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# ILLINOIS

## COUNTRY LIVING

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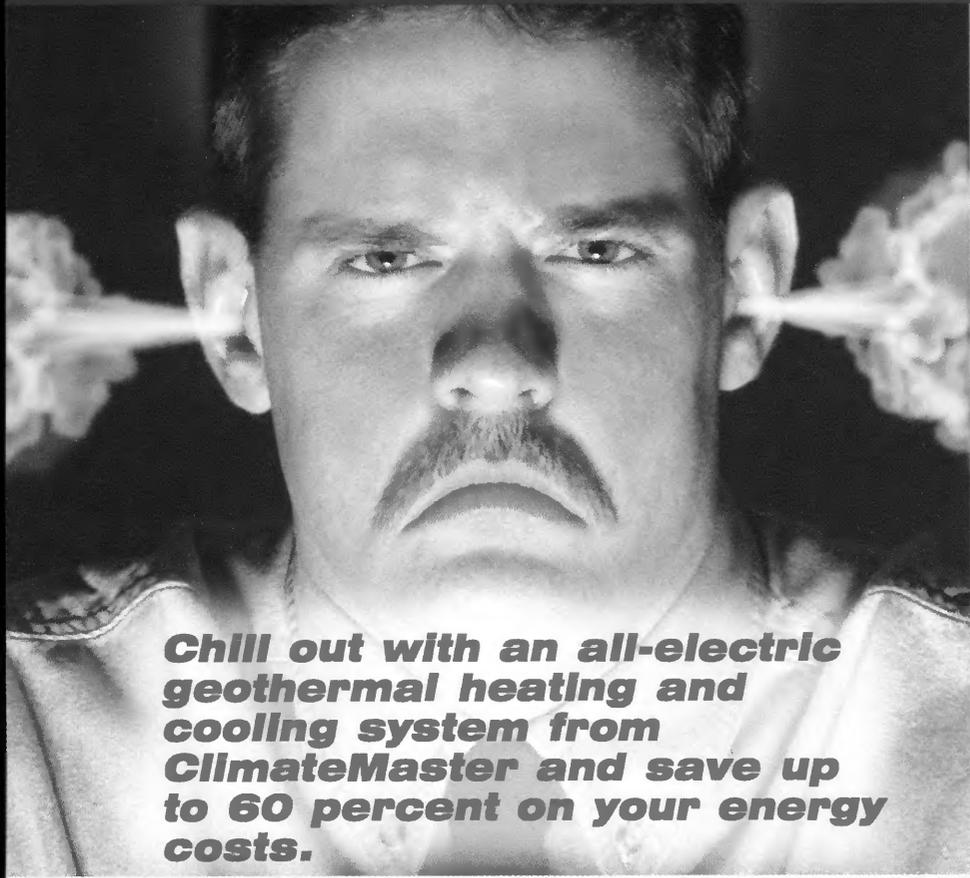
November 2002

*Windows into*

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Visit World War II through windows provided by three Illinois veterans.

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# ILLINOIS<sup>TM</sup> COUNTRY LIVING

November 2002 ..... Volume 60 ..... Number 7

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Dr. Ronald Michaelson

# Maintaining the integrity of the election process

About two years ago we experienced the closest presidential election in our lifetime. It took more than a month before we knew that George W. Bush was elected our nation's 43rd president, even though Al Gore received more popular votes. The process itself was marked by controversy and bitterness, and for some the ill feelings still exist. In particular, Florida was the subject of intense ridicule for its conduct of the election, and again recently it had more problems in its September primary election.

Illinoisans will be going to the polls soon for a major statewide election. On the ballot will be a U.S. Senate seat, all 19 congressional races, all statewide offices, every seat in the General Assembly, plus an assortment of judicial and county contests. In light of what happened in 2000, what can we expect here in Illinois on November 4?

These things we know for sure:

- Elections are not now, nor will they ever be, anything close to a perfect process. It's a complicated process run by fallible people.
- Several safeguards are in place to insure that all votes are accurately counted. Vote counting systems in all counties are verified before each election, often by rigorous testing by the State Board of Elections.
- Most counties, again in cooperation with the State Board of Elections, spend extensive time training their judges of election. After all, these are the people who actually run the election in each

polling place. They are dedicated civic-minded people, and they are proud of what they do.

But could we make our election process even better in Illinois? Sure. Here's what to consider.

## Upgrade voting technology

We've heard much about chads and how Florida has banned punch cards from all future elections. To take such drastic action in Illinois is unnecessary. Although punch cards are not cutting edge technology, they do have a reputation for accuracy if the machines are properly maintained.

Although most Illinois counties use punch cards, an increasing number are switching to optical scan. One advantage is that the voter sees the entire ballot at once and can clearly mark it as desired. And, if the ballots are counted in the precinct, the voter can make a correction if he/she under voted or over voted any office.

But we need to do more. The General Assembly should authorize the use of electronic or "touch screen" voting. Then each county could decide whether it wants and can afford this upgrade. Despite Florida's recent problems with touch screen voting, with proper training this can be a simple and user-friendly voting system.

## Better pay and training for our election judges

The 55,000 election judges who work a 15-18 hour day barely make minimum wage. Better trained and better paid judges is the first and best defense against unintentional errors and intentional fraud. Otherwise the problems of

recruiting and retaining judges will only get worse.

## Provide more effective voter education programs

Illinois elects more people to public office than any other state in the union! This makes for lengthy and potentially confusing ballots. The success of an election depends not just on educating voters on candidates and issues, but also on how to register, where to vote, how to vote absentee, how to read instructions in the polling place and how to ask for help.

One possibility is to send a voter's guide to all registered voters prior to an election. This could provide the kind of basic information needed by so many. Several other states already have a positive reaction to such statewide guides.

Our election system in Illinois has worked remarkably well and no doubt will prove itself again this November. But some changes are still in order, and it is hoped that change will be welcomed and not feared as we protect the integrity of our elections. The public deserves no less.

*Dr. Ronald D. Michaelson of Springfield has been Executive Director of the Illinois State Board of Elections since 1976. He currently holds an appointment to the Advisory Committee of the Federal Election Commission, is past national chairman of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws, and is a frequent speaker on election administration and campaign finance.*

*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.*

## Tax credit for geothermal heat pumps

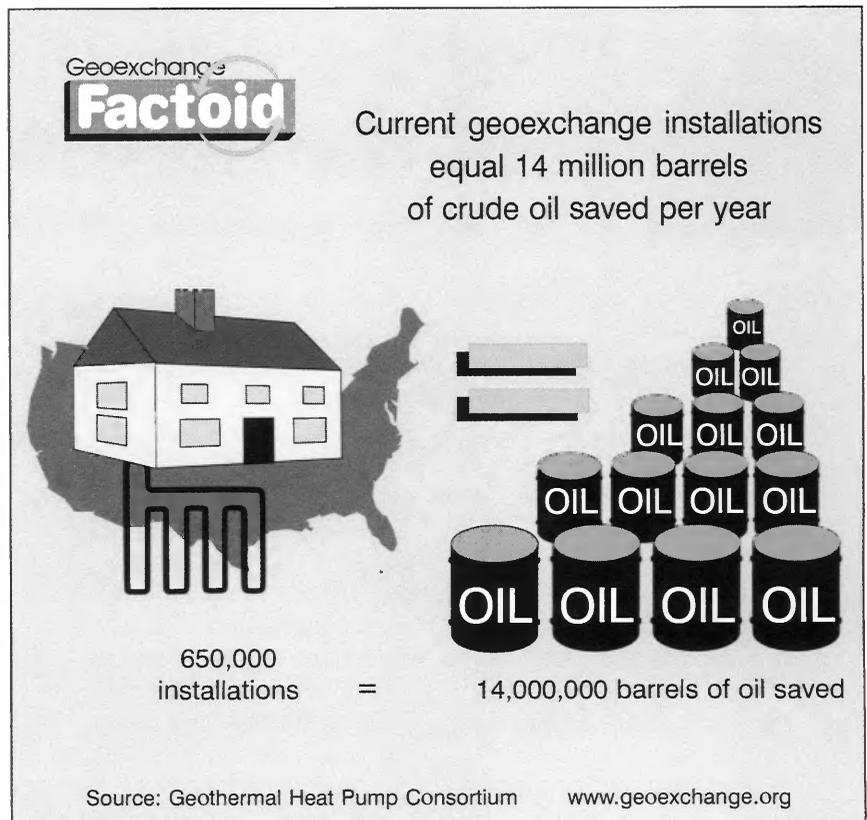
This past April, the U.S. Senate approved its version of a comprehensive national energy plan. During initial debate on the bill, Tennessee Senator Fred Thompson, a long-time supporter of geothermal heat pump technology, introduced an amendment that would include, for the first time in the federal tax code, a credit specifically for geothermal heat pumps.

