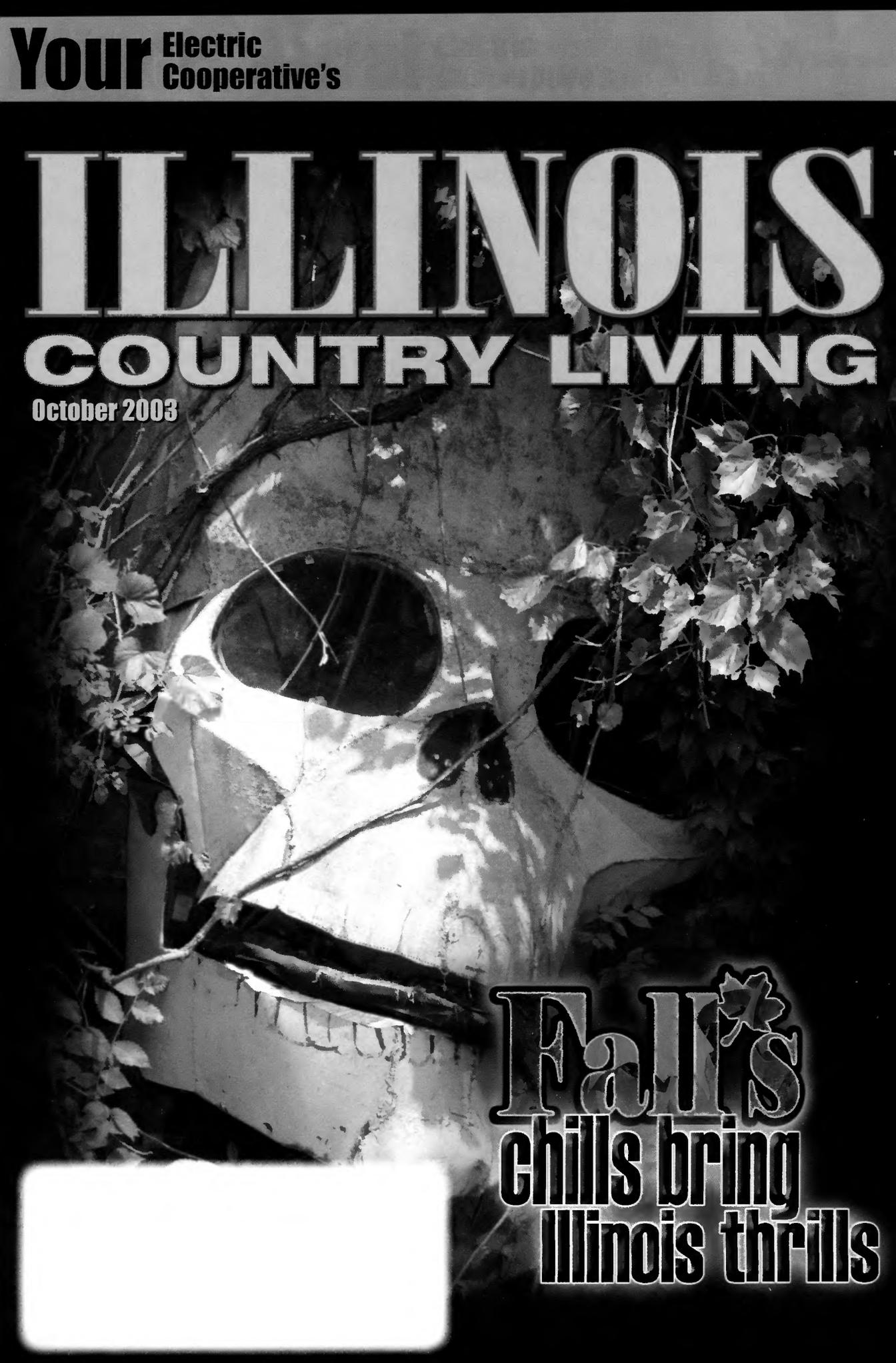


Your Electric
Cooperative's

ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING

October 2003



Fall's
chills bring
Illinois thrills



First patented dish antenna brings in broadcast signals other antennas can't find.

The XiumAir's™ Spilateral technology conquers ghosts, fuzzy pictures and rooftop monstrosities.



World's first dish-type TV antenna for great local reception

If you live in an area where TV reception is weak, 'rabbit ears' and ugly rooftop antennas may only bring in fuzzy signals that aren't worth watching. Enter the XiumAir Antenna -- the world's first spilateral antenna designed to bring in strong video and audio signals from all directions for great TV/stereo reception. Patented spilateral technology lets the XiumAir grab signals coming from all directions from as far away as 50 miles. Its 18" parabolic reflective / ground element increases signal strength and stability to give you local broadcast reception as good as, or better than, cable TV or satellite reception. There's no expensive installation required, and it's fully compatible with any TV or stereo tuner for high-energy VHF / UHF / FM reception.

No aiming, rotating or tuning.

XiumAir's new 83-channel technology combines an all-in-one device for receiving high-energy TV reception. Unlike most external antennas, the XiumAir doesn't have to be pointed in the direction of transmitters. That's the beauty of spilateral technology. You can mount the dish-like antenna indoors or outside (on your roof or a horizontal mast). The higher the elevation,

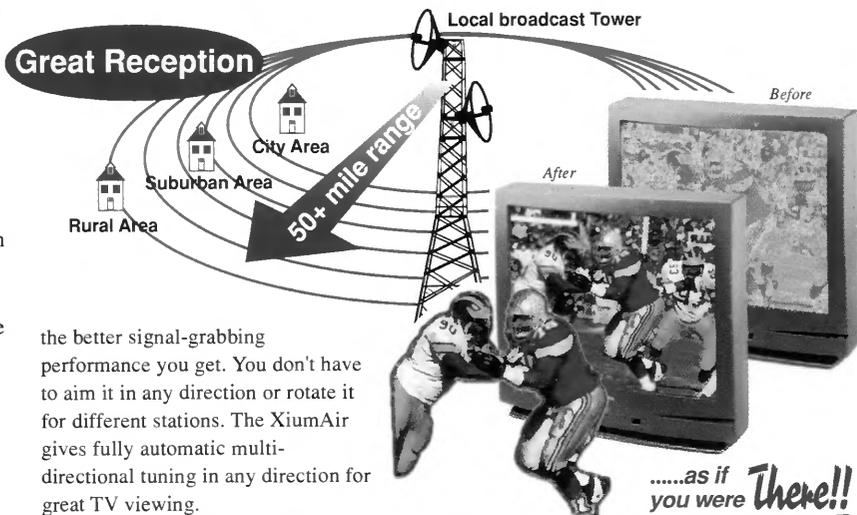
The world's first dish-type TV antenna - the last antenna you'll ever need



- NO MORE HUGE, UNSIGHTLY ROOFTOP ANTENNAS
- CLEARER PICTURE AND SOUND
- NO MORE AIMING
- EASY TO INSTALL *Anywhere!!*

XiumAir™ Works!

No matter where you live, the Xium spilateral "dish" antenna will collect all of the signals available, from any direction without the need for rotating or tuning.



the better signal-grabbing performance you get. You don't have to aim it in any direction or rotate it for different stations. The XiumAir gives fully automatic multi-directional tuning in any direction for great TV viewing.

The versatile antenna with many uses.

If you have a DSS satellite system, the XiumAir is the ideal complement for receiving local channels without monthly fees. And when high definition broadcast TV arrives in a few years, you will be ready. Plus you can use the antenna now for AM / FM stereo, home-based CB systems, and shortwave radio. The XiumAir Antenna features compact, modern styling that will blend in with almost any decor. The UV-protected housing is made of impact-resistant copolymer, making the exterior resistant to weathering and color change. It includes a standard cable connector for any cable-ready hookup. The XiumAir Antenna delivers maximum local broadcast reception to any television, stereo or any other audio or video receiver, without the use of unsightly, ugly or 'wind damaged' antennas.

Enjoy better TV reception - risk free!

This unique design is the result of years of research and testing, and now you can try it for yourself risk-free. Each XiumAir Antenna System is handcrafted and individually tested

for high quality performance. With the XiumAir Antenna, you'll eliminate those unsightly antennas for good. The XiumAir Antenna comes with a 30-day manufacturer's limited warranty and Xium's exclusive risk-free home trial. If you are not satisfied for any reason, just call us for free expert installation assistance, or simply return it within 30 days for a refund, less S&H.

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COVER STORY



Fall's chills bring Illinois thrills..... 10
Find a variety of fun-filled or frightening adventures to share with your family and friends this fall in Illinois.

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ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING™

October 2003 Volume 61 Number 6

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Jerry Costello

FutureGen Project holds promise for Illinois coal

Earlier this year, the Bush administration announced an ambitious project to build a coal-fired electric and hydrogen production plant with near zero emissions. This is a bold step forward in advancing our use of domestic energy sources. A public/private partnership, the FutureGen project will be funded by the federal government, the energy industry and other countries; and I believe it holds tremendous promise for revitalizing Illinois coal. A decision on where to build the plant will be made in the near future, and Illinois has numerous advantages that make it the ideal location.

I sponsored a roundtable discussion in July at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale that brought together U.S. Department of Energy officials, the State of Illinois, other federal, state and local officials and the general public to hear details about FutureGen and why it should be located in Illinois. This event allowed the Department of Energy and the FutureGen sponsors and participants to explore Illinois' unique features and to discover the many ways our state can meet the goals and objectives of this project. The discussion also enhanced state and local officials' understanding of the FutureGen initiative.

Illinois has almost one-eighth of the coal reserves in the United States and the largest reserves of bituminous coal in the nation. The State of Illinois has

long supported its coal industry through programs that finance research, development and commercialization of new technologies and uses of coal. As a result, Illinois is a national leader in developing clean and efficient coal technologies.

For example, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale operates its Coal Research Center, one of the field's most comprehensive programs in the United States, with a combination of facilities and achievements that make it a unique contributor to our nation's energy infrastructure. The Coal Research Center conducts a wide range of studies with direct practical applicability to the commercial development of coal. The ramifications of the center's work extend far beyond state lines and include improvements of coal cleaning processes and the reduction of air pollution from coal-fired power plants.

