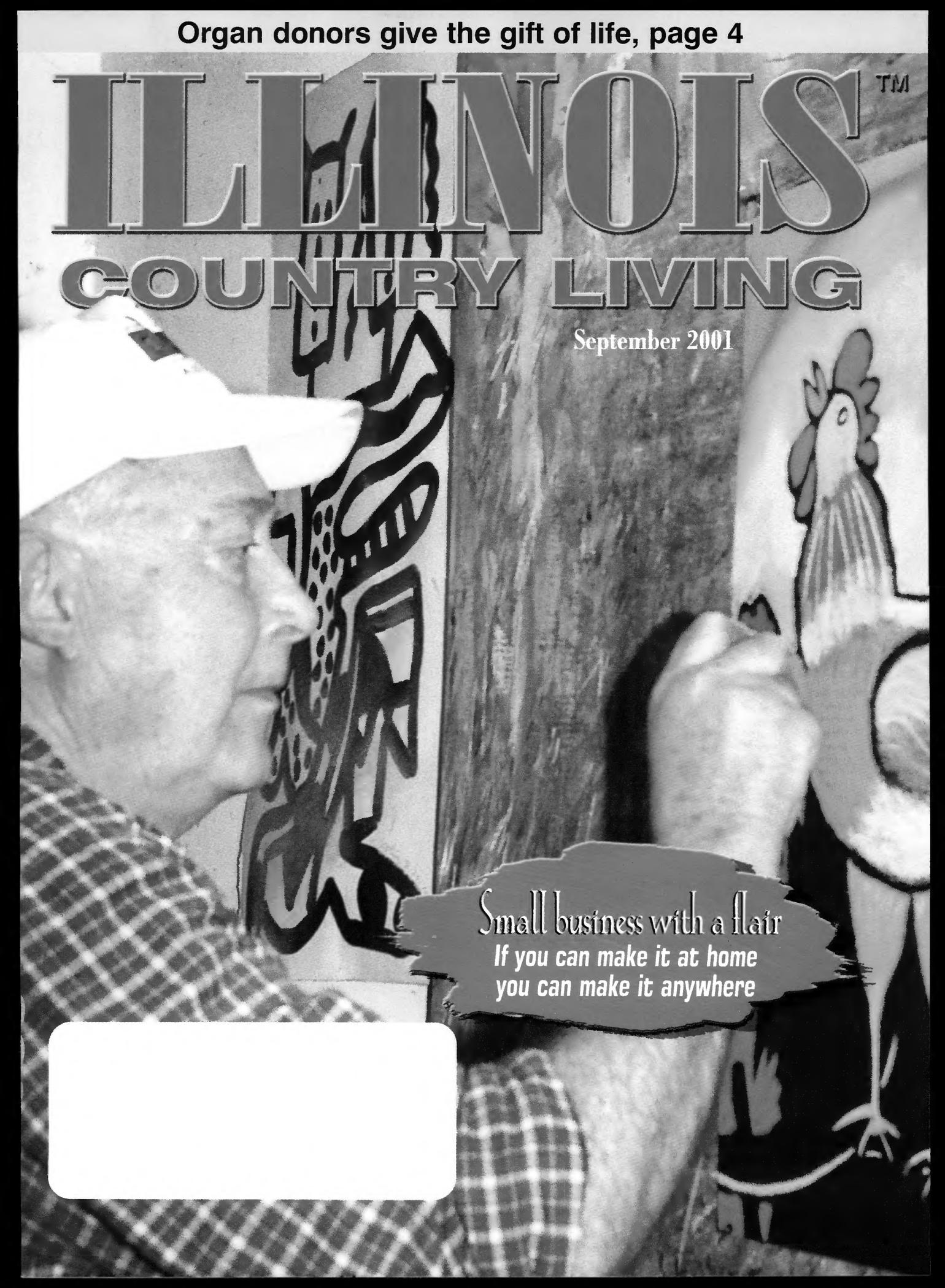


Organ donors give the gift of life, page 4

ILLINOISTM

COUNTRY LIVING

September 2001



*Small business with a flair
If you can make it at home
you can make it anywhere*



Is it the end of the road for your air conditioner??

Replace it with an all-electric geothermal heat pump from ClimateMaster and save up to 60 percent on your energy costs.

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80% Efficiency
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Geothermal

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**Annual operating costs above include air conditioning, heating and hot water. Fuel costs used to compute these costs are 5.2 cents kWh electricity, \$1.10 propane cost. Operating costs shown are for relative comparison purposes only and will vary depending on location. Your local ClimateMaster dealer will provide information specific to your location.



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Illinois COMMENTARY

With organ donation life goes on

I am delighted to address the readers of *Illinois Country Living* about a subject near and dear to my heart — organ and tissue donation.

This subject is extremely important to me because my own sister, Doris Ivy, received the gift of life in 1991. But there is more to my story.

Long before we knew my sister would be the recipient of a kidney donation, my family actually rejected the opportunity to donate a family member's organs. When my brother died unexpectedly, my family was asked if we would like to donate his organs and tissues. We said "no." When we later found out that my sister was going to need a kidney transplant, I learned that we could have saved lives after my brother's death had we been aware of the



Sec. of State Jesse White

organ donor program. Doris had to wait three and a half years for her transplant. Fortunately she received it in time and today leads a very active life. We are so grateful to the family that gave so generously.

Sadly, many people are not as fortunate as Doris. In Illinois, there are currently more than 5,000 people on the waiting list for an organ/tissue transplant and 450 people die each year because a donor is not found. The waiting list grows each year and people who could be saved continue to die. It is my hope that we can change that — but I need the help of every Illinois citizen.

In Illinois, we have an organ donor registry associated with the Secretary of State driver's license database. Only 18 states have organ donor registries. Illinois' registry is

Jesse White is Illinois' 37th Secretary of State. He was elected to the post in November, 1998. Prior to his election as Secretary of State, White served as Cook County Recorder of Deeds from 1992 to 1996. He also spent 16 years in the Illinois General Assembly. Secretary of State White served in the United States 101st Airborne Division and founded the internationally known Jesse White Tumblers — a positive reinforcement program for children.

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.

by far the largest, with more than 5 million potential donors. When an appropriate donor is identified (a person who has been declared "brain dead" but still has organ activity), a member of the state procurement agency calls the Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Hotline, and the donor's family is informed about whether the person is registered as a potential donor. Unfortunately, only a few thousand people in Illinois meet that criteria each year, and some of those are not eligible donors because of organ damage or other factors. Those who were able to be donors saved about 1,000 lives last year.

About 45 percent of people who visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility indicate that they wish to be a potential donor. If the other 55 percent said "yes" to organ donation, more than twice as many lives would be saved.

I have had the honor of getting to know a donor family from Lincoln. Rick and Stacy Bacon lost their daughter, Brianne, to a brain tumor when she was only 10 years old. When approached about organ donation, the Bacon family felt that if Brianne's tragedy could prevent another family from going through the grief they were experiencing, they should do it. As a result, Brianne was able to save four lives. Knowing that Brianne's death was not in vain helps the Bacons through the rough days. The Bacon family and the recipients of Brianne's organs truly know how precious the "Gift of Life" can be.

I'd like to close by clarifying a misunderstanding that there is a cost associated with organ donation. The truth is, if a family chooses to donate a loved one's organs or tissues there is absolutely no charge involved, nor do they receive any compensation.

Even if you are not listed in the Organ Donor Registry, you can still be a donor. The fact is that the final decision about organ donation rests with your family. Therefore, I urge you to not only sign the back of your driver's license and join the organ donor registry but, most importantly, discuss your wishes with your family. Their decision could mean that "Life Goes On" for someone else.

For more information about organ/tissue donation, please call the toll-free Organ Donor Hotline at 1-800-210-2106, or visit the Secretary of State Web site at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. You may also write to my office: Secretary of State, Organ/Tissue Donor Program, 2701 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois 62702.

SWISS BREAK THROUGH GUARANTEES...

YOU'LL NEVER SUFFER FROM FOOT PAIN AGAIN!

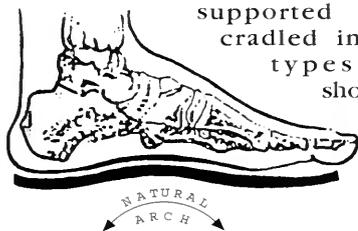
END SORE, ACHING FEET — INSTANTLY!

Which of these foot ailments cause you pain?

- Corns
- Calluses
- Bunions
- Flat Feet
- Burning Nerve Endings
- Cramping
- Painful Ankles
- Hammertoes
- Pain in the Balls of Your Feet

If you suffer from one or more of these problems, then you owe it to yourself to try the remarkable "FOOT CRADLES". Foot Cradles are an amazing discovery from Switzerland. They are guaranteed to end foot pain instantly, or your money back. Does it sound too good to be true? *Please read on.*

A Foot Specialist in Switzerland knew that, to end foot pain, the foot needed to be properly supported and cradled in all types of shoes.



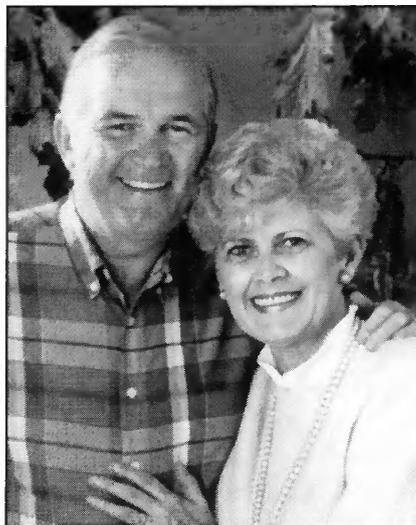
Since nothing he tried before ever gave long-lasting relief from pain, he set out to solve the problem himself.

His efforts produced the remarkably effective "FOOT CRADLE" insole support.

Already, millions of men and women have found blessed relief from their foot pain with "FOOT CRADLES".

"I can hardly believe something so simple could work so well. Now, I believe in 'FOOT CRADLES'! Thank you for ending my foot pain."

B.J. Boise, ID



"I use 'FOOT CRADLES' in all my shoes. They're that good...and comfortable. I get instant relief just like you promised." J.M. St. Louis, MO

So simple, it's ingenious! The secret of "FOOT CRADLES" lies in its unique, contoured design. It works together with your foot in any pair of shoes you wear. "FOOT CRADLES" are made in Europe from genuine leather. Though they weigh less than one ounce, "FOOT CRADLES" help support your full body weight. Just as your weight shifts naturally as you walk, so do the "FOOT CRADLES". They apply the natural laws of foot motion to relieve your burning, aching feet.