Although he initially proposed a tax credit of 15 percent of the cost of geothermal heat pump equipment up a maximum of \$2000, the Senate Finance Committee reduced that amount due to overall budget constraints. As a compromise, the committee agreed to a \$250 tax credit for geothermal heat pumps that achieve an Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) of 21 or greater.

## Illinois housing development benefits with geothermal heat pump

Shamrock Villa, located in Codova, Illinois, is using geothermal heat pump technology to help keep energy costs down in its apartments, which are specifically built for affordable housing for the elderly. The first set of ten apartments was available for occupancy in July 2001, and the second phase is currently under construction.

The units are all-electric and each has its own geothermal heat pump system. Electric bills average about \$50 per month. The construction is being performed through an Illinois Housing Development Authority program.



## Conserve energy and resources by recycling

Each year in Illinois, we join the nation in celebrating "America Recycles Day" on November 15. "Our goal is to instill in our young people a strong sense of environmental awareness, and the importance of recycling today to protect the earth's future," says Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) Director Pam McDonough.

The average American generates nearly 1,500 pounds of trash each year, creating more than 200 million tons of waste annually in the United States. However, because more Americans are recycling, the nation's recycling rate is now more than 28 percent. This means the steel, aluminum, paper, glass, and plastic items we place at the curbside or drop-off centers are really making a difference in reducing our nation's waste.

Each November 16 is America Recycles Day – a day when millions of Americans join to celebrate and make the commitment to keep recycling. Communities across the country, including our own here in Illinois, plan events to encourage residents to recycle and communicate that there's one more step we need to take - buying recycled.

There are thousands of recycled-content products, everything from bicycles and appliances to laundry detergent bottles and carpeting. Recycled-content products are equal or superior in quality, and usually cost the same as products made from non-recycled materials. Buying recycled helps conserve resources, reduce waste, and creates opportunities for economic development in Illinois and across the nation.

For more information go to: [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org), [www.epa.gov/msw/reduce.htm](http://www.epa.gov/msw/reduce.htm), [www.epa.state.il.us/kids/](http://www.epa.state.il.us/kids/), [www.commerce.state.il.us/](http://www.commerce.state.il.us/), [www.ipcb.state.il.us](http://www.ipcb.state.il.us).

# Consumers give high marks to Touchstone Energy® co-ops

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives deliver on their promise of providing quality customer service. That was confirmed when they scored head and shoulders above the nation's investor-owned utilities in the most recent report of the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI). In overall consistent customer satisfaction, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives received an 82 and lead the electric utility industry.

Touchstone Energy's Co-ops' score is higher than the 29 largest investor-owned utilities in the country, and a full 11 points higher than the average score for utilities, which is 73.

ACSI is a national system that tracks and measures consumer satisfaction and connects it to economic performance. It's managed by the University of Michigan Business School. The latest results cover the second quarter for the industry. A total of 4,632 telephone interviews were conducted in May and June among the residential customers of energy utilities representing more than 75 percent of all residential customers in the U.S.

"Our scores are just extraordinary," says Jim Bausell, chief operating officer for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, based in Arlington, Va. "They reflect that we continue to be locally run and focused on our members - the customers we serve." Bausell adds that scores for other industries and companies have been reported, with FedEx being one of the few companies to match the satisfaction level of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. Close to 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. [www.touchstoneenergy.com](http://www.touchstoneenergy.com).

## Tips for a bright, safe holiday lighting season

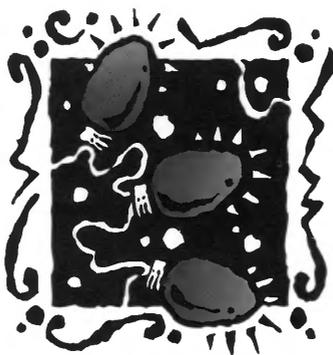
If you're planning a holiday lighting display, Safe Electricity reminds you to avoid potential safety hazards as you place holiday lights.

"Lights on a tree or other places add so much to the enjoyment of the season, but they need to be checked and used properly," says Molly Hall, director of the Safe Electricity program. Safe Electricity encourages using these tips when decorating with lights:

- Use only lights that have been safety tested and approved by Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- If you use a fresh tree, water it frequently and place it away from heat sources.
- Before plugging in lights, check each string for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs.
- Make sure extension cords are in good condition.
- Keep electric cords out of high-traffic areas. Don't hide them under rugs or carpets.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

Read the label on both the cord and the appliances that are plugged into it to make sure the cord can handle the load. If it can't, change to a higher-rated cord or unplug some appliances.

While some people may load up an extension cord to free outlet space over the holidays, remember that extension cords are meant for temporary, not permanent, use. Visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org) to learn more.



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/s/John Lowrey

# The Forgotten War no longer

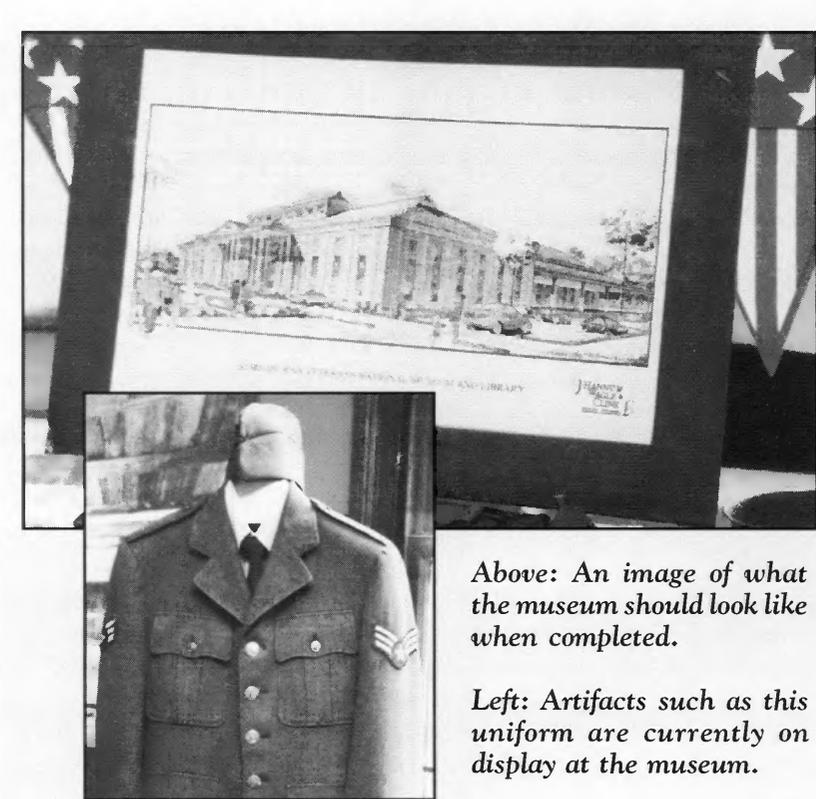
*Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library located in central Illinois*

The sound of gunfire, the flash of exploding grenades and the horror of death and destruction will be forever stamped in the memories of many Korean War veterans. But the rest of America may never have known of their sacrifices and courage but for the action of a few veterans who were determined that the Korean War would not be forgotten.

