



**illinois**  
**ren**  
**rural electric news**  
June, 1974

## Major Coal Mine to Open in Southern Illinois

Gov. Dan Walker recently announced that Monterey Coal Company plans to open a major deep shaft mine this year in Southern Illinois. When completed it will be the second largest underground coal mine in the state.

Construction work on the mine, Monterey's second underground mine in Illinois, will begin this year.

Gov. Walker made the announcement in Springfield at a joint news conference with Monterey President Robert H. Quenon.

Quenon said the company's plan calls for producing coal from the new mine by late 1976. By the time the mine reaches full capacity, it is expected to employ 650 people and produce at the rate of 3.6 million tons of coal a year.

Gov. Walker said, "the Monterey plan to open the mine means more coal production, more jobs and one more boost for the economic future of Southern Illinois.

"The first Monterey mine at Carlinville has been called one of the most modern, efficient and cleanest mines in the United States. It has proved that with modern technology a coal mine can be a good neighbor and operate in harmony with the environment."

Quenon said a site selection study and negotiations with the prospective customers are still in progress. He declined to mention the company's name for these reasons. The study should be completed within the next month, after which the company expects to invite bids from construction firms to build the mine, he added.

Monterey, by the way, is an operating subsidiary of The Carter Oil Co. Carter, an affiliate of Exxon Company, U.S.A., is engaged in coal, shale and synthetic fuels development.

## Senators Dissatisfied in Rural Development Action

Stepped-up efforts to move forward the development of rural communities were called for recently by witnesses at hearings of the Senate Subcommittee on Rural Development, chaired by Senator Dick Clark of Iowa.

Pointing to what he termed the "disappointing performance" of the Executive branch in implementing the Rural Development Act of 1972, William E. Murray, legislative representative of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), urged Congress to expand its oversight functions to "obtain first-hand information on achievement" of the objectives of "this landmark legislation."

Citing a resolution adopted by delegates at NRECA's Annual Meeting in San Francisco recommending that "the USDA develop goals for rural development to be achieved over the next decade in order to give Congress the means to measure progress and to establish practical annual funding levels," Murray stressed the importance of "qualified" goals, particularly regarding the need for housing, jobs, water and waste disposal systems and other essential community facilities. He said "there is a multi-billion dollar need for water and sewer systems and housing in rural areas and for hundreds of thousands of new jobs."

A subcommittee member, Senator Robert Dole of Kansas expressed "total disappointment" with the Department of Agriculture's efforts to implement the RD Act. "So far as I can tell," he said, "nothing has been done except a bunch of jawboning. I'm losing my patience," he added. Pointing to provisions of the act for which budget requests are well below amounts authorized, Dole said, "I think the program should be funded to operate as the Congress so intended." (RENS)

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In this Issue . . .

ARTICLES

- Underground, I Don't Dig It! 4
- A Bird of A Different  
Color 6 & 7
- His Dreams Became a  
Reality 8, 9 & 10
- Youth to Springfield 11

FEATURES

- Smile Awhile 16
- June is For Joy 18 & 19
- Major Appliances Get a  
Vacation 20

COVER—Graduation day at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, means a new life for many, especially for its School of Agriculture students. Read more about SIU's School of Agriculture and the man who helped develop it into a reality starting on page 8.

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# Illinois Rural Electric News

## The Importance of Not Letting George Do It

What if you had an electric cooperative meeting and no one came?

Well, for one thing, our lawyer friends tell us it would be illegal. But more important, it might mean the death of that cooperative, for it is the degree of member involvement that determines the fate of any cooperative.

Probably the most important aspect of a cooperative is the way it's structured—one member, one vote. That single factor has made the cooperatives of America the strong, viable organizations they are today.

Thousands of Illinois electric cooperative members will have the chance to use this one member, one vote system to determine the future of their cooperative at annual meetings held this year.

Members will gather in tents, at a local cooperative office, in a near-by school or at a county fairgrounds. The place doesn't really matter. What is said, does matter.

The annual meeting is where members can have their voices heard. Business reports are considered, special matters discussed, votes tallied, action decided and directors elected—all with the advice and consent of the membership.

In these days of corporate bigness and everyday complexity confronting us at every turn, cooperatives are a breath of fresh air. At annual meetings and through the one member, one vote systems cooperatives provide their members with a concerted voice with which to speak and a vehicle through which they can take concentrated action.

In recent years, Illinois electric cooperatives have been turning their attention to ways in which they live. They believe vast improvements lie ahead for their areas. Cooperatives are determined to lend all possible aid in bringing these dreams of greater development into reality.

An electric cooperative manager once said: "There is nothing sure in life except death, taxes and annual meetings." No doubt he has experienced, as do the directors and employees, the tension and hard work that goes into an annual meeting.

So why do they do it? They do it because of you and for you. Sometimes members forget they are the owners of the cooperative. The manager, the cooperative employees and the directors all work for you.

Cooperative leaders also realize that without a concerned and informed membership, the cooperative would be meaningless—everything they have worked for and stood up for would have been to no avail.

Many of us in the cities have seen our local schools deteriorate to a deplorable state. The reason—we became apathetic. "Let George do it," became the rationale behind our actions. Now we must strive for educational mediocrity instead of excellence.

Can the same thing happen to a cooperative? Can the membership lose control? Could cooperatives become a thing of the past simply because no one cares anymore about their consumer-owned organization? Never, if member-owners remain involved.

The next time you attend your cooperative annual meeting, become involved. Ask questions. Offer suggestions. If you do not understand a proposition or, more importantly, if you do not agree with it, stand up and ask questions or let your views be known.

Attend your annual meeting this year, It is well worth your time.

# underground "We don't dig it!"

Want some sound advice from your local utility? Check before you dig! It could save you some money and perhaps a life.

Recently, three utilities sponsored a cable "dig-in" prevention meeting for area contractors and municipal and school officials to emphasize the importance of calling before they began excavation.