"FOOT CRADLES" slip easily into any pair of shoes you own — high heels, work shoes, boots, sport shoes, sneakers and sandals. They're so comfortable, you won't realize you're wearing them.

"I took you up on your Guaranteed RISK-FREE Offer, and 'FOOT CRADLES' have been relieving my foot pain ever since." E.C. Memphis, TN

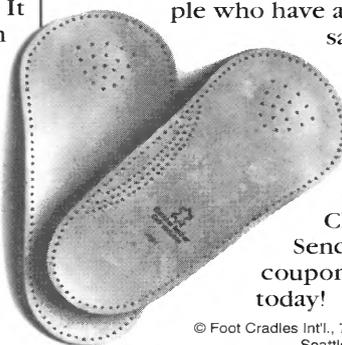
And once you start walking or running, you'll feel the difference immediately. Suddenly you no longer wince with each step. Your foot pain completely disappears.

100% GUARANTEED!

Now see how "FOOT CRADLES" will work for you. Test them in your shoes for 30 days...without risk! You must walk in total comfort — without pain — or return your "FOOT CRADLES" for a full refund of your purchase price. No questions asked.

Join the millions of people who have already said goodbye to their foot pain because of "FOOT CRADLES".

Send the coupon below today!



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Visit our website at www.luxis.com

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FOOT CRADLES INTERNATIONAL, Dept. YIC091
712 N. 34th Street, Seattle, WA 98103-8881

Yes! Send me "FOOT CRADLES" on the RISK FREE 30-DAY GUARANTEE.

IMPORTANT: Please indicate shoe size(s) below:

Women's size(s) _____ Men's size(s) _____

1 pair for \$19.95 plus \$3.00 Postage & Handling.

SAVE \$4.50—2 pair for \$37.90 plus \$3.50 P&H WA residents add 8.8% sales tax.

\$ _____ payment enclosed. Charge my VISA MasterCard.

Card# _____ Exp. Date _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Illinois Coal Bill passes

Illinois consumers may avoid California-like power blackouts, thanks to new Illinois energy legislation. H.B. 1599, the Illinois Resource Development and Energy Security Act, sometimes referred to as the "Illinois Coal Bill," was signed by Governor Ryan on June 22, 2001. It authorizes a \$3.5 billion package of tax incentives and state bonds designed to aid the Illinois coal industry and encourage construction of new generating plants. While most of the financial incentives are geared towards new coal-fired plants, the bill also includes incentives for constructing transmission lines and large baseload plants fueled by natural gas. The bill also contains an environmental component.

Up to \$500 million will be available for new coal-fired generating plants. To be eligible, new plants would have to generate in excess of 400 megawatts and create at least 150 new Illinois coal-mining jobs.

A \$3 billion low-interest loan program utilizing Illinois Development Finance Authority (IDFA) bonds is also included. This program will provide up to \$1.7 billion of bonds to finance new electric generating facilities, including coal mine-mouth plants; up to \$500 million for alternative energy sources; up to \$500 million for scrubbers at existing generating plants; and up to \$300 million for transmission power lines.

New baseload generating plants may be eligible for certain sales tax exemptions and credits. In order to qualify, a natural gas plant must have a generating capacity of at least 1,000 megawatts, and a coal-fired plant at least 400 megawatts.

Under the environmental provisions the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will study the need for stricter air quality standards for older coal-fired power plants.

Funding for rural housing development

The mission areas under USDA's Rural Development include the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Housing Service and Rural Business-Cooperatives Service. Rural Development works with many agencies and groups to help provide a starting point to address business, community or housing needs. Cooperative development specialists are also available upon request to help groups or individuals with questions about cooperatives. Loan programs are designed to strengthen rural businesses, finance new and improved rural housing, develop community facilities, and maintain and create rural employment.

These programs have an outstanding portfolio in Illinois of approximately \$751 million and are delivered through 18 local and nine area office locations as well as a state office located in Champaign.

A recent example of affordable housing development is the Dogwood Apartments in Griggsville. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held earlier this summer to celebrate the grand opening of the apartments formerly known as River Hills Apartments. Rick Stanford recently purchased the complex, plus one in Pittsfield and one in Perry. The opening was held at the conclusion of a six-month renovation of the three complexes.

State Director of Rural Development Douglas Wilson describes the renovation as an "excellent example of the owner of multi-family housing complex going above and beyond, working to ensure quality affordable housing."

Cooperation among co-ops lasts 60 years

Illinois' electric cooperative leaders met in Springfield to celebrate 60 years of cooperation at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's (AIEC) annual meeting August 2-3.

Based in Springfield, the AIEC provides legal, engineering, communications, safety training, legislative and other services to the 27 Illinois electric cooperatives. By working together the cooperatives can afford the expertise and service needed in an ever changing deregulated utility environment. AIEC member cooperatives serve more than 245,000 farms, homes and business in 86 counties, with 55,871 miles of line.

"More changes will occur in the next 10 years than have taken place in the first 60 years combined," warned Dexter Edmison of Belle Rive, who serves as both AIEC's board chairman and as a director for Tri-County Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Mt. Vernon. Two factors, deregulation and diversification are fueling the changes, he said. "It's imperative that co-ops work together. We can maximize our effectiveness by working together. It's what has kept us strong for 60 years," he said.

Before the meeting a conference was held on new cooperative diversified services such as: long distance, propane, Internet, security and power quality.

Rep. Gary Hannig, D-98 Litchfield, received the Illinois Electric Cooperative Public Service award during the meeting. "Representative Hannig has been a consistent and strong supporter of the electric cooperative program and rural issues," said Earl Struck, president/CEO of the AIEC.

Power washers can kill

A man was electrocuted recently while using an electric pressure washer to wash a truck, prompting the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to re-issue a consumer alert.

Pressure washers pump water under high pressure through a hose, sometimes mixing the water with a cleaning solution. Pressure washers may be used to wash farm equipment, motor vehicles, outdoor power equipment, porches or houses.

The power cord, washer and user are often in contact with water when the pressure washer is in use. This can be a deadly combination if the power cord connections become wet, an internal short exists, or especially if the machine is not properly grounded. At least 13 such fatalities have been reported; in one incident, a three-year-old boy was killed when he touched a pressure washer being used by his father.

To stay safe: never defeat a proper ground connection; never allow the power cord to lie in water; use a ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs); use a heavy duty power cord and keep any connection out of standing water and as far away as possible from the item being washed; and wear rubber-soled footwear that provides some insulation.

Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.cpsc.gov)

Michigan Bulb files for bankruptcy

Michigan Bulb advertised in *Illinois Country Living* for 24 years and the editors had very few complaints from readers over the years. That changed recently. Unfortunately, the parent company Foster & Gallagher filed for bankruptcy June 31. They also own other catalog companies such as Stark Brothers Nursery and HearthSong. They laid off 3,000 workers, including at least 650 in Illinois.

"I am very disappointed," said John Lowrey, editor of *Illinois Country Living*. "Like some of our readers, who recently placed orders with Michigan Bulb and will not receive their order or reimbursement, our publication may not receive payment from the company for ads. Our loss, however, is not as great as those Illinois workers that are now unemployed."

Don't waste your well-pumping dollars

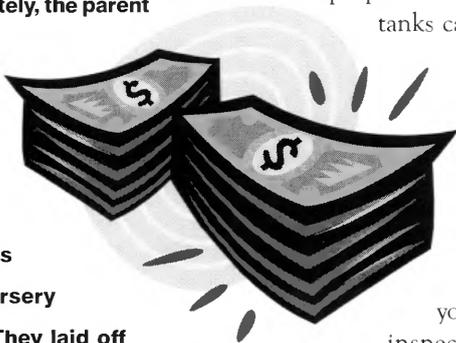
If you get water from a well, keep these tips in mind to make sure you get the most for your money when you use the pump:

- Make sure your pressure tank has the proper air charge. Waterlogged tanks cause pumps to start and stop continuously during pumping cycle, and well pumps use a lot of energy in the start mode.

- Be sure you have the right pump for your well. A service inspection can help you determine the proper size pump and prevent wasting energy. For instance, a 3/4 horsepower pump, running 30 minutes a day, will use 350 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year. A 1/2 horsepower pump, however, uses only 240 kilowatt-hours over that same year.

- Fix any leaks in your pipes, faucets and fixtures. One home with a few "minor" drips can end up losing two to three gallons of water per minute! That water loss, in turn, will force your pump to run and use more energy.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories (HomeEnergySaver.lbl.gov)



Expanded rural health services

Expanded services offered by one of Southern Illinois University Carbondale's (SIUC) outreach centers will benefit rural health and social services agencies needing help with such tasks as finding grant money, improving their programs and boosting their client bases.

SIUC's Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development is looking to play a more active role downstate, said Tess D. Heiple, who became its director last June.



"We have always performed research, done needs assessments and feasibility studies, and run pilot projects and demonstrations on statewide, regional and local levels, and we will continue to do that. Center staff can point agencies toward appropriate funding sources and compile statistics that will help support their grant applications.

"It's a partnership," Heiple stressed. Our main goal is to work with them in implementing the projects and programs their communities need."

The center also can train agency staff. "One of the needs we see comes when people are promoted into supervisory positions," Heiple said.

If a grant is involved, it usually will cover the center's fees, making the services, in effect, free to the agency.

To request help or learn more about what's available, call the center's main switchboard at (618)453-1262.

Co-op ads focus on the people advantage

Touchstone Energy cooperatives have launched a new advertising campaign that focuses on the true strength of electric cooperatives — co-op members. The Touchstone Energy ads are building a national awareness of electric cooperatives and the distinct advantages they offer.

Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 550 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 39 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 16 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and a longstanding commitment to communities.

The multimedia campaign features the tagline *The Power of Human Connections* and is designed to communicate that co-op customers are actually members and have a voice in the operation of their energy provider.

“At a time when the U.S. energy supply is tremendously uncertain, America’s electric co-ops are emerging as a hidden resource, representing local, customer-owned and controlled utilities operating with efficient energy management systems,” said Jim Bausell, chief operating officer of Touchstone Energy.