The Korean War took place as America was just recovering from World War II. Citizens were tired of war and many ignored the battles taking place in the tiny, mostly unknown country of Korea. Korean War veteran Ray Walker is a frequent writer of war information on the Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library Web site. He says, "At the end of the war there was merely a sigh of relief in America. There were no parades, no show of national pride or support for the veterans. We just came home, and when discharged, went about building our lives." The war is still ignored by many, including its veterans and so has been dubbed "The Forgotten War."

According to the Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library official newsletter, *The Forgotten Voices*, the Korean War was the bloodiest in America's history after the Civil War, in terms of percentage of casualties. Of the men and women sent to Korea, 8.1 percent died in the 37 months of the war. That is compared to 5.7 percent in World War I, 6.7 percent in World War II and 3.1 percent in Vietnam. More than 33,000 U.S. military personnel died in the Korean War. Of those, the list of Illinois casualties reached 1,741. Today more than 4,000,000 Korean War veterans are still living.

In August 1997, a small group of Korean War veterans and others met and decided that the war should no longer be overlooked, ig-



**Above:** An image of what the museum should look like when completed.

**Left:** Artifacts such as this uniform are currently on display at the museum.

nored or forgotten. They began the movement to build the Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library in Tuscola.

Sharon Corum, executive secretary at the museum, feels that this recognition of Korean War veterans is long overdue. A retired teacher, Corum says, "Our main target is research and education."

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in June 2000 on the 22 acres purchased on the east edge of Tuscola to house the proposed 70,000 square foot, two-story building. The museum will contain a remembrance wall, exhibits, a large research library, a war machine gallery and an 11-acre battlefield replica of the frontline.

The new building is going to take a lot of work and a completion date has not been planned. Corum says more funding is needed to complete the project.

The museum will be among

the first of national scope devoted to one war. It will be the only national repository to house artifacts and information about the Korean War.

Literature concerning the museum states that, "The museum will not glorify war. Instead, it will explain that war has often been necessary to safeguard freedom."

Although the new building has not yet been built, the museum is already open to the public in an alternative building in Tuscola.

The museum is currently housed at the Factory Stores of Tuscola, Suite C500 Tuscola Blvd, Tuscola, IL 61953. It is now open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (217) 253-5813 or (888) 295-7212, visit the Web site at [www.theforgottenvictory.org](http://www.theforgottenvictory.org) or e-mail [kwmuseum@theforgottenvictory.org](mailto:kwmuseum@theforgottenvictory.org).

# Intriguing Colors of Fall

by Angie Bates, AIEC intern

In the fall, leaves on the trees transform into a variety of beautiful colors, ranging from red, purplish-red, brown and russet to orange, bronze and golden yellow.

This transformation has been regarded as a work of art since ancient times. The first document came from Greek philosopher and natural scientist, Theophrastus, who deemed the falling of leaves as phenomenal. In Indian legend, the celestial hunters killed a great bear in the autumn sky, and while its blood fell to the earth, the leaves that were touched became red. When the hunters cooked the meat, the fat would splatter out of the kettle, hence the remaining leaves became yellow and orange.

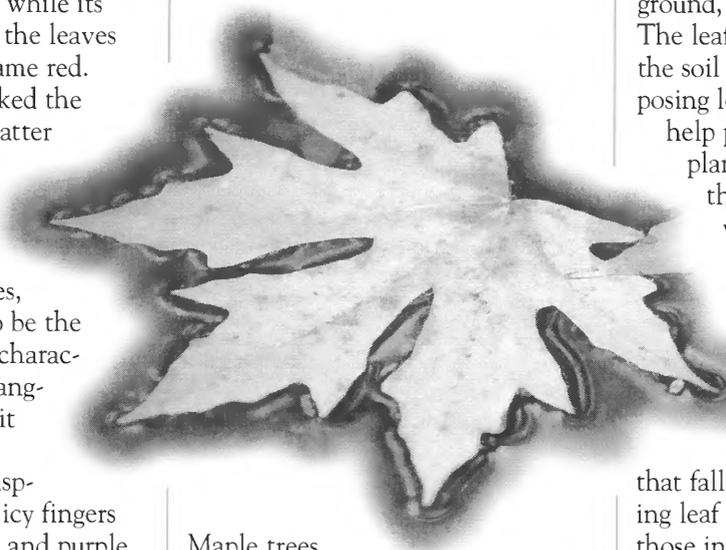
In more recent tales, Jack Frost is thought to be the most popular fictional character to blame for the changing colors. Legend has it that he would sweep through the forests, grasping the leaves with his icy fingers and turn the leaves red and purple. The brown, golden, and yellow colors are mixed upon his paint palette and applied as he quietly moves through the forest to decorate.

Scientists today offer a more reliable explanation as to why the leaves on the trees change colors. Tree leaves contain chlorophyll, which gives the leaf its green color. The leaf is full of chlorophyll during the summer so that the tree may eat, capturing sunlight to make its own food, commonly known as photosynthesis. The leaves contain so much chlorophyll at this time that the green color covers the other pigments present in the leaf.

Following the summer solstice, with shorter days and colder nights, the chlorophyll production slows down and progressively stops. When this occurs, we are able to see the other pigments in the leaf,

known as carotenoids. This pigment can also be found in carrots and in the eyes, scales and feathers of certain animals. The orange and yellow colors are the result of the carotenoids' ability to capture light energy and transfer it to the primary chlorophyll pigment.

Anthocyanins, which give the red and purple appearance, are produced in the fall because of excess plant sugars, receiving of bright light, temperature and water supply.



Maple trees that receive a great deal of rain with a high pH may even have purplish-blue hues, and if the tree takes in a great deal of rain with a low level of pH, the leaves will be red or even pink.

The last pigments associated with leaves changing color are known as Tannins. Tannins are the same pigments that flavor and color tealeaves. They also make unripe persimmons sour to our taste buds.

Another factor that determines the fate of the leaf is the geographical location, which in turn, gives scientists an accurate prediction of weather conditions and growth habits. The four places in the world known for the best vibrant fall colors are the eastern U.S., southeastern Canada, minimum mountainous locations scattered in western North America, and areas

around Seattle, Portland and San Francisco.

The weather conditions that are best for brilliant colors are warm sunny days ending in cool nights with a temperature below 45 degrees, but not freezing. Heavy frost and below freezing temperatures will exterminate the vibrancy of the fall color by impairing the leaves before their pigments are fully developed.

When the leaves fall to the ground, they still serve a purpose. The leaf will decompose and enrich the soil with nutrients. The decomposing leaves make a rich layer to help protect the roots of other plants on the forest floor, and they absorb and retain rainwater. Mulching with chopped leaves can provide a yard or garden with root protection and nutritious soil for the spring to come.

Another purpose that falling leaves can serve is making leaf prints, a great favorite for those interested in trees or a fun and easy activity for any school-age child.

Directions from Thomas A. Monaghan, University of Mississippi are as follows: Simply mix oil paints to match the colors of the leaf you want to print. Apply these colors to the under side of the leaf, copying the exact colors from the brighter upper side. Work swiftly so the first colors put on will not dry before the last are applied. Then place the leaf, vein or painted side down, on a white sheet of paper cover the leaf with another sheet of paper on top. Hold the leaf very still and rub it hard with your fingers. When the upper sheet of paper and the leaf are removed, there will be a copy of the form and colors of the original leaf.

Using ink instead of paint may also make black and white prints.

# Windows into

# WAR

by Michelle McNeal

**U**eterans are the windows through which we can view our heritage. Their stories give us visions of heroism, courage, defeat, victory. . . war. More than 19 million veterans are living in the United States today. Every day, we lose 1,500 of them. And many of these men and women take their stories with them.

That closes the curtain to a part of our history. It barricades children from a vision of what these men and women endured. Without that view, war becomes just dates of battles in a history book, and freedom is just a word.

"If we don't learn what war was from the people who lived it, we won't know what war really costs, and we won't have the information we need to decide if we are willing to pay that price again," says Kristin Gilpatrick.