In addition, carbon sequestration will be one of the primary features that will set the FutureGen plant apart from other electric power projects. No other plant in the world has been built with this capability. Illinois offers geological sequestration potential over a wide area of the Illinois basin with potential storage media for carbon sequestration in structures such as deep coal beds, mature oil reservoirs, and saline reservoirs. Our state has a strong commitment to the growth of its coal and energy industries and its natural resources, geological

composition, infrastructure, and extensive research and expertise in coal. This allows Illinois to play a proactive role in our national energy future.

Coal historically has been the least expensive fossil fuel available to the United States, and in contrast to other primary fuels, its costs are likely to decline as mine productivity continues to increase. Illinois has one of the highest coal mine productivity rates in the United States. The productivity in Illinois mines has increased 5.9 percent annually over the past 10 years. The low cost of coal is a major reason why the United States enjoys some of the lowest electricity rates in the world.

A reliable and affordable energy supply is crucial to America's economic vitality, security and quality of life. New and improved scientific and technical advances hold the promise of far greater emissions reductions and increased efficiency. The FutureGen initiative will serve

(Continued on page 6)

U.S. Representative Jerry Costello represents the 12th Congressional District in southwestern Illinois. A resident of Belleville and former Chairman of the St. Clair County Board, he has served in Congress since 1989.

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.



Old Cookbook Reveals

"Amazing Details of Washington's Dining Habits"

by Guy Coalter,
Special Features Writer

Canton OH, Special - With

hundreds of servants at her command... a person would think our first First Lady was a woman of leisure.

Not so... according to a new historical discovery. A long out-of-print volume entitled, "*The Martha Washington Cook Book*" shows Mrs. Washington personally supervised her entire household staff... and especially the kitchen and dining room servants.

Martha made sure every dish served at Mount Vernon... as well as in the first Presidential "*White Houses*" in New York and Philadelphia... was prepared exactly as called for in her personal cookbook.

The family cookbook was given to Martha at the time of her first marriage.

In 1749, beautiful seventeen-year-old Martha Dandridge married Daniel Parke Custis. As a wedding gift, the Custis family presented Martha with a family cookbook entitled *Booke of Cookery and Booke of Sweetmeats*.

Handwritten by an unknown hand, there is evidence the recipe book had been in the Custis family for generations. It is quite likely this was a family heirloom dating back to the early 1600s. In all, there were over five hundred classic recipes, dating largely from Elizabethan and Jacobean times, the golden age of English cookery.

Later, Martha Custis became a widow and in 1759 she married Col. George Washington. Washington was to become the Father of our country and its first President. Martha, of course, became our very first, "*First Lady*."

Martha kept and used her family cookbook for over fifty years. In 1799, she presented the book to her granddaughter, Eleanor Parke Custis as a wedding gift when she married Lawrence Lewis.

The cookbook was handed down from mother to daughter until 1892 when the Lewis family presented it to The Historical Society of Pennsylvania where it still resides today.

In 1940, the Society gave permission to historian Marie Kimball to study the manuscript and prepare a cookbook entitled, "*The Martha Washington Cook Book*." Although now long out-of-print,

an Ohio publisher was recently commissioned to reprint a limited edition of this rare and amusing piece of Americana.

Accordingly, a limited number of copies are being made available to the public at this time. Each volume is numbered and when the present printing is exhausted, there is no contract to print more. These cookbooks could very easily become valuable collectors items.



Martha Washington

"*The Martha Washington Cook Book*" includes facsimile copies of several actual pages from the one-of-a-kind original manuscript. Then, Mrs. Kimball chose over 200 delicious unique recipes from Martha Washington's personal cookbook and completely modernized them so you can easily prepare them in your own kitchen!

The original recipes were written for a huge household including numerous servants. Many called for dozens of eggs and gallons of one thing or another. Marie Kimball "*trimmed*" each recipe to quantities of ingredients for a family of six.

You'll get dozens of delicious recipes for Soups, Fish, Meats, Meat Pies, Poultry and Game, Sauces, Eggs - Mushrooms and Cheese, Fritters and Pancakes, Pastry - Pies and Tarts, Cakes, Creams and Jellies, Puddings, Preserves, and Beverages.

Perhaps more interesting for us history buffs is the detailed description of the kitchen and dining habits in the George Washington household. Martha sat at the head of the table with her husband at her side to the right.

Despite dozens of servants around the table, either Martha or George always carved the meats to be served!

You'll absolutely love dozens of other interesting details of this historical dining room.

"*The Martha Washington Cook Book*" is a beautiful perfect bound book you will be proud to display on your coffee table, bookshelf, or where ever you keep your very best books.

Your friends and neighbors are guaranteed to be envious... *and you are guaranteed to be completely satisfied with your cookbook*. You may examine and use it for a full three months and return it for a full no-questions-asked refund if you desire.

Although not available in bookstores, you may order your cookbook directly from the publisher. There is a strict limit however, of only two copies per customer.

To get your copy, simply write your name and address on a plain piece of paper. Mail it along with your remittance of only 29.95 plus \$3.98 postage and handling (total of \$33.93) to: Washington Cookbook, Special Offer MC2071, 718 - 12th Street N.W., Box 24500, Canton, Ohio 44701.

You may charge to VISA or MasterCard by including your card number, expiration date and signature. For even faster service, have your credit card handy and telephone toll-free 1-800-772-7285 and ask for Special Offer MC2071.

Act within the next 15 days and the publisher will include a free bonus... *a selection of delightful recipes from the personal cookbook of President Thomas Jefferson!*

"*The Martha Washington Cookbook*" makes an appreciated gift for any gift-giving occasion. Readers of this publication may request a second copy for only \$16.02 postpaid. (Total of \$49.95 for both.)

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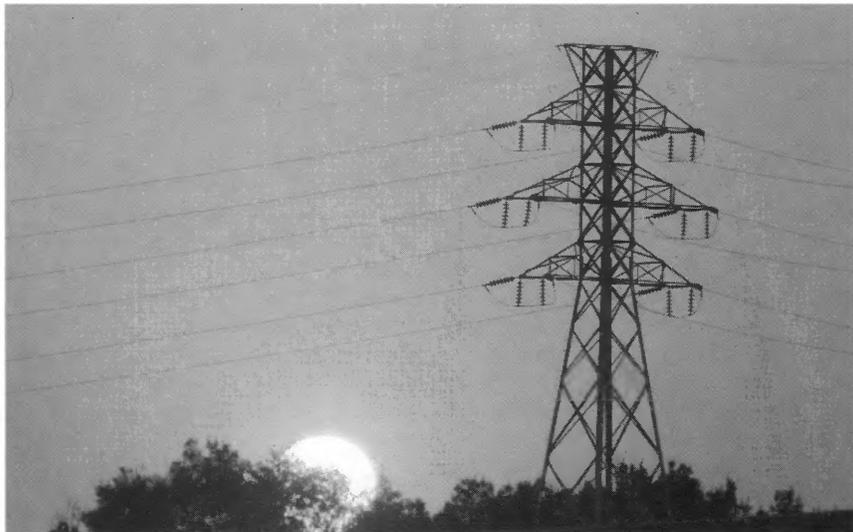
How the electric grid can meltdown in nine seconds

Gridlock - we use that term to describe an overloaded highway system. While not a perfect analogy, it could also be used to explain the recent historical blackout in August that shut down much of the Northeast United States.

In some areas of the country we are trying to transport electricity over a two-lane blacktop when we really need a four-lane interstate highway. When an accident happens on this electrical highway, traffic has to be re-routed to another transmission line in microseconds. If that line can't handle the traffic it can shutdown because of the overload, cause another line to reach overload conditions, and trip generators off before they are damaged. If the outage is not isolated a cascading domino effect spreads across the grid.

Three facts were made painfully clear to everyone after this most recent blackout. First, we were reminded of how incredibly dependent we are on electricity. Secondly, electricity is normally so reliable that we have taken it for granted. And third, we have to do something to improve transmission line reliability.

Although a lot of finger pointing is still going on, the bottom line is the warning signs were there and the signs were ignored. Our demand for electricity has grown, but the transmission system needed to transport it has not. At the same time we've



The U.S. transmission system grew by 7 percent during the 1990s, but not enough to keep up with the demand for electricity, which increased 24 percent.

changed the rules and tried to create a competitive market on a monopoly-based transmission system. The price tag to catch up has been estimated to be between \$50 and \$100 billion. That could mean the average U.S. consumer would see a \$100 annual power bill increase. The good news is we could see cost savings of five times that if an efficient transmission system is built.

Bob Harbour, Vice President of Generation and Operations for Continental Cooperative Services (CCS), a generation and transmission cooperative serving Illinois, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, says the cost could be less. "But, there is no doubt

we will see increased costs in our high voltage transmission bills."

Although an outage like this could occur in Illinois, co-ops here were unaffected by the blackout. However, Harbour says CCS lost one hydroelectric generator briefly and nearly 25 substations, mostly in northwest Pennsylvania. "These substations were lost due to the transmission lines owned by investor owned utilities tripping off," says Harbour.

Harbour served as Chairman of the Mid-America Interconnected Network (MAIN), one of 10 regional reliability councils under the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC).

ILLINOIS COMMENTARY *(Continued from page 4)*

as the test bed for researching, developing, and demonstrating the best technologies in the world. Virtually every aspect of the prototype plant will be based on cutting-edge technology. Knowledge from this prototype power plant will help make coal into an environmentally sustainable energy resource.

Illinois can provide the resources and expertise needed to improve our national energy policy through the FutureGen initiative, and I was pleased to organize the critical first step in the process. We need to continue to promote opportunities like FutureGen and capitalize on the great natural and human resources our state holds for clean energy production.

What do you think?

We've published commentaries from governors, senators and other dignitaries. Now we want to hear from you. Who do you think should write an Illinois Commentary? Or what topic should we cover? Send your suggestion to: Editor, Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708 or e-mail aiecinfo@aiec.coop.



