \$150. Contact Pam Flesher at (217) 782-9114 or e-mail: pflesher@agr.il.state.us.

Weather web sites to check out

One of the best commercial sites is the Weather Channel at www.weather.com. The National Weather Service home page at www.nws.noaa.gov gives a national forecast with links to regions of the country. Click on the Central Region to find Illinois' current conditions, severe weather warnings, forecasts and extensive weather information. And before making that trip, visit the state of Illinois' Department of Transportation page at www.dot.state.il.us for the latest road reports.

Life saving tips for winter

As winter's chill descends upon us and we pull out those space heaters, stack the logs for the fireplace and turn up our thermostats, please remember these life-saving tips.

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal recommends that all heating units be checked and cleaned professionally each season.

Space heaters should be placed at least 36 inches away from anything combustible and should never be left unattended. Fire safety standards prohibit the use of portable LP (propane) gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies in homes.

Green wood, trash or paper should not be burned in wood stoves or fireplaces. Only clear Grade A K-1 kerosene should be used in kerosene heaters.

The risk of electrical fires is also greater during the winter. Check wires and fuses frequently. Use extension cords sparingly to reduce the risk of an electrical fire.

Illinois law requires smoke detectors in all homes. Detectors should be tested and cleaned regularly and smoke detector batteries should be replaced once a year. Plan and practice fire escape plans. Source: Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, (217) 785-1021.

Winter preparedness safety tips

While the hype about Y2k disasters and power outages may be overblown, it's simply prudent to prepare for winter storms. We know what they can do.

- Store drinking water, first aid kit, canned/no-cook food, non-electric can opener, radio, flashlight and extra batteries where you can get them easily, even in the dark.
- Keep cars and other vehicles fueled and in good repair, with a winter emergency kit in each.
- If using kerosene heaters, maintain ventilation to avoid build-up of toxic fumes. Keep heaters at least three feet from flammable objects. Refuel kerosene heaters outside.
- Avoid travel if possible. If you must travel, do so during daylight. Don't travel alone. Stay on main roads, and keep others informed of your schedule.
- If not connected properly, a portable generator can pose a severe hazard to line workers and your neighbors. You will need a transfer switch. It will disconnect the home's wiring system from the electric co-op's system. It should be installed by a licensed electrician.

After the storm:

- Report downed power lines and broken gas lines immediately.
- Check to see that no physical damage has occurred and that water pipes are functioning.
- Check on neighbors, especially any who might need help.
- Beware of overexertion and exhaustion. Shoveling snow in extreme cold causes many heart attacks.

Conservation Reserve Program signup

The next Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup is scheduled for Jan. 18 through Feb. 11. CRP is the federal government's single largest environmental improvement program and one of its most productive and cost-efficient.

The CRP encourages landowners and operators to plant permanent areas of grass and trees on land that needs protection from erosion, to act as windbreaks, or in places where vegetation can improve water quality or provide food and habitat for wildlife. Landowners and operators enter into contracts with the USDA lasting between 10 and 15 years. In return, they receive annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost-share assistance to establish the protective vegetation.

The Illinois State Enhancement Program is the result of an agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the state of Illinois. Both entities will cooperate in implementing the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to protect water quality in the Illinois River and some of its tributaries.

CREP is a new program that addresses important local conservation concerns by combining CRP with state technical and funding assistance. CRP is administered by the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). USDA and Illinois will carry out the program in cooperation with other federal, state and local authorities.

To locate your local Farm Service Agency office on the Internet go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/EDSO/il/index.html>. Or call or write the state office at: Illinois State FSA Office, 3500 West Wabash, Springfield, IL 62794 or phone (217) 241-6600.

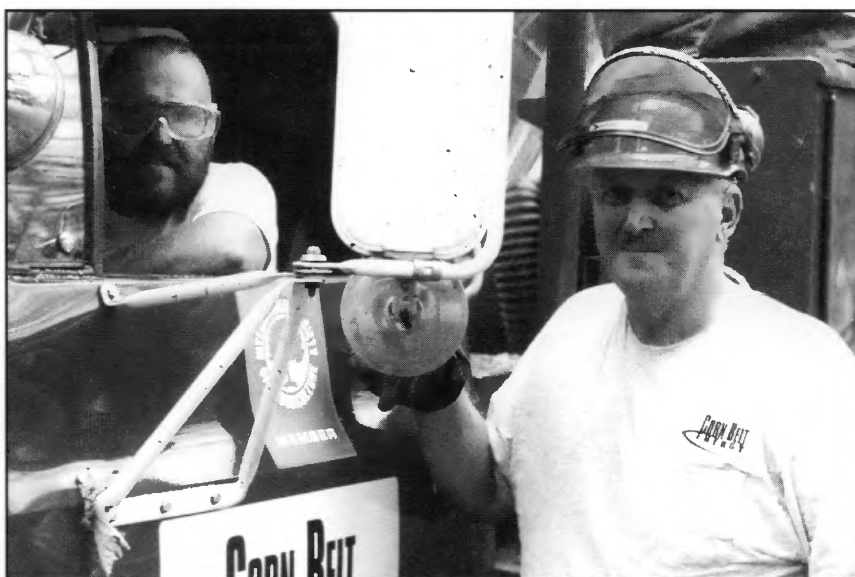
Adams Telephone Co-Operative among national leaders in Internet deployment

Adams Telephone Co-Operative is among the top independent telephone companies and cooperatives serving rural America with Internet services. A survey conducted by the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA) shows that rural telephone cooperatives and companies are actively deploying broadband services.

Adams Telephone Co-Operative is among the top cooperatives offering broadband solutions to business and residential customers. Through its subsidiary, Adams NetWorks, Inc., Adams Telephone Co-Operative has worked diligently with area schools and libraries to provide Internet technology and services for their education programs.

Adams Telephone Co-Operative is also assisting area schools in deploying Video Distance Learning technology. Video Distance Learning utilizes a video link over high-speed telephone lines between the classroom and the teacher. Three area school districts, Camp Point Central, Carthage and Liberty, currently offer Video Distance Learning classes.

Walter Rowland, Manager of Adams Telephone Co-Operative, says, "The cooperative's board of directors has a commitment to area school districts in helping them bring new technology to their schools so they can enhance their educational opportunities. This is a high priority for the cooperative."



Corn Belt Energy's Frank Kinnison (left) and Cal Williams helped clean up Oak Ridge Cemetery, site of Lincoln's Tomb.