Officials of McDonough Power Cooperative, Macomb, McDonough Telephone Cooperative, Colchester, and General Telephone Company pointed out that the rural areas ever increasing population and industry growth is creating a need for more extensive underground utility facilities—telephone and electric lines, water lines, etc.

But with this increased amount of underground facilities, utilities are having to contend with a growing number of underground cable cutting accidents.

The least an underground utility structure can cost you is the expense for the work time lost and the repair of the facility damaged. But it could cost a life or limb. No one can afford a loss like that.

There are two advantages for burying utility facilities. The first is that buried electric and telephone cables are subject to fewer outages because of adverse weather and tree damage.

A perfect example was the devastating tornado that struck Xenia, Ohio last spring. Amid all the death and the destruction, the phones con-

tinued to work. The reason—the lines were underground.

The second advantage to underground is that utilities are able to do their part in improving the environment by the removal of poles and overhead wires and cables.

At the meeting, John W. Kissel, chief telephone engineer, Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), explained that legislation had been introduced which will hopefully help curb the number of cable cutting accidents.

Kissel said the Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act would, for example, require all persons involved in excavation or demolition to:

—take reasonable action to inform himself of the location of any underground utility facilities in the area of construction.

—plan the excavation or demolition to avoid or minimize interference with underground utility fa-



Arthur H. Peyton



John W. Kissel

cilities in the construction area.

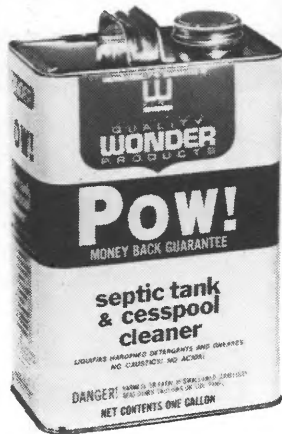
—provide notice, by any effective means that produces a written record, not less than 48 hours in advance of the start of construction to the known owners of the underground utility facilities in and near the construction area.

Kissel said the ICC is also working on a one-call notice system for contractors and excavators. In the future, a contractor will be able to call one number and get the location of each underground utility facility in the area of his construction.

"I can promise you that you will get 100 percent cooperation from each and every utility if you call before you dig," Arthur H. Peyton, manager of McDonough Power Cooperative, declared. "We are as interested as you are in the protection of our underground lines and the people who have to work near them. In some cases, the voltage of some of the underground conductors is as high as 15,000 volts."

# YOU'LL PROBABLY NEVER NEED TO PUMP OUT A CLOGGED-UP CESSPOOL OR SEPTIC AGAIN!

(or have your grounds dug up, either!)



Other methods try to work here.

POW works here so wastes drain down, instead of backing up!

**POW guarantees to clear cesspool and septic tank backup OR YOUR MONEY BACK!**

Can you afford to shrug off a \$50 to \$100 pumping job — plus \$400 to \$1,000 in landscaping repairs — every time your cesspool or septic tank backs up? If you can, you may be able to afford to do without POW.

Can you live comfortably with the inconvenience, the stench, and the health hazard of sewage overflowing your precious lawn, garden, and grounds . . . or backing up into your home? If you can, you may be able to manage without POW!

You see, without POW, even the best-kept cesspools and septic tanks do back up. Because the ground pores around and beneath your cesspool or septic tank drainage area get plugged up by the detergent residues, hardened fats, and other stubborn solids that make up 10% of your household wastes. As a result, the other 90% of your household sewage — water — can't drain away, and backs up. Caustics, acids, enzymes, even pumping, may ease the symptoms — but they can't get at the cause.

In fact, caustics and acids add to the trouble, literally hard-glaze sand into glass! Enzymes and bacteria miss the trouble, because they can't dissolve detergents! And pumping only postpones the trouble, because it doesn't restore drainage! But POW does!

### How POW Works Where Other Methods Don't — Eliminates Old Problems.

POW is a revolutionary new one-purpose formula, custom-formulated to dissolve only the hardened solids that clog sewage systems. It is perfectly safe to handle, and harmless to plumbing, pipes, lawns, gardens, cement, and mortar. You simply pour POW into any plumbing outlet in your house. It is heavier than water, so it sinks right through and down into your drainage area, liquefying wastes as it goes!

**POW opens the pores of the ground. And it keeps them open.** So there is no place for trouble to start. And you keep your system that way, with a "booster shot" of a quart of POW just 4 times a year, from then on. It's a small price to pay for security.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Complete 2 one-gallon can POW Treatment @ \$19.98 plus \$4.00 for postage and handling.

Enclosed is  check  money order TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

N.Y. residents add sales tax. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s.

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

by Jim Pottorf

**P**igeons, along with vultures and buzzards, are generally regarded as most disreputable birds.

And Bob Pettit of rural Geneseo would be the first person to agree that the reputation is largely deserved, at least by some pigeons. But not by the over 200 pigeons which annually perch in his loft.

There is a not so subtle difference between the pigeons Pettit breeds and the ones which adorn statues and create messy problems for unwary pedestrians. The difference is much like the difference between a Rolls-Royce and an Edsel—they may both be cars, but there the similarity ends.

Pettit, a land developer and a member of Farmers Mutual Electric Company, Geneseo, is recognized as one of the leading pigeon authorities in the United States. He raises the birds for show, for genetic research and for pleasure.

Pigeon breeders are not necessarily tenement dwellers. Among the more prominent pigeon raisers are Queen Elizabeth of England and Nobel Prize winner Oscar Riddle, as well as several members of European nobility whose families have raised a particular variety of pigeons for centuries.

There are over 200 different breeds of fancy pigeons—fancy because they are bred for show. According to Pettit, there are more genetically different breeds of pigeons than any other bird in the world. He also said there are more pigeon shows and more pigeons in those shows than for any other animal or bird.