“It is important that both individual members and businesses alike understand the benefits of a co-op as it relates to them,” continued Bausell. “This campaign communicates exactly that.”

“This new ad campaign celebrates the human-to-human connection of co-ops, demonstrating their power and meaning, which remain as strong today as when they were created more than a half a century ago,” says Ken Keylor of Ohio REC, chair of the Touchstone Energy Advertising and Promotions Advisory Committee. “This is the magic of the cooperative element in the electric utility industry.”

The campaign features 11 tele-



Brothers are part of our electric co-op.



Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives
The power of human connections

vision ads airing on various national cable channels as well as DirecTV. In addition, there are a dozen print and outdoor signs; six radio spots and a series of four-page advertorials set to run in Reader’s Digest. The television and radio spots introduce the Touchstone Energy theme song, “We Shine As One,” music created exclusively for the campaign. The TV ads will be seen on CMT, CNBC, Discovery Channel, ESPN, Fox News, Headline News, History Channel, MSNBC, TNN, TNT, Learning Channel, TBS, Weather Channel and Golf Channel.

Illinois’ Touchstone Energy Cooperatives include: Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon; Corn Belt Energy Corp., Bloomington; Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Paxton; Egyptian Electric Cooperative

Association, Steeleville; EnerStar Power Corp., Paris; Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative, Winchester; Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, Elizabeth; McDonough Power Cooperative, Macomb; Menard Electric Cooperative, Petersburg; Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc., Waterloo; Norris Electric Cooperative, Newton; Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, Co., Auburn; Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelbyville; SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc., Eldorado; Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola; Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Mt. Vernon; Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, Inc. Marion; Soyland Power Cooperative, Decatur; and Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield.

Snore-Free Nights

The Very First Night Guaranteed!

OVER 500,000 CUSTOMERS CAN'T BE WRONG!

New spray solves snoring problem instantly... **Guaranteed!** It's true! A quick spray with D-Snore before bed and you'll sleep like a baby all night long. This amazing **fast-acting, all-natural** formula **instantly** moistens the membranes of the soft palette to allow **free and easy breathing that lasts.** Forget surgery, special pillows, and all the other contraptions--D-Snore is the safe, affordable solution you've been looking for.

CLINICALLY PROVEN FORMULA!

Clinical Studies boast an **84% success rate.** Studies also state that **people using D-Snore showed an increase in their deep sleep.** That means feeling more rested when you wake.

It's just what the doctor ordered!



Sleep snore-free all night long or it's free! Guaranteed!
--Celebrity Bernie Kopell
(Ship Doctor on TV's Love Boat series)

ACTUAL RESULTS TAKEN FROM THE CLINICAL STUDY:

The decrease in the average snoring level represents a very significant change. 84% of the subjects showed a significant improvement while using D-Snore.

--Mark J. Buchfuhrer, M.D

Guaranteed Snore-Free nights!

One quick spray with D-Snore and you and your loved ones will sleep snore-free for a great night's sleep. **Actually works the very first night.** We guarantee it! Try D-Snore--if you don't stop snoring the very first night, just send it back for a full product refund. 30 day money back guarantee!

Let D-Snore work for you too. Call now and order D-Snore-- for yourself and your loved ones. **And don't forget to ask how you can get a 30 day supply of D-Snore absolutely free!**

Fast Service Call Toll Free...

1-888-530-7291

24 hours a day ~ 7 days a week



• **SAFE**--
All-Natural
Throat Spray

• **FAST**--
Treats
Snoring
Instantly

• **EFFECTIVE**--
One Quick
Spray Lasts
All Night

Here's what some of our over 500,000 customers are saying about D-Snore...

*We put D-Snore to the test
We got flooded with calls with volunteers...
If you have a snoring problem...give D-Snore a try
It works!*
--KATV-7 ABC News, Little Rock, Arkansas

I have been married to my husband for 13 years. The past 5 years, he has kept me awake nightly with his snoring... He has been using D-Snore for one month, and I have never felt so well rested! From the first night, NO MORE SNORING!!! ...Thank You, Thank You!!!
--T. McCrory

I bought it for my husband, but it was going to benefit me. He snored so much, so loud that I felt I almost needed to go outside and apologize to my neighbors. It was that loud... He's been using it for 6-8 months. [The change] happened overnight, it was immediate.
-- S. Fernandez

I tried nose drops and those breath things you stick across your nose. Nothing worked. I had tried other products on the market, and those didn't work. D-Snore works.
--Dorothy Burks

Small business with a flair

**If you can make it at home
you can make it anywhere**

By Anna Scott

When you took art class the teacher used your carving of a wild boar as a model for your fellow students (who were probably still trying to decipher the function of the gouge). Or perhaps you remember the "Young Painter's Showcase," when your Pot-of-Flowers went home with a blue ribbon hanging from the top left corner? Just like the six years before that?

Yes, you're talented.

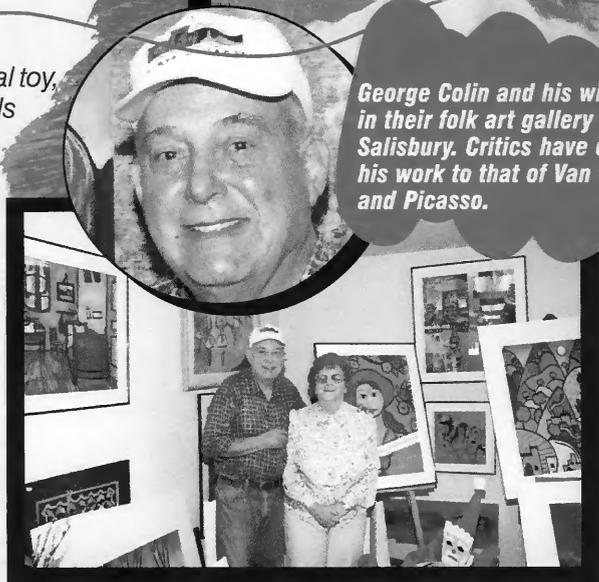
You probably still make odds and ends, the occasional toy, or home decorations that your friends marvel over. However, while you've been impressing the neighbors, some people, spurred by their budding artistic passions, have turned these same hobbies into successful business operations. If you're interested in transforming your talent into profit, you can. But before you try this at home, some words of advice from artists who have made it big on the home front and abroad:

Folk artist George Colin and his wife and manager, Winnie, from Salisbury are enjoying in their 70s what they call "the simple life," although their customers boast titles like "former U.S. President," "TV host of the century" and "the most popular athlete since Muhammad Ali." Colin, who learned to paint and draw from a Norman Rockwell correspondence course in illustration 36 years ago, has created brightly colored pastel artwork for George Bush, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan and myriad other fans such as Illinois Gov. George Ryan and Sen. Richard Durbin. Inquiring minds may ask how a retired flour-bagger from the Pillsbury Mills factory achieved this level of exposure.

"We caught the tourist," Winnie says, in sly explanation of her husband's artistic success. "People would see the work by the road when they were driving past our house. They would stop in and then drive away with painted furni-



George Colin and his wife Winnie in their folk art gallery at home in Salisbury. Critics have compared his work to that of Van Gogh and Picasso.



ture tied on top of their cars," she laughs.

The Colins' home, gallery and workshop rest amiably together among Winnie's shoulder-high flower gardens, George's pink, green and seeded watermelon furniture, and a few other wild constructions like a corn stalk fence and a table made from, among other things, coffee can lids. It all sits quietly on an unassuming corner of a country highway leading to New Salem's Lincoln sites.

U.S. tourists, like the ones heading to New Salem, generate more than \$327 billion in revenue every year, according to the National Travel and Tourism Awareness Council. Not only are tourists increasing the amount they spend on arts and crafts, but the state government is too. Recently, Illinois Gov. George Ryan issued \$400,000 in grants to help organizations host

events expected to draw thousands of visitors to the state.

But the standard tourist isn't the only sort the Colins' colorful corner nabbed. In 1988 the artwork caught the eye of a Chicago photographer who was nonchalantly driving through Salisbury. The photographer was impressed with Colin's paintings and displayed several of them in a photography show, where their popularity eventually led to the opening of the Colins' own gallery, "George Art," in Chicago. The gallery was a success for the greater part of the five years it was open, but eventually closed.

For those artists still scrambling to make it big-time, or just to make ends meet, cultivating success, and not headaches, from your gallery experience can be tricky. Charlotte Brady of Seymour, a watercolor painter and retired art teacher who earns half her income from her craft, suggests the whole thing hinges on the "who" of who's selling your goods.

"It's better to have someone else [a representative] selling your work so they can boast about your work," she says. "With representatives, often they only get you in [to a gallery or a shop], and then they kind of forget about you."

Brady has a personal spin on the subject of gallery displays. She owned an art gallery herself in Champaign for 10 years. Presently her work is being displayed in more than 30 galleries, not only in Illinois, but also in areas such as Seattle, Portland and Wisconsin's Door County. Her solution to gallery problems relies on keeping in close contact with the gallery owner or shopkeeper who is selling your work. "Have a catalogue made of your work and have it ready to leave with owners if they're busy," she suggests. "Send out postcards every time you have something new to introduce."

She says people go to galleries with the intent of purchasing

something, making them the best venue for obtaining a sizable profit. Conversely, at a craft show your prices will need to be low to sell your work. Cost shouldn't discourage you from looking professional though. Brady says it only takes an hour at Kinko's to make your own business cards and hang-tags for your products. She even makes T-shirts emblazoned with her floral prints to sell for \$15 each.

Linda Weathers from Dixon, who crafts hand-woven painted baskets, found that displaying her art in a gallery eliminated the need to advertise her products. After taking a

more attractive to a purchase-driven clientele.

The Colins also felt their success hinged on their display venue, and found it imperative that they relocate their gallery after the failure of George Art. They closed shop on Chicago's North and Wells streets, and reopened with an art-dealer in Riverside, outside of the city. Colin's work still hangs and sells in establishments throughout Chicago, such as Eccentric, a restaurant owned by Oprah Winfrey, Shaw's Crab House, and the furniture section of Marshall Fields department store. Still, other artists insist that selling out of their homes provides the best success. According to a survey given by the National Craft Association, 79 percent of craftspeople work in a studio located on or in their residential property. So why not sell where you work?

Barb Foster does.