Co-op arborists help clean up site of Lincoln's Tomb in Springfield

Most people do not realize that Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield is the second most visited cemetery in the nation after the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Abraham Lincoln's Tomb, the Illinois Vietnam and Korean War Memorials are all located at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Cal Williams and Frank Kinnison from Corn Belt Energy Corporation in Bloomington, along with other members of the Illinois Arborists Association and Local 51 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Springfield, spearheaded the volunteer service day. Williams said, "The cleanup day is a nice thing. We've all done a lot of work that the cemetery people really needed to have done." The work was completed during Illinois Arborist Association Service Day on October 16. The project was in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the International Society of Arboriculture and involved volunteers from around the state.

The work was completed in one day by approximately 150 climbers and ground personnel using 14 bucket trucks and 22 chipper trucks. The work included trimming, pruning, fertilizing and even removing trees in the cemetery that were hazardous to visitors.

Mike Dirksen, arborist for the city of Springfield, said, "The truth is, we just don't have nearly the resources we need to take care of a cemetery this large."

Child healthcare protection available

Child healthcare protection for eligible income-strapped farm families is available through a federally-funded state program called KidCare. It offers health coverage to uninsured children and pregnant women and assists in paying premiums of employer-sponsored or private insurance plans.

Applicants are asked to provide the previous year's tax return, but unlike some assistance programs, farm assets will not hamper eligibility. Income requirements vary by KidCare plan and are based on family size. There are three programs: KidCare Assist for already insured children, KidCare Share or KidCare Premium, which help pay costs for currently uninsured children. KidCare's share of health costs or premium assistance is based on a sliding, income-based scale.

For information call (800) 226-0768. A KidCare application and an income eligibility table are available at <http://www.state.il.us/dpa/kidcare.htm>.

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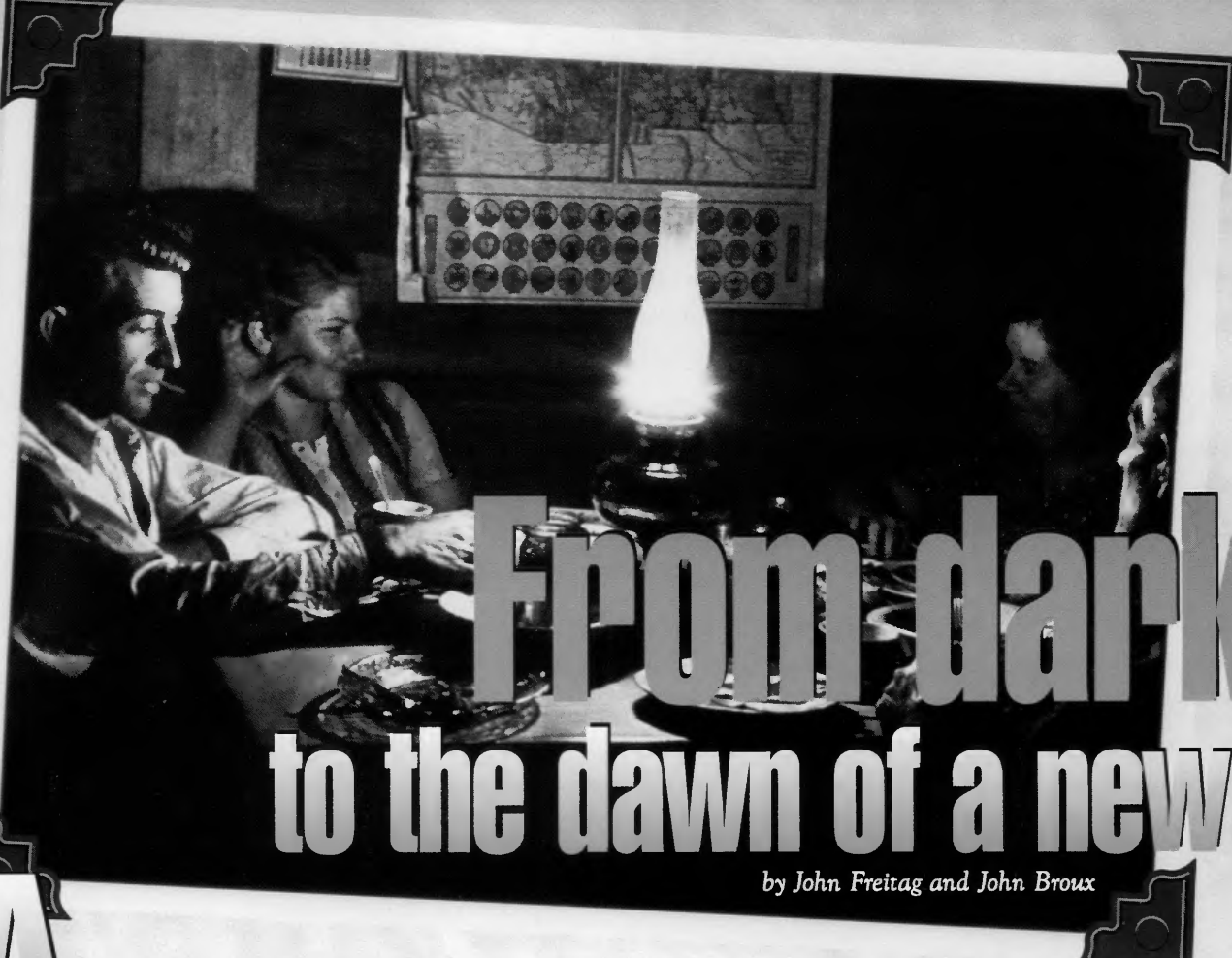
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From dark to the dawn of a new

by John Freitag and John Broux

As we enter the new millennium, it's appropriate to look back.

Today we count on electricity to run our appliances and other gadgets, usually taking it for granted. Times have changed since the early 1930s when electricity was just a spark in farmers' and rural folks' minds in Illinois and around the nation.

As cities were connected by power companies, rural folks usually were neglected. The biggest

1920s, and the next decade saw little improvement as an additional 10 percent of potential rural customers were "hooked up." It was clear to those living in rural areas of the United States they were falling behind as compared to their foreign counterparts. In Norway, Sweden and New Zealand, nearly two-thirds of rural homes were supplied electricity in some manner or another, while nearly all farmers in the Netherlands enjoyed electrical benefits.

former director of Adams Electric Cooperative recalled, "The hot nights stand out most in my mind. We'd put a mattress in the hayrack and go out into the field where it was cool, but the bugs would come after us." Remember, there was no air conditioning or electric fans. People simply endured the hot and, conversely, cold weather.

Lack of heating and cooling weren't the only problems electricity would remedy. Another problem was dim lighting in the evenings and early morning from kerosene lamps, resulting in poor reading conditions and fire hazards.

If power companies saw these problems, they were insensitive to them. Some farmers, within a stone's throw of power lines, were told they would be charged up to \$3,000 for an electrical hook-up, which the utility would then own.