NERC's mission is to ensure that the bulk electric system in North America is reliable, adequate and secure. Since its formation in 1968, after a major blackout, NERC has operated successfully as a voluntary organization, relying on reciprocity, peer pressure and the mutual self-interest of all those involved to create a reliable transmission grid.

Harbour says NERC standards are voluntary and not enforceable, but penalties for not complying with the standards have been included in the energy bill now being reviewed by a U.S. Senate and House conference committee.

Regional Transmission Operators (RTOs) have also been put in place in many areas to independently oversee regional transmission grids. Harbour says RTOs can help, but should not replace existing control area operators. "Regional operators cannot know all of the details of the vast system they are monitoring. Even with electronic monitoring and alarms, every situation cannot be pre-programmed. We need both existing control area operators as well as the regional operators."

Harbour says co-ops have installed more generation and have long term plans to assure sufficient generation, but transmission is still in need of upgrading and expansion. Much of the transmission capacity serving co-ops is owned by investor-owned utilities.

Harbour says in most of the country deregulation so far has increased price volatility and increased wholesale power cost to small consumers, decreased reliability and bankrupted

energy suppliers. "We need some re-regulation. We need to pass NERC's reliability language, and we need to closely review the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Standard Market Design idea." He adds that to build more transmission line capacity will require a better rate of return and less risk on transmission line investment, and federal right of eminent domain where transmission construction has been stopped.

Tim Reeves, President and General Manager of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), Marion, says obtaining right of way agreements is one of the biggest impediments to building new transmission lines. SIPC provides power to three southern Illinois co-ops over its own transmission lines. Transmission lines owned by Illinois Power serve three other SIPC co-ops.

"In the last 10 years I don't know of anyone that hasn't had problems acquiring right of way," says Reeves. "We are working on a new 161 kv transmission line that will go to one of our load centers, but the problem is getting right of way. It takes years." He adds that often the process ends up stuck in courts.

Reeves also serves on a MAIN committee. He says that all utilities in the MAIN region are committed to reserving generation capacity for emergencies. "We keep a percentage of the largest unit in spinning reserves. If even the largest unit in our region, which is 1,200 mw, trips off we can ramp up and put power back online."

Peaking capacity has also been added but that has only added to the transmission capacity issue since most

peaking plants have been located far away from metropolitan load centers and power, requiring even more transmission capacity. "Transmission lines were built to serve local utility loads. Then they were interconnected. Now on top of all of that we deregulated the transmission system and people can buy and sell power across the system. We added this third layer of use on the transmission system and we have added capacity. The problem is not going to go away in a short period of time."

Could a blackout like this happen in Illinois? Both Harbour and Reeves say yes. But Reeves says, "The worst transmission congestion in Illinois is the interconnect going north to Wisconsin. But there are areas of southern Illinois that are limited during peak load periods."

Reeves adds that as bad as this blackout was the system worked. The Eastern Interconnect goes from the Rocky Mountains east, excluding Texas, and we didn't trip off here in Illinois. Eventually the system worked, not as quickly as it should have, but it stopped it."

What can co-op members do? Harbour says most major outages are still caused by weather events like ice storms. He says, "Prepare for blackouts the same as you would for an ice storm. Keep the freezer door closed. Protect your water supply. Make plans and prepare for freezing weather, and do the same for your livestock."

For more information on being prepared for outages talk to your local electric cooperative representative, or go to the Illinois Electric Council's Web site www.iecouncil.org.

Touchstone Energy® Co-ops Again Top Industry Average

Quarter after quarter, Touchstone Energy cooperatives continue to outpace the rest of the energy industry in customer satisfaction, obtaining a score of 80 in a second quarter 2003 survey by the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI). The score is seven points higher than the electric utility industry average of 73.

"Touchstone Energy co-ops continue to be the model for other utilities to follow in serving consumers," said Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Chief Operating Officer Jim Bousell. "Our cooperatives have consistently led the industry in customer satisfaction each quarter, a testament to the efforts co-

op employees put forth every day," he said.

ACSI is one of the most recognized customer satisfaction indices in the United States. It's managed by the University of Michigan

Business School and sponsored by the American Society for Quality.

It measures customers' satisfaction in 16 major industries and 190 leading corporations. The index is a weighted average of four questions on a zero to 100 scale.



Touchstone Energy®



Stopping the decline in Illinois' livestock industry

We grow the grain to feed livestock right here in Illinois. But Illinois beef herds have declined by one-third in the last 15 years. Over the last four years the number of pork producers has been cut in half. And in just five years Illinois dairy herds have declined by one-third.

To stop the slaughter of Illinois' livestock industry the Illinois Milk Producers Association, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Pork Producers Association, Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Corn Growers Association, and Illinois Soybean Association are working together to develop new production systems, new markets, and improve efficiency and profitability.

They have formed an alliance called the Illinois Livestock Development Group (ILDG). The purpose of the ILDG is to identify reasons for the decline in the states livestock industry, work to stabilize it, and ultimately increase the numbers of livestock in the state. These groups collectively have made significant financial contributions to help fund this three-year effort.

Source: Illinois Milk Producers Association www.illinoismilk.org and Illinois Farm Bureau www.ilfb.org.

Illinois rural teachers earn less

Illinois' rural teachers earn nearly \$10,500 less than teachers in the rest of the state, the largest gap in the nation. There are more than 1 million people living in rural Illinois, and the state ranks among the top 10 states in percentage of students attending small rural schools, one fourth of which suffer declining enrollment. The sheer number of rural people makes it important for Illinois to address rural education policy.

Source: The Rural School and Community Trust www.ruraledu.org.

National do-not-call registry open

Consumers can now begin to do something about those pesky telemarketing calls that interrupt dinner. A national do-not-call registry is open. You can put your name on a list so that telemarketers must stop calling you by law.

Telemarketers will have access to the registry and are required to scrub their call list at least once every 90 days. In October, the Federal Trade Commission and the states will begin to enforce the registry. Violators will be subject to a fine of up to \$11,000 per violation.

To register on the list or for additional details, go to www.ftc.gov/donotcall.

Source: FTC; *Time* magazine

Bill will hold postal rates steady until 2006

The President has signed a bill into law holding the price of a postage stamp to its current price of \$.37 through 2006.

After the Senate passed its version of the bill in early April, the House followed with its unanimous passage of the Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003 the following week.

The passage of this legislation is good news not just for the Postal Service, but also for everyone who uses the mail. It will enable postal rates to remain stable until 2006, providing a much-needed boost for the \$900 billion mailing industry and the overall economy.

The legislation will allow the Postal Service to reduce some pension fund payments, which would save the organization \$5.5 billion over the next two years.

Last June the Postal Service issued its third rate increase in 18 months. If this legislation were not passed, another increase would occur next year. Postal unions, consumers, non-profit groups and others in the mailing industry are applauding the legislation.

Source: Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers; *Washington Post*; United States Postal Service



What to do after an accident

Even a minor fender bender can rattle the most experienced driver. The key is to remain calm and take things a step at time in getting the necessary information from other drivers and documenting the scene. Here are some tips from the auto experts at Consumer Reports.

- Place triangles, flares, or another warning signal device around the accident scene, then stand a safe distance away until help arrives.
- Call police if a phone is handy.
- Don't argue or admit blame.
- Don't reveal your insurance limits or other financial data.
- Ask to see a driver's license, registration, and insurance card for all drivers involved.

- Write down the name, address, phone number, license number, registration number, and insurance number for the driver(s) involved, and the insurer(s).
- Also note the other vehicle's license plate, year, make, model, color and vehicle identification number (VIN).
- Get names and phone numbers of witnesses and anyone injured.
- Get the investigating officer's name, badge number and department.
- Draw a detailed diagram of the accident scene, showing streets and cars involved.
- Notify your insurer at once.

Source: Consumer Reports



Camaraderie in a cooperative community

Cooperative members from all across the nation come together every October in celebration of National Cooperative Month. This month is dedicated to the principles that define the cooperatives and the member-owned basis in which they were founded. A cooperative is created by the constituents of a community who come together to provide quality goods and services within their community. The primary purpose for such a business is to allow the member-owners to have a say in how the cooperative is run and to collectively receive the benefits.

Shared values and services are the major concerns for cooperatives, not profits, hence the reason they are increasingly successful. More than 120 million people are members of cooperatives and more than 47,000 cooperatives exist in the United States alone. It is a sign of the changing times and the need for citizens to take control of the productivity of businesses in their communities. Co-ops also provide the consumer with a wider variety of choices and minimize product cost. Cooperatives are able to offer goods and services to the consumers at reasonable prices because consumers use their combined power to invest their capital and operate their own businesses.

Cooperatives differ from the traditional forms of business because of the seven Cooperative Principles that define their organization and express their direct responsibility to their member-owners. They are:

1. Voluntary and open membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

2. Democratic member control

Cooperatives are democratic organization controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership.

3. Members' economic participation

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their coopera-

tive. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

4. Autonomy and independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, training and information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of the cooperative.

6. Cooperation among cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for the community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for community development through policies accepted by their members.

Cooperative businesses are comprised of people from various socio-economic backgrounds that are willing participants in a free enterprise system. Co-ops are empowering because through co-ops people achieve together what they could not accomplish alone.

Cooperatives are succeeding because they bring together a community. They bring people together for electricity, groceries, hardware, telephone, health care, housing, telecommunications or financial services. And in the overall spirit of togetherness, cooperatives give us a sense of pride in our communities and ourselves. So in celebration of National Cooperative Month let us visualize the continued overall success that cooperatives bring into each and every one of our lives.



Fall's chills bring Illinois thrills

By Catrina McCulley

The leaves are beautiful and golden, gently floating from the trees, forming soft pillow masses at the base. Scents of Amber and Rosewood drift through the air, whiffing past your senses. There's no denying, it's fall. Thoughts turn from watermelon and swimming pools to fresh air, pumpkins, apples, spices, hayrides, costumes and ghosts. And Illinois is chock-full of ways to enjoy the season.