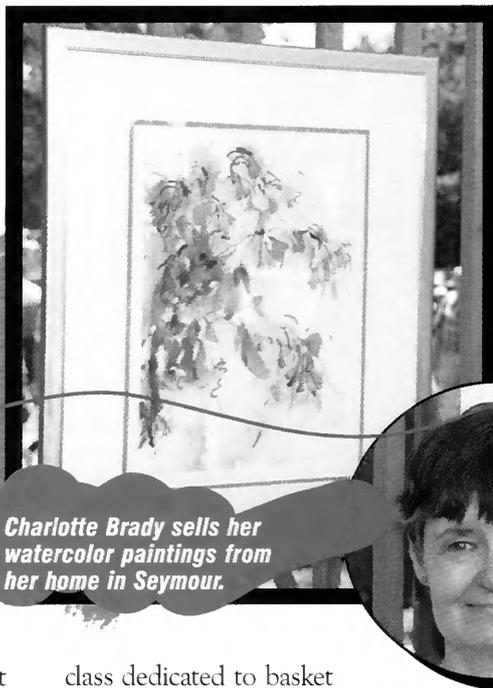
She has been running a successful tating business, Handy Hands Tating, Inc., out of her home since 1990. But you won't

find any finished Victorian-style lace products in her Paxton home. Foster sells instructional tating books and custom-made German factory-imported thread that cannot be purchased in

color anywhere else in the world. Like Weathers and Brady, Foster also sells her books at craft shows, and claims they are, often unfortunately, the best way to put your product on the market.

When she became confident that her books would sell, she began attending trade shows. At one particular show, which included giants such as Elmer's Glue, Home and Garden Television network's host Carol Duval asked Foster to give a televised tating lesson. Foster accepted and appeared recently on the network's craft show.

Terri Zellers and her mother Janice Wisslead, from Sciota, craft and sell rustic-looking birdhouses



Charlotte Brady sells her watercolor paintings from her home in Seymour.

class dedicated to basket weaving, she began displaying her art at the House of Art gallery in Champaign. Eighteen years and many happy customers later, the House of Art dead and buried, Weathers still finds her customer base does not warrant traditional advertising a necessity for profit-making. She claims it's best to sell your own goods because you can interest your buyer with your intimate knowledge of the product. To sell her work, she utilizes both traditional art shows and folk art shows.

"I try not to limit myself," she says. Her only stipulation is that the show be credible. By a "credible" show, Weathers means one that is overseen by a jury, making it more competitive to participate in, and

and lawn decorations at a rate of about 250 pieces per month. They attend an average of 40 shows each year. Even Brady, who no longer finds it necessary to go to more than one craft show a year, says her friends who make a living from sales at craft shows only go to about 15 per year. But, "It's still not a guaranteed income," warns Zellers, "and there is no insurance that goes with it. If you want insurance it has to come out of your own pocket."

Or you could try selling on the Internet. Some online small-business companies will help you build your own web page and sell your products from their domain name. (For example, potential buyers would reach you at "your name".their business name.com.) Don't throw caution to the wind, though. Stephen Borkowski, the content manager for Bizland, Inc., a company that sells small-business web sites, says to watch out for Internet-based companies that will claim ownership of your site name and bind you to the monthly upkeep fee for life.

Foster also expressed concern about groups with binding contracts that tie their business, and your money, to the domain name. She suggests assuming the extra expense and hiring someone with knowledge of your product to design your web site. "You can find anyone to design your web site," she says, "the problem is, who's going to know about your site."

Colin tried selling his work on Selftaughtart.com, a forum for buyers and sellers of folk art. He found that people surfing the

entire income from crafting, this business could be a little frightening, and the customer base precarious.

"I've been doing this for the past five years and we do not make any purchases, such as a car or home with my income," says Zellers, "You could get sick and not be able to attend a show, or the business may not be there, or the customers may not be there."

Sometimes though, the financial strain may turn into a blessing. Many artists find their winning look edging on the cheaply hip.

"You can do anything with junk really," says Colin. "That's why folk art is a great medium. It's for the average person."

Not only does folk art utilize the "junk" look, but other trendy crafts do too. Zellers attributes her success to the popularity of the rustic looking items she and her mother craft. When they first started their business, they made the items out of old barn doors, used shelving, and the gingerbread woodwork from dilapidated porches. Now, because appropriately worn buildings like old barns are becoming scarce in the McDonough County area, Zellers says she and her mother go through a four step treatment processes to make their new wood look like old.

"To keep up with the times you just have to watch what everyone is buying, in order to keep the business going we have to stick with the trend. We look into new issues of [magazines] *Martha Stuart* and *Country Living*, to see how they decorate, and we tend to stick with their look," she says.

In addition to the subject's matter, there is the subject matter itself to consider. Colin says his art appeals to almost everyone. "In this area, you can't be successful as



Linda Weathers from Dixon hand paints her baskets to make them look original.

net for artwork were not willing to pay much for it, and it wasn't worth the hassle to ship it to them. Presently he no longer needs to look for sales outlets like the Internet, with some of his art fetching more than \$1,000 per piece, but shadows of a past spent collecting refuse to use in place of the art supplies he could not afford, remain. "Fill up your icebox with food first," Colin advises those embarking on an art career, "because you might end up starving." Winnie adds, "It costs a lot to be an artist."

Your materials might also be hard to come by. Weathers keeps \$5,000 in supplies stocked in her basement because she can only obtain them via shipment to her home. In the fall she collects grapevine and bittersweet to weave into baskets.

Even though lack of financial stability may not be the only risk facing artisans today, it certainly is the most concerning. According to the NCA survey, the median income for a crafts-person is \$50,000, 26 percent above the national median of \$39,657. But for the 22 percent of households that derive their

an abstract artist. In central Illinois we're practically in a cornfield," says Colin. "I paint the corn!" he laughs. Colin's artwork features roosters, a good seller this year; cotton pickers, the overall best seller; Abraham Lincolns, Winnie's favorites; cowboys; and also subjects less indicative of the area like dancers and ice skaters.

Functional items also tend to sell well. According to the tourism council, tourists want more items for use in the home, not simply for display. Weathers approaches her basket craft both artistically and traditionally. She says the dual approach makes her baskets as practical as they are admirable. "I want people to do more than just put their eggs in them," she says.

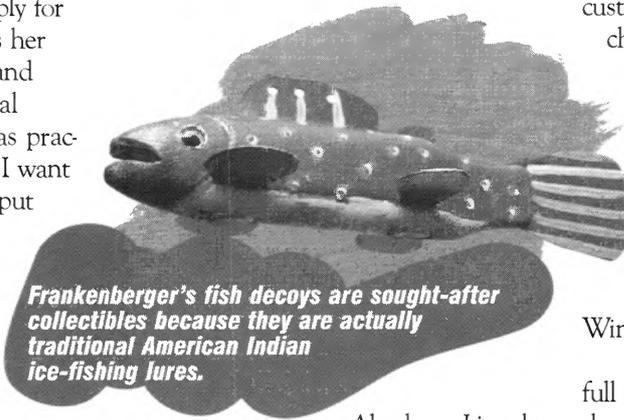
Weathers says her baskets became ripe for the competitive market after making them artistic, colorful and unique in design. Originality is the common thread of success for many crafters, and has led some to niche markets, like Foster's ability to be the only supplier of size 50 tatting thread in 12 colors in the world.

Dr. Bob Frankenberger has found a niche of his own—collectibles. The retired anatomy and physiology professor from Western Illinois University was carving and hand-painting wooden fish until it was suggested he make them into fish decoys by filling their underbellies with lead and adding a few metal fins. He was hooked on the finished product. "They're viable antiques and they're viable folk art," says Frankenberger, after citing an article he read two years

ago announcing the sale of a fish decoy to Sotheby's auction house in New York for \$32,000.

Frankenberger annually sells hundreds of decoys, crafted in his Macomb workshop, for \$3.50 per inch. When a customer requests a four-foot decoy, the profit can be hefty. After all, his overhead is small. "It's only wood!" Frankenberger laughs.

He has also tapped into the tourist market by carving wooden



Frankenberger's fish decoys are sought-after collectibles because they are actually traditional American Indian ice-fishing lures.

Abraham Lincoln dolls with propellers for arms. The funny and original toys, which have sold for \$100 per piece, are made in memory of Frankenberger's father, who carved toys for the young Frankenberger.

Although he sells many of his toys and decoys to the Illinois State Museum, antique shops and art galleries, Frankenberger insists his craft is only a hobby. His carvings, made not only from wood, but also from bone, ivory, antler and mother-of-pearl were first featured in Springfield's Old Capitol Art Fair, and now sell regularly in the Chicago art market and to collectors throughout the nation.

"You've got to follow your

instincts," Frankenberger says of his success. "This is fun, this is my pleasure, and I don't care what the world thinks." Colin expresses a similar feeling toward his craft. When asked if his subject matter is influenced by the buyer, Colin responds, "No, I do what I like. For a few years nothing sold at all, but I kept at it. I thought, 'someday this will start selling.'"

Even though their star-studded customers have no problem purchasing multiple pieces of Colin's artwork, Winnie says they truly appreciate those customers who commit to a monthly payment plan just to purchase one selection. "The good Lord blessed us. We've been given a lot of breaks," says Colin. "But we work seven days a week," adds Winnie.

Linda Weathers, in addition to a full time job at an art foundry where she is an assistant to a bronze sculptor, spends four to six hours a day, and eight to 12 hours daily on weekends, perfecting her craft. During their busy season, from August through December, Terri Zellers' mother, Janice, rises at 4 a.m., crafts for three hours before heading off to her regular job at the post office, and then returns home to continue crafting until 1 a.m.

"Anyone that's self-employed finds that they put a lot more than 40 hours a week into their work," says Foster. A lot more is right. Based on the testimonies of these artists, long hours, hard work, and a little creative luck are the only common denominators in this business.

Web sites and tips for starting your own home-based art business

Illinois Commerce Commission

www.commerce.state.il.us

Find the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) closest to your home.

Illinois Department of Revenue

www.revenue.state.il.us

Register your business or receive more information on obtaining a tax number from this department. (800) 252-2923.

National Craft Association

www.craftassoc.com

"An Artisans Nationwide Guide to Shops and Galleries," including over 1300 selling venues, is sold here. (800) 715-9594.

Illinois Arts Council 2001 Art Fair Directory

www.caonline.org/artfair/artguidesearch.asp

This site contains a listing of all the arts and crafts fairs in Illinois. (800) 237-6994/
info@arts.state.il.us.