However, as increasing numbers of studies were conducted, especially within the Midwest, it was discovered rural electrification

"Only about one percent of Illinois farms had power in the 1920s."

reason for this was a lack of population density. More people lived in urban areas as opposed to rural, making it more "profitable" for companies to offer electricity to those living within municipalities, while all but ignoring the needs of rural people.

Only about one percent of Illinois farms had power in the

It was this era of rural life in the United States that many older folks fondly remember. It was a time of family, of honesty, of God-fearing folk, when times were slower and more down-to-earth than today. But when asked, these same people will recall the trials of life without electricity.

Wayne Laning of Mt. Sterling,

could be feasible. Following these studies, farmers discovered although electrical bills increased with usage, total operating costs decreased.

Despite these results, power companies remained reluctant to extend service to rural areas, arguing the "few light bulbs" gained would not pay for the \$1,500 - \$2,000 per mile installation costs for service lines.

As the 1920s slipped away and the world was recovering from the

ESS ntury

Great Depression of the 1930s, movement increased rapidly towards rural electrification. Support grew for programs through President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal to provide

electricity to rural Americans. Through the efforts of Morris Cooke, chairman of the Mississippi Valley Committee of the Public Works Administration, \$100 million was allocated towards rural electrification in 1935, giving birth to the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

The state of Illinois followed in 1936 with the formation of the State Rural Electrification Committee. Although the committee didn't play an essential role in rural electrification, it did lend state support and organization to the projects.

The first officially organized cooperative in the state remains in operation today. Farmers Mutual Electric Company was officially formed on Jan. 16, 1936 in Geneseo. By September 1937, the co-op was serving 160 members over 69 miles of lines. Other Illinois co-ops whose projects were approved during 1936 were Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., Auburn; Menard Electric Cooperative, Petersburg; Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield; Pike County Electric Cooperative and Scott

County Electric Cooperative. The latter two would later merge into Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative, Winchester.

By 1940, there were 21 cooperatives operating in downstate Illinois. While the cooperative "spark" would grow into a flame, many of the farmers who owned generators realized the benefits of forming co-ops.

Charlie Miller of Industry, and a former director of McDonough Power Cooperative, remembered his father's trip to a meeting to form a co-op in the middle of planting season, 1938.

"My family was fortunate enough to have a Delco plant on our farm so I couldn't see how my father could even think of leaving the farm when we had corn to plant...he recognized what he could do if he had more electricity," Miller recalled.

The growth of co-ops increased over the next decade, but not without complications from the power companies. They tried to halt the co-ops' growth through two methods - building power lines, called "spite lines," to cut off a co-ops' progression, and by starting rumors of the reliability and "staying power" of cooperatives.

Couple these problems with a typical cost of \$5 membership (enough for a week's groceries for the family) and a \$3 minimum monthly electric bill, and you can see why some farmers were hesitant about signing up.

Other obstacles existed, including obtaining right-of-ways for the lines. Problems included language and cultural differences, love for trees and feuds.

Bob Vander Pluym, retired

"By 1940, there were 21 cooperatives operating in downstate Illinois."



manager of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, said knowing how to speak German helped co-op developers in obtaining easements for lines in an area filled with many German immigrant dairy farmers. "You'd really hit home with those people when you spoke German with them. If anyone else would go out there and talk with those people, you could almost see right away that there was going to be a problem getting right-of-way."

Vic Jostes, of rural Nokomis, and a longtime Shelby Electric director, recalled, "In 1938, when we were trying to get right-of-way, there was always someone who didn't want to give up their trees. They didn't necessarily care whether or not they got electricity, and sometimes they didn't care if their neighbor got power." But the "hard cases" eventually came around, which helped the process.

One advantage of cooperatives is the uniformity of the lines and equipment, enabling cooperatives to work together during emergencies such as severe storms.

By the 1940s it cost co-ops about \$825 to build a mile of line, while other utilities maintained it should cost \$2,000.

As co-ops were building and progress accelerated, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Americans found themselves in a global war.

As a result, the materials and personnel required to construct the electrical lines were diverted to the war effort and rural electric progress virtually stopped.

Due to the rationing of materials, cooperatives saw the need to unite under the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), formed in Washington, D.C., in March 1942. By September nearly 150 cooperatives had joined, increasing to over 250 members two months later. A state-wide organization, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, was founded the same year.

Rural electrical leaders were called to a meeting of the NRECA in St. Louis the following January. Over the weeks, the group lobbied Washington to ease restrictions on supplies for the co-ops. Citing improved food and fiber production, the group won its first battle against the big companies. Hook-ups were allowed under certain

right at noon and my mother was so excited she ran around the house yelling, 'it's on, it's on,' she said. "That evening we turned on every light in the house and went outside and just stared at it."

After lights, the next logical steps were basic appliances – refrigerators, irons, washing machines and radios. Outside, perhaps the first addition to any farm was that of a pump for the well, which led obviously to indoor plumbing.

Wayne Fuchs, of Farmersville, who helped wire some of those early homes before working at Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, recalled, "people were so enthusiastic that they actually cried" when their power was connected.

And, although residents had a

had a break," he recalled.

After the basics were met, farmers usually purchased the family luxuries – electric fryers, mixers, coffee pots, can openers, water heaters, fans and televisions. For the farm, power tools, milk coolers, electric fences, the first grain dryers and other labor savers gradually were purchased.

Naturally, once rural residents got started on electricity, the trend grew and co-ops became more than just electric suppliers; they were appliance dealers, electricians, pro-



"By the mid-1950s, nearly every rural customer who wanted electricity could get it."

conditions, including a required number of livestock, which some farms could not meet. Those farms were not hooked up until the end of the war.

As the war ended, so did restrictions and the lack of manpower. REA received a new birth as it was made a permanent agency in 1943. Interest rates on loans were set at two percent, for 35 years. With half of the job to go, nearly two and a half million homes remained to be energized nationwide. In just six years, more than three-quarters had electricity. By the mid-1950s, nearly every rural customer who wanted electricity could get it.

Margaret Monroe, a 36-year employee of Adams Electric Cooperative, recalled her family's first day with electricity.

"We had kept the switch on in the kitchen for several days because the power was supposed to be switched on any time. It came on

relatively easy time adjusting, farm animals often did not.

Delbert Boston, longtime Rural Electric Convenience lineman and operating superintendent, recalled his family's cows. "It took about a week to get ours used to the brighter lights . . . and about the same for the milking machine, before they finally settled down. For those first few nights you'd have thought they were bucking broncs." He added that the family had to actually turn off the new lights and go back to the lamps to coax the cows into the barn for the first few nights.

It was probably the women's lives that were vastly improved by electricity, according to Vander Pluym.