Gilpatrick has written several books containing accounts of war veterans and says their stories inspire her every day. "I've never taken for granted as I write these books that the

reason I am free to do so is because all these men and women have sacrificed so much, and I have such a deep appreciation for them." Millions of war veterans have amazing stories of heroism to tell, but unfortunately, finding authors like Gilpatrick to record them is uncommon.

The U.S. Congress has recognized the pressing need to record the stories of war veterans while they are still living. In October 2000 it created the Veterans History

Project. The project is seeking to obtain artifacts and oral histories of war veterans and those who supported them during World War I, World War II, the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars.

By obtaining a project kit, citizens of all ages can participate. The kit contains all the information needed to create a permanent record of a veteran's wartime experiences. For more information on this project call (202) 707-4916 or visit [www.loc.gov/folklife/vets](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets).



## Three Windows

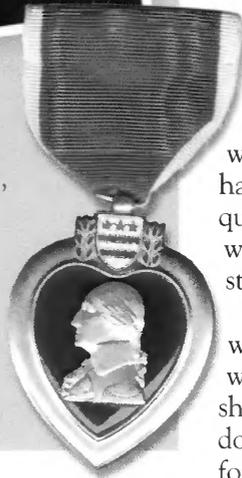
**W**hat follows is a brief look into World War II from actual accounts of three veterans. Their stories provide us visions of courage, camaraderie and survival. These glimpses cannot fully describe war. But, if we can look through enough windows, perhaps we can see a more complete view of America's heritage.



# COURAGE



*Elmer Bernson, Motor Machinist Mate Second Class, U.S. Navy. He fought in Atlantic and Pacific waters and was part of the Normandy Invasion, D-Day.*



*"Even after I got hit, I was able to stick with it until we got the tanks unloaded and were back out to sea."*

the lines quite a ways; of course they were nowhere near close enough.

A lot of ships went through and there were an awful lot of casualties. We succeeded because we just kept bringing more. And you weren't sure what to think, what was going to happen. The whole thing was quite secretive. We didn't know when the invasion was going to start until we were sent.

Our ship held three tanks and we were right up front. The idea was to get those tanks onto shore. One of them had a bulldozer attachment to build places for the ships to unload because the shoreline was kind of wavy. If you watched "Saving Private Ryan," we were there just before all that started.

We got our tanks in there and that's when I got hit. The ship took 17 direct hits from 57 millimeter shells and I was up in the pilothouse at the throttle. Even after I got hit, I was able to stick with it until we got the

tanks unloaded and were back out to sea. All I could feel was the shock; I didn't realize I was hit until blood started running down my arm.

I think there were 21 ships sent in and seven came back out that day. It's very sad. We knew it was bad when we were there, that was for sure. We had floaters – bodies – already. But the men in the tanks were the ones who had to stay; we just took them and dropped them off. It starts to worry you, when you take these tanks in. I really felt sorry for them. We were just dropping them off and then leaving. And I always kind of wondered what happened to those guys.

That's what war is. It's hard to believe.

*Some of Bernson's medals include the Purple Heart and Silver Star from the U.S., and the Croix de Guerre from the French for liberating France. He now lives in Washington, Illinois.*

The ship I went aboard first was the LCTA 2310, a landing craft tank about 107 feet long. It could haul three tanks and an 11-man crew. At that time I was a fireman, a seaman in the engine room. I was aboard the ship for awhile. We traveled around here and there, and had some training before we took off from this little town of Poole to head for Omaha beach.

The invasion was supposed to take place then, but it was real lousy weather and we waited. So all these ships and everything were just floating around out there for a day before they started the invasion. There was an awful lot of planning that went into this. (The Navy) had frogmen who went underwater looking for mines against the shore before we started landing. The other thing was (the Air Force) dropped paratroopers behind



U.S.S. OSAGE(3) 29 NOV 1945 AT WHANG-POO RIVER



# COMARADERIE



*"It's about comaraderie. Your life depends on them and their life depends on you."*

Jim Graff, right, was an infantryman in the U.S. Army, C. Company 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 35<sup>th</sup> Division.

**I** was 18 when I went in. You kind of grow up fast. At that time we had a lot of men who were twice as old as I was. That was because (the government) originally deferred fathers. Well, as the casualties mounted, more men were needed, and so a lot of married men with kids were drafted. (The Army) put them into the combat units because they sustained the most casualties.

Of course I think it was a good mix, probably that was one of the problems in Vietnam – they didn't have any older men to guide the young fellows and keep them in line. We had a lot of guys who had experience and a lot of guys who came out of the depression and things like that.

It's about camaraderie. Your life depends on them and their life depends on you.

Because of the amount of casualties, there was a large turnover. The company I was part of



them until we started shooting and then would move out ahead of them. Tanks were always afraid of ambush weapons. They had a type of shoulder-fired bazooka. It only shot one round and then they had to have another one handed to them.

By the end of the war, two-thirds of the people who joined C. Company when I did were injured or killed. I was in three of the five campaigns in Europe. I was in approximately 120 days. There wasn't one man in our company who was in a combat situation who went in from day one to the last day that didn't have something happen to him. They were wounded or got sick or something; everybody missed some time. Very few of the original men even came back.

in January of 1945 suffered 199 casualties. We had serious losses and something like 130 dead.

We had a pretty good terrain to fight in and the tanks could maneuver well and we really had a lot of cooperation. We had a lot of fire power from the tanks and the rifle companies would ride



*Graff received the purple heart, bronze star and Combat Infantry medals among others. He now resides in Middletown, Illinois.*





# SURVIVAL



*"Wild" Bill Scanlon joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1941. Once America entered the war, he joined the Eighth Air Force, 92nd Bomb Group, 326th Bomb Squadron in 1943.*

I was never really afraid of flying. I never went to church or prayed; it just didn't bother me. It gave me a real thrill when I'd dive down. I loved that thrill of me against you, one on one – or one on 500 as it sometimes seemed when the "little bees" came.

Plus, I learned early on that if you're going to go, you're going to go. You knew when you flew any mission – in Spitfires or bombers or whatever – that one of two things would happen: Either you'd make it back out alive or you wouldn't. So I didn't think much about that; I just did my job. But still, there were times before a mission when I'd lie in bed with my eyes wide open and couldn't get to sleep. Yet, if you thought about it too much, you couldn't do your job, and it's not like you could send nobody else in to do it. You had to go.

There was one day after that that a bunch of us were drinking beer and talking in the mess about our missions and the ones like George that didn't make it. There were a lot because we'd always come

back with three or four planes missing out of our outfit. I thought of George and Johnny.

I remember sitting around talking about it that one night because we rarely did anything like that at all, especially in the Royal Air Force. There was no point in talking about the guys you lost too much because everybody had lost someone and more were going to die. You'd be too upset to do your job if you let emotion get into it. We lost a lot of good men like George though, that's for sure.

Every crew I ever flew with said, 'that guy is as cool as a cucumber,' and I guess I was because I didn't see the point in worrying about something I could do nothing about. I saw guys down on the floor crying like babies worried about it, and the thing is, doing that isn't doing anything to help you make it home. If you're going to go down, you can go down at your gun shooting back or go down on the floor crying like a baby – either way, you're going to go down.

Anybody that dies for his country is a hero. I survived some amazing things but I'm not a hero. I feel like I just did what I was supposed to do and didn't do any more than any other guy over there.

*"Anybody that dies for his country is a hero. I survived some amazing things but I'm not a hero."*

Except survive. And I've talked to a lot of German fighters after the war and they thought the same as we did. Sometimes I do think about all the friends I lost. Guys like George and Johnny, they were real heroes, they gave their lives to save their country.