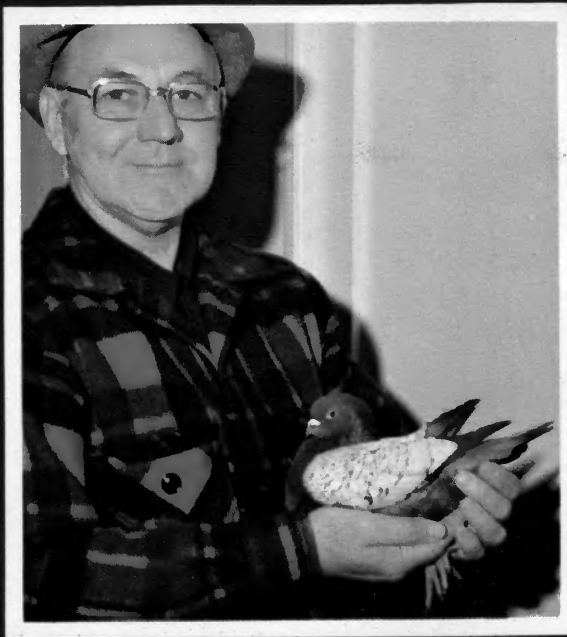
Pettit, a member of the Pigeon Growers Hall of Fame and author of several articles in the American Pigeon Journal, has served as a judge in shows where over 7,000 birds have been entered. This is still substantially less than an average of 12,000 birds entered in European contests.

Wild pigeons or rock doves, the names are interchangeable, are native to Spain. Their natural habitat is much as the name implies—they nest in the rocks and cliffs along the coasts. Some pigeons, however, have



# a bird

# of a different



*FAR LEFT, TOP: One of Pettit's Modena pigeons presents his almost regal bearing and unusual feather pigmentation. FAR LEFT, CENTER: German Crested Shields are notable for their feathered feet and necks. FAR LEFT, BOTTOM: Pettit's loft houses over 200 Modena, German Crested Shield and Brunner Pouter pigeons. RIGHT, ABOVE: Bob Pettit, pigeon expert, holds one of his prize Modenas. The bird has won several awards in pigeon shows. RIGHT, BELOW: A pair of Modena pigeons will mate for life unless they are separated, according to Pettit.*

moved further inland. There are three types of wild pigeons native to the U.S.

Domesticated pigeons, those pigeons bred for show or for racing, are descendants of European pigeons caught, tamed and bred centuries ago to achieve a bird genetically superior to the common rock dove. According to Pettit, all domesticated birds are a result of man-guided evolution.

Pettit presently raises three types of pigeons: Brunner Pouters, Crested German Shields and Modenas. The Pouters are distinguishable by the way they inflate their esophaguses to several times its normal size. The Shields have crested necks and feathered feet. The Modena pigeons, though they look similar to a common rock dove to the unknowledgeable observer, are noted for their wide range of colors and feather pigmentation.

Pettit's prize pigeons are the Modenas. He mates 60 pairs a year. It is possible to get 40 genetically different colors from the 60 pairs. His loft of Modenas is one of the largest in existence from the standpoint of having a wide spectrum of color and feather pigmentation.

"Although I keep Pouters and Shields, my primary interest has been Modenas for the past several years," Pettit said. "The other birds are just conversation pieces. Through the years, I have bred almost every type of pigeon."

The obvious question is, of course, why pigeons? The equally as ob-

*(continued on page 15)*



color



Dean W. E. Keeper, seated, with his successor Dr. Gilbert Kroening.

*W. E. Keeper,  
Dean of the School of Agriculture at SIU-C:*

## his dreams became a reality

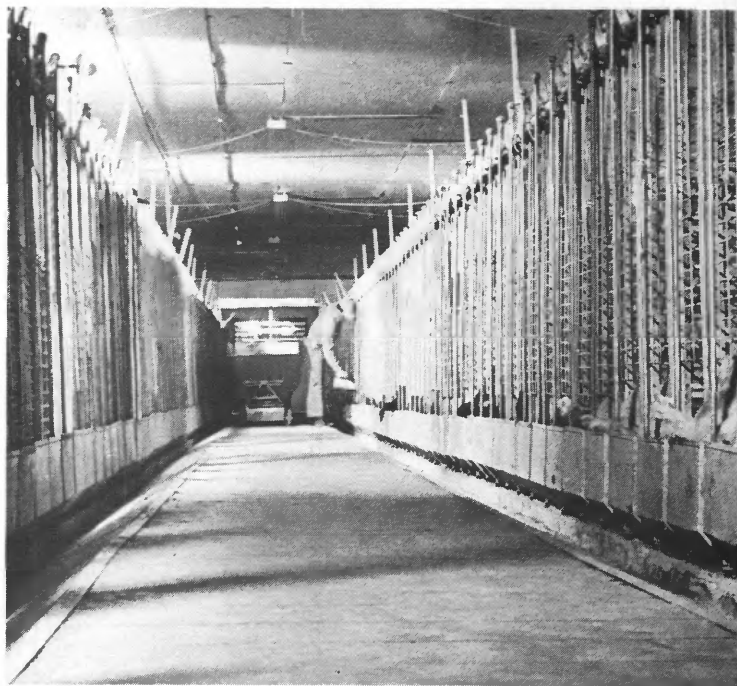
All of us have dreams. Yet, it takes a very special person with determination, ability and courage to make a dream become a reality. Such a man is W. E. Keeper, dean of the School of Agriculture at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

For the past 24 years, this former Montgomery County farm boy has developed the SIU agricultural program into a highly respected center of learning, research and service.

Early this summer Dean Keeper will step-down from his post. Replacing him is another former Illinois farm boy, Dr. Gilbert Kroening, who is presently the assistant dean.

The SIU agricultural program has developed extensively under Dean Keeper's administration. Besides authorization to give degrees in agriculture, SIU has gained qualification to train agricultural occupations teachers for the state's public schools.

