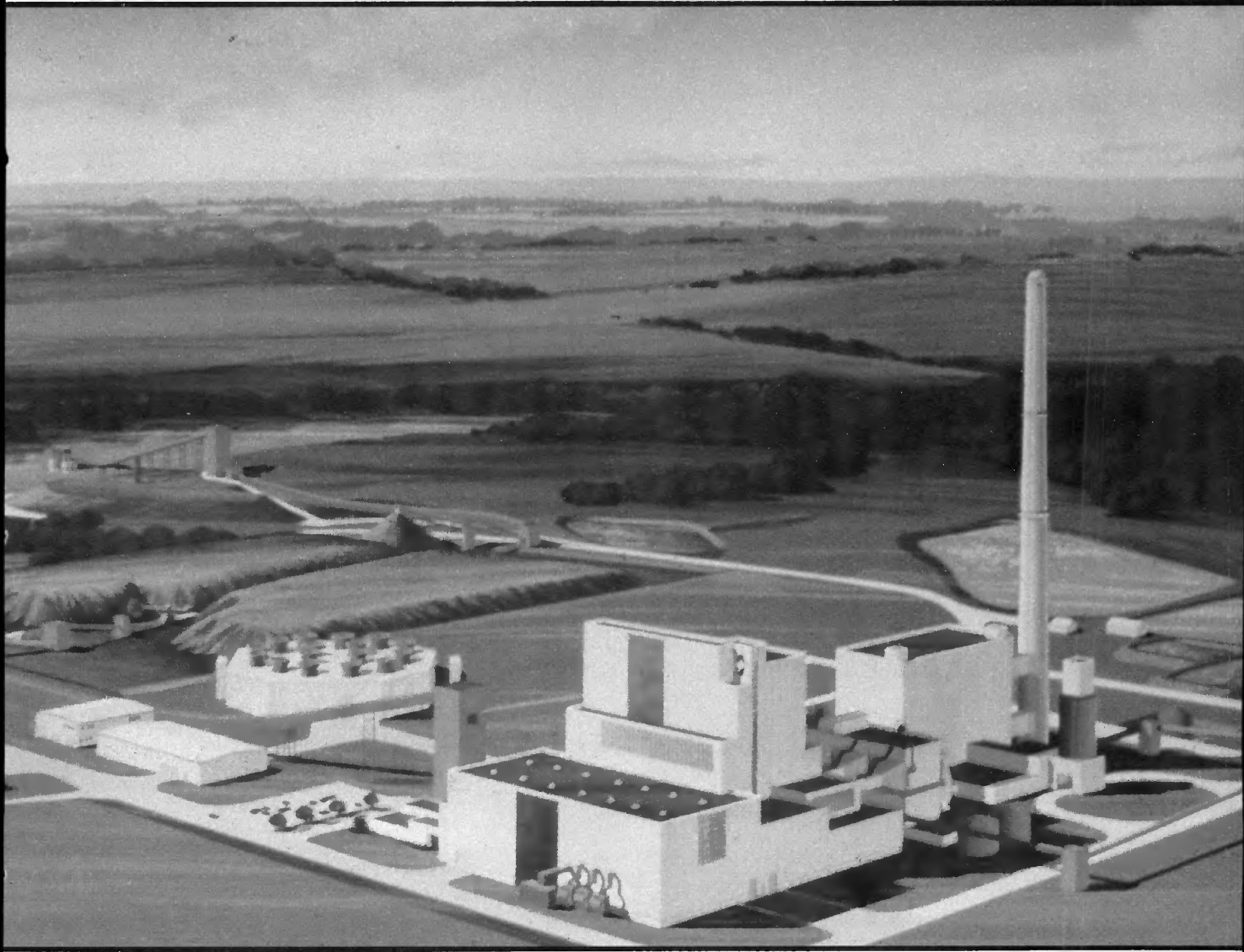


# ren

November 1982

## Illinois Rural Electric News



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# Public Announcement

FOR THE READERS OF ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

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# 'Great news' for many in Illinois

The cover of this edition of the *Illinois Rural Electric News* depicts the coal-fired electric generating station Soyland Power Cooperative plans to build near the Illinois River in Pike County. On pages 4 and 5 you will find an article dealing with the formal groundbreaking ceremonies held October 22. For the 15 member electric distribution cooperatives and their 300,000 consumers, it was an auspicious, historic occasion.

