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# ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING

March 2003

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The Normal Theater, built in 1937, has relied heavily on the Normal community to bring it back to its former glory. Now it's a unique movie going experience that transports its audience back in time.

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# ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING™

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Maynard Crossland

# Historic preservation — history and progress

**W**hy preserve history? What can a bunch of old buildings do for us in this digital age, where business and education are ruled by the computer screen?

History and progress need not be mutually exclusive. In communities where the two coexist, residents reap the benefits of both the old and the new. Coexistence is the key to historic preservation today. Preserving history makes good economic sense, improves the quality of life by fostering a sense of community identity and pride, and offers unparalleled educational opportunities.

Restoring historic buildings recycles a valuable resource, preserving well-built structures that have withstood the test of time. Rehabilitating historic structures makes use of existing resources, saving materials that would otherwise be used to construct new buildings. New products are continually introduced that can make historic buildings more energy efficient, accessible and convenient.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) is the state government entity that encourages historic preservation through technical assistance, special programs and incentives, all aimed at preserving our dwindling historic resources while adapting them for 21st century uses. The IHPA advises property owners on the best ways to restore and rehabilitate their historic structures.

Although many property owners preserve buildings for per-

sonal satisfaction, grants and tax breaks encourage homeowners, not-for-profit groups, and developers to invest in historic preservation projects. Financial assistance is available through agency-administered grants, property-tax freeze and tax incentive programs. The National Register of Historic Places program, coordinated in Illinois by IHPA, provides recognition for places of special significance.

A community's heritage is embodied in its historic places, giving us a sense of where we have been and where we are going. When properly marketed, history and heritage can be an important economic development tool, generating revenue in communities through heritage tourism, one of the state's biggest industries (along with agriculture).

The IHPA, through our involvement with the Illinois Main Street program, offers communities valuable advice on how to best preserve and market their heritage. We assist several regional heritage tourism programs as they strive to link communities with similar stories to tell. The IHPA also administers 60 state-operated historic sites and memorials throughout Illinois that draw nearly three million visitors annually, visitors that buy gasoline, spend the night, eat and shop in local communities.

Historic places operated by IHPA and other organizations put us in touch with our common American heritage, inviting us

to examine the lives and times of those who came before us and maybe learn something about ourselves in the process.

Of course, history can also be saved on a more personal level, through the preservation of documents and artifacts. The Illinois State Historical Library, also administered by the IHPA, is the state's chief historical and genealogical research facility, and its 12 million items contain everything from Civil War diaries to 100-year-old photographs to early Illinois newspapers. The State Historical Library is a treasure trove of Illinois history, and its brand new home in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library provides state-of-the-art protection for the state's most precious items.

I hope you will join the IHPA as we strive to preserve our heritage, while bettering our economic climate and educating our children. Few things in life provide such a large return on an investment.

*Maynard Crossland, Director of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, also serves on the board of directors of the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Tourism Program, the Illinois Association of Museums, the Illinois Council of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, Visit Illinois, and the Illinois Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission.*

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.



# Are you over 55?

## "It's All Free for Seniors"

Washington DC (Special) Are you over 55... or have a loved one who is? Then you'd better take a close look at this!

Every year Uncle Sam gives away hundreds of millions of dollars in cash, goods, and services to people just like you.

Better yet, many of these goodies are available to you regardless of your income or assets!

All this free stuff is one of America's best kept secrets... simply because the government doesn't advertise that it's available.

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

- ▶ Get free prescription drugs. (This one alone could save you thousands of dollars!)
- ▶ Get free dental care... for yourself AND for your grandkids.
- ▶ Get up to \$800 for food.
- ▶ Free legal help.
- ▶ How to get some help in paying your rent, wherever you live.
- ▶ How to get up to \$15,000 free money to spruce up your home!
- ▶ Here's where to get \$1,800 to keep you warm this winter.
- ▶ Here's how to get help in paying your electric bill.
- ▶ Access the very best research on our planet on how you can live longer.
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Have you been putting off a trip across the country to visit a loved one due to the high cost of flying? Or, maybe you'd like to vacation in some romantic foreign city?

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Why not do it right now while you're thinking of it?

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## Rural economic development conference to be held March 12-13

Challenges facing rural Illinois in changing economic conditions as well as many other economic development issues will be addressed during the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Peoria, Wednesday and Thursday, March 12-13.

The conference, "Rural Community Economic Development: Investing in the Future," is sponsored by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) at Western Illinois University, in conjunction with Rural Partners and the Governor's Rural Affairs Council. Additional support is provided by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

"This conference focuses mainly on issues facing smaller communities in rural areas but will be of value to larger cities as well. The speakers are nationally-recognized and will give participants a wealth of useful information on many development issues," said Norman Walzer, IIRA director and conference organizer. "The speakers offer a blend of seminars and workshops designed to help local public officials, economic development practitioners and volunteers learn up-to-date economic development practices and techniques."

For more information, or to register by the Tuesday, March 4 deadline, contact the IIRA at (800) 526-9943, e-mail at [IIRA@wiu.edu](mailto:IIRA@wiu.edu), write to IIRA, Stipes Hall 518, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390 or download the complete program from [www.iira.org](http://www.iira.org).

## Safe Electricity program honored for public service

Safe Electricity, a joint effort undertaken by members of the Illinois Electric Council (IEC) to create a statewide electric safety communications campaign, recently won awards for public service. The goal of the united safety program is to increase electric safety awareness to customers, thus reducing accidents. The University of Illinois and Illinois' electric suppliers formed the IEC in 1952 to promote the safe and efficient use of electric energy.

Safe Electricity received a 2002 *PR NEWS* Platinum Honorable Mention Award for Best Public Service Ad Campaign, one of three recipients in that category. The public service announcement campaign totaling 22 radio and television public service announcements was created in the program's first six months with extensive use of in-kind production services provided by Illinois electric co-ops and investor-owned utilities.

Safe Electricity was also named Outstanding/Innovative Program by the University of Illinois Extension Service. The award recognized the team nature of the program to create new education approaches to critical issues.

Safe Electricity gives Illinois the distinction of being the only state to have implemented a comprehensive public awareness program on electrical safety.

The Illinois Electric Council also received the highest educational honor awarded by Epsilon Sigma Phi, the national honorary Extension fraternity, by being named 2002 Friend of Extension. Members of the Illinois Electric Council have worked with University of Illinois personnel to develop educational materials for use in the classroom, Extension programs and especially in the 4-H program. They have conducted electrical schools for youth and adult Extension program participants, and served as judges at county and state 4-H exhibits.

In November, the IEC was awarded the prestigious 2002 Illinois Partner in 4-H Award. Officials of Illinois 4-H praised the IEC for providing electric programs, supplies and learning materials for thousands of 4-H youth and consumers over the years.

For more information visit [www.iecouncil.org](http://www.iecouncil.org) and [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

## Affordable assisted living for elderly

For the past year and a half, the Illinois Affordable Assisted Living Initiative has been providing grants, predevelopment loans and technical assistance to more than 50 nonprofit organizations throughout the state. These community-based organizations have identified a need for affordable assisted living and are working to bring such facilities into their communities.

The Initiative's target market is specialized: those seniors who have become frail enough to need some assistance with personal care and other activities, but who don't need continuous skilled nursing care. In order to be eligible to live in these facilities, seniors must be more than 65 and need a certain level of supportive services. Individuals may privately pay for room, board and all these services (and nearly half of them do), but if they spend down their assets and have modest incomes, Medicaid will pay.

Fifteen facilities certified as Supportive Living Facilities, totaling 927 units, are complete and operating with an additional 36 sites, totaling 3,309 units, approved and in the development pipeline. These sites are scattered throughout Illinois, in urban, suburban and rural locations.