SELLING YOUR WORK ON THE WEB

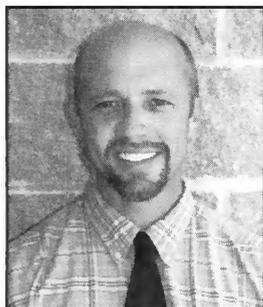
www.selftaughtart.com www.internetartfair.com www.bizland.com

You will need electronic versions of your work to download onto the sites. Cost varies.

Safety AROUND YOUR HOME

Visit our greatest natural resource — grandparents

Visiting grandparents — safety related? In a round-about way, I suppose. It's an issue that has come up a lot recently around our house, and I remember having the same conversations with my parents when I was a youngster.



Brian Anderson

I still remember the feeling that I had as a kid when my parents would tell me that we were going to visit the grandparents. On Sunday afternoon the sun would be shining, the birds singing, and my mini-bike would be calling me to go for a ride — then, bam! Mom would tell us that we were going visiting. How could

she do that? Didn't she know that in less than 12 hours I would be headed back to school? I had so little time. Life was passing me by. I was 12 and had no time to waste on visiting "old people."

Boy, what I wouldn't give to have those days back. I would have listened more closely, remembered a lot more, and not been in such a hurry to get home. At the time I didn't realize what I had and what I was missing. Now I do, and I am trying to convince my kids that they do have the time and should make the effort to visit those "old people." There is so much knowledge and experience there free for the taking — a lot of lessons to be learned the easy way — just by listening.

I realize that the people in the grandparents and great-grandparents age group are better conversationists than the teens of today. They had to be. They grew up without Gameboys® or video games that can occupy a kid for hours without having to say a word to anyone. Some of them can probably still remember not having electricity, heaven forbid.

The art of conversation is not a dying art. It is just being re-defined. E-mail, voice-mail and instant messenger services on the Internet are all forms of communication. Not what our grandparents are used to, but conversation nonetheless.

Brian Anderson is a safety instructor for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and a former lineman for Adams Electric Cooperative, Camp Point. E-mail briana@aiec.org.

What I propose to the youth of today is to spend time with those older and wiser adults, listen to their stories and watch their faces as they relive the past. Then take the time to explain your new world to them. Tell them how you can take college classes "on-line," talk to several of your friends at one time on the Internet and wear the same bell-bottom pants that your parents wore when they were teenagers. You will be surprised at how interested and amazed they will be.

If you think back on it, it's like when I was a teenager. I could have explained to my grandparents how the transition from LP records to 8-track tapes was the coolest thing since disco. By the time I am of the grandparenting age, I can't imagine someone not wanting to listen to my stories. Do you think that's what my grandparents thought?

This doesn't just pertain to teenagers visiting relatives either. It's an effort that people of all ages can make. It can be an elderly neighbor down the road, that little old lady that you always see at the checkout line in the grocery store or old Uncle Fred who is not really your uncle.

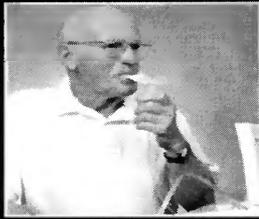
Not only will they be glad to see you, but it is also a good opportunity to check on their health and well-being. Some medications, weather extremes and other variables can disorient elderly people and make them unaware of potential health problems. After storms, or on really hot or cold days, make the effort to call or stop by and say hello.

I can remember while I was a lineman at Adams Electric and we'd have a storm roll through causing several outages. We'd stop and check on some of our older members or someone living alone, just to make sure that their power had come back on and their furnaces or air conditioners were working. It doesn't take long and besides, that's what makes rural life so unique. Everyone looks out for everyone else. See, there is a safety message in here after all.

I remember what my wife's grandmother once told me. She said what young people don't realize is, "I'm just like they are, only stuck in this old body." Let's not waste one of earth's "Greatest Natural Resources." Go visit a great-grandparent, grandparent, aunt or uncle or even the little old lady from the check out line at the grocery store. And, oh yeah, leave the Gameboy at home.

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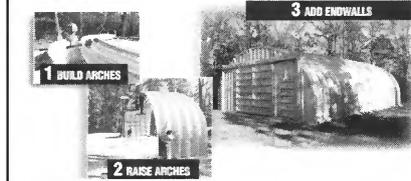
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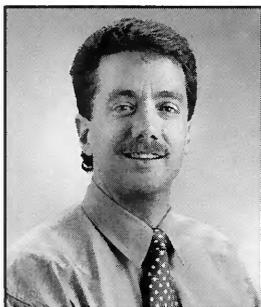
PHONE _____

Your YARD AND GARDEN

Bulb catalogs, wholesale prices and other gardening secrets

The first one arrived even before the snow had melted. Well, actually before the ground thawed. Truth be told, the ground really didn't freeze this past year, so let's just say before the buds swelled and the

robins returned to confound my cats.



David Robson

I'm not talking about the spring gardening catalogs. I'm talking about the fall bulb catalogs. The ones that pop in your mailbox before the ones do in the yard.

Years ago, that annoyed me. How dare they send me a catalog before I even had the chance to plant my spring vegetables? Now, due to older age or something

less tangible, they are welcomed. They're great references as you travel down the street or road and see flowers bloom in someone else's yard. In a matter of seconds, the pages are turned, the flowers and color established, and then marked for later reference. All the while, trying not to drive into the ditch. GARDENING SECRET #1. There are a couple catalogs that advertise wholesale prices and quantities. They are the best. You don't have to be a wholesaler to buy them, and if you feel guilty about a name, just use your last name and add "Gardens" after it. Who cares? Why are they great? Not just the price, but also the fact they force you to order a large quantity.

Two of my biggest gardening peeves involve bulbs. The first is the row of tulips that seem to pop up along someone's driveway, sidewalk or front of the house. Horticulturists call them little tulip soldiers getting ready to march to war. There is nothing

natural looking about it. They look exactly like what they are, rows of tulips planted in a straight line.

Second, people like either lots of different colors or a handful of bulbs, or even a combination of lots of different colors but not many of each. My yard is a typical urban yard, albeit little grass. I never ever consider ordering less than 25 of the same tulip. Besides getting the best deal, it forces me to have masses of colors. Color is tricky in the landscape. Come spring, we like the yellows and whites of daffodils; the blues, reds, pinks, and purples of the hyacinths; and the every-color-under-the-sun of tulips. But all the different colors can be jarring to the eye. GARDENING SECRET #2. Bulbs don't all bloom at the same time. Now, this isn't exactly a new idea that will win me a Nobel Prize, or even a free cup of coffee at the local diner. But we often forget this fact. Look through the tulip section of the catalogs. There are all sorts of tulip types early, late, Darwin, species, mid-season, parrot, Rembrandt, lily-flowered and Viridiflora, which means there's a green streak in the flowers. By selecting some of each type, you can almost have a month and a half of blooms.

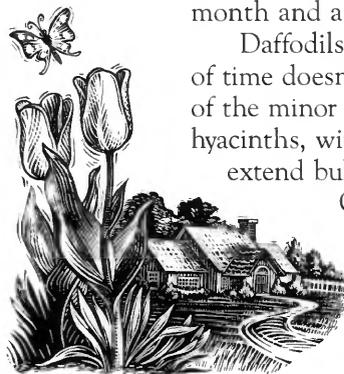
Daffodils are somewhat similar, though the length of time doesn't seem as long. Coupled with some of the minor bulbs like snowdrops, crocus, grape hyacinths, winter aconites and fritillarias, you can extend bulb bloom from March to May.

Okay, this is what you do.

First, don't settle for less than 25 of each bulb color. That's tulips and daffodils. That many hyacinth bulbs may be overwhelming. Or not.

Second, don't plant any less than 12 bulbs in a group. Third, space the plants a little closer than recommended. Tulips are supposed to be spaced 4 to 6 inches apart. Mine are 2 inches. This way, I can cut some of the flowers, and the others hide the naked leaves. In fact, by spacing so close, I've cut about half the flowers and the grouping still looks good.

Next, plant the bulbs the correct depth. If the tag says 6 to 8 inches, go that deep. I like to measure from the top of the bulbs to ground level. I also recommend a bulb drill bit attached to an electric drill. It makes planting faster and more fun. Plant as soon as possible. Water the bulbs in and mulch. SOLUTIONS: www.ag.uiuc.edu/~robsond/solutions

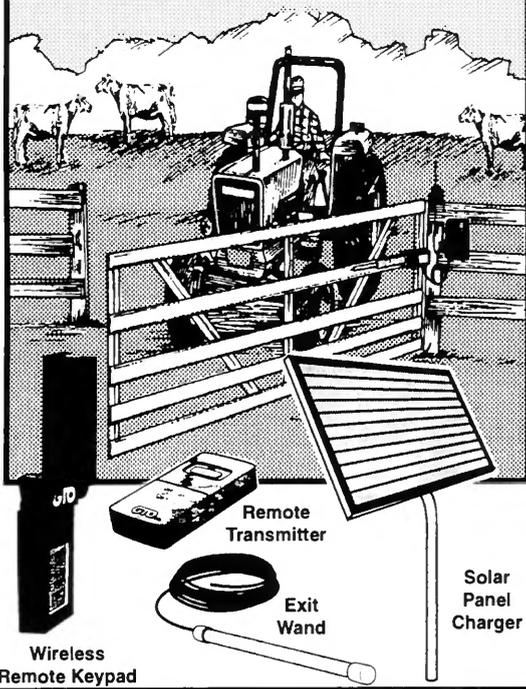


David Robson is an Extension Educator, Horticulture, at the Springfield Extension Center, University of Illinois Extension. You can write to Robson in care of Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Telephone: (217) 782-6515. E-Mail: robsond@mail.aces.uiuc.edu

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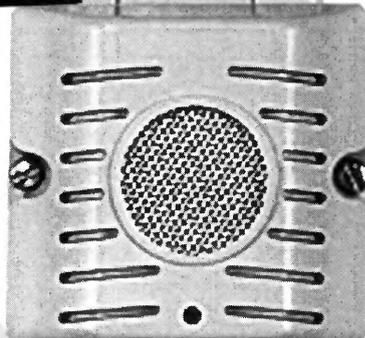
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Today's TECHNOLOGY AND YOU

Let the light shine down on you

Q: Dear Jim: I saw some unique skylights on a recent new home tour that really brightened up the rooms. I want to install a venting model, but I have an attic above it. Can I still install one and what features are best? - Art W.