*Some of Scanlon's medals include a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and the Air Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters. He now resides in Crystal Lake, Illinois.*

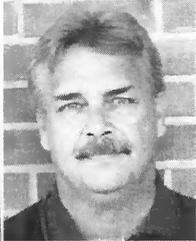
*Scanlon's story and photos were excerpted from Destined to Live: The Incredible Story of WWII Airman Wild Bill Scanlon by Kristin Gilpatrick. For information about the book visit [www.heronextdoor.com](http://www.heronextdoor.com) or call (800) 928-2372.*

## ★ HONOR ★

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day. It is a day to honor all men and women who have served America. Visit with a veteran you know. Thank them for what they have done for you and for all of America. Let them pull back the curtain and show you the sacrifice that is the price of freedom.

*Visit our Web site for links to sites mentioned in this article and for other sites pertaining to Veterans Day.*





Dan Dawson

# Keeping our homes safe from violence

Each year millions of children suffer because they live in homes where violence prevails. Constant violence in the home can have a devastating effect on a child, and too often they are the direct targets when violence lives in the home. Violent behavior is not limited to parents but can also include a trusted child-care provider, relative, neighborhood children or other acquaintances.

Practitioners and researchers have long been interested in whether early childhood victimization is a significant risk factor for later involvement in violence. One study, which focused on children aged 7 to 12, shows that 69 percent of the children who had been maltreated reported being involved in violence as compared to 56 percent of those who had not been maltreated. In other words, a history of maltreatment increases the chances of youth violence by 24 percent.

Violence affects children of every income level, social background and race. Violence does not discriminate, but studies have shown that children with behavioral disabilities are usually the targets of physical violence, while children with physical disabilities are more often the victims of neglect.

Are there signs that indicate that children are viewing or experiencing too much violence?

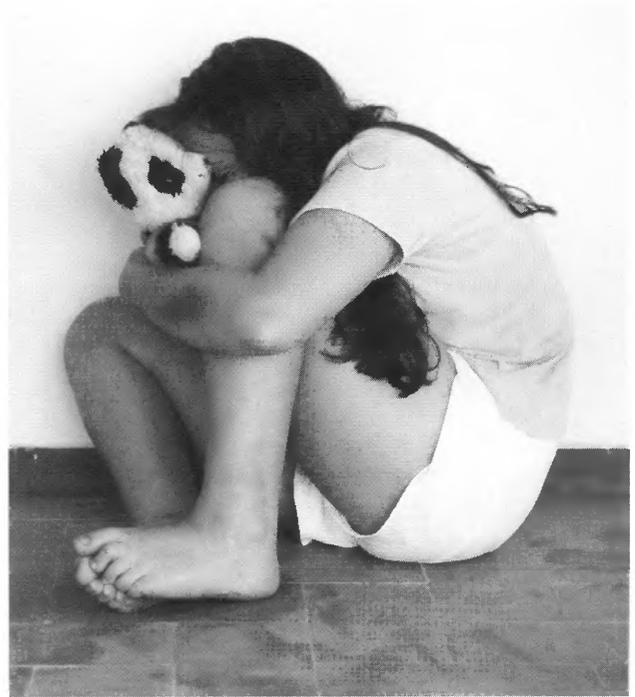
- Children who live with danger and violence may feel like a referee or protector within the family structure.
- Some children may cry

constantly, stiffen when held, or may develop a stuttering behavior.

- Children may develop a love/hate relationship with a certain person.
- Children may start to mimic the violence they see and consider it as normal.
- Children may portray acts of violence on family pets.
- Children may be overly fearful, extremely tense or often confused when it comes to getting along with others.
- Children may isolate themselves from others or experience regressed behavior(s) such as baby talk, stop using the potty, bedwetting, etc.

Are there some answers to help parents stop violence in the home?

- Seek out positive role models in the family, friends or community that live without violence.
- Parent education can help parents understand personality traits and obtain family support.
- Set clear limits and establish a method to eliminate violent interactions at home.
- Plan ways to reduce stress and get support from an accredited source.



- Establish 'safe' places to go if the occasion arises.
- Be a supportive model to your child by controlling your temper and handling stress.
- Reduce the violence your child watches on television, listens to music or plays in games.
- Do not encourage children to fight with others but teach them how to seek non-aggression assistance.

*Dan Dawson, Prevention Educator at the Springfield Extension Center, University of Illinois Extension, (217) 782-6515, or [dddawson@uiuc.edu](mailto:dddawson@uiuc.edu)*

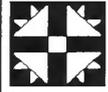


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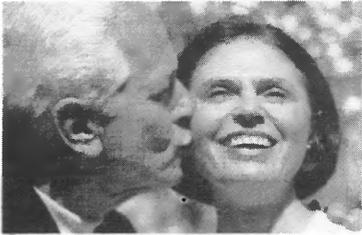
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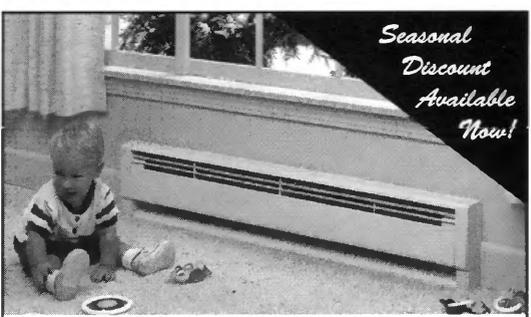
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David Robson

# Why November is my least favorite month — I think

I'm fickle. That I'll admit. Ask me my favorite month, and it changes year-to-year, and probably month-to-month.

In January I like June. July's favorite is December.

There are some months when everything seems perfect. The month of May is one of those. Everything is fresh and clean. Colors abound. October comes close as temperatures cool and colors abound, but for a different reason. October's only negative is that it's more "clean-up" than "putting in."

February and March are just as fickle as I am. They never make up their mind. You could almost throw April in there, but at least it makes a stab at doing something other than just sitting around.

November is along the same line as March. It might be bright and sunny one moment, and dreary, dank and cold the next. Like March, there is more of a promise of something than an actual deliverance. In the case of November, there's less of something to deliver than something to finish up.

Which is why November is now my least favorite month — as of this writing.

If we're lucky, there may be some last vestiges of color hanging around on the trees. One of the main reasons to plant Ornamental Pears is that they do keep their color for a good part of November and even into early December. The same with Virginia Sweetpire (*Itea*), though few people plant this great plant, which can put a burning bush *Euonymus* to shame.

November is too cold to really plant anything. October was better. You might get by with putting some bulbs in the ground and then mulching them with 6-inches of loose leaves or straw. Some trees might be planted, though it depends on how soon the ground will freeze. If you can guarantee me a couple of weeks of warm soil temperatures, then you have my permission to stick a tree in the ground.

Some people find solace and relaxation in raking leaves. Unfortunately, they aren't my neighbors. That means I have to rake my own leaves, which would be easier if I had more lawn and less landscape bed with flowers and shrubs that seem to catch every leaf and hold it like a dear child.

Once I get all the leaves raked into the middle of the yard and forego the childish urge to run through them and kick them everywhere, I power up the mower and go over them three, four or five times until they are the size of peas.

Then, I put the bagger attachment back on the mower and suck the leaves up to be deposited in plastic bags. They'll be around in the spring to add as compost to the soil or to use as mulch.

Whether or not to leave frosted perennial foliage around for the winter gives me mental grief from day one. Usually, with the thought that there will be something interesting during the winter in the garden, I leave it. This year, the current fickle thought is to remove it to make everything look fresh with a blanket of snow. Of course, when it actually comes to

cutting everything and putting it in the compost pile (re: WORK), I may change my mind again.

Of course, November is the month to be thankful for what we have. We can be thankful for the bountiful crop of flowers, fruits and vegetables. We can be thankful for not throwing out our back when building a new retaining wall that turned out a zillion times better than expected and still causes me to almost break my arm patting myself on my back.

Every gardening year is a learning experience for me, trying new plants and new methods. Unfortunately, one lesson keeps rearing its head in November. And fortunately, it is completely forgotten by March.

Remember, one of those laws of gardening physics. It says that no matter how careful you are in planting new stuff in your yard, the area does not expand as fast as the plants do. In fact, the land never expands unless you have nice neighbors.