Raven's Grin Inn Haunted House

Walking up to the entrance of the Raven's Grin Inn Haunted House in Mount Carroll, one would think they've stepped right into an issue of Mad Magazine. Owner Jim Warfield spends hours upon hours building props and wiring effects to make this year-round haunted inn a one of a kind experience for visitors.

A pair of legs wearing ice skates dangles through a ceiling tile of Jim's kitchen, but your mind is deterred as you turn around and almost run into seven feet of nuked hamster emerging toward you from the "urban myth microwave." Suddenly an eerie voice cries from deep within the refrigerator, "The leftovers are killing me! The leftovers are killing me!"

With imagination and great artistic ability, Jim has spent years filling his house with creative effects, such as a piano that plays itself, a TV that turns on without a remote, pictures that move, doors that suddenly appear out of strong concrete walls, and various slides that take you to different rooms in the house. "This is the bad dream bed slide," says Jim as he stands by what appears to be a cot on a twin bed frame. The 60-foot slide starts on the second-floor of the house and drops 30-feet to the wine cellar.



The Raven's Grin Inn, located in Mount Carroll, is open year-round for your scaring pleasure. Pictured is owner Jim Warfield.

Jim's been fascinated by the bizarre since he was a kid. "I used to admire this house because I always thought it would make a great haunted house. It has so much history," says Jim. He had the chance to buy it 17 years ago and he jumped on it. But it needed a lot of work. "It needed a new roof, windows, paint, a new boiler, wiring and plumbing. But I always loved this house and just had to have it."

Before purchasing the house, Jim worked 15 years in the heating, plumbing and air conditioning business. "Suddenly I thought, 'Why spend all my life working so hard,



Raven's - Continued from page 10

when I could do something I love and make a living at it.” Jim says people are envious who come through his house when they see how much fun he has.

Jim also provides tours for children, with the lights on. “I don’t want to scare children. That’s not fun. I want them to feel comfortable. My house helps people face their fears. It’s supposed to be fun. I like to add humor in with everything so people don’t take it too seriously,” says Jim. The tour is \$10 per person and lasts approximately 1-1/2 hours. So if you’re brave enough to take the Raven’s Grin Inn tour, visit www.ravensgrininn.com, or call Jim at (815) 244-4746.



In addition to the normal house tour, Raven's Grin Inn also hosts "Hide and Seek" for birthday parties or other fun gatherings.

Hauntings And Happenings

“Mark Twain called Alton a ‘Dismal little river town,’” Troy Taylor says as he begins his History and Hauntings Ghost Tour of Alton. Troy, author of *Haunted Alton* and 29 additional haunting and history books, has been taking people on the Alton tour since 1998. “Alton is full of history, and each of those events has left an impression. I believe that is why we have hauntings here,” says Troy.

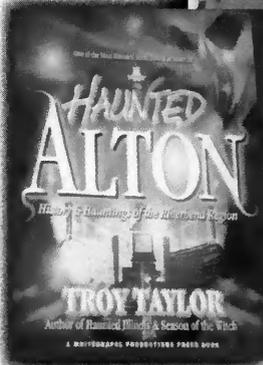
Alton was established in 1817, and since then has seen a lot of world-changing events. “Alton, being the area where the great rivers meet, is really an area that’s one of the most historical in the country. People don’t realize how much history has taken place here,” Troy says.

On his tour, one story Troy will tell you about is of Elijah P. Lovejoy, who was born in 1802 and grew up to be the editor of the *St. Louis Observer*, a religious newspaper. Through the use of the newspaper editorials he attacked slavery. His strong stand forced a mob to destroy his press and equipment. He moved to Alton in 1836.

He bought another press to replace the one destroyed. But the enemies of Lovejoy followed him to Alton. The old cry of “Abolitionist” was raised against him; and on August 22, 1837, his office was wrecked and the press destroyed.

Lovejoy rebuilt the press again, more determined than before. But on November 7, a mob gathered outside of his press demanding that he shut it down. When Lovejoy refused, the mob set the press on fire. Lovejoy stepped out of the door and was struck and killed by five bullets.

“It is documented that Lovejoy’s ghost wandered around the area where the press once sat. On the 16th anniversary of his death, a monument in his memory was



Troy Taylor leads a group on the Haunted Alton Tour. Tours will continue until the end of October.

dedicated in the Alton City Cemetery. After that, the ghost was never seen again,” says Troy.

The tour is based on Troy’s book, *Haunted Alton*, and lasts approximately three hours. The tour gives people who have read his book a chance to go out and participate in what they may have recently read about. The tour combines an Alton history lesson with humor and authentic documented haunted places. “I don’t bring people to places where someone said they saw a ghost up the stairs five years ago. There has to be proof and documentation to back up the story,” Troy says. “We visit various haunted spots — some are public, some are private, some are businesses, and one is a church. We visit everything from houses involved in the underground railroad, to the site of the Old Civil War Penitentiary,” says Troy.

If you are interested in taking Troy’s “History and Hauntings of Alton” tour, visit his Web site at www.prairieghosts.com, or contact him at (888) 446-7859.



Apple Baskets Farms

Along the bluffs of the Mississippi, across the river from Tom Sawyer's old stomping grounds, you'll discover a farm unlike any other. Nestled in the scenic hills of Barry, Illinois, is Apple Basket Farms, one of the area's last remaining commercial fruit orchards. One trip to this beautiful orchard, and you'll soon see why owners Jack and Karen Cruttenden have devoted their lives to it. "It's not been an easy road," admits Karen, who did not grow up as a farm child. "We've had a lot of ups and downs along the way, but with hard work and determination, we've made it," she says.

The Cruttendens purchased their four-generation, family-owned farm from Jack's grandparents in 1966 after the birth of their daughter. "We thought it would be a lovely place to raise a family, and it has been," Karen says. And along the way, the farm has hosted many other families and children.

In addition to growing apples, peaches and pumpkins, the Cruttendens offer many other family-friendly events for the fall. "Every year, I design and create a corn maze for the children," says Jack. The Cruttendens

say the first year they designed the corn maze, it brought in more than 1,500 visitors. "We were astounded," Karen remembers. The Cruttendens also host several festivals a year, celebrating each season of orchard growth. "We had our Peaches N' Cream Festival in August, and we will be celebrating the Barry Apple Festival in October, with homemade apple donuts and fresh squeezed apple cider," says Karen.

Other activities the Cruttendens offer at their farm are haunted hayrack rides, horse-drawn carriage rides, a petting zoo, a "U-PIC" pumpkin

patch, a fruit stand and a café with fantastic lunches. "We are planning to serve dinner every Friday and Saturday in the fall with reservations," says Karen.

But that's not all. The Cruttendens also host tours and school field trips. "We do about 5,000 tours a year, which is pretty amazing considering there are only 1,700 people in our whole county." And Jack adds, "We enjoy sharing our farm with others. You must love people to do what we're doing."

If you are interested in visiting Apple Basket Farms, visit their Web site at www.applebasketfarms.com, or contact them at (217) 335-2670.



Karen and Jack Cruttenden enjoy sharing their farm with people. Above: Farmer Jack's Amazing Corn Maze.



"Get Away with Murder, Inc. is the perfect ice-breaker for parties, both business or casual," says owner Mark McClenathan.

Get Away With Murder, Inc.

Madame Gaze, local psychic, was murdered on September 20. She was stabbed, poisoned, electrocuted and suffered heart failure, according to the autopsy report. There were at least five suspects who were at the séance that evening. More than 100 potential witnesses watched the victim stagger through the room. They gasped. They shrieked. They laughed.

In the world of murder mystery theater, death is a laughing matter. One minute Madame Gaze is clutching her throat, making a mockery of a dramatic death sequence, and the next minute, a mild mannered suspect in the audience is being grilled for the murder.

Staged on boats and trains in the Chicago area, and hotels, restaurants and conference centers across the state, Get Away With Murder, Inc. is a traveling murder mystery theater that was designed

Get Away With Murder, Inc.- Continued from page 12

to provide entertainment and fun for family, friends and business colleagues. "It's interactive," says owner Mark McClenathan. "Everyone in the room gets involved by playing either a suspect or a detective." Mark says his library contains several scenarios from which guests can choose. "We have everything from mysteries of the old west to several modern day murder mysteries," he says.

Get Away With Murder, Inc. has seen overwhelming popularity in the past eight years it's been in business, and not just in Illinois. "We've done parties for people nationwide," says Mark. He mentions Boston, Myrtle Beach, Nashville, Florida, Michigan, Indiana, Iowa and Ohio as just a few of the places where his group has performed. Mark employs 16 freelance players who take turns acting out the different scenarios.

There's really nothing new about the dinner theater concept, but by adding a little murder, mystery and mayhem to the typical production, there sparks a growing interest to answer that one burning question: whodunit? To find out more information on Get Away With Murder, Inc, visit their Web site at www.getawaywithmurder.com or call Mark at (888) 924-8330.

Haunts and Harvests in Illinois

■ History and Hauntings Ghost Tours of Alton, Illinois with Troy Taylor. Tours are on a first come, first serve basis. Candlelight walking tour of spirited sites in old downtown Alton. The tour lasts approximately 2-1/2 to 3 hours. The tour will include not only the ghost stories behind each of the reputedly haunted sites, but their history as well. October tour dates are 3rd, 10th, 12th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 29th and 30th. (888) 446-7859.

■ The 35th Annual Barry Apple Festival in Barry, October 3-5. More than 50,000 people will join this quaint historic town to celebrate the apple industry. Old-time crafts, specialty foods, entertainment, apple dumpling, apple pie, apple cake, apple fritters, homemade apple donuts, fresh-squeezed apple cider and much more. (217) 335-2670.

■ The Sixth Annual Labryinth Medieval Fair, October 11-12, at Apple Basket Farms in Barry. A 15th century fair complete with food, dancing, arts and crafts from that period. (217) 335-2670.