But more importantly, the School became a service to the area it represents—Southern Illinois. According to Dean Keeper, his greatest accomplishment has been to "help some 3,000 young persons obtain a degree who,





COUNTER CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

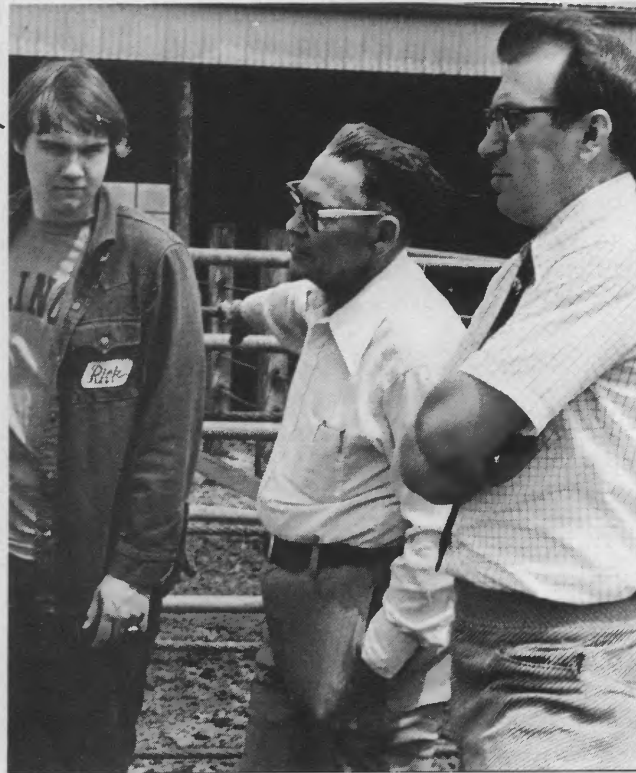
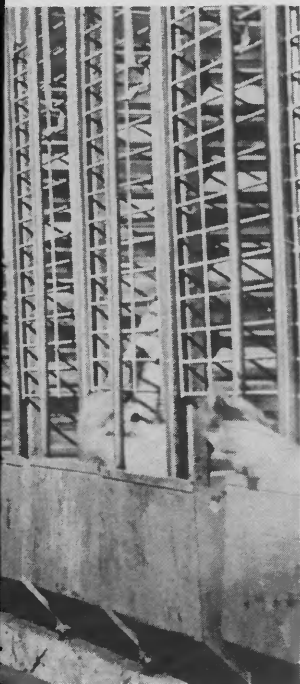
There is a certain amount of fun for agriculture students at SIU, such as the Block and Bridle spring Fun-Day event—trying to win the calf scramble contest.

Individual feeding pens for gestating sows at the Swine Center permit special feeding and management for breeding animals.

Forestry studies also include classroom and laboratory study. A student uses equipment for studying forest cover and land elevations in photogrammetry.

Three area grade school children are enthralled with a couple of cuddly pigs during a spring educational visit to the School's livestock centers and farms each spring as part of their learning experience about farms and farm animals.

Dr. Kroening and Dean Keeper explain the purpose of the University's experimental farm to a group of high school students.



at least in the early years, would not have received one otherwise.”

Agriculture was a part of the educational program at Carbondale even before SIU was a state university. Back in 1913, when SIU was Southern Illinois Normal University, a department was organized to provide instruction in agricultural courses for the institution's teacher-training program. At about the same time a 60-acre tract was purchased for use as the initial experimental farm.

The department continued as a one or two-man teaching unit until 1946 when two additional staff members were employed. In 1950, a sandy-haired agricultural economics professor from Pennsylvania State University arrived on the scene and things began to happen.

Dean Keeper was placed in charge of a department with a student enrollment of around 50 and a staff of five professors. Classes were held in temporary barracks scattered across the campus.

The department of agriculture at that time was a unit within the College of Vocation and Professions. In 1953, SIU's Board of Trustees established the Division of Rural Studies which evolved into the School of Rural Studies two years later.

“The School of Rural Studies was really just a name,” Dean Keeper explained. “Because of a state legislative restriction we could not grant a degree in agriculture. We could, however, grant a degree in rural studies.

“We had several problems to contend with back in the early 1950's,” he recalled. “First we had to have the restriction removed on allowing us to grant agriculture degrees. We also had to find facilities to hold classes. But these were legislative problems. More importantly we had to develop the reputation of the School and began providing a service to the area.”

In 1955, one of the stumbling blocks which hindered the development of the School was removed. With the urging of several groups, including the Illinois electric cooperatives, the Illinois General Assem-

*(Continued on next page)*

## His Dreams Became a Reality

(continued)

bly eliminated the restriction on granting agriculture degrees at SIU.

During the same year, the state also appropriated \$2.6 million for an agriculture building. It was completed in 1957 and is one of the largest, but least expensive buildings on campus today.

With problems of housing and certification behind him, Dean Keeper began to surround himself with a highly competent staff.

"There were two conditions an applicant had to meet before the School would hire him," Dean Keeper said. "First, he should have a doctorate degree. And second, he had to be a pioneer—a pioneer because we were a pioneering school. Many people laughed at us and said we wouldn't last. We had to hire people on what was going to be and not on what we had at the time."

One of Dean Keeper's wisest choices was Dr. Walter Wills, a short, pipe-smoking professor from the University of Illinois. Dr. Wills came to SIU in 1957 and was placed in charge of the agricultural industries department. Like Dean Keeper, Dr. Wills let his presence be known.

"The thing that I liked best about Walt was that he was service oriented," Dean Keeper said about his close friend. "He knew the region well and had worked with a number of cooperative and service personnel in the area."

Dr. Wills was imbued with the pioneering spirit that Dean Keeper demanded. He has been instrumental in a number of cooperative programs throughout the state, including several workshops for Illinois cooperative leaders.

Under his direction, the agricultural industries department has grown into one of the University's most successful programs. The department offers an opportunity for farm advisers and other agricultural personnel to obtain a master's degree while continuing to work in the field. Since its inception, 60 persons

have obtained a masters in the program.

SIU's School of Agriculture has come of age since the days of no classrooms, 50 students, five professors and a School of Rural Studies.