But winter will bring another wish list of plants from the numerous catalogs and another blind eye to the actual amount of "plantable" land.

*David Robson is an Extension Educator, Horticulture, at the Springfield Extension Center, University of Illinois Extension. P.O. Box 8199, Springfield, IL 62792-8199. Telephone: (217) 782-6515. E-Mail: drobson@uiuc.edu*





James Dulley

# No sweat window replacement

**Q:** Dear Jim: Our double-hung window frames are still in good condition, but the windows are leaky, won't stay open and sweat during the winter. Is there any method to just upgrade the glass portion without the expense of ripping out the entire window?

- Ron A.

**A:** Dear Ron: Your window situation is common and many of the major window manufacturers have come to your rescue. Instead of replacing the entire window, you can upgrade the glass in the window with a tilt-in sash replacement kit. Using these kits will not change the look of your home. This lets you install just one or several of them at a time as your budget allows.

Installing a sash replacement kit is a fairly simple do-it-yourself job requiring only a few hand tools. The material cost of the kit is somewhat less than a new replacement, but the big savings is not having to hire a contractor to rip out an entire old window and install a new one. Especially with brick or other masonry construction, this can be an expensive job.

Since glass is the heart of any window, replacing just the



sashes will reduce your utility bills and window condensation during the winter. All of the sash replacement kits available include new tilt-in jamb liner channels and pivot cams. These channels allow you to tilt in each window sash individually for easy cleaning from indoors, yet still form an efficient airtight seal when closed.

The new tilt-in channels in the kit are designed to fit perfectly in your old window frames. The new sashes fit snugly into the channels eliminating any old weight-type counterbalances used to hold the window open. These channels are designed to hold the window open in any position while still allowing the sash to be moved up and down easily. They



are made of durable plastic to retain their tension and resist wear.

The high-efficiency glass options available for the sash kits are the same ones available in other new replacement windows. Installing low-emissivity (low-e) double-pane glass with argon gas in the gap is an adequate and reasonably priced choice for most areas of the country. It also reduces carpet fading from the sun. Other more efficient glass options are double low-e coatings, triple panes, quad panes and ones with low-e film stretched between the panes.

If you have problems with annoying outdoor road or other noise, consider getting krypton gas instead of argon gas in the gap between the panes. It is more dense and blocks more noise and energy loss. Both krypton and argon gas are as clear as air, so they are not visible inside the window. Even without krypton gas, just the airtightness of the new sashes will noticeably block much outdoor noise.

All of the replacement sash manufacturers use wood for the framing. It is strong, a natural insulator and easy to work with. Most are available in natural or primed finishes which you can paint to match the existing window frame color. For nearly maintenance-free windows, select a sash kit with aluminum

cladding on the exterior surfaces. They should never need painting and other than regular cleaning, you can pretty much forget them.

Tilt-in replacement sash kits include everything you need to install one in an existing window frame: two sashes, locks, tilt-in pivots, jamb liner channels, hardware and an instructional video. There are literally hundreds of sizes, often in one and two inch increments, so it usually is not a problem finding the proper size to fit your existing window frames.

The tools you need to install a kit are a hammer, saw, putty knife, pliers and finishing nails. Pry the old sash stops loose from the window frame. Be careful with this initial step because there may be several coats of old paint on them you will have to break through.

When they are removed, tack the new channels clips into place on the inside surfaces of the window frame. Snap the channels over the clips. Once they are attached, the sashes will keep them from coming loose. Insert the top sash into the channels first, followed by the pivots and then the lower sash. Replace the old sash stops and you are done.

Another lower-cost option, although not as efficient, is to

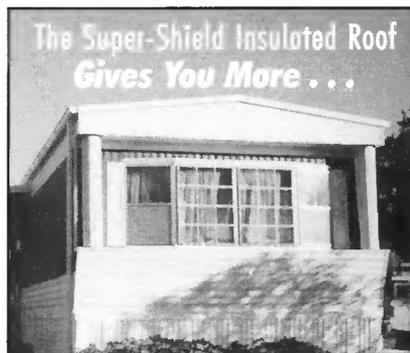
install just a jamb liner replacement kit. These new jamb liners fit tightly against the existing sashes to block air leaks and hold them in any position when opened. Since you still have the same old glass panes, you will still have the same window condensation problems.

Write for (instantly download - [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com)) Utility Bills Update No. 498 - buyer's guide of 11 tilt-in sash replacement and channel kit manufacturers listing frame materials, colors, glass options, features, prices, and installation instructions. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE to: James Dulley, Illinois Country Living, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244.

*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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-Psalm 34:8



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### Crab Salad Peggy Fitch

- 1 (12-16-oz.) imitation crab meat
- 1 sm. onion, chopped
- 2 stalks of celery, chopped
- 1 C. black olives, chopped
- 1 C. shell macaroni, cooked
- Salad dressing

Cook shell macaroni according to package directions. Drain and cool. Mix macaroni, onion, celery and olives. Serve with your favorite dressing and crackers.



### Baked Chicken Breasts Carla Gayer

- 4 chicken breasts, split/boneless
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 8 slices Velveeta or Swiss cheese
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 3/4 C. white wine
- 2 C. seasoned croutons, coarsely crushed
- 1/3 C. melted butter or oleo

Arrange chicken in a glass baking dish. Season with salt and pepper. Place 1 slice of cheese on each piece. Mix soup with wine and spoon evenly over chicken. Sprinkle croutons on top. Drizzle with melted butter. Cover with foil. Bake at 325° for 1-1/2 hours. Remove foil for the last 10 minutes of baking.

### Texas Potatoes Brenda Gayer

- 2 lb. bag hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1/2-3/4 C. onions, chopped
- 1 C. cream of mushroom soup
- 1 (8-oz.) ctn. sour cream
- 1 C. shredded Cheddar cheese
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 C. corn flake crumbs

Mix potatoes, onions, soup, sour cream, cheese, salt and pepper. Place into a 9x13-inch baking dish. Mix corn flake crumbs with melted butter and sprinkle on top. Bake at 350° for approximately 1 hour.

### Streusel Pumpkin Pie Sherry Fitch

- 1 (9-inch) unbaked pie shell
- 1 (16-oz.) can pumpkin
- 1 (12-14-oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. salt

#### Topping:

- 1/2 C. brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 C. flour
- 1/4 C. cold margarine or butter
- 1/4 C. chopped nuts

**Pie:** Preheat oven to 425°. In a large mixing bowl, combine pumpkin, sweetened condensed milk, eggs, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and salt. Mix well. Pour into the pie shell. Bake for 15 minutes, then reduce heat to 350° and bake for and additional 30 minutes. While pie is baking, mix streusel topping. **Topping:** In a medium bowl, combine brown sugar and flour. Cut in cold margarine or butter until crumbly. Stir in chopped nuts. Sprinkle on top of pie. Return to oven for 20 minutes.

### Vegetable Pizza Dot Sweet

- 1 pkg. crescent rolls
- 1 pkg. cream cheese
- 1 tsp. dill
- 1 C. mayonnaise
- 1 C. sour cream
- 1 tsp. dry onion flakes
- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Cheddar cheese
- Mushrooms
- Broccoli

In a pizza pan or jelly roll pan, press together crescent rolls and bake at 375° for 10-15 minutes. Combine cream cheese, dill, mayonnaise, sour cream and onion flakes. Spread over cooled crust. Place cut up vegetables on top and sprinkle with Cheddar cheese.



### Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies Benny Gayer

- 1 C. margarine
- 1 C. brown sugar, packed
- 1 C. sugar
- 2 lg. eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1-1/2 C. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 C. oatmeal, uncooked
- 1 (12-oz.) bag chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375°. In a large bowl, beat margarine until light. Add sugars, beat until fluffy. Add eggs and vanilla. Beat well. Add flour, baking soda and salt. Mix well. Stir in oatmeal and chocolate chips until thoroughly combined. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto a cookie sheet. Bake 10-12 minutes or until cookies are just set. Do not overbake. Makes about 5 dozen.