■ Bengtson's Pumpkin Farm in Lockport, October 1-31. One admission prices gets you the fun barn, the animated haunted barn, the all new petting zoo, and pig races. It also includes a hayrack ride, Mr. Scarecrow's corn maze, the straw tunnel and all the wonderful fall displays and other farm animals



around the farm. Don't forget to stop in the Halloween shop, stocked to the rafters with all your Halloween and fall favorites! Also available for an additional fee, pony rides, train rides, and the new frog hopper ride. Visit their Web site for a \$1 off coupon. (708) 301-FARM.

■ Haunted Orchard Hayrides, Fridays and Saturdays all through October at Eckert's Country Store and Farms in Grafton. There's lots of ghoulish fun for young and old when you ride one of Eckert's wagons through the haunted orchard. (618) 233-0513.

■ Indian Corn Festival at Pumpkin Works in Paris, October 4-5. Enjoy artwork, jewelry, paintings, wood crafts, handmade candles, silk arrangements, a clown, live music, Petunia The Pumpkin's story hour, pumpkin carving contest, pioneer demonstrations, food vendors and more. (217) 275-3327.

■ The Hog Wild Corn Maize all through October at The Maize in Sterling. And while you are there, enjoy farm animals, campfires, a cow train, mini mazes, a haunted maze,

hayrides, and a country store. www.cornfieldmaze.com or (815) 632-0899.

■ The Civil War battle is on, Oct 18-19, 2003 at Dollinger Family Farm in Minooka. This Civil War event has grown to one of the best in the area. You'll see horses, canons and lots of events! A donation for the battle of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children will be appreciated. Come live, see and hear history as it truly was! And while you're there, enjoy pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn, apples, mums and more good old fashioned fun! <http://www.dollingerfarms.com> or dolinger@cbcast.com.

■ The Phi Kappa Tau "Tenth Year of Terror" Haunted House all through October at the Phi Taus Fraternity House in Peoria. This haunted house has been rated number one in Peoria in the past and promises to do it again this year. These fraternity brothers transform their fraternity house into a maze of dark tunnels filled with a scare around every corner. Not only has it received Bradley and IFC recognition for most outstanding and innovative philanthropy, but it has also received national recognition as the number one Phi Kappa Tau philanthropy in the country. Last year the fraternity raised more than \$10,000 for Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for terminally ill children. General admission is \$5. Check their Web site for dates and times, www.pktgammamu.com/hh.html.





Judith M. Taylor

Keeping your little Halloween spirits safe

It won't be long before your neighborhood becomes inhabited by young, scary creatures. They will come in many shapes, sizes and descriptions, but will all basically want one thing from you – treats! The chill in the air and the stacks of treats at local stores, are all pretty good indicators that Halloween is on its way. If you have young children at home, they have probably already begun to think about what type of costume they want to wear this year. As parents, you will also want to consider some of the ways you can help keep your children safe at Halloween time.

There are many costumes available through stores, or you may want work with your children to put together something at home. Regardless of where the costume comes from, one of the most important features is a proper fit. Ill-fitting costumes can cause your child to trip and fall, especially as they travel unfamiliar terrain. If the costume that your child decides on this year is dark colored, add reflective tape so that motorists can readily see them.

Masks can be dangerous for children if they cannot see well from behind them, or if it restricts their breathing. If your child insists on a mask, remind them to remove it as they travel from house to house and wear it only when they arrive at the next stop. Make-up and face paint are good alternatives to masks. Children often enjoy creating the “look”

that they want, and can control that look much more with make-up and face paint. Face paint can be purchased or made using the following recipe.

Face Paint Recipe

1 teaspoon of cornstarch
 1/2 teaspoon of water
 1/2 teaspoon of cold crème
 a few drops of food coloring

A good flashlight is a ‘must have’ accessory for a Halloween costume. Carrying a small flashlight can help keep children from tripping over tree branches or buckled cement. When they arrive at a house, they can put the flashlight out of sight into their treat bag, or pocket if they feel it detracts from their costume.

An adult should accompany children when they go trick-or-treating. Adults can help children as they cross streets, and as they decide where to stop. Even though they are out to have fun – all of the usual street safety rules still apply. Remind children they are responsible for being respectful of other people and their property. As children get old enough to go by themselves, make sure they go with others and go only to homes of people they know.



One other important rule: do not eat treats until they are inspected at home. During the inspection throw away any opened treats, or things that look like they have been tampered with. You will probably also want to ration the sugary treats your child received so that they won't eat them all in one sitting. Halloween can be a fun holiday for everyone – just remember to keep it safe.

Judith M. Taylor is a Youth Development Educator for the University of Illinois Extension, Springfield Center, P.O. Box 8199, Springfield, IL 62791, (217) 782-6515, jmtaylor@uiuc.edu



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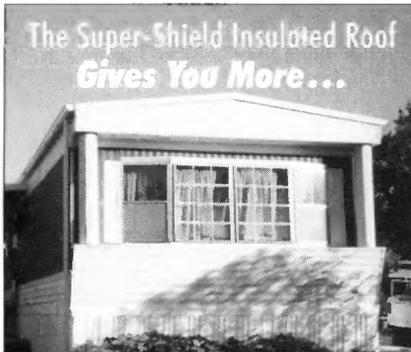


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David Robson

Have blooming bulbs New Year's to Easter

Last year, I ended up with about 15 tulips in November that didn't get planted in the ground. The same happened with a sack full of hyacinths. All were purchased on sale.

The same for some amaryllis and paper white narcissus. Last year/this year, I actually was going to have success with forcing bulbs indoors.

Now, someone might ask how you can force an inanimate object to do anything, sort of like forcing a teenager to clean his or her room. It's not going to happen. No matter how much you scream, shout and prod, they both sit there. And with bulbs, you can't take away the car keys.

Forcing bulbs is different. You don't have to threaten or cajole. All you have to do is give them a little special care, some TLC, and a refrigerator.

I had the bulbs. I had soil and some pots. And I had the refrigerator, albeit filled with apples and various liquid refreshments. The apples became applesauce and the liquid refreshment was whittled down bit by bit, and pots placed between.

The result? I had something blooming from New Year's through Easter.

How?

Well, as long as you have the soil, pots, bulbs, refrigerator and plastic bags, anyone can do it.

First, find the bulbs. Some bulbs are already pre-chilled and ready for forcing. Keep those in a plastic sack until you have nothing better to do in January

and February and you can force them.

Pre-chilled bulbs usually are more expensive than other bulbs because someone has taken the guesswork out of the forcing process.

The pre-chilled selection usually isn't that great, and seldom includes many tulips. Your choices are mainly hyacinths and daffodils/narcissus. Still, that may be enough for some people.

Other bulbs will work, though they require a little more effort.

Start with a clean pot. If you're concerned with soil coming out the bottom of the pot, find a pebble, clay chard or packing peanut to cover the bottom. Don't jam it in. You still want water to come out.

Fill the pot just about to the top, but leave room for placing the bulbs. With bulb forcing, you really don't bury the bulbs like you do outside. In fact, doing that is probably one of the worst things to do.

Put as many bulbs in the pot as possible, leaving a little gap between bulbs. Don't overcrowd them. For tulips, place the bulbs in the same direction, usually with the flat side toward the center.

Leave about a half-inch exposed at the top of each bulb, and when planted, the soil line should be about a half-inch from the top of the pot. If you fill the pot, the water runs out.

Give the pots a good watering to thoroughly wet the soil. Water until water comes out the bottom.

Put the pots in plastic bags and lightly shut the bag. Many refrigerators are frost-free, which will suck the moisture out of the soil and bulb. The bag keeps them moist inside.

Now, the easy part, as if the above isn't easy to begin with. Put the bags in the refrigerator and mark the date.

Count 10 to 12 weeks. That should give the bulbs enough chilling that they'll bloom inside, provided you keep the temperatures on the cool side.

Historically, daffodils, narcissus, crocus and hyacinths are the best bets. Tulips will work if you keep the day temperature around 60 degrees when you bring them out, and give them lots of light. Otherwise, they'll flop over.

Most forced bulbs may be considered worthless and probably won't bloom again. Part of the problem is that the stems and leaves come right out of the bulb at ground level and aren't forced to grow underground a couple of inches.

However, you can always plant them outside and keep your fingers crossed.

David Robson is an Extension Educator, Horticulture, at the Springfield Extension Center, University of Illinois Extension, P.O. Box 8199, Springfield, IL 62791. Telephone: (217) 782-6515. E-Mail: drobson@uiuc.edu

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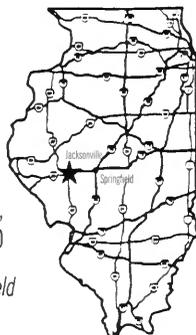
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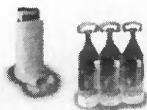
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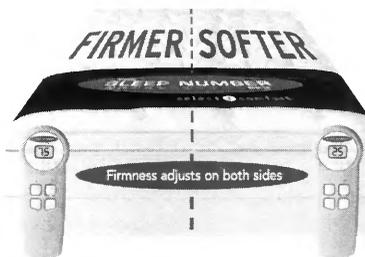
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James Dullea

Glass block windows are secure and efficient

Q: *Dear Jim: I want security and efficiency, so I might replace some old leaky windows with glass block ones. I also want to use them for decorative interior accents. Is this a good idea and are plastic ones just as good? - Bud W.*

A: Dear Bud: Glass or plastic block windows for residential use have come a long way in terms of installation and energy efficiency. They are more secure than standard windows against break-ins and thieves seldom even attempt to enter through a block window. The energy efficiency of some designs surpasses standard double-pane windows.

"Glass block window" has become a generic term for block windows made of either glass or acrylic plastic. People often think that block windows are a solid block of glass or plastic when, in fact, the majority are hollow. There are some solid glass block windows for high security, but they are expensive and very heavy.

In addition to being lighter weight, hollow blocks improve energy efficiency just as the air gap does for standard double-pane thermal window glass. When two hollow glass block halves are fused together under heat, the air inside them contracts as it cools. This creates a partial vacuum to increase the insulation level.