The 60-acre experimental tract has grown into a 1900-acre agricultural and forestry research center. Student enrollment today is over 850 undergraduates and graduates.

There are now 56 full-time faculty members, 52 of whom hold a doctorate degree—degrees from 33 of the most prestigious Schools or Colleges of Agriculture in the United States.

The School offers degrees in agriculture or forestry and consists of four departments. Each department offers programs leading to a Bachelor or Master of Science degree. Through cooperative arrangements with other departments on campus, an agriculture or forestry major may also earn a doctorate.

"Although we emphasize teaching, the School is also active in research and service," Dean Keeper said. "I would say nearly 40 percent of our budget goes into research. Service is a little harder to measure. Our staff is active in several agricultural related projects throughout the area but unfortunately we really haven't qualified the different types of services we render. I do know that in the future we will be doing more for the area and for the state."

But what about that future? A lot of the School's future success will depend on its new dean, Dr. Kroening.

Dr. Kroening grew up on a farm in Effingham County. His father, who is 74, is still farming that land today. Dr. Kroening recalls when his farm was first electrified in 1947 by Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc., Mt. Vernon. Today, Dr. Kroening is a member of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Steeleville.

In a recent interview, Dr. Kroening said he works on research programs and superintends the University Farms as assistant dean.

Dr. Kroening said he sees an optimistic future for the School of Agriculture because of the foundation

that Dean Keeper has built. He said the School will continue to work diligently in the areas of teaching research and community service.

"There is a general trend for people to go back to the land," he added, "and people are becoming more concerned about the production of food and fibers.

"What we really will have to be concerned with," he emphasized, "is that the School of Agriculture must continue to be in step with the times, or maybe a little ahead of the times. We can't afford to lag behind technology."

This summer, Dean Keeper will go into semi-retirement on a small farm outside of Carbondale. He also is a member of Egyptian Electric Cooperative.

How does one assess his contributions over the past nearly 25 years to something as important as the education of our children? Dean Keeper doesn't. Through the years he has been more concerned with the future instead of the past.

But he may have summed up some of his accomplishments inadvertently in a recent annual report to the School:

"The overall agricultural program at Southern Illinois University was developed with the intent of fulfilling the wishes of the Board of Trustees and the public it represents. Despite the youth and rapid growth of the program and keen competition from other programs for available funds, insofar as possible, improvisation and superficiality have been avoided. What appeared desirable in the combined interest of high academic standards and of service to Illinois agriculture has been done. The program has been what those who conducted it believed should be done by a state financed higher education institution, 'land-grant' in philosophy but without federal support."

There is no doubt the future of SIU's School of Agriculture will indeed be bright. And many will say the reason for that bright future was because a man had the determination, ability and courage to make his dreams become a reality.

Governor Dan Walker thought it important enough to proclaim a special day for it to be held . . . Lt. Governor Neil Hartigan took time from his busy schedule to talk about it . . . and Illinois electric cooperatives were extremely pleased to sponsor it.

IT was the first "Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day" and the second year of the "Youth to Springfield" tour. Over 110 essay finalists and chaperones from 10 Illinois electric cooperatives met in Springfield on May 8 to participate.

Cooperatives sponsoring the youth tour were Adams Electrical Cooperative, Camp Point; Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., Breese; Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon; Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, Paxton; Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Steeleville; Illinois Rural Electric Co., Winchester; Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc., Waterloo; Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., Greenville; Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield and Western Illinois Electrical Coop., Carthage.

This year, 19 electric cooperatives in Illinois sponsored an essay contest in their area to select rural students to represent the cooperative in the annual "Youth to Washington" tour. This is the second year where finalists from many of the cooperatives have been honored and rewarded for their participation with an all-expense, full-day trip to the State Capital.

IT was the VIP's tour, too.

Governor Walker, although personally unable to attend, welcomed the students with

a proclamation which praised the young people for "their interest and achievements in rural electric youth activities, for taking advantage of the educational experience they are offered and for the responsible leadership they are developing." The Governor also wished them a most enjoyable and profitable visit.

After assembling at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield, for a tour of the state-wide facilities, the students boarded three buses and were whisked away for a tour of the Illinois House and Senate Chambers at the State Capitol Building.

While at the Capitol, the delegation was recognized on the floor of the Senate and given a round of applause by their legislators.

One of the day's highlights was an address from Lt. Governor Hartigan at a noon luncheon held in the students' honor at the Ramada Inn Forum XXX, Springfield's newest hotel and banquet center.

The Lt. Governor praised the students for their "outstanding achievements" as leaders in their respective

schools and for their willingness to participate when others have shrank from responsibilities and duty.

"You are the people who will lead this state and this country in future years," Hartigan said. "It is never too early to start thinking about what you want to do with your life. Take part. Participate. Get involved in the running of your state government. I have been in government for the past 12 years and I believe it is one of the most responsible and rewarding things one can do with their life."

During the luncheon, Miss Kathy Harriss of Fairfield, who is presently reigning as "Miss Illinois Electric Cooperative" and "Miss Rural Electrification, 1974" was presented a \$1,500 scholarship check by W. J. Shields, District Manager, Apparatus Distribution Sales Division, General Electric Co., St. Louis, Missouri. The check was presented to Miss Harriss on behalf of the General Electric Company for having been selected "Miss Rural Electrification" at the NRECA Annual Meeting held in February.

Other activities during the day included a tour of the Illinois State Museum, the Old State Capitol Building and the Lincoln Home and Tomb.