To learn more about the Illinois Affordable Assisted Living Initiative go to: [www.liscnet.org/whatweda/newinitiatives/CFF/chicago.shtml](http://www.liscnet.org/whatweda/newinitiatives/CFF/chicago.shtml). Source: Illinois Department of Aging.

## Watch out for energy saving fraud

There are legitimate ways to save energy, but they don't come in mysterious black boxes. Recently an Illinois electric co-op manager was given a brochure advertising a device that "Saves you up to 40 percent on your electric bills every month." By wiring this device into your breaker panel the claim is it somehow stops "electrical leakage."

Sellers offering other devices, gadgets and energy-saving products promise drastic reductions in home heating or cooling costs. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) advises reading energy-saving claims carefully and, if possible, getting independent information. Avoid unsolicited door-to-door sales calls or phone calls using high-pressure sales pitches offering to cut your energy bills in half. To make sure that a contractor is licensed and reputable: Ask friends and neighbors for referrals; ask the contractor for customer references; and check out potential contractors with the Better Business Bureau, state and local consumer protection officials, and state licensing agencies.

Here are some other examples of energy fraud:

- Fuel-saving automotive devices and additives: Numerous Web sites make implausible claims for aftermarket automotive devices (fuel-line magnets, air bleed devices, and other retrofit gadgets) and additives that supposedly increase gas mileage. Many of these claims are either false or grossly exaggerated. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has evaluated or tested more than 100 purported gas-saving devices and additives, and has not found any product that significantly improves gas mileage.
- Instantaneous water heaters and home water purification (or softening) systems: Some distributors are making exaggerated claims about the energy savings associated with instantaneous ("tankless") water heaters that "save 50 percent on hot water costs."
- Transient voltage surge suppressors: Although these products can protect equipment from voltage surges, in the past the FTC has challenged claims that these products provide significant savings for consumers' energy bills.

The Better Business Bureau says you should avoid a promoter that isn't local and has no phone number or full street address; uses pressure, threats or harassment; requests immediate payment; or gives vague answers to key questions.

Source: [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) and [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

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## U.S. cooperatives going strong

Cooperatives all over the nation continue to thrive as other types of businesses are suffering economic losses, says the annual Co-op 100 Report from National Cooperative Bank (NCB).

"As the nation has absorbed the fall out from one corporate scandal after another, cooperatives have never been more pertinent," said Charles E. Snyder, NCB's president.

"Americans demand honest and stable businesses connected in a real way to their communities. Co-ops offer that dependability to thousands of Americans each day."

According to the report, America's top cooperatives generated total revenues of more than \$130 billion. Agriculture, grocery, energy and communications, and finance sectors all earned higher revenues than the previous year.

The success of cooperatives last year is particularly impressive given that many publicly traded companies faced tough losses and were shaken by accounting scandals. Unlike investor owned firms, co-ops are controlled by the people who use and benefit from the goods and services. Cooperatives are organized to maximize economic returns for their locally based members rather than distant investors.

Cooperatives play a vital role in America's economy: There are nearly 50,000 cooperatives in the United States, owned by some 120 million Americans.

## Are you a survivor?

Instincts can help us avoid danger, but in some situations our natural inclinations can lead to tragic results. If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, getting out of the vehicle, with few exceptions, is the **wrong** thing to do until the line has been de-energized by line personnel.

"You are almost always better off to stay in the car, especially if the line is in contact with the vehicle," says Molly Hall, director of the Safe Electricity program. "If the line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the tragic result. It's best to wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off."

The only exception would be if fire or the smell of gasoline were present. In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Shuffle or hop to safety keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

"Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area near your car to be energized," Hall says. "Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire."

The same rules apply with situations involving farm equipment and construction equipment that comes in contact with overhead lines.

Accidents involving electricity cause hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and tens of thousands of fires each year. Nearly all can be prevented if people understand the dangers and steps they can take to be safe around electricity.

You can be a survivor if you know how. Go to [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org) for more information.



# 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Illinois' most damaging ice storm

## It could happen again, are you ready?

by Catrina McCulley

In March of 1978, Easter weekend, 10 central Illinois electric cooperatives were devastated when an ice storm hit the area and destroyed nearly 10,000 utility poles, and 20,000 miles of electric line.

Co-op employees worked day and night, through the rain, sleet and snow trying to repair the damages that affected the 24-county area. The impact of the storm was felt with varying degrees all over central Illinois. The Illinois electric cooperative emergency work plan was activated, and crews were dispatched from nine cooperatives across Illinois to assist the four hardest hit. And though that help was much appreciated, it was not quite enough. So crews from cooperatives in Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Missouri and Kentucky came to help. More than 500 men were working in the affected areas at the height of the reconstruction activity.

Rebuilding began before the storm subsided, and even before its severity was completely realized. This process was very expensive, and many cooperatives had to get loans to cover the financial burden. For example, Rural Electric Convenience Co-op, Auburn, received a \$4.5 million loan, Menard Electric Co-op, Petersburg, received a \$3 million loan, Eastern Illini Electric Co-op, Paxton, received a \$1.7 million loan and Illinois Rural Electric Co-op, Winchester, received a loan of \$2 million.

And while this was going on, central Illinoisans were making do. Homes were dark and most were cold. Those who considered themselves fortunate enough to have heat, were still without power to run their furnace blowers and thermostats.

"But one thing is for sure, the storm and its aftermath brought out the best

## Are you prepared for an outage?

**Two necessities are food and heat.** Stock an emergency supply of quick energy food that needs little, if any, preparation. Quick energy food will allow your body to produce its own heat efficiently.

**Make sure you have adequate ventilation when using portable cooking or heating units.** Never burn charcoal inside. Without ventilation, deadly carbon monoxide can reach lethal levels.

**Make sure you have other outage supplies handy.** These items should include a flashlight, candles, matches, a battery powered radio, extra batteries and plenty of blankets.

**If the lights go out,** check the fuse box or circuit breaker box first. You may be able to correct the problem there. Check with neighbors, then call your co-op. They will need to know your account number, so write it down near your phone. This will give them your exact location.

### Freezer

During an outage a freezer will keep everything frozen for about two days. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen one day. If power will be off for an extended period, take food to a friend's freezer, locate a commercial freezer or use dry ice.

### Generators

If not installed properly, your generator system could threaten the lives of family, friends, neighbors and electric power supplier crews working to restore your power. Never connect generators to your home's wiring without a disconnect switch. Install a transfer switch that cuts power to your home from the utility pole and switches it to your generator. For more equipment and wiring details go to [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org), click on index then generator safety.

### Stay far away from downed lines

- Even if they do not hum, spark, or "dance," downed lines can be dangerous.
- If you see one, carefully move away from the line and anything it is touching.
- Instruct others in the area to do the same.
- Call 911 and your cooperative to report the downed line.
- If you are outside after a storm, be alert for lines that may be hidden by streams or standing water.
- The correct technique for moving away from a downed line is to shuffle with your feet together and on the ground. Fight the urge to run, and warn others not to run. This is because when a live wire touches the ground, electricity travels through the ground in all directions. Voltage decreases as it travels from the center where the live wire is touching the ground. If you run or take large steps, you could conduct electricity from one leg at one voltage to another leg at another voltage. This can shock or kill you.

in some people," says Jack Halstead, retired employee of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield. "People were offering coffee and food to the work crews and asking how they could assist," he says.

And 20 days later, with the help of the cooperative employees and generous community members, central Illinois was completely re-energized. And through this trying experience, the true meaning of cooperative was defined.