Camp Cilca of Cantrall, Illinois submits its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cookbook, *Camp Cilca Cooking*. The book is paper-backed and comb-bound. It is filled with 56 pages of wonderful recipes. The cost of the book is \$10, which includes postage. To order, contact Charlotte Bueltmann at 8687 Hilltop Ct., Dawson, IL 62520 or call her at (217) 364-4513.

### Coffee Cake

- 2 eggs
- 1 C. sugar
- 1 C. milk
- 4 T. melted shortening
- 2 C. flour
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 C. brown sugar, packed
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 T. flour
- 2 T. butter, softened
- 1 C. nuts

Mix eggs, sugar, milk, shortening, flour, baking powder and salt together. Pour into a 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle with a mixture of brown sugar, cinnamon, flour, butter and nuts. Bake at 375° for 20-25 minutes.



### Kim's Favorite Corn

- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 can corn with liquid
- 1 can creamed corn
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 C. sour cream
- 1 box Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix

Mix all ingredients together. Bake in a preheated oven at 350° for one hour or until firm.

### Taco Salad

- 1 med. head of lettuce
- 1 lb. hamburger
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- 1 can kidney beans, (opt.)
- 1 lg. onion
- 4 med. tomatoes, diced
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. Cheddar cheese
- 1 pkg. taco flavored chips

#### Dressing:

- 1 (8-oz.) bottle Thousand Island dressing
- 1/3 C. sugar
- 1 T. taco sauce
- 1 T. taco seasoning

Brown hamburger. Add taco seasoning, reserving 1 T. for dressing. In a large bowl, layer salad ingredients starting with lettuce and ending with cheese. Cover and refrigerate. At serving time, toss salad with dressing and taco chips.

### Pauline's Brunch Egg Bake

- 3 C. Cheddar cheese, shredded
- 3 C. Mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 1 jar mushrooms, drained (opt.)
- 1/3 C. onion, chopped (opt.)
- 1/2 med. bell pepper, chopped (opt.)
- 1/4 C. butter, melted
- 8-oz. cooked ham, chopped or sausage, browned
- 1/2 C. flour
- 1-3/4 C. milk
- 8 eggs, beaten

In a large bowl, toss cheeses and sprinkle half in an ungreased 9x13-inch pan. Sauté mushrooms, onions and pepper with butter until tender. Layer over cheese. Spread ham or sausage over vegetables and sprinkle remaining cheese over the top. Blend flour, milk, and eggs and pour mixture over layers. Bake in a 350° oven for 35-45 minutes.

**Order your copy of *Illinois Country Cooks Cookbook* on page 24.**

The Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical Society of Pekin submitted their cookbook, *Cooking Up Memories*, which appeared in our December 2001 issue. The price of the cookbook was left out of the description. It is \$17 including shipping.

### Company Casserole

- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. noodles
- 1-1/2 lb. ground beef
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 (15-oz.) can tomato sauce
- 1 C. cottage cheese
- 1 C. sour cream
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 3/4 C. grated cheese

Cook noodles as directed on package and drain. Brown ground beef and onion; drain. Add salt, pepper, garlic salt and tomato sauce. Simmer for 5 minutes. Combine sour cream and cottage cheese with noodles. Pour 1/2 of meat mixture into a 9x13-inch pan. Add noodle mixture. Top with rest of meat sauce. Sprinkle with grated cheese. Bake at 325° for 45 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

*Photos by Catrina Young*

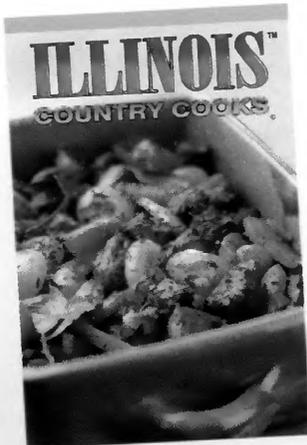


### Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 3 C. butter
- 3 C. shortening
- 5 C. sugar
- 5 C. brown sugar
- 6 eggs
- 3-1/2 T. vanilla
- 8 C. flour
- 5 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 6 C. chocolate chips

Cream butter, shortening and sugars very well. Add eggs and vanilla. Add dry ingredients and stir. Stir in chocolate chips. Spoon onto a cookie sheet and bake at 375° for 10-12 minutes.





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- All ads must be in one paragraph form. No centered copy. Maximum of four all-capital words per ad.
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# NOVEMBER DATEBOOK

**1, First Fridays** in Carbondale, Makanda, Murphysboro, Cobden, Anna-Jonesboro and Marion. Numerous art galleries, coffeehouses, restaurants and merchants will have special activities, from art exhibits to live music. Free. From 6 p.m. to close. (618) 549-7838.

**1-2, Chris Cringle Craft Sale** at University of Illinois Assembly Hall in Champaign. Now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, this annual pre-holiday craft sale offers more than 150 booths and enough bargains and deals for every holiday shopping list. Admission is \$4, which includes parking. No strollers or carts allowed. (217) 355-9750.

**2, Chocolate, Champagne and Candlelight** at the DeSoto House Hotel in downtown Galena. An elegant chocolate affair including two lavish buffets offering every form of chocolate imaginable, plus a few non-chocolate desserts. Admission is \$12 per person, which includes the buffet, coffee and one glass of champagne or soft drink. Cash bar will be available. Limited seating; advanced reservations recommended. (815) 777-9129.

**2, Old Fashioned Horse Farming Days** at Percival Spring Airport in Watson. Take a trip back in time to the farm. Learn what farming was like 100 years ago. (888) 536-5352 or (217) 536-9990.

**2, Bazaar and Quilt Show** at the Federated Church on Main Street in Avon. Enjoy lunch and a quilt raffle. Doors will open at 9 a.m. (309) 465-3189.

**2, The Fourth Annual Tunnel Hill 10-Mile Trail Run** from Tunnel Hill to Vienna. Registration from 6:30-8 a.m. at trail headquarters in Vienna. Race begins at 9 a.m. (618) 942-3986 or starbuck@midamer.net.

**2-3, Persimmon Party** in Taylorville. A celebration devoted to this golden fruit. Enjoy delicious baked goods, wonderful recipe ideas and informative cookbooks. (217) 824-6922.

**2-3, Heritage Festival** at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg. Free admission. Enjoy arts, crafts, food, entertainment and an antique appraisal fair. Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday. (618) 252-5400 or (618) 252-3213.

**3, Metro-East Bottle and Relic Show** at Gateway Center in Collinsville. Are you an avid collector of bottles and other relics from yesteryear? It could be payback time, or a chance to add a few more treasures to your stash. Come by and browse. Adults, \$2; children 12 and under are free. (800) 289-2388 or (618) 345-8998.

**8-9, Victorian Home Christmas Craft Show** in Lena. Browse through this Victorian home for fine crafts, gifts and holiday decorations. Enjoy the refreshments, door prizes and bake sale. (815) 369-5598.

**9, The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Bazaar** at St. Joseph Catholic Church Hall in Elizabethtown. Thirty tables will be filled with various handcrafted items, baked goods, candy, jelly and more. Delicious chili, sandwiches and desserts will be served for lunch. (618) 264-5794.

**9, The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Altrusa Bazaar** at the Macomb High School in Macomb. More than 200 crafters will be on hand selling their goods. Hours are from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (309) 836-7922.

**9-10, Living History Weekend** at Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis. Massac Marines will re-enact the 18<sup>th</sup> century life at the fort. Free. (618) 524-9321.

**9-10, Holiday Jewelry, Gem and Mineral Show** at Highland Community College Student Conference Center in Freeport. Buy a unique gift for your loved ones or yourself at this event featuring minerals, fossils and gems. A children's corner will be available while you shop. (815) 563-4909.

**9-10, The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft Fair** in Edwardsville. Check out more than 250 booths offering handcrafted items at this fundraiser fair. Stop by the Red Cross section on Saturday to donate blood. A \$1 admission fee will be charged. (618) 656-8814.