Acrylic block window halves are not fused under heat when they



New glass block windows are now available in lightweight acrylics making them lighter and energy efficient. Security is also enhanced because thieves seldom attempt to enter through block windows.

are assembled, so the partial vacuum is not created. To improve their energy efficiency, some solar plastic blocks have a microscopically thin layer of metal atoms deposited on one inside surface. This coating, similar to a low-e coating on standard windows, reduces the sun's heat flow through it during the summer. This also helps keep heat indoors during the winter.

Some block window designs offer the option of ventilation for efficient cooling and for egress during emergencies. Keep in mind that each room in your home should have a window that will open wide enough for someone to escape through it.

One ventilation option is

using casement or hopper plastic block windows that crank open like ordinary windows. Since plastics are less dense than glass, these windows often weigh less than standard double pane glass windows. Most glass blocks are too heavy to be used for windows that open. The frame and hardware would not support the weight.

Several companies produce hinged hopper-style window panels that replace several of the glass blocks in the center of a window. These use double-pane polycarbonate plastic (bulletproof glass). For security, its impact strength is more than 100 times greater than glass. If this is the only window in a room, select a



model in which the entire pane can be removed from indoors for a rapid emergency exist.

Glass or plastic block windows function as natural shades to block the intense direct sun's rays during the summer. This is particularly true of block windows with real mortar or other tinted sealant between the blocks. When the sun shines down from a steep angle, as it does during the summer, the horizontal mortar joints between the blocks act as a louvered shade.

There are several options for installing block windows. The simplest method is to buy complete glass or plastic block windows in a vinyl or insulated frame. The plastic ones, because of their light weight, can be installed with simple nailing fins similar to standard windows.

There are many standard sizes of block window frames available. If you are trying to fit an existing opening, custom-sizes can be

made to within one-quarter inch of your window opening. During assembly at the factory, various size blocks are selected and slightly adjusted to the requested size of the frame material.

When installing individual blocks, kits are available to stabilize and space the blocks. One method uses spacers that fit between the corners of adjacent blocks. When the mortar is set, the spacer ends are snapped off and hidden with a little finishing mortar. Another installation kit uses tracks and clear sealant between the blocks. These kits include everything needed and are ideal for the do-it-yourselfer.

Interior, decorative block walls can be a stunning addition to any home. There are many patterns, angles and colors to provide from a clear view to total privacy. You may want to use a combination of glass and plastic blocks because they look and feel almost identical.

Block walls offer the possibility of using natural lighting in interior rooms because the light from a window will pass through them. An attractive touch is to install efficient fiber optic lighting in the joints between them so the blocks themselves appear to glow.

Write for (instantly download - www.dulley.com) Update Bulletin No. 497 - buyer's guide of nine efficient designer glass/plastic blocks and do-it-yourself window kit manufacturers listing sizes, colors, patterns, features, prices, and installation instructions. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE. 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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Enjoy food, crafts and entertainment on scenic 2003 Spoon River Drive

Plan now to take a trip back in time in Fulton County, October 4-5 and 11-12. Fifteen villages along the 100-plus miles of Spoon River Valley will have arts, crafts, foods, demonstrations, displays, historic sites, museums and free entertainment for everyone to enjoy, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Bring a car or a busload of family and friends because there will be activities for all ages.

Blacksmiths will be creating iron horseshoes and art pieces at Ellisville and Lewistown's Rasmussen Blacksmith Shop Museum. The Rendezvous at Spoon River encampment at Dickson Mounds Museum will feature early trader and craftsmen demonstrations. Indian artifacts, crafts and lifestyles, and Children's Discovery Place can be shared at the Dickson Mounds Museum.

Indian teepees and way of life demonstrations attract visitors at Mt. Pisgah Park. Both of these areas overlook the Spoon River Valley, making current visitors realize that the earliest inhabitants knew how to appreciate the scenery and overlooks, as well as the wealth of nature's bounty in the region.

Free entertainment is offered in each area along the route. Drama of Spoon River Anthology poetry will be presented on Sunday, October 5 and Sunday, October 12 at 3 p.m. at Oak Hill Cemetery, Lewistown, where author Edgar Lee Masters found some of his names, ideas and stories for the poems. Local folks in old-fashioned costumes will portray characters from the poems. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Rain site will be at the Lewistown United Methodist Church.

About 1,000 vendors along the scenic drive will show and demonstrate their crafts, artworks, foods, antiques, collectibles and

flea market items. Visitors should look for the red oval logo route markers and supporting vendors' signs. These are the people who bring the Spoon River Scenic Drive to you through their donations.

Children will especially enjoy the Children's Discovery Place at Dickson Mounds Museum and Park, or the playgrounds at Can-



The Spoon River Drive offers a little something for everyone - arts, crafts, food, displays and more.

ton's Space Playground in honor of the 100th Astronaut Steve Nagel; Cuba's Putman Park; London Mills' Riverside Park; Farmington's Jacobs Park; Bernadotte Park; or Lewistown's Fairgrounds with pony rides and a huge sand pit.

There will be handicapped facilities, toilets and parking at each area. Ask the area hosts or vendors if you need help. Bus parking and drop-off spots are available for easy access.

Visitors in search of uncrowded, level walking areas may choose to stop at Ipava, Lewistown

Fairgrounds and Rasmussen Museum. London Mills, Smithfield, Bernadotte, Waterford/Dickson Mounds Museum, and Mt. Pisgah Park will have special parking for buses. For a quiet, peaceful spot, visit Buckeye Church with its folk and sacred music daily, and vesper services at 5 p.m. each day of the Fall Festival.

Gas stations are available in Canton, Farmington, Avon, Cuba, Fairview, Ipava, Astoria and Lewistown for this scenic drive. Be prepared for a leisurely drive with some traffic.

If weather is damp, or October-cool, there are plenty of indoor activities at pavilions, museums, orchard centers, antique shops, huge buildings at fairgrounds and depots, and village hall bake shops. Visitors should be prepared with a raincoat and hat and wear good walking shoes because activities go on in any fall weather (except floods). In 36 years there has been only one postponement due to flooding.

Plenty of foods varying from butterfly pork chops, ribeye steaks, fish sandwiches, funnel cakes, Spoon River fries, baked potatoes, apple fritters, pies, dumplings, cider, root beer, nachos, chicken and noodles, home baked goods and fresh produce will all be ready. Some visitors declare that they come each year to eat their way along Spoon River Scenic Drive!

Be prepared to enjoy the scenery, sights, sounds, food and fun on the Fall Festival of Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive on October 4-5 and 11-12, 2003, in Fulton County, Illinois. For information, send a stamped, self addressed envelope to Spoon River Scenic Drive, Box 525, Canton, IL, 61520, phone (309) 647-8980, or check the Web site at www.spoonriverdrive.org.





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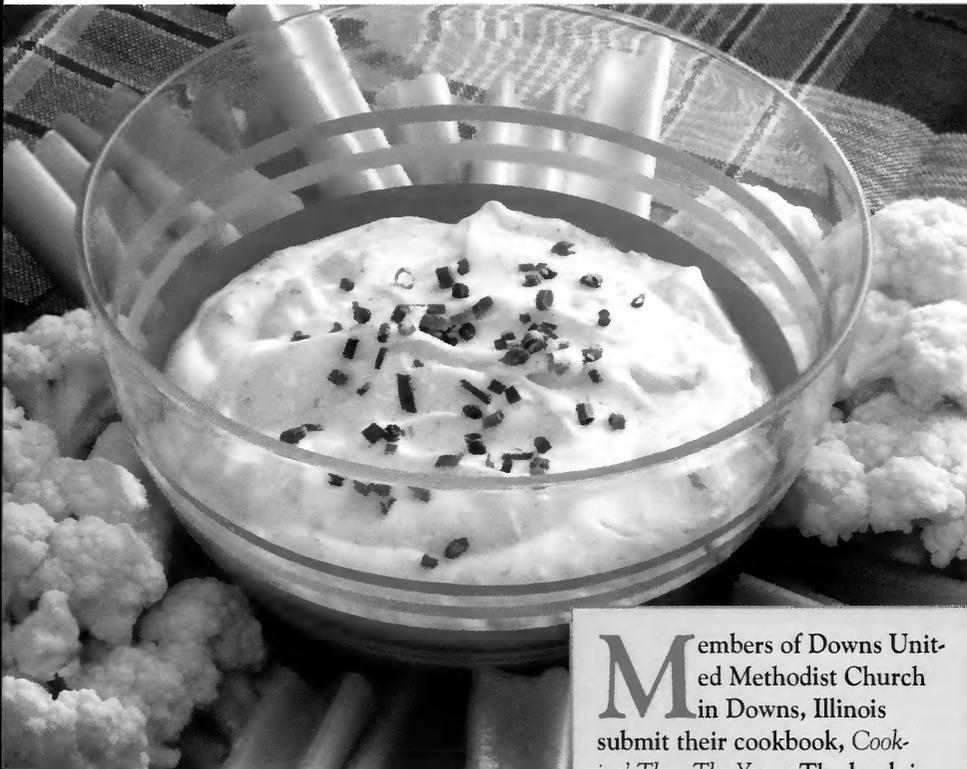
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Raw Vegetable Dip Sandra Clark

- 1 C. Hellmann's mayonnaise
- 1 ctn. sour cream
- 1 tsp. dried parsley
- 1 tsp. dill weed
- 1 T. dried onion, minced
- 1 heaping tsp. seasoned salt
- Fresh vegetables

Mix all dip ingredients together and chill. Serve with crisp, raw vegetables.

Crunchy Pea Salad Karen Hull

- 1 (10-oz.) pkg. frozen peas, thawed
- 1 C. celery, diced
- 1 C. cauliflower, chopped
- 1/4 C. green onions, diced
- 1 C. cashews, chopped
- 1/2 C. sour cream
- 1 C. ranch salad dressing
- Crisp, crumbled bacon (opt. Garnish)
- 1 C. shredded Cheddar or American cheese (opt.)

Combine all ingredients. Chill. Garnish just before serving.