To be completed in 1987, the plant is designed to provide a significant portion of the electric energy requirements of Soyland's members.

It has many other benefits for Illinois, too.

During the projected construction period of four years, the work will employ an estimated 1,500 workers. After completion, there will be a large number of permanent employees.

As the keynote speaker for the groundbreaking, U.S. Rep. Paul Findley, explained, "That's great news, but let's think about the implications of these numbers.

"The construction and subsequent operation of this plant will represent a surge in economic activity in central Illinois. Plant employees and secondary workers are expected to have a total of 102 school-age children, that will require six new teachers, four new support staff, and one new bus. On a regional basis, these requirements represent a one-percent increase in service levels.

"The need for doctors and dentists in the area will also increase, but present health care facilities are expected to handle the needs of the combined population without problem.

"The operation of the plant will require a permanent work force of about 160 people. Employees will include

operators, store workers, mobile equipment operators, mechanical maintenance workers, electricians, and instrument repairmen. The estimated annual payroll of the plant will be \$3.7-million. And, for each of those employees an extra job will be created in the area for support services. These new jobs will generate more than \$5.7-million in wages per year.

"Construction of the plant will require about 1,500 workers during the peak period. Most of the workers will be heavy equipment operators, manual laborers, heavy equipment mechanics, electricians, welders, engineers, and clerical help. At peak construction the project will generate an average annual income of \$17.9-million from 1983 through the end of 1986. This is a 4.6-percent increase in the total income for the area.

"The workers that come to this area for the plant will inject nearly \$16.8-million into the local economy. Local residents who accept construction jobs at the site will earn \$23.4-million, and commuters will earn \$32.9-million. This represents a substantial boost to the economy here.

"The plant will also have a positive effect on the barge and railroad industry. The Illinois River, just a stone's throw away, can provide the mainstream of coal-hauling transportation. The Norfolk and Western Railroad will also be involved. The transportation of 1.2 million tons of coal per year to feed the plant will mean job security to those involved in the barge and rail industry.

"The plant will use 42.2 million tons of coal over a 35-year period. This will provide job security for over 300 coal miners. And I want to make the point once again that this is Illinois coal, and jobs for Illinois workers."

It is indeed "great news."

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## November 1982 Volume 40, Number 7

Published by Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

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Larry F. Elledge  
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Gordon M. Olsen  
Managing Editor

Jack D. Halstead  
Associate Editor

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### Illinois Rural Electric News

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Cover: This is an artist's depiction of the electric generation station that Soyland Power Cooperative plans to build in Pike County near the Illinois River. Formal groundbreaking ceremonies were held October 22. (See story on pages 4 and 5.)

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The Soyland Power Cooperative electric generating station to be built in Pike County near Florence is "the product of careful study, planning, and execution," U.S. Rep. Paul Findley told several hundred persons attending formal groundbreaking ceremonies at the site Friday, October 22.

Findley, the keynote speaker during the ceremonies, said, "This plant is an example of the private industry/government partnership that is so vital to the economic recovery of our nation. The demands for energy in central Illinois will continue to grow over the next two generations, and the demand for jobs is a current reality."

Soyland, a federation of 15 Illinois electric distribution cooperatives, plans to construct a 450-megawatt, coal-fired power plant to supply a major portion of the electric energy requirements of approximately 300,000 consumers in 54 Illinois counties served by the federation's members. The plant is expected to be completed in 1987.

Funding for the project will be provided under a loan guarantee commitment approved by the Rural Electrification Administration. Under terms of the guarantee Soyland will be able to borrow in excess of \$800-million. No federal tax funds are involved in the project.

Other program participants included Harold Hunter, administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration; Walter R. Smith of Champaign, president of the Soyland Power board of directors; and Richard R. Ruzich, Soyland's executive vice president and general manager; and Thomas H. Moore, executive vice president and general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Rep. Findley was cited for his help during the three years that Soyland has been developing plans to finance the plant and comply with the many federal and state regulations governing power plant construction and operations.

Findley said, "Soyland and the Rural Electrification Administration are taking the bold step of looking into the future needs of Illinois. There could have been short cuts. Soyland could have signed contracts for power

from other plants in neighboring states. But that would have been shortsighted and may well have thrown us into the same situation we have with importing outrageously expensive energy from foreign sources — whether they be other states or other countries like Algeria. Instead, Soyland is moving forward toward utilizing our state's vast energy resources.