# The evolution of Hollywood's movie revolution

by Angie Bates

Have you ever wondered how and why Hollywood, California became the movie empire of the world? In 1909, The Motion Picture Patents Company founded by Thomas Edison attempted to create a monopoly that worked to keep unlicensed companies out of movie production and distribution. Many entrepreneurs moved their operations to Hollywood, a suburb of Los Angeles because of the location's proximity to Mexico, which allowed these producers to escape legal injunctions. After 1913, Hollywood, California became the American movie capital. The movie industry is an ever-changing, fast-paced industry, but one thing remains the same, Hollywood is still the movie capital of the world.

Early films lasted a minute or two in length, and showed only glimpses of personalities, increments of daily life, one-gag jokes or issues in the news (re-enactments of course). Later, story films developed that were mostly chase melodramas and comedies. *The Great Train Robbery* (1903) was the first film to use overlapping and parallel action to build an anticipated climax.

Cynicism and sensuality among the upper classes characterized many of the 1920s' features, and democratic hope gave in to popular materialism. American films prior to World War I had often been preachy, sentimental and set in a working-class environment. Among the new genres were gangster films. The first generation of star actors included Buster Keaton, Mary Pickford, Greta Garbo and Rudolph Valentino. During World War I movies expanded into the realm

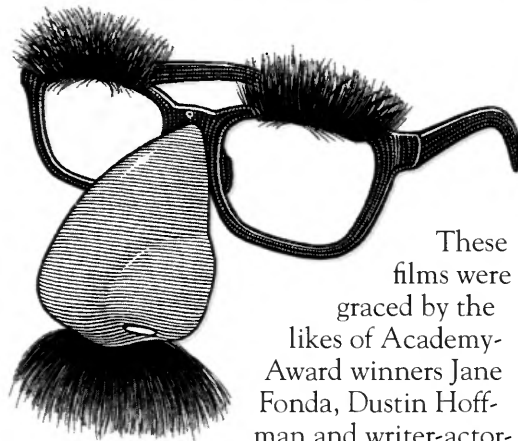
of education and propaganda and the United States became dominant in the film industry.

The year 1926 brought experiments in sound effects and music, and in 1927 spoken dialogue was successfully introduced in *The Jazz Singer* with Al Jolson. A year later, the first all-talking picture, *Lights of New York*, was shown. Among the most celebrated stars of the new era were Clark Gable, Jean Harlow, Mae West and W. C. Fields. Also in 1927, The Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences was formed and began an annual awards ceremony, which is known to us as the Oscars or the Academy Awards.

Among the 1930s' most notable attractions were child star Shirley Temple and the 1939 film *Gone with the Wind*, a spectacular epic that for decades remained the highest-grossing film. The industry reached its all-time peak of profitability in 1946. From the 1930s until the early 1950s, the studios sponsored a host of talented actors like Ingrid Bergman, Bette Davis, Spencer Tracy and Humphrey Bogart.

The movies of the 1950s and 1960s traded a bit of glamour for an increased sense of realism. Legends such as Marlon Brando, Marilyn Monroe, Paul Newman, Elizabeth Taylor, Sidney Poitier and several others contributed to this transition in Hollywood. Their controversial films swept across the country.

The principal stars of the late 1960s through the 1970s demonstrated even more political movement and increased comedy.



These films were graced by the likes of Academy-Award winners Jane Fonda, Dustin Hoffman and writer-actor-directors Barbara

Striesand and Woody Allen.

Audiences began to have a taste for scary movies in 1975 when the suspense picture *Jaws* unexpectedly grossed more than \$100 million by appealing to all ages and both sexes. Everyone's favorite sci-fi hit, *Star Wars* (1977), cracked the \$200 million barrier, and in 1982 *E.T.* earned more than \$300 million.

When moviegoers visited in the 1980s, multiplexes, or theaters with multiple auditoriums, became the norm and mushroomed in suburban shopping malls and urban centers. Ticket prices soared in the late 1980s due to the cost of making films (averaging by 1990 more than \$15 million each.) By 1990, the gross from videocassettes nearly doubled that of ticket sales. But the movies continued to be an integral part of American culture, though in a constant state of metamorphosis.

With the emergence of digital movies and special effects that are now better than ever, movie quality will continue to improve. One thing won't change, the big tubs of buttery popcorn, gigantic sodas and loads of candy will surely remain an American movie tradition. Check your local listings for the newest theatre releases coming your way!



# AND NOW, for our feature

## How a community

**W**alking downtown, the bright lights of the theater's marquee beckon you to come in and take a step back in time. The box office ticket seller greets you as you purchase your \$5 ticket. Following the blue, yellow and pink swirled carpet up the ramp to the first aisle, you visit with your neighbor, a volunteer at the concession stand, while you buy your popcorn.

You're early enough to choose one of the most popular seats, high in the back, above the rest of the audience. Smiling, you notice the gold plaque on your coral colored seat's arm. Engraved upon it is the name of a friend who donated to the theater.

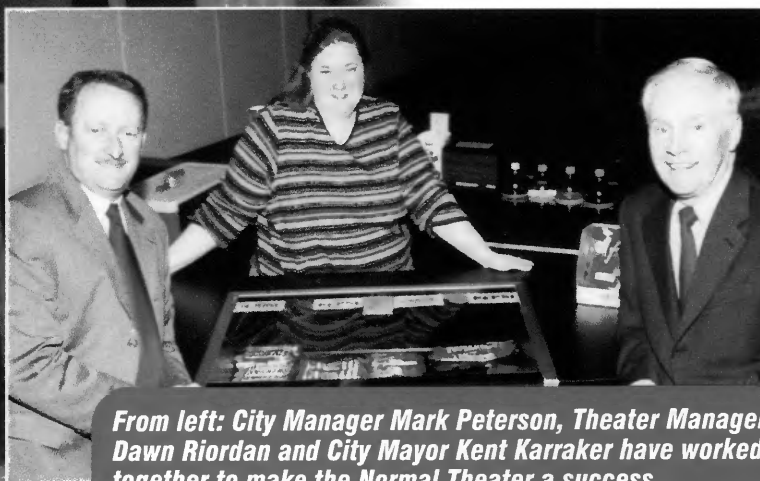
Just before the neon lights go dim, the traditional door prize drawing is held. You don't win, but it's fun to hear the winner cheer with delight. It's a full house tonight, but the crowd noise stops as the cartoon begins. And cheers erupt as it ends and the classic jingle "Lets go out to the lobby" plays.

Now it's time for the feature presentation. Lost in the black and white film, you're now laughing and crying with your neighbor. And when it's over, the entire audience applauds. On the way out you're careful to pick up your popcorn container, and any loose kernels that have fallen on

the floor, and deposit it all in the bright trash container.

Does this sound like your typical movie theater experience today? Not likely. But it perfectly describes a visit to the Normal Theater in downtown Normal. Like many Illinois towns, Normal was going to lose its theater to a parking lot or store. The community joined together with the city to save the theater and restore it to its original beauty. Built in 1937, the Normal

**“It was somewhat of a controversial project at first. People said the town had no business being in the movie theater business. They said it was an inappropriate role for government,” says Peterson. “People don’t say that now. Now you hear ‘What a wonderful facility’ and ‘Thank goodness you had the foresight to preserve it.’”**



*From left: City Manager Mark Peterson, Theater Manager Dawn Riordan and City Mayor Kent Karraker have worked together to make the Normal Theater a success.*

# presentation saved its theater

Theater has again become a successful part of the downtown area.

"People come for the experience, not just the movie," says Manager Dawn Riordan. Movies shown include classics like *Gone with the Wind* or *The Wizard of Oz*, and some independent and foreign films as well. Though many of the movies aren't well-known or new, they're very popular. And the 1930s' experience is enchanting. Personal service, door prizes, favorite films on the big screen, and audience participation in the movies join together to make the experience truly a step back in time.