Members of Downs United Methodist Church in Downs, Illinois submit their cookbook, *Cooking' Thru The Years*. The book is soft-backed and spiral-bound and contains 284 pages of delicious recipes. The book sells for \$10 plus \$5 shipping. To order, contact Mrs. Wayne Williams at 19036 Brentwood Dr., Bloomington, IL 61704, or call her at (309) 378-4689.

Coconut-Oatmeal Cookies Joan Chapman

- 1 C. all-purpose flour, sifted
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 C. butter or margarine
- 1/2 C. finely-packed brown sugar
- 1/2 C. sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 C. toasted, sweetened coconut
- 1/2 tsp. double-acting baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1-1/2 C. quick-cooking rolled oats

Sift flour with baking powder, salt and baking soda. Cream butter. Gradually add sugars, creaming well after each addition. Add egg and vanilla, beat well. Add flour mixture in 4 parts, beating just until smooth after each addition. Mix in rolled oats and coconut. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets. Or, for cookies with a macaroon-type appearance on top, roll dough into balls, using floured hands, if necessary, to prevent sticking. If desired, sprinkle with additional coconut before baking. Bake at 375° for 9-12 minutes or until golden brown.

Party Casserole Sandra Clark

- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 sm. can Carnation milk
- 1 C. cooked chicken, turkey or crabmeat
- 2 C. Chow Mein noodles
- 1 C. cooked celery
- 1/2 green pepper
- Slivered almonds
- 1 C. mushrooms

Mix all ingredients together and bake at 350° for 1 hour.





Photos by Catrina McCulley

Celery Salad
Marilyn Shotts

- 1 sm. pkg. orange Jell-O
- 1 can crushed pineapple
- 3/4 C. celery, diced
- 1 (8-oz.) ctn. Cool Whip
- 1 pkg. cream cheese
- Chopped nuts

Bring Jell-O and pineapple to a boil, then cool. Meanwhile, blend Cool Whip, cream cheese, celery and nuts. Add to Jell-O mixture and refrigerate.

Corn Dog Muffins
Vicki Hook

- 2 boxes corn bread/muffin mix
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 C. milk
- 1 can whole kernel corn
- 5 hot dogs, chopped

Combine corn bread mix and brown sugar. Combine eggs and milk; stir into dry ingredients until moist. Stir in drained corn and hot dogs. Batter will be thin. Fill greased or paper-lined muffin cups 3/4 full. Bake at 400° for 14-18 minutes until golden brown. Serve immediately or refrigerate.

Skillet Beef Scramble
Lucy Johnson

- 1 C. cooked macaroni
- 1 lg. onion, chopped
- 1 T. vegetable oil
- 1 lb. ground chuck
- 1 (19-oz.) can chunky vegetable soup
- 1 T. chopped parsley
- 1 tsp. seasoning salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

In a large skillet, sauté onion in oil, then brown meat. Stir in rest of ingredients and heat until bubbly.

Members of The First Baptist Church in Martinsville, Illinois submit their cookbook, *Heavenly Dishes*. The book is soft-backed and spiral-bound and contains 66 pages of wonderful recipes. The book sells for \$7 plus \$1.60 shipping. To order, contact Vicki Hook at PO Box 525, Martinsville, IL 62442, or call her at (217) 382-4580.

Rocky Road Fudge Pops
Vicki Johnson

- 1 pkg. cook and serve chocolate pudding
- 2-1/2 C. milk
- 1/2 C. peanuts, chopped
- 1/2 C. miniature semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 C. marshmallow crème
- 12 (3-oz.) plastic cups
- 12 popsicle sticks

In a large microwave-safe bowl, combine pudding mix and milk. Microwave uncovered on high for 6-7-1/2 minutes or until bubbly and slightly thickened, stirring every 2 minutes. Cool for 20 minutes, stirring several times. Meanwhile, combine peanuts and mini chocolate chips; place about 2 tablespoons in each cup. Stir marshmallow crème into pudding; spoon into cups. Insert popsicle sticks; freeze.

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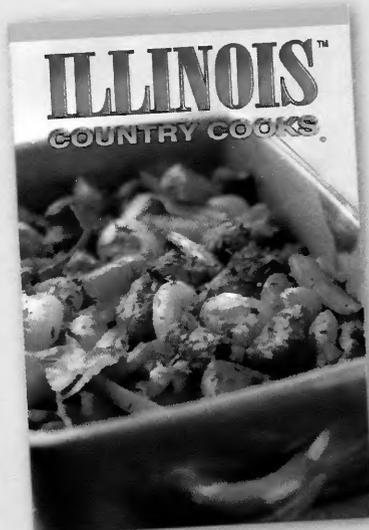
Sugarless Apple Pie
Marilyn Shotts

- 2 boxes refrigerated pie crusts
- 3 T. cornstarch
- 1 (12-oz.) can frozen apple juice, thawed
- 6 C. sliced apples, peeled and cored
- 2 T. margarine (opt.)
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- Dash of salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

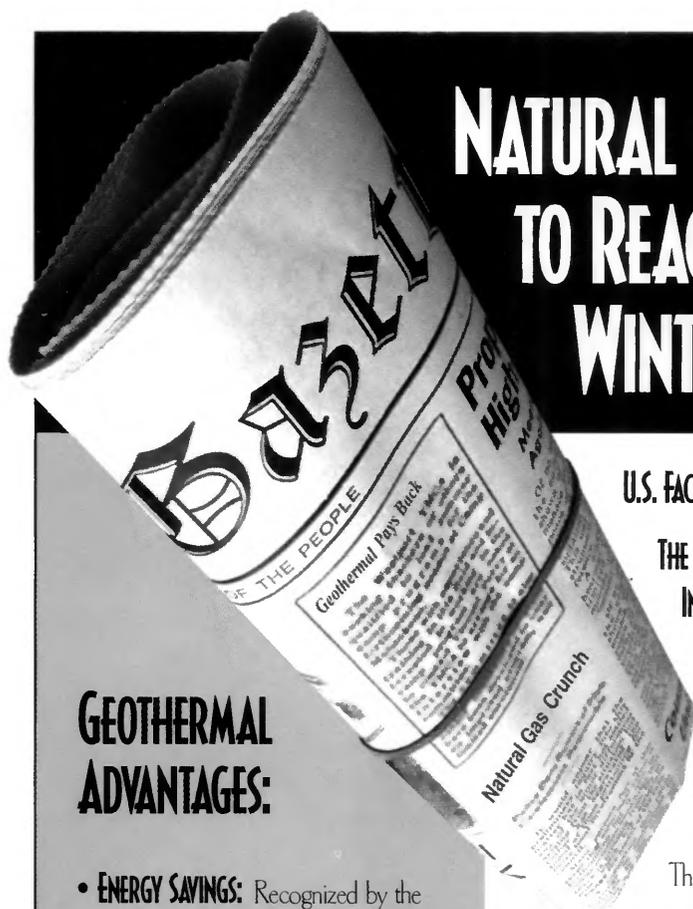
Preheat oven to 400°. Whisk together cornstarch and apple juice in saucepan until well blended. Add spices and salt. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture begins to boil and become thick. Remove from heat. Arrange apples in the two crusts. Spoon sauce evenly over both. Top with pieces of butter. Cut slits in top crust, place over apples and seal edges. Bake 30 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

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Illinois electric co-op members: \$.50 per word per issue. Non-members: \$1.50 per word per issue. Tips for counting words: phone numbers, e-mail addresses and Web sites count as one word each. Hyphenated words count as two words. Abbreviations count as one word each.

I am a member of _____ electric cooperative. My magazine address label (or other proof of membership) is enclosed.

All ads must be pre-paid. We do not accept credit card orders. Please send a check or money order payable to Illinois Country Living. Include your name, address and phone number with ad.

Maximum of four all-capital words per ad. No categories or bold words. Please type or print your ad neatly.

We reserve the right to reject any advertisement. Ads received after deadline date will be placed in next available issue.

Insertion of classified ad in Illinois Country Living serves as proof as publication; no proofs are furnished. Subscriptions to Illinois Country Living are \$5 per year.

Advertising change

Beginning with the January issue, Illinois Marketplace will be available only to members of Illinois electric cooperatives.

Non-members who wish to continue advertising in the magazine must run a display ad. Please call The Weiss Group at (877) 934-7747 for more information.

Mail to: Illinois Marketplace, *Illinois Country Living*,
P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708

Deadline for December issue: October 20

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OCTOBER DATEBOOK

1-31, Rogers Pumpkin Patch at Lomax. Corn maze, pumpkin gourds, squash and other fall decorations. Open daily from 10:00 a.m. to dusk. A place to make family memories. Large groups welcome with advance reservations. (217) 449-3486.

1-31, Northwest Illinois Trail of Terror, throughout Northwest Illinois. Haunted happenings and pumpkin patches festivals across the participating county areas. Call for your free brochure at (800) 678-2108 or visit us at www.trail-of-terror.com.

2, Brown Issues Book Group in Champaign. University YMCA – Peter Irons, author of *Jim Crow's Children*. Noon.

2-3, Kane County Antique Flea Market: Antiques & Collectibles on Randall Road and Rt. 64 in St. Charles. Sat. Noon - 5 p.m. and Sun. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. (630) 377-2252.

3-5, Apple Basket Farms 7th Annual Grand Opening of Farmer Jack's Amazing Corn Maze in Barry. Get lost with the best in the Midwest's largest corn maze! (217) 335-2670.

3-5, 35th Annual Horse Farming Festival at Rockome Gardens in Arthur. (217) 768-4106.

4, Olney Fire Department Chili Cook-off. (618) 392-3581.

4, Deutschfest, celebrating our German Heritage in Teutopolis. The majority of the events will be held at the Village Hall. The Monastery Museum, the Farm Implement display and the car truck show are within walking distance. Menu includes sauerkraut soup, brats and pork burgers, cooked on site. (217) 857-1525.

5-6, Fall Arts & Crafts Bazaar at the Phillips Recreational Center in Champaign.

6-31, Amusement Park Science at The Children's Discovery Museum in Bloomington. Families will enjoy exploring the physics behind the fun at amusement parks when they experience the new traveling exhibition. \$3.50 per person ages two and older. (309) 829-6222 or www.cdmci.org.