"They scrubbed those clothes . . . and hung those overalls and everything else on the line and then came back and ironed with those 'sad irons' that they would heat on the stove. They just never

motors and engineers. In the 1950s and 1960s,

electrical heating and security lighting became big pushes. From the 1960s and into the 1970s electrical loads increased as electric motors and irrigation increased productivity on farms.

For years, co-ops were promoting electrical appliances to increase electric usage; then, in the 70s, the oil crisis hit the nation and energy conservation was the big issue.

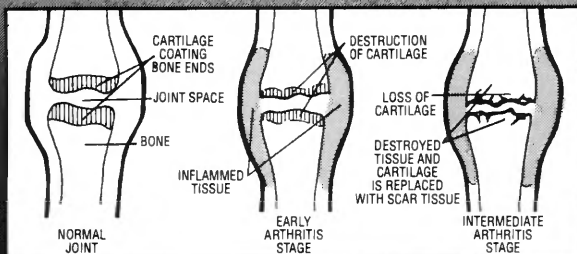
Although it was a trying period for the co-ops, load management became another service which could be offered to their members.

As co-ops rolled along through the "me" decade of the 1980s, they began to think in terms of diversity in offering additional services to members. As a result, co-ops have branched out into other services, including cell phones, satellite services, internet services, security systems and a variety of others.

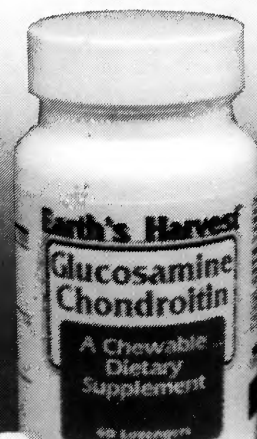
Next month we'll examine the future direction of co-ops.

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Safety AROUND YOUR HOME

Disinfecting water lines and wells

Living in a rural area many times means using a well for a water supply. Sometimes there are concerns about water quality, and questions arise on how to check the water to see if it is free from bacterial con-



Duane Friend

tamination. If testing does show bacterial contamination, disinfecting the water lines can be done by shock chlorination.

Testing the water is the first step to take. Private water testing labs can test for bacteria, nitrates and other possible contaminants. There are several private water-testing labs in Illinois. Costs will depend on the type of testing to be

done, and it is probably a good idea to contact several labs to compare prices. Local health departments will usually test water systems for bacterial contamination in new houses, or bacteria and nitrates when a newborn is present in the home. Testing in these cases is usually free. The Illinois State Water Survey can test water for a broad spectrum of minerals and nitrates, at their public services lab. Most tests at this lab are also free, and technicians will advise on ways to correct a water problem.

To disinfect a well contaminated with bacteria, a disinfectant such as chlorine tablets or chlorine bleach will work. For drilled wells, the top of the well casing will have to be disassembled. For dug wells, simply open the cover and add the disinfectant. The amount of disinfectant required is determined by the amount of water in the well. For example, a well 5 feet in diameter that has 30 feet of water would require 8.5 gallons of bleach. A table that shows the amount of chlorine to use is available in local Extension offices. The chlorine should be added to about 10 gallons of water and poured into the well, covering as much of the walls as possible.

All faucets in the home should then be turned on until a strong odor of chlorine is noticeable at each

faucet. Afterwards, water flow should be stopped for at least 12 hours. It is usually easiest to do this as a late evening and overnight activity.

After allowing the chlorine to sit in the lines, all the faucets should be opened until the chlorine odor disappears. Faucets that drain into septic systems should only be turned on to low flow, to avoid overloading the system.

Once this procedure is completed, the water should be used for a week or two, then tested again. If contamination is again present, the source for the contamination must be determined and corrected before the water supply will remain sanitary. Shallow dug wells have a greater chance of being contaminated compared to drilled wells, simply because they are more susceptible from surface contamination. A licensed well contractor or plumber may be needed to locate the source of contamination.

Local Extension offices can provide more information on disinfecting wells and water lines. To contact the Illinois State Water Survey Public Service Lab, call (217) 333-9234 or (217) 333-0802.

Seal abandoned wells

To protect the ground water in your area, remember to seal abandoned wells. Here are 10 good reasons why you shouldn't put this off.

1. Groundwater protection - Wells are a direct route to the aquifer.
2. Safety - People and pets can easily fall into them.
3. Water supply protection - Especially nearby wells.
4. Pesticide use - Not within 50 feet.
5. Peace of mind - No safety or groundwater hazard.
6. Potential liability - If an accident or contamination should occur.
7. Aesthetic value - Abandoned wells are not a pretty sight.
8. Restore the environment - Some old pumps may be valuable.
9. Responsible transfer of land - Before selling, wells should be sealed.
10. It's the law!!

Duane Friend is the natural resource management educator at the Springfield Extension Center, University of Illinois Extension. You can write to Friend in care of Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Telephone (217) 782-6515.

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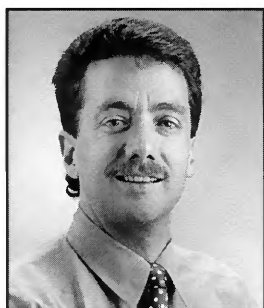
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Your YARD AND GARDEN

Flowering shrubs can be forced indoors now



David Robson

The winter months can be great or depressing. The more overcast days, the more it becomes the latter. Anything that will pick up the spirits is worth its weight in gold.

Fall 1999 was bizarre, to put it mildly. Foliage color was outstanding, but rainfall was practically as worthless as certain things on a boar. Temperatures were high, but that only kept plants from going into dormancy.

On the other hand, plants didn't go in and out of dormancy like they did the previous years. Flower buds on some trees and shrubs after cold spells are plump but tight, making them ideal candidates to perk up your spirits by forcing them indoors.

Now, this doesn't mean taking a whip and chain and yelling, "Hey, move it inside or you'll be mulch!" It means selectively cutting some of the branches and stems and providing the ideal conditions for them to bloom inside.

A side benefit is the pruning that most trees and shrubs need now and then.

Some plants can be enjoyed without the need for flowers or leaves. Burning bush and red twig dogwoods have interesting bark or color. Judicious pruning encourages new growth and well-shaped plants.

For the red and yellow twig dogwoods, pruning out the long branches will encourage new shoots next spring. New shoots develop the intense winter bark colors, not the old thick limbs. Prune some of the limbs at ground level and put in a vase. You don't need to add water; they'll dry nicely and keep their color.

The same thing with burning bush, or winged Euonymus. Prune branches

out uniformly around the plant, but cut back to another branch or trunk when removing the limbs.

Now the fun stuff — the flowering branches. Choose branches that need pruning or have the plumpest buds.