The theater averages 250 customers each showing. The audiences gain the experience of seeing a classic movie as it was originally intended to be seen. They can laugh and cry, and even sing along with other members of the community. "In terms of a full house, this is probably the most popular theater house in the community. When you go into one of those other theaters, you don't see 250 people at one show unless it's opening night or extremely popular. But night in and night out, this is probably the biggest single draw," says Kent Karraker, Mayor of Normal.

Community involvement has been crucial to the entire restoration of the theater. From financial donations to volunteer-

ing labor and expertise, the community came together to restore this historic landmark. Local residents who are part of the local trade and labor unions donated an immeasurable and extraordinary amount of time, labor and expertise to the process.

The community supports the theater because it is theirs. People return again and again and often bring out-of-town guests.

"They're proud of it. And it's become a real source of community pride," says Mark Peterson, City Manager of Normal. And audiences try to take care of the theater. After a show, people leave the theater as clean as when they found it.

Every year, the theater becomes more successful. The showing of *White Christmas* last holiday season sold out every show. The audience even sang along with the film. And after each showing there was applause. "When is the last time you went to a movie and people applauded? It's a custom here. I've never been

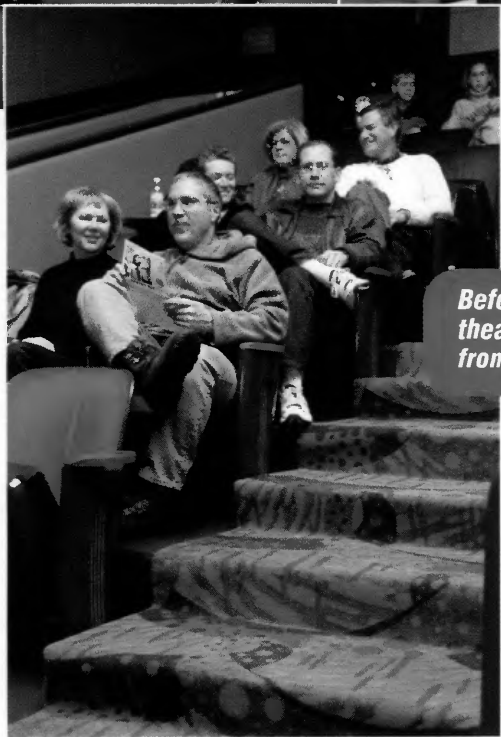
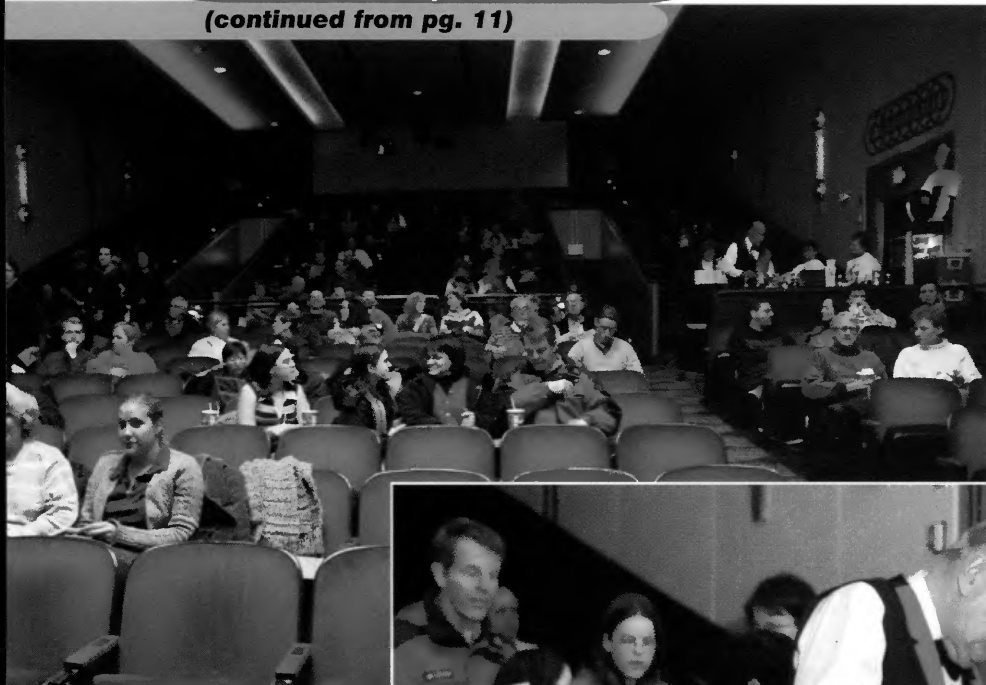
*A young man buys a ticket to the show from theater volunteer Gary Campbell.*



# AND NOW, for our feature presentation

How a community saved its theater

(continued from pg. 11)



*Before the film begins, the buzz of excitement fills the theater as customers chat or purchase refreshments from the volunteer behind the counter.*

here when everyone didn't applaud, even after the cartoons," says Karraker.

The theater was rebuilt through a city and community partnership. The city of Normal, although facing some public ridicule, purchased the structure after it closed. "It was somewhat of a controversial project at first. People said the town had no business being in the movie theater business. They said it was an inappropriate role for government," says Peterson. "People don't say that now. Now you hear 'What a wonderful facility' and 'Thank goodness you had the foresight to preserve it.'"

A town owning a movie the-

ater is not a common practice, but with the exception of a few protesters, people of the community embraced the project. A committee was formed by the city to organize local fundraisers for the million-dollar restoration process. Light bulbs for the marquee were sold for \$25 each and seats are still being adopted. Only a few of the 395 seats remain vacant. Adopted seats have a plaque with the donor's name or dedication engraved on it.

Fundraising went well throughout the entire restoration process, but the community's efforts gained a boost when all the lights in downtown Normal were turned off one night and the marquee was lit. "It was literally breathtaking. You could just hear people audibly gasp," says Peterson.

The lighting of the marquee seemed to give the theater a sense of permanence and heralded what was soon to come. It was definite progress that could be seen by all. And more donations began flowing in.

The rest of the restoration process, however, took a bit longer due to its extensiveness. "If you came in here at the beginning of the process, it looked like a brick alley. You had two brick walls and nothing from one end to the other," said Karraker. The building's structure had to be reinforced and all plumbing, wiring and heating systems were re-done.

"It really is a case study in historic restoration," said Peterson. "Everyone has a memory of the Normal Theater." And those memories are what made the restoration process so successful. Throughout the restoration, people who had worked at the original theater were consulted to ensure the theater would



be historically accurate.

Restoring the colors of a building that was originally built in the 1930s wasn't easy. All the photos of the building were black and white. Designers used a computer program, similar to the one Ted Turner uses to colorize black and white films, to colorize the photos. Five different samples were completed and community members who came to the theater in the 1930s were asked to choose the closest rendition. The current design of the theater was the general consensus by all. "It is really very shocking when you first see it," said Riordan, referring to the bright colors of the Art Modern period interior.

Wall scrapings were taken to determine the original color of the walls so it could be perfectly matched. The wall sconces were recreated from one original found in a back room. The colorful carpet was specially made. And the neon lights of the ceiling were perfectly crafted to capture the original glow.

But not everything is exactly like the original. In 1937, the theater had 613 seats. The current theater designers decided to widen the aisles and use seats from the 1940s, which are wider than those of the 30s. The theater also put in a handicapped-seating area, reducing the amount of seating to 385. And of course, there is a concession stand. "We tried to be true as we could to the original," says Peterson, "and one of the biggest debates was the concession stand. Back in the 1930s they didn't have concession stands." In an attempt to stay exactly like the original, the theater staff attempted selling concessions out of the aisles, but soon discovered a concession stand was a better option. It was then added to the theater.