9-10, Quincy Conference in Quincy. A two day educational conference with a wide variety of workshops and booths. (217) 224-6670.

10-12, Piatt County Museum Barn Tour and Historical Sites in Atwood. Featuring barns, log cabins, stagecoach rides, farm animals, fall produce, furniture shops, quaint restaurants and an agricultural museum. For more information contact Tari Bricker at (217) 762-3366, Blanche Stoller at (217) 762-7840 or call (217) 762-4731.

11, Murder at the Haunted Winery at Collver Family Winery, Worthington Mansion in Barry. A séance is planned to determine who killed Roger Worthington's first wife, Pansy. Was it Jeeves the psychotic but lovable butler? Abigail, the over-sexed but under-achieving fiancé? Bippy, the notorious "other woman?" Or was it the person sitting beside you! All shows are \$31.95 per person, includes dinner show and first glass of wine. (217) 335-3279 or www.collverfamilywinery.com

11-12, "Harvest of Quilts" at the Benton Civic Center, 441 W. Hudson, in Benton. "United We Stand" national exhibit plus quilts by the Rend Lake Piecemakers. Vendors, raffle quilts, door prizes. Admission: \$3. (618) 728-4590.

11-12, 18th Annual Chillifest on the square in downtown Taylorville. Jazz music, Tae Kwon-Do exhibition, talent show, pom-pom squads and cheerleaders performing, dancers, karaoke, arts, crafts, carnival, car races, pony rides, tour of the historic Christian County Courthouse and clock tower, and Miss and Little Mister Chilli Pepper crowning. Fun begins on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. (217) 824-4919.

11-12, Illinois Women In The Outdoors presents Palisades Fantails at Ron Reiland's Farm in Savanna. Courses offered: deer hunting, wild turkey, biology and calling, woodland ecology, paintball guns, wildgame cooking, basic first aid for the field, camping (overnight), squirrel hunting (actual hunting) - a FOID card is required. Open to females ages 14 and older. (815) 244-4019.

11-12, "Voices From the Prairie" Chautauqua at Sugar Grove Nature Center on old Rt. 66 in Funk's Grove. See authentic historical portrayals of Native Americans, French and English from 1700-1865. Encampments including living history woodland Indian/French village, demonstrations by IL Valley Blacksmiths Association, first person speeches/ presentations, stage performances, storytelling, 1800's artisans and trade people. Proceeds support the Nature Center. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Adults \$5, children 6-12, \$2. (309) 874-2174 or www.funksgrove.org.

12, White Owl Winery Second Sunday Celtic Music in Birds. Enjoy Irish music performed by the Celtic's of Vincennes, hour d'oeuvres, wine tasting and toe tapping music. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Free. (618) 928-2898.

12-31, Fall Color Tour. For more information, contact the Shelby County Tourism Office at (217) 774-2244.



11, Apples, Pumpkins and Gourds Galore at the Early American Museum in Mahomet. Bring the family and join us for an afternoon of interesting fun as we enjoy gourd decorating, games in the garden, stories about myths and legends and the difference between the two. Sample soul cakes and cider, and many other apple treats. Free. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. (217) 586-2612 or www.earlyamericanmuseum.org.



13, Guided Hikes in the Cache Wetlands in Johnson County. 9 a.m. morning hike at Heron Pond, and at 1 p.m. an afternoon hike at Wildcat Bluff. (618) 634-2231.

15, Drummers of West Africa, Kranert Center in Urbana. The master drummer of Dakar, Doudou N' Diaye Rose with his family orchestra, proclaiming a message of peace as they present the rhythms of their Wolof culture used for healing and communication, speaking a universal language through their call-and-response chants and the vibrancy of their sabar "talking" drums. Showtime is at 7 p.m. Admission: \$17-28.

16-18, Clinton Haunted House (Dewitt County) 513 E. Washington in Clinton. New haunts each year! Special lights for younger crowd one night. 7 p.m.-? Admission fee. (217) 935-3364

17-19, Early Tin Dusters Fall Color Run in uptown Quincy and Moorman Park. Street rod show for cars 1948 and older with all donations going to handicapped people. (217) 964-2426.

17-19, Twins Convention at Hawthorne Suites in Champaign. Sponsored by the Illinois Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs. Twins from the state of Illinois meet at this event to partake in workshops, speakers, parties, raffles, vendors and other various activities. For more information contact Jennifer Cler at (217) 832-5003.

18, The Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge Auto Tour in Havana. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (309) 535-2290 or www.midwest.fsw.gov/illinoisriver.

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.

18, Hickory Ridge Coffeehouses at the Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown. Performance by noted folk musician Dan Zahn. Hosted by singer-songwriter Chris Vallillo. Showtime is at 7:30 p.m. Admission charge: \$4 for adults, \$2 for children. (309) 547-3721 or www.hickoryridge.outfitters.com.

18, Annual Fall Craft and Food Festival sponsored by the Sangamon County Association for Home and Community Education (formerly Homemakers Extension Association) at the U of I Extension Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Enter gate 11. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free Admission and parking.

22-26, School of Architecture on African American Architects from University of Illinois, Champaign. For more information contact: kanthony@uiuc.edu.

24-25, 10th Annual Haiti Benefit Auction at the Otto Center, one-half mile south of Arthur. Friday evening: open house starts at 4:00 p.m., meal served 4:30 - 7:30. Saturday: breakfast bar 6 a.m. - 9 a.m., auction 8:30 a.m., lunch 10 a.m. All day bake sale. Amish quilts and furniture auction.

24, Southeastern Illinois College, Community Health Fair in the Student Center. More than 35 health organizations will be providing literature and health screenings. For more information contact Jane Flannigan or Donna Hearn at (618) 252-5400 ext. 2600 or 3213. 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

24-26, 3rd Annual Galena Halloween Balloon Festival in Galena. 20 balloons scheduled for lift off just after sunrise on the 25th and 26th from the grounds at Victorian Pines Resort on Rt. 20. On the 24th and 25th after sunset, balloons will "glow" on the levee in downtown Galena. Kids all ages can trick-or-treat at the balloon baskets on Saturday night. Balloonists also participate in the annual Galena Halloween parade on Main Street on Saturday. All balloon activities weather permitting. Proceeds support Safe Haven Animal Shelter. Free. (815) 777-3600.

24-26, 31, Apple Basket Farms, Farmer Jack's Haunted Hayride & Flashlights Nights In The Maze in Barry. For the brave and not so brave of heart! Ride thru 140 acres of orchard for the time of your life! Simply Spooktacular! (217) 335-2670.



31, Halloween Show: A Night of Horrors at Parkland College Planetarium in Champaign. Have a devil of a time with witches, ghosts, spiders and more! Catch 3,000 watts of Jimmy Hendrix, Charlie Daniels, The Doors, Ozzy Osborne and the Eagles and learn something about the history of Halloween too! Dress up for this show and receive half off admission! Not for young children. For more information visit www.parkland.edu/coned/pla or (217) 351-2446.

25, White Owl Winery Murder Mystery Dinner in Birds. Show includes an Amish buffet dinner, one complimentary glass of wine and souvenir glass! Prizes awarded for the Best Audience Actor, The Correct Deducer and The Best Dressed in the theme of the evening. \$35 per person. Reservations required! (618) 928-2898 or www.whiteowlwinery.com.

25, Haunted Theater at the Liberty Theater in Murphysboro. Hosted by Murphysboro Main Street and Murphysboro Key Club. (618) 687-3732 or mainst@murphysboro.com.

25, Mountain and Hammered Dulcimer Workshops at the Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown. Advance registration required. Mornings and afternoon sessions presented by Mike Anderson. To register contact Steve Endsley at (309) 668-2362.

31, Halloween Safe Trick-Or-Treat in Sullivan. At the conclusion of the trick-or-treat activity, a costumed parade around the square is held. The parade is sponsored by Kiwanis. 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.



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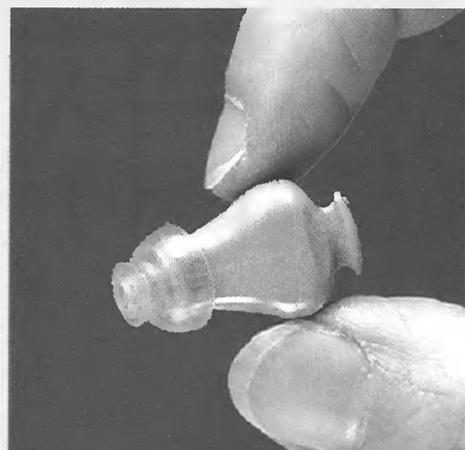
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Amoxicillin	500 mg	30	\$6.55	\$11.99	\$10.53	45%
Celebrex	100 mg	60	\$41.35	\$94.99	\$95.39	56%
Evista	60 mg	30	\$50.81	\$69.99	\$68.15	27%
Flonase	nasal spray		\$30.09	\$64.99	\$60.82	54%
Glucophage	850 mg	100	\$35.60	\$135.99	\$130.39	74%
Glyburide	2.5 mg	100	\$12.34	\$22.99	\$55.95	46%
Ibuprofen	600 mg	60	\$7.80	\$10.99	\$10.22	29%
Lipitor	80 mg	30	\$70.85	\$100.99	\$100.35	30%
Lupron	7.5 mg ampkit	1	\$382.25	\$678.99	\$576.00	44%
Naproxen	250 mg	60	\$6.37	\$11.99	\$29.95	47%
Nasonex	140 doses		\$32.29	\$70.99	\$64.02	55%
Nexium	20 mg	30	\$65.36	\$119.99	\$121.20	46%
Paxil	20 mg	30	\$49.92	\$86.99	\$81.46	43%
Premarin	.0625 mg	100	\$20.45	\$97.99	\$80.57	79%
Prevacid	15 mg	30	\$66.51	\$125.99	\$124.28	47%
Prozac	20 mg	30	\$48.98	\$106.99	\$89.46	54%
Rhinocort	nasal spray		\$18.11	\$74.99	\$55.99	76%
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