Forcing the limbs starts by softening the buds. Flowering limbs such as forsythia, viburnum, crabapple, flowering quince, peach, pear and redbud are cut and soaked overnight in warm water. I generally use the bathtub, filled halfway. Just remind people in the morning to open their eyes before showering.

After the soaking, limbs are snipped again, taking an inch off the bottom, placed in a bucket of lukewarm water and kept in the basement or someplace cool. Ideal forcing temperatures range from the low 60s during the day to low 50s at night. Warmer temperatures usually mean poorer quality flowers.

Intense colors develop with light, but light also provides extra warmth. It's an interesting Catch-22.

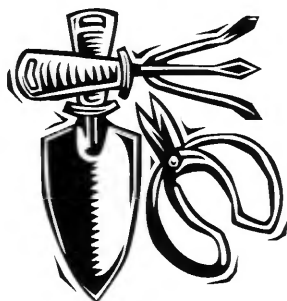
Make sure the branches are always in water. Change the water every couple of days, cleaning out the bucket to keep bacteria growth down.

High humidity helps. Houses during the winter tend to be on the dry side. Basements and bathrooms have higher humidity levels. You could put a clear plastic sheet over the branches, but allow for air movement.

Branches won't pop overnight. Some will quickly swell and open such as pussy willows and forsythia. Lilacs and flowering quince may take four weeks. Patience is a virtue.

You can take cuttings throughout the winter for continual blooms. The closer the time to the plant's natural flowering, the quicker they'll bloom indoors.

Don't forget that some plants look interesting leafing out instead of producing flowers. Beech, maple and cottonwoods have interesting buds as they expand and open. Even those can brighten up the drab winter months.



David Robson is an Extension Educator, Horticulture, at the Springfield Extension Center, University of Illinois Extension. 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@mail.aces.uiuc.edu

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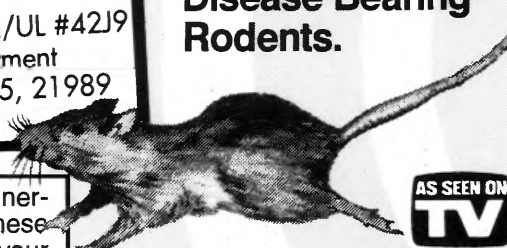
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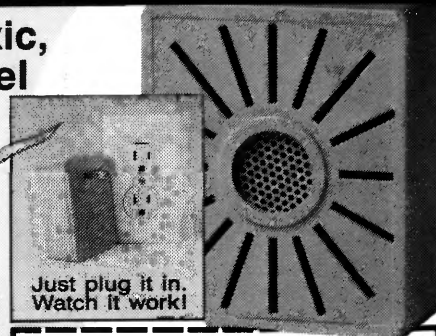
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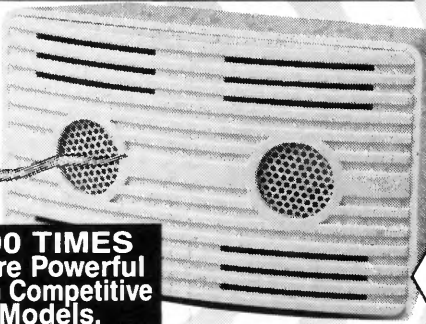
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Today's TECHNOLOGY AND YOU

Interior storm windows are low-cost alternative

Q. *Dear Jim: My old windows are not worn enough to replace, but they are drafty, sweat during cold spells and cause the furniture to fade. I saw some low-cost, reusable interior storm window kits. Are they worthwhile? - Karl H.*

A. Reusable rigid interior storm window kits are an excellent low-cost energy-efficient alternative to replacement windows if your present windows are still in reasonably good condition. Many are designed for simple do-it-yourself installation, and others can be dealer installed. With proper care, these storms will still look like new after ten years or more.

In addition to windows, do not forget any skylights that you have. Skylights, particularly older ones, can lose a substantial amount of heat and cause fading of furniture and carpeting. I installed a magnetic storm window kit in my own living room under a new super-efficient double-pane skylight.

Unless you use natural ventilation in the summer, leave the interior storm window kits up year-round for the most savings, outdoor noise reduction and comfort. With the narrow plastic frames, the storm windows are barely noticeable. The frames are available in several colors or you can paint them to match your walls. If you have natural wood window frames, select a kit with wood-grained frames.

Most storm window kits use lightweight clear acrylic because it insulates better than glass, and it is safe and easy to work with. For the lowest cost, you can often mail order the frame kit for your window or skylight and then buy standard acrylic sheet at any local home center store.

Acrylic is a crystal clear plastic and does yellow over time like other plastics. It is very impact resistant (safe around children) and naturally blocks nearly all the sun's fading ultraviolet (UV) rays. For the greatest strength, choose polycarbonate ("bulletproof glass") plastic. It is more expensive and will yellow slightly over time.

If you have a window condensation problem in the winter, interior storm window kits can help. You must first paint the inside surfaces of the window opening with a sealer type of paint and then paint it with your regular wall paint, if you like. This blocks indoor moisture from passing through the drywall

and getting between the storm and primary window.

There are many designs of interior storm windows. Ones that use quick-to-install magnetic seals are most common. To make them less noticeable, they can be mounted directly against the primary window frame (creates a small dead air space) or inside the window opening on an L-channel.

Another option is to mount them over the entire window opening, overlapping on to the wall by an inch or so. This is the easiest installation method, but the deep air space between the storm and the primary window will allow wasteful air currents to develop between them.

A magnetic strip, usually about one-half inch wide, is embedded in the rigid vinyl storm window frame. A thin, self-adhesive steel strip is attached with adhesive to the wall or window frame. The powerful magnet holds the storm window snugly against the strip for an airtight seal.

If your old window frames are warped or wavy, choose a design that uses flexible bellows between the window frame and the magnetic strip (South Sun Energy Conservation "Winsulator"). This functions just like your flexible refrigerator door magnetic seal. It also helps to absorb impacts from your children.

Other attachment options are clips and hook-and-loop strips. Clips are often used on very large storm windows. Hook-and-loop strips hold very tightly and are easy to install and remove each year. Pipe Perfect Windows uses a simple design with foam tubing to form a snug, easy-to-install fit.

For very drafty old windows, select a kit with a secondary seal in addition to the primary attachment seal. If you have slider or double-hung windows, select a split kit (Magnetite "EZ Divider") that allows half of the window to be opened.

There are several kit purchasing options. The lowest-cost option is to buy a do-it-yourself frame-only kit. You cut the vinyl frame sections yourself and purchase the clear acrylic wherever you find the lowest price. Other companies only sell complete kits through professional installers, but offer longer warranties.