**9-10, Autumnfest** in Carterville. Get a head start on your holiday shopping, as more than 100 skilled craftspeople offer their work for show-and-sell this weekend. (800) 433-7399 or (618) 985-3741.

**9-10, Holiday Open House** in Dixon. An eclectic selection of upscale floral and both modern and traditional home-decorating ideas for every room in the house. The Open House will also have an array of gifts for the holidays. (815) 288-1100.

**10, The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner** in Harding. Dinner is at 12 p.m. After dinner, stay for the dance from 1:30-4:30 p.m. (708) 534-8698.

**11, Veterans Day Parade** in Anna. Parade begins at 2 p.m. from the city park entrance on Davie Street and follows Main Street to Jefferson Street and back to the park. (618) 833-5182.

**21-23, Deer Festival** on the Pope County Courthouse lawn in Golconda. Barbeque, food booths, vendors and music, as well as Deer Queen Coronation night on Friday and a parade on Saturday at 1 p.m. (618) 683-6246.

**22-23, Holiday House Walk** in Byron. Held in conjunction with Byron's Miracle on Second Street, this event offers the viewing of four to five houses specially decorated for the holiday season. A \$10 admission fee will be charged. (815) 234-5500.

**22-23, Heritage and Holly Historic Home Tour** in Decatur. A tour of holiday-themed historic homes featuring a range of architectural wonders, each with an authentic style and form of their own. Tickets are \$10 in advanced, \$15 at the door. (217) 429-8276.

**22-23, Victorian Holiday Celebration** in Lebanon. Lebanon offers a head start on the holiday season, Victorian-style, with old-fashioned lamplight, Victorian Christmas lights and decorations, plus group caroling. Stroll through the neighborhood or take a horse-drawn carriage. (618) 537-8420.

**23, Afternoon with Santa** at Davis-McCann Civic Center in Murphysboro. Refreshments, prizes and pictures with Santa Claus. Hours: 1-4 p.m.

**23, Santa's Arrival** at University Mall in Carbondale. Free. (618) 529-3681.

**23-24, Symphony of Trees** in Decatur. View the magnificent display of light and ornaments on an array of Christmas trees and wreaths. Optional black-tie gala on Friday. Advanced tickets only; adults, \$3; children, \$1. (217) 429-1234.

**22-24, Pegasus Psychic Fair** in Collinsville. Don't miss the psychic fair, complete with tarot card readers, auraphotography, vendors and metaphysical lectures every half hour. Individuals may receive private readings for only \$20. Admission is \$5. (618) 345-8998.

**24, Who Ordered the Carolers? Holiday Gala** at the DeSoto House Hotel in downtown Galena. A reception and silent auction of area artists' works will begin at 6 p.m. At 8 p.m. enjoy the Main Street Players Theatre Company's performance of an original holiday musical comedy about the zany misadventures of a group of talented carolers. Tickets are \$15 per person. Seating is limited, so advanced ticket purchase is suggested. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served. (815) 777-2787.

**29, Christmas Tree Farm Opening** at Eckert's Country Store and Farms in Belleville. Take time out of your busy holiday schedule to do something special with your children. Come experi-

ence a crisp winter's day as you enjoy the beauty of more than 40 acres of lush evergreen forest as you search for your perfect Christmas tree. A fresh tree will provide long lasting pine fragrance in your home and will stay fresher longer because you cut it yourself. Saws and tree baling will be provided. (618) 233-0513 or [www.eckerts.com](http://www.eckerts.com).

**29-30, Ski For Free** at Chestnut Mountain Resort near Galena. These two days only, all lift tickets are free. (800) 397-1320.

**29-12/15, Santa's House** at the Old Market House Information Center in Galena. Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet children. Children will get goodie bags. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-3 p.m. (815) 777-3310.

**29-30, Dickens on the Square** in downtown Macomb. Step back in time and mingle with Victorian lords and ladies as they grace downtown Macomb with their presence. Enjoy Dickensian-era festivities, food, free carriage rides, music and entertainment. (309) 833-1827.

**29-12/1, Holiday Open House** at Pomona Winery in Pomona. A festive atmosphere for holiday shopping. Free tasting, chilled wine by the bottle or glass. Free. Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday: 12-5 p.m. (618) 893-2623.

**29-12/1, Von Jakob Vineyard Holiday Open House** in Pomona. New releases from last year's and this year's harvest. Sample cheese, crackers and other goodies. Enjoy a holiday craft sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (618) 893-4500 or [vonjakobvineyard.com](http://vonjakobvineyard.com).

**29-12/20, Land of Snowmen** in Chillicothe. Take family and friends to admire this beautifully frosty interpretation of winter at the park. Admission is \$5 per car; \$10 per limousine/commercial van; \$25 per minibus; \$100 per full-size bus. (309) 274-8837.

**30, Eckert's Holiday Extravaganza** at Eckert's Country Store and Farms in Belleville. Old-fashioned holiday fun, See the beautiful selection of poinsettias as you sip hot cocoa and nibble on Christmas cookies from the Kris Kringle Café. Join in the community caroling by candlelight. (618) 233-0513 or [www.eckerts.com](http://www.eckerts.com).

**30, Make Your Own Gingerbread House** at Eckert's Country Store and Farms in Belleville. Start a gingerbread tradition with family and friends. Eckert's will provide all your supplies and the assistance to create a unique holiday decoration. (618) 233-0513 or [www.eckerts.com](http://www.eckerts.com).

**30, Christmas Town** in downtown Hillsboro. Take the kids to the Teddy Bear Parade and the Snow Princess Coronation. Then head on to the children's parties, go on a Christmas tree walk, and visit the holiday open houses. (217) 532-6332.

**30-12/1, Great American Train Show** at Gateway Center in Collinsville. An event geared to keep train buffs chugging along happily, with operating train layouts, new and used trains for sale, plus and assortment of train-related merchandise and souvenirs. Admission is \$7. (630) 782-4621.

**30-12/31, Festival of Lights** throughout East Peoria. An evening parade on November 30 ushers in the holiday spirit through to year's end. Festival highlights include a narrated nativity scene, holiday shows, Folepi's Enchanted Forest, holiday sensations and a Winter Wonderland. \$10 per car; \$20 per limousine/commercial bus; \$50 per minibus; \$250 per full-sized bus. (309) 698-4711 or (800) 365-3743.



*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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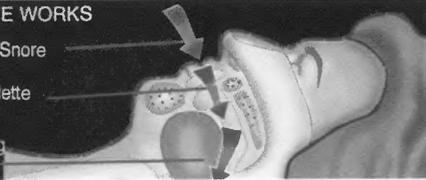
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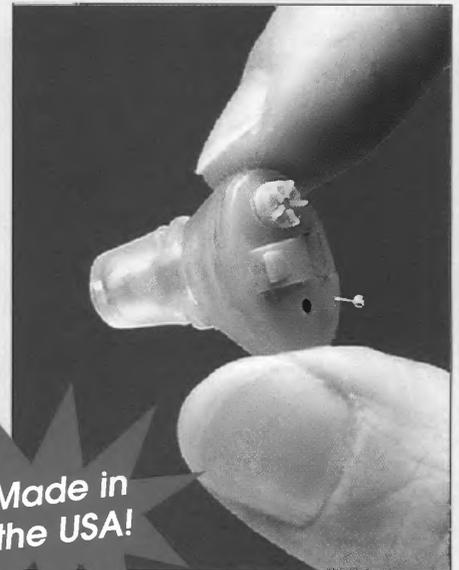
The EarMate-65 is the only soft hearing aid with five sizes of soft tips. You select the size that is best for you to ensure a comfortable, well-fitting hearing aid. A good fit reduces feedback, that awful squealing sound that all hearing aids can make.

You will also enjoy a more natural sound from the Class-D circuitry in the EarMate-65. Use everyday or just when you need a little extra help.

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*Actual customer comments - printed with their permission.*

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“I am so glad that I am able to hear again. Thanks for making my life better. Thanks to your personnel for their kindness and helpfulness, they are the best.”

**Richard Bailey - South Carolina**

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