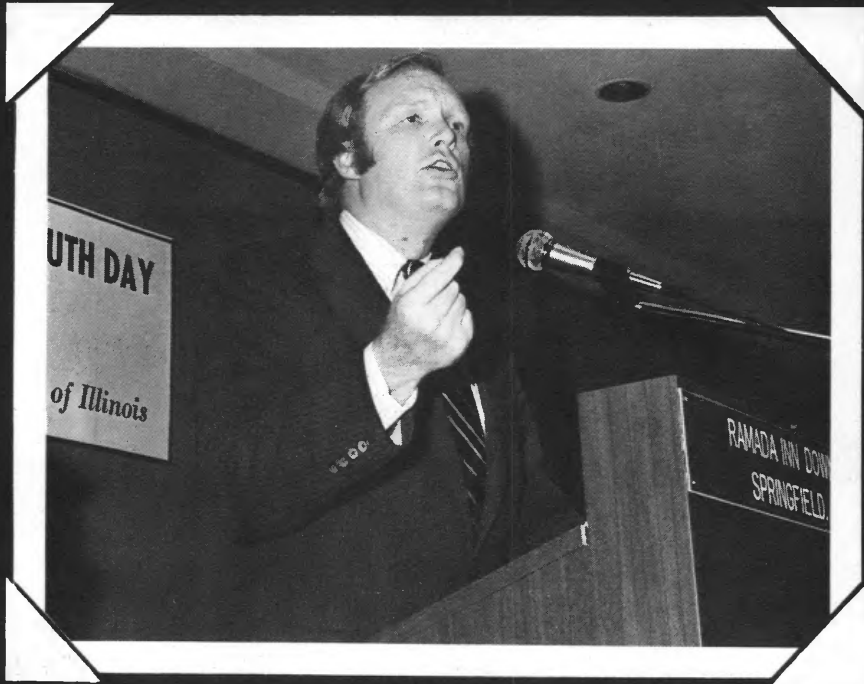
While students from seven of the cooperatives returned home in the late afternoon, more was in store for essay finalists from Adams, Illinois Rural and Western Illinois electric cooperatives. The group had the singular opportunity to meet with nine legislators, representing the 47th, 48th and 49th Legislative Dis-

*(continued on page 15)*

## Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day



# From Our "Youth to Springfield" Family Album...



*Lt. Governor Neil Hartigan praised rural students for their achievements and urged them to think about a career in politics now.*



*Rep. Michael McClain of Quincy, attended the evening banquet and pleased a young constituent with an autograph.*



*Even a time to Kathy & Electrifi*



*Three of tour were Wayne-U Illinois.*

ELECTRIC TOOTH  
, 1974  
Cooperatives of Illinois



Governor Hartigan has  
picked to a pretty girl like  
Miss, "Miss Rural  
Election of 1974."



Tour Director Bob Patton points out  
the many sights of Springfield  
to an interested audience  
during the day long outing.



The chaperones for the  
tour from left: Ivan Holler,  
; Ken Decker, Eastern  
' Dale Harris, Wayne-White.



The 1974 essay finalists took a  
tour of the State Capitol Building  
replete with senate scrollwork,  
statues and the Capitol dome.

What if your  
**INCOME**  
should suddenly



## Could you live **WITHOUT** your income?

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# a bird

(continued from page 7)

vious answer by Pettit is, "why dogs?"

"I wouldn't walk across the street to see a dog show or classic cars, but a lot of people do," Pettit said. "It is really just a matter of where your interest lies. For me, the fascination is with creating, with breeding something living that I think is extremely pretty.

"This is not a love of pets thing for me, though," Pettit said. "I am more interested in the genetical problems. Any animal or bird that is shown is placed against a standard of perfection. I am trying to breed that bird which comes closest to that standard."

Besides a beautiful bird, Pettit is looking for a mutant, a female bird just a little different in color and feather pigmentation. When this female is bred back with one of her offspring, the result is an entirely new breed of pigeons. Although the number of new breeds which could be produced this way is immeasurable, master breeders do not encourage attempts to produce new breeds indiscriminately.

"We discourage producing new breeds just for the sake of having an oddity," Pettit said. "Too often, the pigeons are grotesque, not beautiful as a carefully bred and mated pigeon can be. I have pigeons no one else in the world has color-wise. But, the idea is to breed a superior bird, not just something different."

According to Pettit, pigeons are a lot more unusual than our common park friends. The birds are monogamous, a pair mate for life unless they are permanently separated. The male pigeon sits on the eggs and feeds the young, called squabs, when they are born.

The normal breeding season for pigeons is March through July. Un-

der controlled conditions, such as those that exist in Pettit's loft, the pigeons breed more frequently. Female pigeons always lay two eggs. The eggs take roughly 17 days to hatch. When the squabs are two weeks old, the female then lays another two eggs.

According to Pettit, the pigeons are easy to take care of. They eat a variety of solid grains, such as corn and peas. They are hardy birds which can stand changes in temperature. They also are adaptable to different living conditions.

Although Pettit raises an average of 200 pigeons a year, the size of his loft makes it impossible for him to keep all of them. He saves the genetically superior birds for replacements. The rest, usually around 100, go to other lofts or are destroyed. He feeds approximately 120 over the winter.

"Most people ask if there is money in breeding pigeons and I tell them, yes—if they have the time and are willing to work at it like they would a job," Pettit said.

"The average price for a good breeding pigeon is around \$25," he added, "although some rare varieties will sell for over \$250 apiece. I have sold Modenas to breeders as far away as New Zealand and Quebec."

Some pigeon breeders raise pigeons on a commercial basis and sell the birds for meat or for scientific research. Squabs of roughly one pound to one and one-half pound sell for more than a full-grown chicken. The meat is considered a delicacy by many people, and is "excellent eating," according to Pettit.

Although he believes he has accomplished a lot in breeding his Modenas, Pettit says the master breeders are still in Europe. The most exotic birds, he said, are bred in Japan and China.

"American breeders are just less patient than the Europeans," Pettit said. "It takes generations to breed an exotic bird or to find that pigeon with which you can work toward a more superior bird. Americans just don't want to spend the time. They

want a quality bird now.

"They also don't understand that breeding a superior pigeon is only a prerequisite for creating even a better bird," Pettit added.

One major reason pigeon breeding is not more widespread in the United States is because of pigeons' poor image.

"We sometimes feel like the man who breeds a thoroughbred dog when there are 5,000 curs running the streets," Pettit said. "People ask, 'why are you breeding more of the things when there are thousands running wild already?'"