Write for (or instant download - www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 728 - buyer's guide of the 10 best interior storm window kits, frame/window materials, attachment methods, installation instructions and specs. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size self-addressed stamped envelope. 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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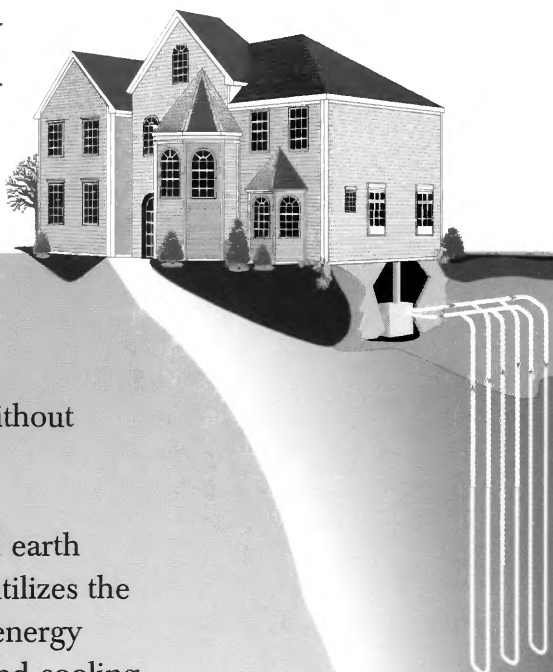
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The Moweaqua Pow Wow cookbook was created to celebrate the 20th anniversary (in 2000) of the Pow Wow. The proceeds will benefit the park in Moweaqua. The cookbook is soft-backed, spiral-bound and has 158 pages of recipes, plus a section of helpful hints. Order your copy from Edna Burgener, 229 S. Putnam, Moweaqua, Illinois 62550, or call her at (217) 768-3795. The cost is \$10 plus \$3 postage.

Rebecca Parke Chapter (DAR), Galesburg

PERCOLATOR PUNCH

Eileen C. Beaty

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 C. apple juice | 1/3 tsp. whole cloves |
| 3 C. cranberry cocktail | 1-1/3 stick cinnamon |
| 1-1/2 C. water | Dash of salt |
| 1/3 C. brown sugar | |

Pour apple juice, cranberry cocktail and water in percolator. Place sugar, cloves, cinnamon and salt in percolator basket. Perk and serve.

CORN CHEESE CHOWDER

Barbara F. Schock

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6 slices bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled | 2 C. cubed cooked potatoes (reserve 2 C. of cooking water) |
| 1 small onion, cut in half and sliced | 2/3 C. evaporated milk |
| 2 cans (16 oz.) cream-style corn | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| | 1/4 tsp. garlic salt |
| | 1-1/2 C. cheddar cheese, cut into small cubes |

Use a small amount of the bacon fat in which to sauté onion. Do not brown onion. In heavy saucepan combine onions, corn, potatoes and reserved cooking liquid, milk and salts. Heat to simmering; stir in cheese until melted. Add cooked bacon and serve immediately. Makes 6 servings. (A traditional Mormon recipe).

STEAK SOUP

Mary Lou Delahunty

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1/4 lb. margarine | 8 oz. chopped tomatoes |
| 1 C. flour | 1 C. ground chuck, cooked and drained |
| 1/2 tsp. pepper | 1-1/2 tsp. Kitchen Bouquet |
| 1 tsp. Accent | 1 qt. plus 1 C. water |
| 1/2 C. chopped carrots | |

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1/2 C. chopped onions | 1/2 C. chopped celery |
| 1 C. mixed vegetables | 1 T. beef base |

Brown meat and drain. Parboil onions, carrots and celery. Melt butter in a one-quart pan and add flour, mix. Add water and continue stirring over heat until thickened. Add Accent, pepper, beef base, tomatoes and cook one minute. Add Kitchen Bouquet, vegetables and cooked meat. Cook on medium heat for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. This soup may be frozen for later use. Makes one quart.

CHICKEN COMBO CASSEROLE

Irene H. Yourison

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 C. cooked chicken or turkey, cut in 1/2-inch cubes | 2 T. chopped pimento |
| 1 C. seasoned bread stuffing cubes | 1/4 tsp. pepper |
| 1/4 C. finely chopped onion or 1 T. dried minced onion | 3/4 to 1 C. mayonnaise |
| | 3/4 C. reserved liquid from chicken (add water if necessary) |

Combine chicken, stuffing, onion, pimento, pepper, mayonnaise and broth. Spread in bottom of an ungreased 8x12-inch baking dish. Crumble topping over meat mixture; sprinkle with 1/4 C. chopped almonds. Bake in 325° oven for 30 to 35 minutes or until hot. Broil 3 to 5 minutes until topping is golden and bubbly.

Topping:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 3/4 C. flour | 1/4 C. mayonnaise or salad dressing |
| 1/2 tsp. celery seed | |
| 1 C. shredded American or Cheddar cheese | 1/4 C. chopped almonds |

Combine flour, celery seed, cheese and mayonnaise and sprinkle on top of casserole. Top with almonds.

HAND DIPPED CHOCOLATES**Rowena M. Ginther**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 lb. powdered sugar | 1 C. butter or margarine |
| 1 can sweetened condensed milk | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 7 oz. flaked coconut | 1/4 C. paraffin |
| 4 C. chopped walnuts | 1 (12 oz.) pkg. chocolate chips |

Mix sugar, milk, coconut, walnuts, butter and vanilla. Pour into jelly roll pan and chill. Cut into small squares. Melt paraffin and chocolate chips together. Dip squares into chocolate and place on rack to drip and cool. (Makes lots).

OVER THATS**Betty M. Davis**

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1/2 C. (1 stick) butter or margarine | 1 C. chocolate chips |
| 1 C. crushed graham cracker crumbs | 1 C. coconut |
| | 1 C. chopped pecans |
| | 1 can condensed milk |

Melt butter in an oblong or square pan being sure to spread some up sides. Over that, sprinkle graham cracker crumbs covering bottom thoroughly. Over that, sprinkle chocolate chips. Over that, sprinkle pecans. Over that, pour milk (drizzle in rows). Bake at 300° for 40 minutes. Cool for 20 minutes before cutting into squares.

Moweaqua Pow Wow**EGGLESS, SUGAR-FREE HOLIDAY NOG****Jo Muncy**

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 pkg. (9 oz.) sugar-free instant vanilla pudding mix | 1 to 2 tsp. vanilla extract or rum flavoring |
| 7 C. skim milk, divided | 1 C. evaporated skim milk |
| 2 to 4 pkgs. sugar substitute | Nutmeg, if desired |

Combine pudding mix, 2 cups milk, sugar substitute and vanilla in a bowl per package instruction. Mix pudding mixture with 3 cups milk. Pour into a half-gallon container with a tight-fitting lid. Shake well. Add evaporated milk and shake. Add remaining 2 cups milk and shake well. Chill. To serve, you can sprinkle with nutmeg if you choose. Very good to have on hand over the holidays.