The restoration was completed

and the first movie was shown in October 1994. It was *Singin' in the Rain*, a true classic. The theater was immediately a success and earned the Preservation Project of the Year award from the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois in 1996. The theater even won the award over larger projects, such as the Buckingham Fountain in Chicago, because of its grassroots funding efforts. "It was a small project that had a big impact," says Karraker, "There was

“ We view the success of the theater as indicative of the success of the downtown. ”

a lot of local involvement and volunteerism.

"In so many community projects, people get excited about them and then after awhile they tend to drift away. That just hasn't happened here." After 9-1/2 years, the theater is still never short of volunteers. The theater continues to be mostly self-supported, bringing in enough funds through its \$5 admission and \$1 concessions to pay for itself.

The theater is able to save money by hiring only a manager, relief manager and two projectionists. All other help for the theater comes from the more than 50 volunteers, who receive free popcorn

and may watch the show for their efforts. Riordan says, "They are the best employees you could ever have, and they aren't paid."

And downtown Normal is benefiting from the theater as well. "It brings people downtown. I think if the theater hadn't done so well, we would have seen a lot more deterioration in the downtown area," says Peterson.

Now the city is planning a major reconstruction of the downtown area. Normal is adding a children's museum, a plaza, a transportation center and a hotel conference building. Plans are being made for expanded retail and office buildings and an all new infrastructure for the downtown area.

"We view the success of the theater as indicative of the success of the downtown. It's basically the same principle. If you go in and do things right, people will support you," says Karraker.

But for now, the main draw for the area is the Normal Theater. The community has saved a part of its past that will enhance its future. "There were a lot of memories in this building previously and I think we're building a lot of memories now, and that's great. There are just so many wonderful stories," says Karraker.

And memories will continue to be made here because of the partnership of a town and its residents. For Normal, it's showtime!

**The Normal Theater is located at 209 N. St., Normal, IL 61761. For more information call Dawn Riordan at (309) 454-9720 or for current listings call (309) 454-9722. The Web site, [www.normaltheater.com](http://www.normaltheater.com) contains directions to the theater, photos of the restoration process, movie listings for the next several months and more. For information on other restored cinemas in Illinois, visit <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters>.**





Mary Zitek

# Find the hidden danger lurking in your home

I was cleaning out a cabinet the other day and realized that some of the stuff had been in there for years. It reminded me that at least an annual check would be a good thing to do. I'm not only talking about medicine cabinets, but kitchen and utility cabinets as well. Spring's around the corner and this is a good start for spring cleaning! Check out those expiration dates. Get rid of old medicines and household chemicals. If you're unsure of how to dispose of them, contact your local department of public works. Many times they have special days when you can turn these in.

As consumers we buy more than a quarter of a million different household products that are used in and around the home for medication, cleaning, cosmetic purposes, insecticides and lawn products. During National Poison Prevention Week, March 16-22, take a few minutes to clean out and lock up household items that could harm your family.

According to the National Safety Council, more than 6,000 people die, and an estimated 300,000 suffer disabling injuries as a result of unintentional poisoning. In the year 2000 there were 2,168,248 human toxic exposures reported to 63 poison control centers in the U.S. and 92 percent happened at a residence. Children younger than 3 years of age were involved in 40 percent of the cases and 52.7 percent involved children younger than 6 years of age. Overall, most poisonings were unintentional

(85.9 percent). Ingestion was the most common pathway followed by dermal (skin), inhalation and ocular (eye).

Since the inception of child-proof (and it seems adult proof) tops, deaths have gone down substantially. That's great for kids, but adults need to be careful as well. Follow label directions on medications and household cleaners. If you have an elderly adult in your home, request labels be printed in larger type and make sure they take only the specified amount of medication.

Here are some first aid tips for poisoning. Of course, you should always call your Poison Control Center, (800) 222-1222. When people call, a computer checks their area code and the first three digits of their phone number, and then connects the caller to their nearest poison control center.

- If someone has *swallowed* a poison, induce vomiting **ONLY** if emergency personnel on the phone tell you to do so. Always keep syrup of ipecac on hand to use to induce vomiting. In some cases they may tell you to give milk or water to dilute the poison until you get to emergency medical personnel.
- If poison is *in the eye*, it will absorb faster than any other external part of the body. Hold the eye open and wash quickly and gently with clean running water for at least 15 minutes. Do not use eye drops or chemicals or drugs in the wash water.
- Poison *on the skin* - remove con-

taminated clothing, and drench affected area with water. Wash skin and hair thoroughly with soap and water.

- *Inhaled* poison - carry or drag victim to fresh air right away. If you think you need protection, such as a respirator, and one is not available, call the fire department before entering the area. Open doors and windows so no one else will be poisoned by the fumes.

Some poison prevention tips:

- Read the label and follow directions.
- Keep products in their original containers.
- Store products out of reach of children, and remember your pets are susceptible too!
- Keep poison control and your doctors numbers handy.
- Get rid of unused or unnecessary household products and expired medications.
- If you need to call the poison control center, have the label handy.

Resources: National Safety Council, Consumer Products Safety Commission, American Association of Poison Control Centers.

Mary Zitek, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Safety/Education Services Coordinator. E-mail [mzitek@aiec.coop](mailto:mzitek@aiec.coop).



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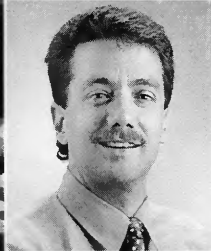
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David Robson

# A New Year's resolution for planting addicts

As I type this, Aaron Copeland's Appalachian Spring is oozing from the computer speakers. It's not a blaring song, or even one that sounds great with the volume cranked up, but one that just floats from the two black boxes over the desk and keyboards. Spring fever is coming.

As much as I like the crispness of winter's snow, the fires of autumn's leaves and the warmth of summer when my feet finally thaw out for three months, spring's beauty is really unsurpassed.

Some early bulbs will announce the coming change first. Snowdrops and winter aconites pop up, coupled with the Helleborus that has been around since Christmas. Witchhazel branches will flower their gold, red or white and thumb their proverbially petals if it turns cold. Then the other trees and shrubs let loose.

Spring is the time for the planting bug to re-appear. Some call it a disease or an addiction, but that's really only when others are talking about the effect on their friends or me. I, on the other hand, refer to it as an "itch," or a "spring tonic," that isn't a drink.

My New Year's resolution is to "Limit my purchase of new plants that go into the planting beds this year to hardly any." That's exactly what it says on the piece of paper I wrote.

Now a good lawyer, and there are some out there, would say there is a whole lot of wiggle

room in my phrase.

Working backward first, "hardly any" is not the same as "none." It may be one or two or three or four or five or six or something along that line. Compared to some of my friends, it may be 100, but I doubt that. But to say "none" is to stick my head in the soil and believe that nothing will die.

The other "out" is the "go into the planting beds." Pots on the stoop or patio are another story.

Personally, I think pots are underrated and more people should use them. They're perfect for annual flowers and some of the vegetables. Last year, I stuck four or five in the shade filled with impatiens. I placed the pots on top of an overturned pot, giving more height to the planting.

I've even potted specimens that need full sun such as geraniums and vinca, and then when guests came over, I hastily moved the pots to the shade, watching my friends' amazement at my supposedly prowess and green thumb at growing sun-loving plants in the shade. You can use my non-patented technique.

It's also my intent to possibly create a couple of new planting beds. At the time of the resolution, those beds aren't there, so they really can't be considered. There has to be some legal phrase that I'm not familiar with that handles that situation. New is new and old is old. It would be like putting a brand new

addition on your house and not decorating it. Of course, you have to.

Finally, there is that singular word "purchase" that allows me to accept donated cuttings, seedlings, divisions or bulbs from others. With others in the same boat, it's a nice way to trade plants. Seriously, does someone need 12 tomato plants? Of course not. And haven't we all been taught to share?