A: Dear Art: You are absolutely correct about the enhancing effect of adding a skylight to an otherwise ordinary room. I installed a large super-efficient one in my own family room. It brightened up the room so much that, for several weeks, I inadvertently walked over and tried to switch off the lights when I left the room.

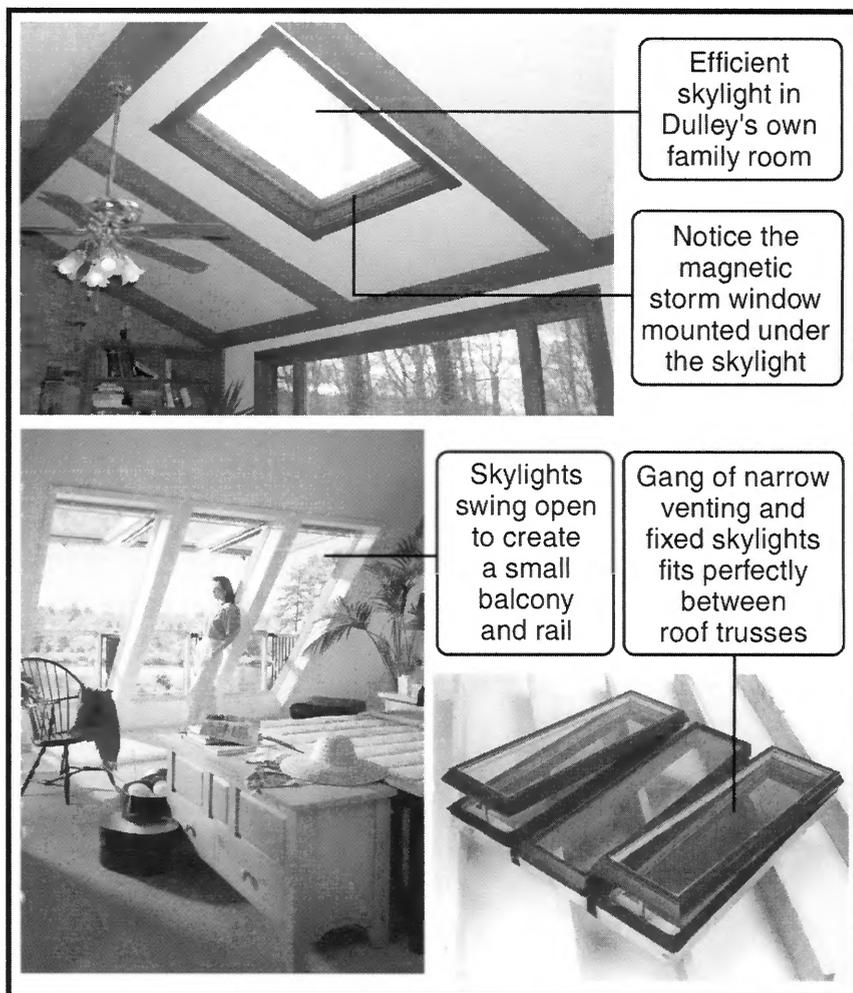
Although skylights are certainly easier to install in a room with a sloped cathedral or vaulted ceiling, they are most often installed in rooms with flat ceilings with an attic above. All you have to do is build an insulated tapered lightwell between the roof and the ceiling.

From an energy efficiency standpoint, adding a high-quality efficient skylight is about a wash during the winter. Even the most efficient skylight loses more heat to the outdoors than an insulated attic floor or ceiling. I mounted a magnetic clear plastic storm window under my skylight to form a dead air space. It is barely noticeable when installed.

To offset this energy loss, installing one reduces the need for electric lights and, with the proper orientation, it provides some passive solar heat gain from the sun. A true solar south (slightly different

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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Efficient skylight in Dulley's own family room

Notice the magnetic storm window mounted under the skylight

Skylights swing open to create a small balcony and rail

Gang of narrow venting and fixed skylights fits perfectly between roof trusses

Many new styles of efficient skylights

from magnetic compass south) is best. A southwestern orientation is next. In all but the hottest climates, avoid a northern exposure. Installing a venting skylight, as you mentioned, can be a real energy saver in the summer. Since the hottest air in a room stagnates up at the ceiling, the skylight will exhaust it. This creates a natural air flow drawing fresh cooler outdoor air in your windows. With the new controls available, they are convenient to open and close.

If you have been to a local home center store to look for skylights, you have probably seen, at most, 5 percent of the styles and designs available. There is a huge array of shapes, frame designs, flat and domed

glass and plastic glazing, etc. and each type has its advantages. Many of the smaller commercial models also work well for residential use. Two major design features to consider are the frame and the glazing materials. The strongest, most solid frames are made of wood with durable aluminum cladding on the exterior. These are also attractive with the natural wood exposed indoors. Another strong design fuses a fiberglass frame to the clear or tinted glazing for a leakproof unit. The glazing options are similar to new efficient window glass. Double pane glass, with a low-emissivity coating and argon gas in the gap between the panes, is a good choice for most homes and climates. Super-efficient Heat Mirror glass is available for cold climates. Triple acrylic panes are another efficient option and are lighter and easier to handle than skylights with glass glazing.

Because you plan to install a venting skylight in a lightwell, con-

sider getting one with a TV-type hand-held or wall-mounted remote control. These will require running electric wiring to the skylight. If you have only a standard hand-crank rod, you probably won't end up opening it as often as you should to maximize energy savings in the summer. The same remote control can also be used to open and close mini-blinds or other shades under the skylight.

For a steeply pitched roof, as is often found in a remodeled attic, a floor-to-ceiling balcony-style skylight is ideal. It is made of two large sections. When it is opened, the lower half, which is hinged at the bottom, forms a balcony with a handrail. The upper half becomes a glass cover over your head.

Proper sizing of a skylight is also important. If the skylight is too small it will not provide adequate natural light or ventilation. If it is too big, there will be excessive heat loss in the winter and it will look out of

proportion for the room. A good rule of thumb is that the skylight area should be about 5 percent of the room floor area.

You have several options for building your lightwell between the ceiling and the roof. For a roof with a low-pitch, the lightwell will not be deep, therefore straight-wall design is fine and simple to build. For a deeper lightwell on a steeper roof, a tapered lightwell allows for better light distribution in the room and generally looks better.

Write for (instantly download - www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 522 - buyer's guide of nine manufacturers of various retractable awning designs listing maximum widths, projections, features, prices, installation instructions and a fabric selector guide. Or write to: James Dulley, Illinois Country Living, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE.

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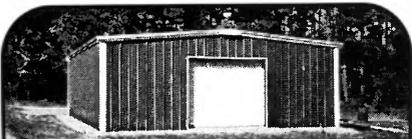
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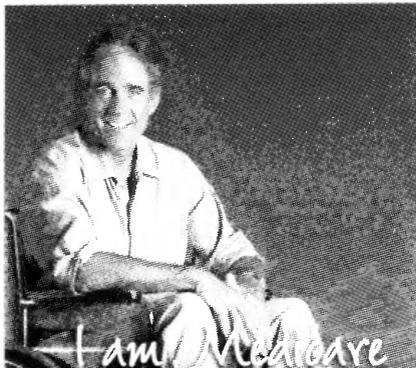
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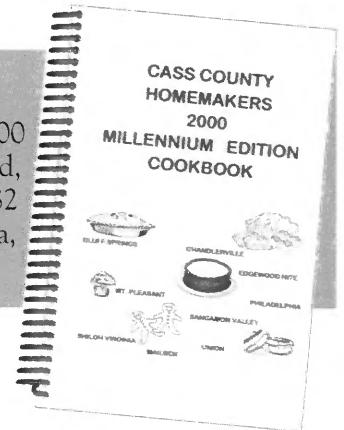
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FINEST COOKING

Cass County Homemakers Association

The Cass County Homemakers Association of Virginia submits their 2000 Millennium edition cookbook. The book is soft-backed and wire spiral bound, and includes 332 pages of fabulous recipes. The cookbook sells for \$8 plus \$2 postage. To order a copy, contact Joanne Anderson, 23417 Gilbert Road, Virginia, IL 62691 or call her at (217) 452-7497.



Spinach Dip

1 pkg. chopped, frozen spinach, well drained
8-oz. mayonnaise
8-oz. sour cream

Diane Duewer

1 can water chestnuts, chopped
1/4 C. grated onion
1 pkg. vegetable soup mix (no noodles)

Mix together all ingredients and chill well. Serve with crackers.

Hamburger-Cheese Bake

1 (8-oz.) pkg. noodles
2 lb. ground beef
1-1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 med. onion, chopped
2 T. chopped green pepper

Mrs. John Jokisch

1/2 tsp. garlic salt
2 (8-oz.) cans tomato sauce
1 tsp. oregano
1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
1/2 C. dairy sour cream
1-1/2 C. cottage cheese

Cook noodles by package directions; drain. Brown beef with salt, pepper, onion, green pepper and garlic salt. Stir in tomato sauce and oregano; set aside. Soften cream cheese at room temperature; blend with sour cream. Add cottage cheese, mixing well. Place 1/2 of the cooked noodles into a 9x13-inch pan; cover with the cheese mixture. Spread remaining noodles over top and pour on beef mixture. Bake at 350° for about 20 minutes or until hot.

Hot Buttered Rum Apple Cobbler

1 C. flour
1/2 C. sugar
2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 C. margarine, softened
1/2 C. milk
1 (21-oz.) can apple pie filling

Norma Sweatman

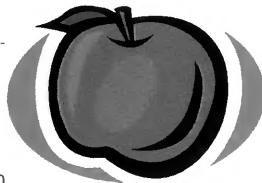
1/3 C. raisins
1/4 C. sugar
1 (6-oz.) can frozen apple juice concentrate (reserve 1/4 C. for topping)
1/2 C. water

Topping:

1 T. sugar
1 tsp. cornstarch
1/4 C. apple juice

1 T. margarine
1/2 to 1-1/2 tsp. rum extract

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease a 7x11-inch pan. In a small bowl, combine flour, 1/2 C. sugar, baking powder, salt, 1/4 C. margarine and milk. Mix until moistened; beat 1 minute on high speed. Spread in prepared pan. Spoon fruit filling over batter; sprinkle with raisins.