"Believe me, breeders of show pigeons and racing birds would like to get rid of the wild pigeons just as much as other people," Pettit said.

"The difference is, we understand why they are a nuisance. When the rock doves were brought here from Spain, they left their natural enemies behind. Here, they go unchecked, except for hunters who shoot a few of them."

For Pettit, raising pigeons is also a way of getting away from the pressures of his work, a way of "plotting things out" as he puts it.

"I know as long as I have my birds, I'll never have an ulcer," Pettit said.

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## Youth Day

(continued from page 11)

tricts, home districts of the three cooperatives.

Attending were Senators John L. Knuppel of Petersburg, A. C. "Junie" Bartulis of Benld, and Clifford B. Latherow of Carthage, along with Representatives Samuel McGrew of Geneseo, A. T. McMaster of Oneida, Clarence E. Neff of Stronghurst, Mary Lou Kent of Quincy, Michael F. McClain of Quincy and Gale Schisler of London Mills.

For the winners of the individual essay contests, it's off to Washington June 8-15. For all the finalists of the essay contests, IT turned out to be almost as good.



**War Wound?**

The man walked to the rear of the bus and sat down, still holding his hands in the same position. A woman passenger turned to him and asked, "Were you wounded in the war?"

"No, I wasn't," he replied.

"Well, why are you holding your fingers like that?" asked the woman.

"I'm on my way to the hardware store," answered the man, "and I need a piece of pipe this long."

**Fairy Tale**

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into his parent's room, where his mother sat glowering, her fingers drumming on the arms of her chair. "Mommy, tell me a story," begged the boy between yawns.

"Wait until your father gets home," fumed his mother, "and he'll tell us both one."

**Easy Trick**

A tramp lying under a tree by the roadside was asked by a traveler which road would take him to N.Y. The tramp raised his foot and pointed to the right road. "If you can do a lazier trick than that," said the traveler, "I'll give you a dollar." The tramp replied, "Put it in my pocket."

**Bible Revised**

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. "My mother looked back once," said the interested little Jimmy, "while she was driving and she turned into a telephone pole!"

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# JUNE IS FOR JOY

■ Whether it's to honor a graduate, to fete a bride-to-be, or celebrate a wedding, June is a time of joyous feasting. Gardens in bloom lend a colorful background to elegant menus and the prettiest serving pieces. Although we've selected June as the month for our celebration supper, the menu would serve as well any time of year. Any time of day from brunch through evening would find it appropriate, too. Should you use the menu for a wedding, top it with the most elegant possible wedding cake. For graduation parties or bridal showers, pretty Petits Fours will add just the right touch.

## CHICKEN SUPREME

- 4 cups diced cooked chicken
- 2 cups light cream
- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 6 tablespoons flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/8 teaspoon white pepper
- 3 cups milk
- 6 egg yolks
- 2 tablespoons chopped onion
- 4 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese
- 10 baked patty shells

Simmer chicken in cream until cream is reduced to about half. Melt butter and blend in flour and seasonings. Gradually add milk and cook, stirring, until thickened. Add about 1 cup of this sauce to chicken mixture and stir in 2 egg yolks and the onion. Beat a little of the sauce into remaining egg yolks. Put back in saucepan with remaining sauce and cook for a few minutes longer. Stir in 2 tablespoons of the cheese. Pour chicken mixture into shallow broiler-proof dish, cover with sauce and top with remaining cheese. Brown under broiler. Serve over baked patty shells. Makes 10 servings.

## PEACH CHUTNEY

- 1 can (17 oz.) cling peach slices
- 1/2 cup dried currants
- 1/2 cup finely chopped pitted prunes
- 1/2 cup finely chopped raw onion
- 1 cup water
- 1 lemon
- 1 1/4 cups brown sugar (packed)
- 1 1/2 cups vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1 large apple, coarsely chopped

Drain peaches. Rinse currants. Combine currants, prunes, onion and water and boil about 5 minutes, until water is almost evaporated. Meanwhile, cut lemon in half lengthwise and slice paper thin. Add lemon, sugar, vinegar, salt, spices and apple. Boil slowly, uncovered, about 25 minutes. Add well drained peaches, and cook 5 minutes longer.

## FROZEN FRUIT SURPRISE SALAD

- 1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese
- 1 quart strawberry ice cream, softened
- 1/2 cup cooked salad dressing
- 2 cans (17 oz.) fruit cocktail, drained
- 1/3 cup chopped nuts

Combine softened cream cheese, ice cream and salad dressing, mixing until well blended. Fold in fruit and nuts. Pour into 9-inch square pan or individual molds. Freeze until firm. Place in refrigerator 15 minutes before serving. Cut into squares, or unmold. Makes 10 servings.

## COCKTAIL PECANS

- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 or 2 dashes of Tabasco sauce
- 1 lb. pecan halves

Put butter, seasoned salt and hot sauce in 12x8x2 baking dish. Place in 300 degree oven until butter melts. Add pecans, stirring until all are coated. Bake for about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle with Worcestershire sauce, stir again and continue baking for another 15 minutes, or until crisp. Will freeze. Makes 20 servings.

## CHEESE ROLL

- 12 oz. American cheese (grated)
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 3/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup grated pecans

Let cream cheese get to room temperature. Grate American cheese. Mix all ingredients together. Shape into long rolls. Roll on waxed paper in chili mix. Refrigerate several hours. Slice and serve.

## SWEETHEART SALAD

- 2 cups crushed pineapple
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 pint whipping cream
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 6 oz. cream cheese
- 1 1/2 tablespoons gelatin
- 2 tablespoons cherry juice
- 12 cherries (cut fine)
- Red food coloring

Heat pineapple with sugar. Add gelatin dissolved in 1/2 cup cold water. Stir until dissolved, add lemon juice and cool. Mash cream cheese and cherries, add cherry juice. Mix with pineapple and chill until slightly thickened. Whip cream and blend with pineapple mixture and chill. Add a few drops of red food coloring for deeper color. Makes 12 small servings.