In my mind is my grand scheme of things for my yard in 2003. There's no doubt it will be changed throughout the growing season. Some of the ideas will be jotted down on a piece of paper, which is the correct thing to do, so the correct number of plants can be obtained for any new areas without appearing crowded.

And I will continue to realize that plants should not be addictive, and there is no need to keep up with my other gardening friends. And if I throw away a living plant, I will not be consumed by a fiery bolt of lightning. I hope.

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





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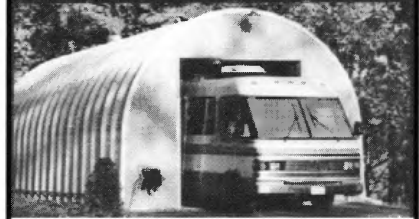
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James Dulley

# Clearing the air with central air cleaners

**Q:** *Dear Jim: Although we use several room air cleaners, my family still has allergies. We are considering installing a central air cleaner for our heat pump. What is the most effective and efficient design to buy?*

- Judy T.

**A:** Dear Judy: A central air cleaner is probably a good idea, but don't totally discontinue using a room cleaner or two. A combination of a room air cleaner and a central furnace/air-conditioner mounted air cleaner is a good defense against allergies.

Some room air cleaners, especially those using HEPA filter elements, have fairly powerful motors. Running several of these continuously will consume quite a bit of electricity. In contrast, most central air cleaners, even the electronic ones, use a relatively small amount of electricity or none at all.

The effectiveness of air cleaners is often compared by dust arrestance ratings.

The effectiveness of various air cleaners differs with the type of particle (allergen) you need to remove from the air. Mold spores, dust mite feces and pollen are relatively large airborne particles that are relatively easy for many filter materials to remove.

Tobacco and fireplace smoke, bacteria and viruses are very small particles that require different types of filtration methods.

Another consideration is the amount of resistance the air cleaner creates in the duct system. A thick, densely packed filter may be effective at catching almost all the airborne particles, but it can cause excessive air flow resistance. This higher resistance to air flow can make your furnace/air conditioner operate inefficiently and increase your utility bills.

To avoid excessive air flow resistance and still have a super filtration, several designs of bypass HEPA air cleaners are available with their own blowers. HEPA filter media is often used in hospital operating rooms and is probably the most effective filtration method for both large and small particles in the air.

These models are attached to the main return duct. They draw air out of the duct, clean it and blow it back into the duct again.

If you have a very airtight house that gets stuffy, select a HEPA model that introduces filtered fresh outdoor air into your duct system. A lack of fresh air is often as much of a problem as dirty indoor air. In extremely hot or cold climates, choose a model with a heat recovery unit to save energy.

The most common types of in-line (uses furnace blower) air cleaners are electronic, self-charging electrostatic and pleated media. Electronic air cleaners use very little electricity. They create a high-voltage static charge that causes particles in the air to stick to washable cells. They are particularly effective for removing

the smallest particles from the air. Most models will have to be professionally installed and require ductwork modifications.

Regularly clean the filter cells to maintain their high efficiency and to minimize the production of ozone gas.

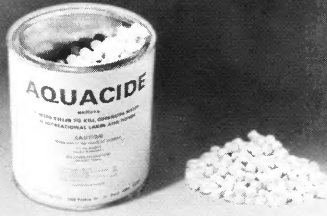
Most washable self-charging electrostatic air cleaners slip into the existing filter slot in your furnace. The air blowing over the special combination of plastic materials creates a static charge. These are very effective for removing larger particles from the air. Each month, remove it from its slot and rinse it off.

Pleated media filters are dense filters that are very effective for removing larger particles. To purify air in addition to cleaning it, install an ultraviolet (UV) light purifier in the return duct. The UV light kills virus, bacteria, mold spores and other germs.

Write for (instantly download - [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com)) Utility Bills Update No. 950 - buyer's guide of 11 central air cleaners manufacturers (35 models) listing filtration methods, dust arrestance ratings, features, prices, and an allergen/design selector chart. Please include \$3 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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## Fruit Dip Christy Nalley

- 1 lg. jar marshmallow crème
- 2 pkgs. cream cheese, softened
- 1 T. almond extract
- 1 drop red food coloring, (opt.)

Mix marshmallow crème, cream cheese and almond extract together. Add food coloring. Serve with a variety of fruits.

## Bacon Cheeseburger Pasta Cheryl Mickna

- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. tube or spiral pasta
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 6 bacon slices, diced
- 1 can condensed tomato soup, undiluted
- 1 C. shredded Cheddar cheese
- Barbeque sauce (opt.)
- Prepared mustard (opt.)

Cook pasta according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a skillet, cook beef until no longer pink. Drain and set aside. In the same skillet, cook bacon until crisp; remove with slotted spoon to paper towel. Discard drippings. Drain pasta; add to the skillet. Add soup, beef and bacon; heat through. Sprinkle with cheese; cover and cook until cheese is melted. Serve with barbeque and mustard if desired.

## Canadian Cheese Soup Karen Myers

- 4 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 qt. water
- 1 C. chopped celery
- 1 lg. onion, chopped
- 2-1/2 C. potatoes, cubed
- 1 C. carrots, diced
- 1 (10-oz.) pkg. frozen mixed vegetables
- 2 (10-oz.) cans cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 can water
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese, diced

Boil chicken bouillon cubes, water, celery and onion for 20 minutes. Add potatoes, carrots and mixed vegetables; cook until tender. Add soup, water and cheese; stir over low heat until cheese is melted. Makes 8 servings.

## Pastel Popcorn Heather Graf

- 6 qts. popcorn
- 1-1/2 C. sugar
- 1/2 C. light corn syrup
- 2 T. margarine
- 1/2 tsp. cream of tartar
- 2 T. Jell-O, your preference
- 1 tsp. baking soda

Pop popcorn and keep it warm in a 200° oven. Combine all ingredients except soda in a saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Continue to cook at a boil for 1 minute. Take off the heat and add baking soda. Stir quickly until well mixed. Pour over popcorn while still foaming. Mix popcorn gently and bake in the oven at 200° for 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Let cool. Store in a covered container.



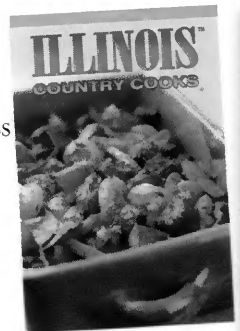
## Apricot Poppy Seed Muffins Emma L. Ackerman

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1/2 C. plus 2 T. butter or margarine, softened | 1-1/4 C. all-purpose flour      |
| 1 C. sugar                                     | 2 T. poppy seed                 |
| 2 eggs   | 1 tsp. baking soda              |
| 1/2 tsp. vanilla                               | 1/4 tsp. salt                   |
|  | 1 (6-oz.) jar apricot baby food |

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla; mix well. Combine flour, poppy seeds, baking soda, salt and baby food. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes. Makes 1 dozen.

## Get your copy of Illinois Country Cooks Cookbook

Please send your name address and phone number and \$14.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling per copy to the attention of Catrina McCulley, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Make checks payable to Illinois Country Living.



**B**ette Schmid of Milford, IL submits her cookbook, *Generations of Love*, a tribute to family and friends. The cookbook is soft-backed and spiral bound and includes 164 pages of easy-to-make recipes. It sells for \$10 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling. To order, contact Bette Schmid at 1852 E. 400 North Road, Milford, IL 60953, or call her at (815) 457-2021.