Sprinkle with 1/4 C. sugar; pour apple juice and water over sugar. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes, or until golden brown and toothpick comes out clean. **Topping:** In a small saucepan, blend first four ingredients of topping over medium heat until thickened, stirring constantly. Stir in rum extract. Pour over hot cobbler and spread evenly. Serve warm, with whipped cream.

Strawberry Delight Salad

1 sm. pkg. strawberry Jell-O
1 (1 lb.) carton small-curd cottage cheese

Lorena Fulton

1 lg. can crushed pineapple
1 (8-oz.) carton Cool Whip

Heat Jell-O and the entire can of pineapple together; bring to a boil. Let cool. Add the cottage cheese and mix well. Fold in Cool Whip and let refrigerate until firm.

Strawberry Fluff

2 pkgs. strawberry Jell-O
4 C. water
1/2 pkg. marshmallows

Mrs. Harold Nobis

1 pt. strawberries and juice
1/2 pt. whipped cream

Prepare Jell-O as usual; melt marshmallows in Jell-O. Chill. When half-firm, beat until fluffy. Add whipped cream; fold in mixture. Add strawberries and juice. Cool in refrigerator. Variation: Scoop out center of an angel food cake; fill with fluff and chill. Serve sliced as usual.



Amazing Corn-Macaroni

1 (16-oz.) can creamed corn
1 (16-oz.) can whole corn
2 C. shredded Cheddar cheese

Dorothy A. Millner

1-1/2 C. uncooked macaroni
1-1/2 C. milk
Butter

In a 2-1/2-quart casserole dish, combine both cans of corn, 1-1/2 C. Cheddar cheese, macaroni and milk. Let stand for 1 hour; dot with butter. Bake in a 350° oven for 1 hour. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 C. of cheese before serving.



Quilt Cake

3/4 C. shortening, (part butter or oleo)
1-1/2 C. sugar
2-3/4 C. cake flour
4 tsp. baking powder

Mrs. Henry Fiedler

1/2 tsp. salt
7/8 C. skim milk
4 lg. egg whites
1-1/2 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. lemon flavor

Cream sugar and shortening well. In a separate bowl, combine baking powder and salt to flour and sift three times. Add part of the milk then all the sugar/shortening mixture and alternate flour and milk, beating well after each addition. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold in. Divide batter into three parts. Leave 1/3 white, color 1/3 pink with a drop of red food coloring, and add a little cocoa to the last 1/3 of the batter. Put into a well-greased pan by spoonfuls, alternating the 3 colors. Run a knife through the batter before putting in the oven. Bake at 375° for 30 minutes, or until done.



Niantic United Methodist Church of Niantic

The Niantic United Methodist Church of Niantic submits their cookbook, "From one generation to the next." The book is soft backed and spiral bound, and includes 150 pages of delicious recipes. The cookbook sells for \$5 plus \$2 postage. To order a copy, contact Julie O'Laughlin at 5206 S. Uncoln Memorial Parkway, Blue Mound, IL 62513, or call her at (217) 692-2219.

Hot Artichoke Dip

6-oz. artichoke hearts, marinated
1/3 C. mayonnaise
1 T. pimento, diced (opt.)

Drain and chop artichoke hearts. Combine all ingredients and place in crock pot. Cover and heat 30 to 60 minutes, until hot. Serve with tortilla chips or assorted crackers.

Kay Borders

1/2 C. Parmesan cheese, grated
1/3 C. sour cream
1/8 tsp. garlic powder

Pretzel Salad

2-2/3 C. crushed pretzels
2 T. sugar
3/4 C. oleo, melted
1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
1 C. sugar

Crush pretzels and mix with 3 T. sugar and melted oleo. Press into a 9x13-inch glass dish. Bake 10 minutes at 375°; cool. Beat cream cheese until fluffy; beat in sugar. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread on cooled crust, chill. Dissolve Jell-O in boiling water. Add raspberries and let set slightly, then pour over the cream cheese. Cover and refrigerate until set.

In memory of Henrietta Maddox

1 (9-oz.) crtn. Cool Whip
2 pkgs. raspberry Jell-O
2 C. boiling water
2 pkg. red raspberries, thawed

Butternut Squash Bake

1/3 C. butter or margarine, softened
3/4 C. sugar
2 eggs

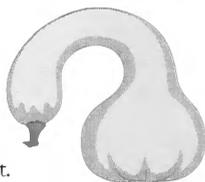
Topping:

1/2 C. crisp rice cereal
1/4 C. packed brown sugar
1/4 C. chopped pecans

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs, milk and vanilla. Stir in squash (mixture will be thin). Pour into a greased 11x7x2-inch baking pan. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 45 minutes or until almost set. Combine topping ingredients; sprinkle over casserole. Return to the oven for 5 to 10 minutes or until bubbly.

Angela Cary

1 (5-oz.) can evaporated milk
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 C. mashed, cooked butternut squash



Chicken Lasagna

1 (9-oz.) pkg. frozen spinach, cooked and drained
3 C. turkey or chicken
1 can mushroom soup
2 C. shredded Cheddar cheese

Sandy Himstedt

1 C. sour cream
1/3 C. chopped onion
1 sm. can mushrooms, drained
8-oz. lasagna noodles, cooked

Mix together spinach, chicken, soup, cheese, sour cream, onion and mushrooms. Layer lasagna on bottom of 9x13-inch pan. Next, add part of chicken mixture. Repeat layers. Top with 1/2 C. Parmesan cheese. Bake, covered 30 minutes at 350°. Uncover and bake an additional 10 minutes.

Lovelight Chocolate Two-Egg Chiffon

2 eggs, separated
1-1/2 C. sugar
1-3/4 C. sifted cake flour
3/4 tsp. baking soda
3/4 tsp. salt

Alberta Ball

1/3 C. Wesson oil
1 C. buttermilk
2 sq. unsweetened chocolate, melted

Heat oven to 350°. Grease two round layer pans, or one 13x9-inch pan generously and dust with flour. Beat egg whites until frothy. Gradually beat in 1/2 C. of sugar. Continue beating until very stiff and glossy. In another bowl, sift remaining sugar, flour, baking soda and salt. Add oil and half of the buttermilk. Beat 1 minute on medium speed or 150 vigorous strokes by hand. Scrape sides and bottom of the bowl constantly. Add remaining buttermilk, egg yolks and chocolate. Beat 1 more minute, scraping constantly. Fold in meringue. Pour into pans. Bake layers 30 to 35 minutes for round pan and 40-45 minutes for a 13x9-inch pan.

Amazing Coconut Pie

2 C. milk
3/4 C. sugar
1/2 C. all-purpose baking mix
4 eggs

Bernice Rosetto

1/4 C. butter, softened
1 tsp. vanilla
1-1/3 C. flaked coconut

Heat oven to 350°. In a blender, on low speed, blend milk, sugar, baking mix, eggs, butter and vanilla for three minutes. Pour into a greased 9-inch pie plate. Sprinkle coconut on top. Bake 40 minutes or until pie is set and top is golden brown. Cool and store in refrigerator.

WANTED: A Few Good Recipes!



Calling all cooks! Illinois Country Living needs your help. Send us your favorite recipes and they could be used in the Illinois Country Living Cookbook - Coming soon to a kitchen near you! Send recipes to: Catrina McCulley Young, Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Or e-mail them to mcculley@aiec.org. Please make sure recipes are either typed or printed neatly. Please include your name and phone number in case we need to contact you.



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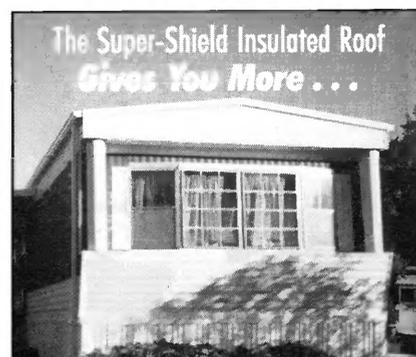
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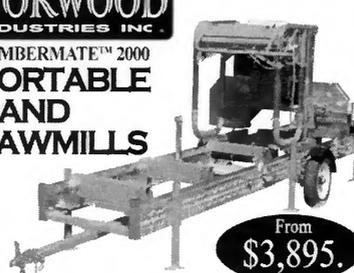
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September DATEBOOK

1, Members and Friends Exhibit in Galesburg at the Galesburg Civic Art Center. Annual exhibition of all media works by artists living within a 50-mile radius of Galesburg. (309) 342-7415.



1, Elm River Chowder held approximately four miles east of Rinard crossroad. Thirty-five kettles of beef and vegetable soup cooked over open fires. (618) 854-267.

1, Strawberry Daiquiri Sailboat event at Hazlet State Park in Carlyle. (636) 227-4187.

1-3, Indian corn Festival at Pumpkin Works southeast of Paris. Vendors will be offering unique items including antique toys, antique farm equipment, arts, crafts, herbs, perennials, photography and more. There will be a clown, jugglers, live music, food vendors, pioneer demonstrations, mazes, hayrides and bonfires. (217) 275-3327.

1-3, Annual Nauvoo Grape Festival in Nauvoo. (877) 682-8661.

1-3, Argyle Antique Gas Engine Show at Argyle Lake State Park, north of Colchester. Bring the family out to enjoy a fun filled day of tractor pulls, crafts, a flea market and food. (309) 833-1315.

1-15, "On Golden Pond" performed by the Country Theatre Workshop in Cissna Park. Dinner Theater option. (815) 457-2626.

1-15, Papermaking Invitational in St. Charles at the Fine Line Arts Center. (630) 584-9443.

1-30, Pumpkin Works southeast of Paris. Nine mazes (five are wheel chair accessible), hayrides, bonfires, arts, crafts, snacks, pumpkins, Indian corn, gourds and more. Call (217) 275-3327 or www.pumpkin-works.com.

1-30, Fall Outdoor Decorating Contest in DuQuoin. Walk sidewalks of downtown and view beautiful outdoor seasonal displays created by merchants.

2, St. Mary's Annual Pre-Labor Day Picnic at St. Mary's of the Assumption church in Sainte Marie. Roast beef and chicken dinners. Fun, food, games, and music for all.

2, The 50th Annual Moore Family Reunion at the Vienna Masonic Temple, old route 146. Southern Illinoisians descended from Elijah D. Moore and Prudence Taylor. Meet for a day of feasting and fun. (618) 658-5912.