U.S. SENATE BEAN SOUP**"Boots" Lowe**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 lb. dried Northern beans (qt.) | 3 celery ribs |
| 2 ham hocks | 1/4 C. chopped parsley |
| 3 onions | 1/3 C. instant potatoes |
| 3 cloves garlic | |

Boil beans 2 minutes and let set for one hour. Drain and rinse. Add rest of ingredients and enough water to cook beans. Cook until beans are done. Eight to 10 servings.

CRESCENT ROLL LASAGNA**Cinda Villanueva**

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1/2 lb. sausage | 6 oz. tomato paste |
| 1/2 lb. ground beef | 1 C. cottage cheese |
| 1/2 C. chopped onion | 1 egg |
| 1/2 clove garlic | 1/4 C. Parmesan cheese |
| 1/2 tsp. basil | 2 cans crescent dinner rolls |
| 1/2 tsp. oregano | 2 slices Mozzarella cheese |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 T. milk |
| Dash pepper | 1 T. sesame seeds |

Brown meat and drain. All ground beef may be used if preferred. Add onion, seasonings and tomato paste. Simmer five minutes. Set aside. Combine cottage cheese, egg and Parmesan cheese. Spread crescent dinner roll dough on ungreased cookie sheet. Put half the meat mixture down center and spread the cheese mixture on top. Add remaining meat mixture and place two slices Mozzarella cheese over that. Fold sides of dough in and seal tightly. Spread milk and sesame seeds on top. Bake at 375° for 20 to 25 minutes.

CHICKEN BREASTS PARMESAN**Carol Athey**

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1/3 C. fine dry bread crumbs | 2 skinned and boned chicken breasts (about 1 lb.), halved and pounded to 1/4" thickness |
| 1 T. minced parsley | |
| 3 T. grated Parmesan cheese | |
| 2 lg. egg whites | 1 T. olive oil |
| 2 tsp. water | 1 lemon, quartered lengthwise |

Combine the bread crumbs and parsley on a plate. Place the cheese on another plate. In a small bowl, lightly beat the egg whites with the water. Dip the chicken breasts in the cheese, then in the egg whites, then in the crumb mixture, coating both sides evenly. Lay them on a rack and refrigerate, uncovered, for 20 minutes. Heat the olive oil in a heavy 10" skillet over the moderately high heat for one minute. Add the chicken and brown, about 3 minutes on each side, or until no longer pink when cut near the center. (Chilling the breaded chicken breasts beforehand makes them easier to brown. To make for two, halve all the ingredients except the oil.)

STUFFED BAKED SWEET POTATOES**Betty Cearlock**

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 4 medium sweet potatoes | 3 T. Molly McButter sprinkles |
| 1 small ripe banana | 1-1/2 tsp. Mrs. Dash table blend seasoning |
| 1/4 C. fresh orange juice | 1/4 C. chopped pecans |
| 2 T. brown sugar | |
| 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg | |

Pierce skin of potatoes in several places with fork. Microwave 8 to 10 minutes or until soft. When cool enough to handle, cut a thin slice of peeling from top of each potato. Scoop out flesh, leaving 1/4-inch thick shell. Mash potato flesh and banana in bowl. Stir in remaining ingredients except pecans. Spoon mixture into potato shells. Arrange on baking sheet and sprinkle with pecans. Bake at 350° for 10 to 12 minutes or just until hot. Serve.

SUGAR-FREE APPLE PIE**Janet Tolly**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 T. cornstarch | 1/4 tsp. nutmeg |
| 7-1/2 tsp. Equal or 24 packets | 1/4 tsp. salt |
| 3/4 tsp. cinnamon | 8 C. sliced apples |
| | Pastry for double crust pie |

Combine Equal, cornstarch, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Toss with apples. Pour apple mixture in pie crust and top with second pie crust. Bake at 400° for 40 to 50 minutes.



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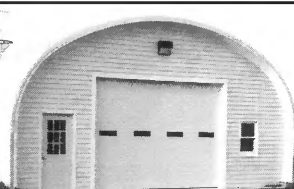
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- All ads must be in one paragraph form. No centered copy. Maximum of four all-capital words per ad.
- Check/cash/money order payable to **Illinois Country Living** and member's address label must accompany order.
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separate sheet if needed. Include your name, address and phone number. I am a member of _____ electric cooperative.

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Deadline for March issue: January 15

DO YOU HAVE any old fireworks or firework-related items? FIRECRACKERS, fireworks, catalogs. Don't know what to do with them? Licensed dealer will legally buy them. Evenings — call (217) 824-5017.

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January DATEBOOK

1, Festival of Lights in Rockford. More than 75 large lighted displays line the winding roads of this hilly park. (815) 987-8800.

1, Leaverton Park Holiday Lighting Festival in Palestine. Forty-thousand plus lights and displays with music, fireworks and Santa. (800) 445-7006.

1-31, Eagle Watching on Illinois River Mile 71 in Meredosia. (217) 584-1356.

1, Bluegrass Show, hosted by the Northern Illinois Bluegrass Association, in Harding. (815) 496-2832.

1-2, Victorian Splendor Light Festival in Shelbyville. Horse-drawn survey rides down historic brick streets. (800) 874-3529.

1-3, Christmas at Clover Lawn in Bloomington. Celebrate the holidays in late 1800s style. (309) 828-1084.

1-23, Belle Emerson Keith at the Rockford Art Museum in Rockford. This exhibit pays tribute to a prominent woman in Rockford's educational and cultural history. Ms. Keith (1865-1950) was the founder of Keith School and an influential figure in both the Rockford Art Association and Rockford Woman's Club. (815) 968-2787.

1-23, Dolls in the Looking Glass Display at the Southern Illinois Art Gallery just north of Benton. The varied and revealing world of dolls has fascinated children and adults for centuries. Over a period of 50 years, Joy E. Orozco, an avid collector from Chicago, assembled a collection of over 1,000 dolls. Through this exhibit you'll see more than 400 dolls selected from this collection. (618) 629-2220.

2, Annual Bald Eagle Watch in Fulton. Outdoor eagle watching and indoor events, featuring lecturers with live birds of prey, children's activities and wildlife exhibitors. (815) 259-3628.

7-8, WGEM Agri-Fair in Quincy. (217) 228-6600.

7-9, Semi Annual Antique Show in Mattoon. Antique collectors from around the state sell their items at the Cross County Mall. (217) 235-3432.