**Cheese Cake**  
*Paulette Patillo*

- 1-1/2 lbs. cream cheese
- 1 (8-oz.) ctn. sour cream
- 3/4 C. sugar
- 4 egg yolks
- 2 T. flour
- 4 egg whites
- Crust:**
- 1 pkg. graham crackers (about 10)
- 4 T. margarine, melted

**Breakfast Pizza**  
*Virginia Gatrell*

- 1 lb. bulk pork sausage
- 2 (8-oz.) pkgs. refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1 C. frozen loose-pack hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1 C. shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 5 eggs
- 1/4 C. milk
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

In a skillet, cook sausage until browned. Drain excess fat. Separate crescent roll dough into 8 triangles. Place in an ungreased 12-inch pizza pan with points toward center. Press over the bottom and up the sides to form a crust; seal perforations. Spoon sausage over crust, then sprinkle with potatoes. Top with Cheddar cheese. In a bowl, beat together eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour into crust. Bake at 375° for 25-30 minutes.

Beat cream cheese, sour cream, sugar, egg yolks, and flour together for 15 minutes. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into mixture. Crush graham cracker into crumbs and mix with margarine. Press into the bottom of a 10-inch springform pan. Pour cream cheese mixture into the pan and bake in a 300° oven for 1-1/2 hours or until done. Cool completely in the pan, the refrigerate.

**Pizza Cookies**  
*Beth Ravens*

- 1/2 C. sugar
- 1/2 stick margarine
- 1/2 C. peanut butter
- 1/3 C. brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1-1/2 C. flour
- Topping:**
- 1 C. chocolate chips
- 2 C. mini marshmallows

Mix sugar, margarine, peanut butter, brown sugar, egg and vanilla together. Add flour. Press or roll dough on a pizza pan. Roll dough to the edge of pan. Bake at 375° for 10 minutes. Remove from oven. Add chocolate chips and marshmallows. Return to oven for 5-8 minutes. Cut when cool.

**Chicken Salad**  
*Phyllis Hineman*

- 5 C. white chicken breast, cooked and cubed
- 2-1/2 lbs. white seedless grapes, sliced
- 1-1/2 C. celery, diced
- Almonds (opt.)
- 1/2 qt. Miracle Whip
- 1 pt. Cool Whip

Mix all ingredients together and refrigerate. Serve on lettuce with crackers.

*Photos by Catrina McCulley*



**Key Lime Delight**  
*Bette Schmid*

- 1 sm. box lime Jell-O
- 1 sm. ctn. Cool Whip
- 1 ctn. Key Lime yogurt
- 1 lime

Beat Cool Whip and yogurt together. Add the Jell-O straight from the package (dry crystals). Beat until well mixed, less than 1 minute. Put in an attractive container. Slice the lime thin. Take 3 or 4 slices, twist and insert them on top of the mixture. Cover and refrigerate.



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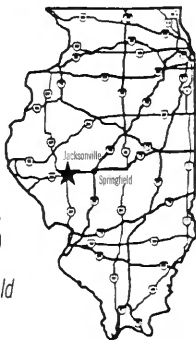
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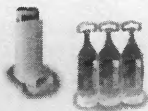
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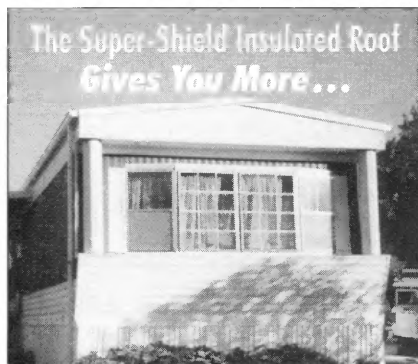
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# MARCH DATEBOOK

**1, Mardi Gras Masked Ball** at Turner Hall in Galena.

From 7 p.m.-midnight. Enjoy Hors d'oeuvres and a buffet dinner. Prizes will be given for winning masks. Dance to the music of the Ken Killian Septet Orchestra. Costumes are optional, masks required. \$35 per person. Tickets are limited. (815) 777-1594 or (815) 777-4713.

**1, The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fete du Bon Vieux Temps (Festival of the Good Old Days)** in Cahokia. The Fete is a colonial version of Mardi Gras with music and dancing reminiscent of the celebrations held by the area's French settlers more than 200 years ago. At intervals between 2-5 p.m., in the 18<sup>th</sup> century Cahokia Courthouse, re-enactors in period costume will captivate visitors with their historic interpretation of French colonial Cahokia. (618) 332-1782.

**1-2, Country Treasures Fold Art and Craft Show** at the Illinois State Fairgrounds' Illinois Building in Springfield. Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$2 admission. (618) 539-3395 or ctshows@aol.com.

**3, Bubble Mania** at Children's Discovery Museum in Bloomington. Why are bubbles always round? Get the answer to this question and more. For students enrolled in first, second or third grade. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (309) 829-6222.

**4, Rainbow Surprise** at Children's Discovery Museum in Bloomington. Experiment with light and color. You'll experiment with prisms and bubbles to see the awe-inspiring colors of the rainbow. Explore rainbow reversal as you see what happens when you mix colors of light together. Created for children currently enrolled in kindergarten. 1-2 p.m. (309) 829-6222.

**4-5 and 11-12, The Napping House** at Children's Discovery Museum in Bloomington. This is an incredibly funny tale of everyone who gets in bed with Granny to take a nap. You'll hear rhyming words and read the story together. You'll talk about the rain and what you like to do when it is wet outside. Rainy day snacks and crafts will round out the morning. Designed for 3,4 and 5-year-olds. From 10-11 a.m. for children and their adult partners. Dress for messy activities. (309) 829-6222.

**8, Business and Trade Showcase** at the Galena Convention Center in Galena. Many Galena area businesses will be on hand showcasing their products and services. Free. (815) 777-9050.

**8, Murder Mystery Dinner Show "Murder at the Oscars"** at Milk Pail Restaurant in East Dundee. 7-10 p.m. Show includes appetizers, dinner, beverages, tax and gratuity. Group rates available. (847) 742-5040 or www.themilkpail.com.

**8-9 and 15-16, Festival of the Sugar Maples** at Coral Woods Conservation Area in Marengo. Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. A unique opportunity to learn the history of maple sugaring and the evolution of the sap collection process. End your tour with a taste of pure Coral Woods maple syrup. Free. (815) 338-6223 or www.mccdistric.org.

**15, The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Wild Turkey Super Fund Membership Dinner and Auction** at the Holiday Inn in Mount Vernon. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Both live and silent auctions will be held, as well as several raffles including a ladies raffle. All proceeds will be used for the restoration and management of the American Wild Turkey. Ticket can be purchased at (618) 895-2844 or (618) 898-1136.

**15, Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, "Who Killed Julius Caesar"** at the Collver Family Winery in Barry. (217) 335-3279.