2, The Springfield Mile Grand National Championship Motorcycle Races in Springfield at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. (217) 753-8866.

3, Labor Day Festival at Horseshoe Lake Community Building in Olive Branch. Pancake breakfast, BBQ, refreshments, games, crafts, raffles and music. Free admission. (618) 776-5198.

3-4, Hutsonville Community Days (Crawford Co.) in City Park. Event includes parade, fish-fry, craft fair with entertainment for all ages. (800) 445-7006.

3-9 National Stearman Fly-In Days in Galesburg at Galesburg Municipal Airport. The 30th annual national Stearman Fly-In will feature the largest gathering of WWII Stearman airplanes in the world. Formation flights and many other aerial demos and contests. Authentic USO show. Gate fee on Saturday only. Some events held downtown. (309) 343-2485.

3-12, World Free Fall Convention at the Quincy Regional Airport in Quincy. (217) 222-5867.

5, The 11th Annual Vintage Transport Extravaganza at the Illinois Railway Museum. Event features displays of antique and custom cars. There will be more than 600 antique vehicles, including trucks, tractors, motorcycles and fire engines. Electric trains and steam and/or diesel trains operate as well. (800) BIG-RAIL or (815) 923-4391 or www.irm.org.

7-8, Balloon Rally in Macomb. Come enjoy the 35 hot air balloons at Vince Grady Field on the campus of Western Illinois University. Activities include a balloon glow, a carnival and balloon flights. (309) 833-1315.



7-8, Arenzville Burgoo at the Park in Arenzville. The world's best burgoo served both days. Come and enjoy live entertainment and a large craft market. (217) 997-5514.

7-9, Greene Co. Days in Greene County. Check the Roodhouse Square and Tilleries Corner and other surrounding Greene County community town squares for fun, food, crafts and music. (217) 589-4568 ask for Wayne or Roxann.

7-9, Geff Ruritan Frontier Days 2001 in the park at Geff. Enjoy cider-making, broom-making, antique gas engine displays, antique autos, quilts, and a sawing contest. Children's contests include sack-racing, three-legged racing, apple bobbing, a pedal-pull, and turtle racing. Saturday night square dancing. Enjoy homemade pie, sandwiches, and cornbread.

7-9, Bureau County Homestead Festival and Pork Days in Princeton. Includes pork sandwiches, a parade, tours of historic Princeton, an arts and crafts show, live music, horse-drawn wagon rides and children's activities. (877) 486-8244.

8, Garden Tractor Pull at Potomac West Park in Potomac. Come enjoy food and fun at the 6th year of this event. (217) 987-6964.

8-9, Annual BBQ (Union Co) at Bald Knob Cross in Alto Pass. Enjoy BBQ, arts, a craft fair, and a flea market. Free admission. (618) 893-2344.

8-9, Living History Weekend (Massac Co.) at Ft. Massac State Park in Metropolis. The Massiac Marines reenact the 189th century life of the fort. Free admission. (618) 524-9321.

8-9, Cedarhurst Art and Craft Fair on Mitchell Museum grounds in Mt. Vernon will feature more than 160 exhibitors, and receive more than 20,000 visitors. (618) 242-3151.

8, Stearman Fly-In Taste of Galesburg in Galesburg. Fabulous food from area restaurants; a beer, wine and margarita tent; and free musical entertainment. (309) 343-9189.

8, Eagle Cruise in Galesburg at the Eagle Foods Parking lot. All makes and models of cars, trucks, cycles. Oldies music played all evening. (309) 289-4239.

8-10, Gregory Farm Festival, one mile south of White Hall at Corsa Lane. A family museum celebrating seven generations of one family on the same farm. Come enjoy a log cabin, all breed horse shows, family food, the Midwest division of National Percheron Horse plowing contest, wool spinning, a blacksmith, leather working and wagon and pony rides. (217) 374-6715

11-12, **Cabooses Trains** (Piatt Co.) in Monticello. Pick a caboose, or the coach, climb aboard and enjoy a 50 minute round trip ride. (217) 762-9011 on weekends, and (800) 952-3396 on weekdays.

11-13, **MAGIE/ Midwest Ag-Industries Exposition** at the Vermillion County Airport. (800) 383-4386.

11-16, **Murphysboro Apple Festival** in downtown Murphysboro. Enjoy a carnival, live entertainment, an apple peeling contest, a queen contest and a parade. (800) 406-8774.



14-15, **The 5th Annual First Cellular's Main Street Pig Out** in downtown Carbondale. Kansas-city Barbecue Society sanctioned barbecue cook-off competition held at the 710 Bookstore parking lot. (618) 529-8040 or cdalems@midwest.net, with barbecue-contest inquiries.

14-15 **Harvest Fest** in Petersburg. Enjoy a pork chop dinner, Petersburg's first Citizens award, Little Miss/Mr. Petersburg presentation and the PORTA High School Homecoming Pep Rally followed by "Hollywood Squares." A parade starts the day, followed by crafts, antiques, food, children's games and lots of entertainment for everyone. (217) 632-7363.

14-16 **The 40th Annual Antique Engine and Tractor Show** in Atkinson. This event will feature Illinois-built farm equipment, a sawmill, threshing, plowing, corn-shelling, and other demonstrations. A thresherman's dinner will be held on Friday night. (309) 441-5581.

14-16, **Days Fest** at the Salem Courthouse Square in Salem. Q&A, auction, autographs, trivia, a look-alike contest, foods, crafts, souvenirs, and *Days of Our Lives* soap-opera star guests. (618) 548-3538, or send faxes to (618) 548-6920.

15, **Hy-Vee Car Cruise** in Galesburg at the Hy-Vee Food Store. Non-judging display of cars: 50/50 drawing. (309) 343-4897.

15-16, **Cache River Days** (Pulaski Co.) in Ullin. Enjoy a pancake breakfast, softball tournament, parade, flea market, yard sales, beauty pageant, BBQ, music and various exhibits. (800) 248-4373.

15-16, **Prairie Celebration** at Rock Springs Center for Environmental Discovery. Dulcimer and bluegrass music, trades and crafts of the 1800s, tours of homestead prairie farm, and refreshments. All activities are free. (217) 423-7708.

15-16, **Labyrinth Medieval Fair** in Barry. (217) 235-2670.

15-16, **Abraham Lincoln National Railsplitting Festival** at the Logan County Fairgrounds in Lincoln. Including crafts, antiques, hundreds of vendors. National Contests: Railsplitting, Cow Chip and Watermelon Seed. (217) 732-4795.

15-16, **Railroad Days** at the Monticello Railway Museum in Monticello. Celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Illinois Central Railroad by taking a train ride in an open-air caboose, touring a classic train car, and viewing artifacts and photos from the early days of the railroad. Food and beverages served. (217) 762-9011 or www.prairienet.org/mrm.

15-23 **Wayne City Bean Days** in Wayne City. This event will feature a softball tournament, horse pull, car cruise, donkey softball, parade, pedal pull, flea markets, arts and crafts, quilt show, volleyball tournament, antique tractor show, bingo, rodeo and a three and four-wheeler mud bog. (618) 732-6262.

16, **Teddy Bear Picnic** at the Scovill Zoo in Decatur. More than 400 teddy bears and a bear repair hospital. (217) 421-7435.

16, **The Great Cardboard Boat Regatta** at Lake Storey Park in Galesburg is the Eighth annual race of boats constructed of corrugated cardboard. Boats race a 200-yard course on Lake Storey in various categories.

16, **Annual Mallard Fest** in Hanover.

Activities include a duck race, a duck calling contest, pontoon rides, the Apple River Golf Challenge, the DU Auction, a parade, music, kid's stuff, food, etc. Call (815) 591-3512.



16-18, **New Windsor Fair and Rodeo** at Rodeo Park in New Windsor. This event features an IPRA approved rodeo that draws nationally ranked contestants. Family entertainment, craft and hobby displays, two parades, two horse shows, a Rodeo Run, and food service. (309) 334-2763 or www.nw.org.

21, **Dog, Dawgs and Dinner** in Carbondale. Carbondale Arts Internet auction of fine-art life-size saluki dogs. Silent auction of community member creations of Saluki Dawgs, and an auction to bet on a sit down dinner at the home of one of the area's great cooks and entertainers. Various exhibits and performances throughout the downtown Carbondale area.

21-23, **Nashville Fall Festival** in Nashville. (618) 327-3700.

21-23, **Country Folk Art Festival** at the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles. (630) 858-1568 or visit www.folkartfest.com.

22, **Crab festival** (Union Co.) at Alto Pass. Wine by the glass, music and lots of different styles of crab. (618) 893-4898.

22, **Gazebo Art Festival** in Macomb. This event offers original artwork from many different artists and mediums. Music, art for kids, food and nearby accommodations will make for a wonderful day. (309) 833-1315.

22-23, **Southern Illinois Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days Wildlife and Nature Art Show and exhibit**. (618) 985-3741 ext. 8522.

22-23, **Fort Kaskaskia Traditional Music Festival** in Kaskaskia. Craft show both days. Call 618-859-3741 or e-mail menrdhom@midwest.net.

22-23 **Boyd Orchards Apple Festival** in Anna. Enjoy Union County apple butter making, a two-acre maze, a petting zoo, hayrides, a children's area, 40 ft. slide, fall decorations, gifts, food, games and much more.

28-30, **Honeybee Festival** in Paris. This festival includes a flea market, a carnival, crafts, antiques and food. (217) 463-6955.

28-30, **Jersey County Historical Society Museum Annual Apple Festival** on the museum grounds will feature a bonfire, weenie-roast, ice-cream and cake social, a variety of music, crafts, a food booth, plenty of apple products for sale, a country store, a pet parade, and a Sunday morning breakfast. (618) 498-3514.

29, **The 5th Annual Sojourn Folk Festival** at the Oakdale Nature Preserve in Freeport. Music, food, crafts, children's activities, nature trails and more. (815) 232-5121.

29-30, **End of Season Archery Shoot** (Pope Co.) at Little Creek Archery Range, two miles north of Eddyville. (618) 672-4316.

29-30, **The 46th Annual Old Market days** at Market House Square in Galena. Living history turn-of-the-century open-air market with farmers' hacks and stands offering produce jams, jellies, crafts and more. Also "heritage skills" demonstrations. (815) 858-3392.

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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