8-15, Saturday Evening Theatre at the Old State Capitol in Springfield. Hall of Representatives, Old State Capitol; historical music and drama performances followed by a reception and candlelight tour through this beautiful historic site. (217) 785-7960.

9, Bridal Show in Effingham. Fashion show and all of the elements of wedding planning. (217) 347-5115.

9, Le Bal de Rois (12th Day of Christmas) at the Pierre Menard Home State Historic Site in Ellis Grove. Celebrate the end of the Christmas season the traditional French way with dancing, singing and refreshments. (618) 859-3741.

14-16/21-23, Greater Decatur Chorus in Decatur. Attend a dynamic concert featuring Broadway, oldies, country, gospel, jazz, humor and more. (217) 422-8535.

14,16, Muddy Rivers Opera in Quincy. (217) 222-2856.

15-2/12, Patches Past and Present Quilt Show in Monmouth. (309) 734-3033.

15-16, Lakeside Boat and Motors 10th Annual Boat Show in Mt. Vernon. Seminars, tackle vendors and door prizes. (618) 242-2600.

18-19, Ballet de Opera de Bordeaux: "Romeo and Juliet" in Urbana. A tribute to Sergei Dyaghilev. (217) 333-6280.





Roving Retreats

What do you do to escape from the monotony of everyday living? If you have a favorite weekend getaway, we'd love to hear about it. Please send information and photos to Illinois Datebook Editor, Illinois Country Living, PO Box 3787 Springfield, IL 62708-3787.

What makes this place so special? What do you like to do there? When is the best time to go? Does it offer any activities for children, or is it a romantic get-away? Your favorite place could be picked as a Datebook feature in an upcoming issue.

21-22, "Bimbetta" in Urbana. A blend of cabaret and MTV Unplugged that fuses the vibrant, hybrid culture of the United States with Baroque music. (217) 333-6280.

21-23, RV and Camping Show in Quincy. (309) 681-8834.

21-23, Winter Indoor Bluegrass Festival in Quincy. This festival will present four separate stage shows by eight regional and national tour bands. (217) 243-3159.

25, Beauty and the Beast at the Kirkland Fine Arts Center at Millikin University, Decatur. Classic French fairy tale presented by a magician with life-sized puppets and stunning illusions. (217) 424-6318.

25-27, Special Olympics Winter Games in Galena. (309) 888-2551.

28-30, The 25th Annual Central Illinois Jazz Festival in Decatur. One of the oldest jazz festivals in the nation, featuring the finest U.S. jazz musicians. (217) 422-8800.

28, St. Louis Brass Quintet at the Kirkland Fine Arts Center at Millikin University, Decatur. The brilliant quintet has a distinctive repertoire, fascinating rhythms and an imaginative presentation. (217) 424-6318.

29, Crossroads International Fair in Galesburg. An annual event featuring booths representing over 40 countries, professional and student-performing groups, food and crafts. (309) 341-7225 or (309) 343-1194.

29, Winterfest 2000 at the Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena. Skydivers, children's games, fireworks, drink specials and prizes. (800) 397-1320.

29, Meredith Monk: Magic Frequencies in Urbana. With her signature wit and whimsy, Monk has created a music-theater adventure inspired by outer-space, science fiction and folk art. (800) 527-2849.

29, Alton Symphony Children's Concert in Godfrey. The Alton Symphony, conducted by Edward Dolbashian, presents the timeless musical story of Peter and the Wolf by Sergei Prokofiev. Different sections of the orchestra will also provide instrumental demonstrations in this concert that is part of the orchestra's educational initiatives. (618) 462-0277.

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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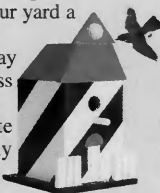
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(By Frank K. Wood)

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- Stylish reindeer will give your yard a festive holiday touch.
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- Angels for the kitchen, cute critters galore, neighborly welcome for a door.
- Large outdoor patterns add seasonal fun, create delightful kitchen gadgets and household helpers for everyone.
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- for teacher, clever animal notepad keepers.
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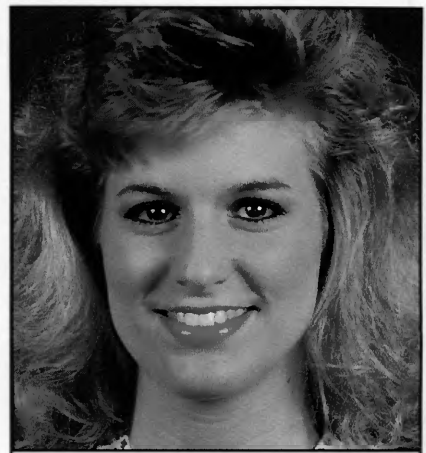
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I HAD THEM BY THE HUNDREDS, BUT NOW I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE ROACH.

(By J. Robson)

Have you ever seen a roach run out of a bowl as you were about to put food in it? Well, I have. Just turn out the lights and an army of roaches would attack the whole house.

I had tried smelly sprays and other insecticides to get rid of them. But they just kept coming back. Nothing worked for very long, but then . . .

A friend told me about an amazing powder, Roach Kill, that killed all her roaches. I tried it, and it worked like a miracle. It killed them all for good. Now I don't have a single roach.

Roach Kill is an odorless, white powder. Roach Kill is applied in seconds from a squeeze bottle behind appliances.

The secret is in the fact that it's odorless. Roaches can't smell it, so they don't avoid it like they avoid smelly spray insecticides. Instead, they walk right over it. They pick up a little bit on their legs and carry it back to their hidden nests in the walls. There, it wipes out the whole colony that breeds new roaches.

It keeps right on working even months after one, and only one, treatment.

Roach Kill is so incredibly effective it has a double-your-money-back guarantee. Roach Kill is guaranteed to wipe out every roach in the house or apartment with one treatment, or we'll send the customer double his money back.

All a customer has to do is return the empty bottle to us with a note that he saw even one single roach after trying it according to the simple directions.

To order a bottle, just return this notice with your name and address and a check for \$7.99 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling, and we will send you a bottle of Roach Kill. Or, for only \$9.99 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling, you can get a large, economy-size bottle big enough to treat your whole house, including your garage and basement.

Send your check with your name and address to: FC&A, Dept. VIL-1, 103 Clover Green, Peachtree City, GA 30269.

You get a no-time-limit guarantee of satisfaction or double your money back.

You must cut out and return this notice with your order. Copies will not be accepted!

IMPORTANT — FREE GIFT OFFER

EXPIRES FEBRUARY 10, 2000

All orders mailed by February 10, 2000, will receive a free gift, guaranteed. Order right away!

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