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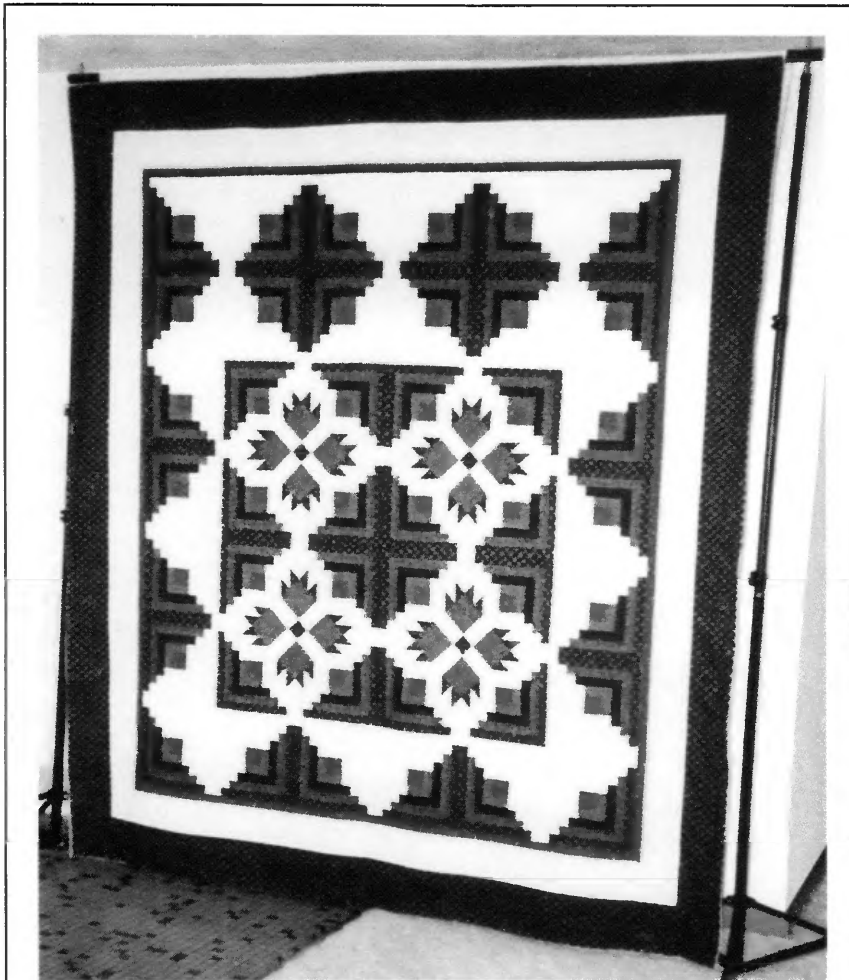
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15-16, "Stitches from the Heart" at Bureau County Fairgrounds in Princeton. Come and see more than 300 quilts on display belonging to guild members, plus door prizes, mini demonstrations and much more. (815) 872-5013.

28-29, Timeless Treasure Quilt Show 2003 at Clinton Assembly of God Church in Clinton. Sponsored by the Salt Creek Patchmakers, come and enjoy lunch, a quilt raffle, vendor booths and more. (217) 935-4424.

29-30, The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt and Needlework Show, "Stitches in Time" at Quincy Senior High School in Quincy. More than 100 new and old quilts, clothing and needlework, not previously show at our shown, a merchant mall and food service. \$3 in advance; \$4 at the door. (217) 222-5387.

16, Special Irish Celebration at the Quincy Museum in Quincy. Enjoy Irish food and customs. (217) 224-7669.

17, St. Patrick's Day Parade on Main Street in downtown Galena. A small town parade starting at 5:30 p.m. with bands and floats. (815) 777-0467.

18, Super Scientific Circus at Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin. This show, starring Mr. Fish and Trent the Mime, proves that science can be fun by using circus skills involving boomerangs, bubbles, beach balls, bullwhips and magic. (847) 931-5900 or [www.cityofelgin.org](http://www.cityofelgin.org).

22, Spring Craft Show at Northwestern Junior/Senior High School on Rt. 9 at Sciota. Enjoy crafts, a bake sale and food. Each person who attends will receive a free gift. Profits go to support the Northwestern After-prom. From 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

22, White Owl Winery Murder Mystery Dinner Show "Peggy Sue Got Murdered." The year is 1959! It's a Sock Hop! Enjoy more than 300 hits of the 50s and 60s. Show includes an Amish Buffet Dinner, 1 complimentary glass of wine and souvenir glass. \$35 per person. 5:30-9:30 p.m. Reservations required. Optional dress: Like a Kool Kat or Kitten of the 50s. (618) 928-2898 or [whiteowlwinery.com](http://whiteowlwinery.com).

28-30, International Livestock Exposition at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Catch the action, drama and fun at the Best of the West shows featuring the amazing One Arm Bandit, along with other spectacular acts from the Old West. Five performances: Friday, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; 5 and 7 p.m. Sunday; 4 p.m. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. (217) 787-4653 or [www.theexpo.org](http://www.theexpo.org).



29-30, Carl Johnson Annual Winter Show at Carl Johnson's Gallery in downtown Galena. From 10 a.m.-5 p.m. A show of new watercolors featuring barns and winter landscapes of Jo Daviess County. Wine and cheese reception. Free. (815) 777-1222.

30, The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Class Pack Auto and Cycle Swap Meet / No Reserve Auction at the Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont. Noon. (217) 844-3610.

*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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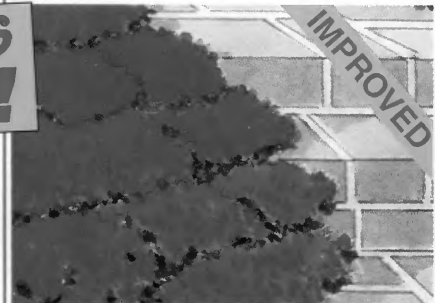
## SCARLET RED MAPLE

Wonderful  
shade tree!

One of fall's most richly colored trees is the beautiful Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) with its brilliant scarlet leaves. In spring the tree is loaded with delicate small red flowers. In summer, the rich green leaves give wonderful shade. A very majestic and beautiful shade tree that will give you years of proud satisfaction. You receive strong, heavily rooted hand selected 1 1/2-3' collected trees. An ideal transplanting size.

**\$1<sup>50</sup> each** 2/\$2.85 3/\$3.95

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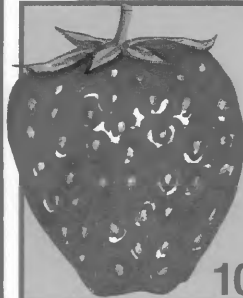
## CREEPING RED SEDUM

Cover those hard to fill bare spots with blazing color!

- ★ Grows in any soil — needs no special care!
- ★ Thrives in sun or partial shade!
- ★ Quick, even, disciplined spreading!
- ★ Guaranteed — inexpensive!

(*Sedum spurium*) You'll be thrilled with this hardy ground cover sometimes called Dragon's Blood. Fills those ugly trouble spots with attractive, thick evergreen foliage all year and amazes you with brilliant, starlike red flowers June through September. These are hardy, northern, nursery-grown plants.

**12 for \$3<sup>85</sup>** 24/\$7.65  
48/\$14.95 96/\$27.95



## GIANT QUINAULT EVERBEARING STRAWBERRIES

Bears all season!

If you love strawberries but don't like to pick them, grow Quinaults. THEY ACTUALLY GROW BIG AS TEA CUPS! And they're just as delicious as they are big. These firm, deep red berries make fancy "restaurant" desserts. Excellent for preserves, freezing and eating fresh, too. When planted in April, Quinaults will produce July through September — right up until frost! Treat yourself to big luscious berries all season.

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## CREEPING PHLOX

Masses of color early in spring! (*P. subulata*) Delicately fragrant Creeping Phlox grows to only about 4" tall. Fast spreading — snuggles up to rock groupings and grows rampantly on sunny slopes. Gives you gorgeous color long before most spring flowers bloom. Stays green all year — a wonderful ground cover or border. Thrives in partial shade or full sun. Strong field divisions. We send mixed colors of our choice — may include red, blue, white or pink.

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**1 for \$2.49**  
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(*Buddleia davidi*) Enjoy the fragrant blossoms from July until frost. Stately 8-10" flower spikes attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Easy to grow. Grow 3-6' tall. Our choice of mixed colors: Dark Purple, soft Orchid-Pink, Lilac, Reddish and Snow White.

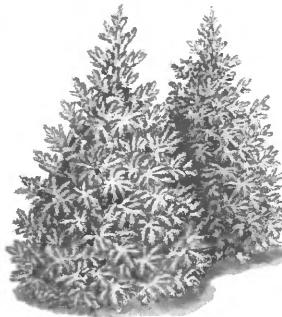
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	N7036	CR. RED SEDUM	
	N6607	Q. STRAWBERRIES	
	N6814	CREEPING PHLOX	
	N6201	BUTTERFLY BUSH	
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