## LEMON PIE

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons flour
- Dash of salt
- 1 1/2 cups hot water
- 3 slightly beaten egg yolks
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon peel
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1 9" pie crust, baked
- 3 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6 tablespoons sugar

Mix first 4 ingredients, gradually stir in hot water. Quickly bring to boil, stirring constantly. Reduce heat, continue cooking and stirring for 8 minutes. Stir small amount of hot mixture into egg yolks; then return to hot mixture. Bring to boiling, cook 4 minutes, stirring constantly. Add butter and lemon peel. Slowly stir in 1/3 cup lemon juice. Pour into pie shell, cool to room temperature. Make meringue, spread over pie, bake 12-15 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool thoroughly before serving.

## CRANBERRY-LEMON FROST

- 1 bottle (32 ozs.) cranberry-juice cocktail
- 2 cans (12 ozs. each) apricot nectar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1 pint lemon sherbet
- Mint sprigs

Combine cranberry-juice cocktail, apricot nectar, and corn syrup in a large pitcher. Chill at least 3 hours. Just before serving, pour mixture into a punch bowl. Scoop or spoon lemon sherbet into small balls; float on top. Garnish with a cluster of mint. Tip: If you have a freezer, save yourself last-minute fussing by shaping ice-cream balls ahead. Place in a single layer on a cookie sheet; cover with transparent wrap; freeze until serving time. Makes about 18 servings, 1/2 cup each.

## FROZEN FRUIT RING

- 1 can (6 oz.) pink lemonade concentrate
- 1 quart gingerale
- 1 can (29 oz.) fruit cocktail, drained (reserve syrup)
- Mint or spearmint leaves

Combine pink lemonade concentrate with gingerale. Arrange a little fruit and mint leaves in bottom of 1 1/2 to 2 quart ring mold. Pour just a little gingerale mixture in ring mold and freeze to set fruit. Add remaining gingerale mixture and fruit cocktail. Freeze thoroughly. Unmold and float on Festive Party Punch.

## FESTIVE PARTY PUNCH

- 2 quarts gingerale, chilled
- 2 quarts lemonade, chilled
- 1 quart pink lemonade, chilled
- 1 can (6 oz.) orange concentrate
- 1 cup fruit cocktail syrup
- Frozen fruit ring

Combine chilled ingredients, orange concentrate and fruit syrup in punch bowl. Float frozen fruit ring on top. Makes about 20 servings.

## FIFTY-CUP PUNCH

- 4 pkgs. (3 oz.) cherry gelatin
- 2 small cans frozen orange concentrate
- 2 small cans frozen lemon concentrate
- 1 can (46 oz.) pineapple juice
- 2 large bottles ginger ale
- Sugar as desired

Dissolve gelatin following directions on package. Add orange and lemon concentrates using half of water on can directions. Add sugar if you wish. Add pineapple juice and 3 quarts of water. Add ginger ale just before serving.



# When major appliances get vacation



■ If you're planning a couple of weeks of active vacation, it's wise to give some thought to the "still life" of those automatic appliances that will be idle while you're gone. Let common sense and good housekeeping be your guides.

**RANGE**—If you have a self-cleaning oven, take advantage of it. After dinner the evening before you leave, set the controls and let the oven clean itself while you perform last minute packing.

Check the range for spillovers and spatters. Given two or more weeks to age, these spots will be harder than ever to remove. And nothing will take the edge off that relaxed vacation feeling as quickly as opening the oven and seeing the previous two weeks' menu written in spatters and spills on the walls.

**REFRIGERATORS**—Before leaving, clear the refrigerator of perishables. If you have a combination refrigerator-freezer, check those perishables to see if they can be stored in the freezer section for an excellent first meal or hearty snack upon your return home. For example, a few slices of left-over roast, some cold chicken, a dab of cheese spread—all of these make tasty sandwiches. Likewise, a piece of pie or part of a cake will taste just as fresh two weeks from now if packaged and frozen.

If you are storing foods in the freezer section, you may want to package ice cubes and store them in the freezer, too. Packaging the cubes will prevent their going stale and will assure you the makings of an ice cold drink on your return. If you have an ice maker, it's a good idea to turn off the water leading to it.

About controls: If you're leaving a supply of frozen foods in the freezer section, the control should be kept at its regular setting during your absence. If frozen food supply, however, is exhausted, then the control should be turned to a warmer setting.

The refrigerator, if it will be empty, may be turned

completely "OFF". Just remember, however, to leave the door ajar for air circulation while you're gone and, on your return, remember again to allow time for the refrigerator to reach proper cooling temperature.

**FOOD FREEZER**—Celebrate your homecoming before you ever start your vacation by stocking your freezer with food for the first major meal upon your return. This eliminates the need for an immediate trip to the market for first-meal fixings.

It's a good idea to arrange with a neighbor to check your food freezer in case of a prolonged power outage.

**DISHWASHER**—If yours is a portable dishwasher, be sure the hoses are disconnected. Soiled dishes and silver should be cleaned before leaving. The short cycle on some dishwashers is ideal for doing last-minute odds and ends.

**WASHERS AND DRYERS**—Turn off your laundry faucets to relieve pressure on the hoses connected to your automatic washer. A dryer takes no special care but be sure all controls are turned off.

A final, practical laundry hint. Before leaving on vacation, check the laundry hamper to make sure there are no damp towels or washcloths which might mildew before you return.

**FOOD WASTE DISPOSERS**—Run cold water through the disposer for several minutes after the food is ground to clean the unit. Never use drain cleaner in your disposer because it may harm some of the parts. Put the disposer cover in the drain position to prevent anything from accidentally being dropped into the unit.

**DEHUMIDIFIERS**—If your unit has an automatic control to turn off when the pan's full, or has a drain hose on it, then it's fine to leave it on while you're gone. However, if you must empty pan by hand, then turn off unit while you're gone.

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