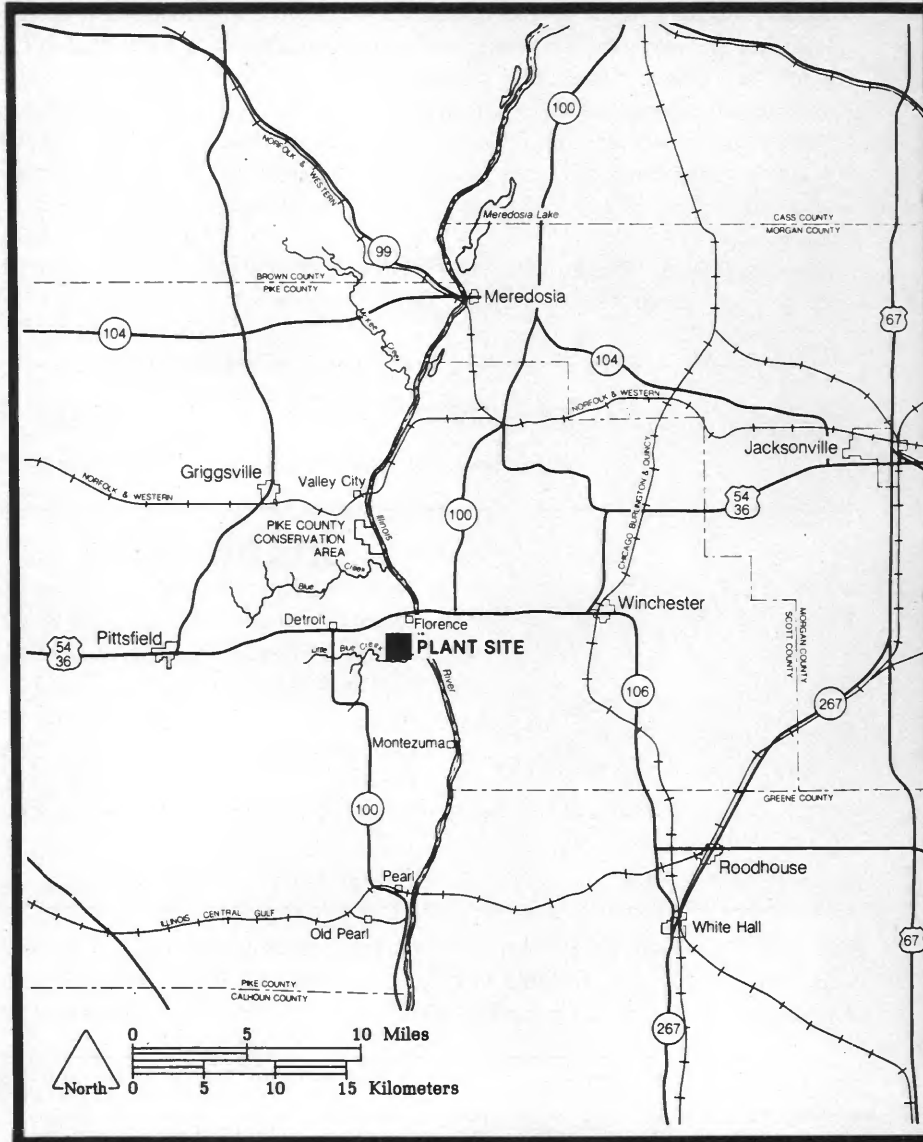
"Throughout my tenure in Congress I have worked hard to bring industry and jobs to central Illinois. These are tough times, and any plant such as this one will have a rippling positive effect on all of central Illinois's economy. It is a beginning. It represents an exciting future for an area with a worthy past."

In addition to representatives of electric cooperatives from across the state, a large crowd of Pike County area residents joined Soyland officials for the groundbreaking to learn more about the organization that is to become a major employer in central Illinois. At the height of activity the new plant is expected to create about 1,500 construction jobs and a permanent work force of about 160 persons with an annual payroll of \$3.7-million.

Ruzich said the Pike County project represents the major portion of a three-part plan undertaken by Soyland's board of directors to meet the full electric energy requirements of the 15 cooperatives that own Soyland.

Besides the 450-megawatt coal-fired

# Groundbreaking launches



project being developed in Pike County, Soyland owns 10.5 percent of the nuclear Clinton Power Station being constructed by Illinois Power Company in De Witt County and Soyland is working on plans for a compressed air energy storage system that will provide 220 megawatts of capacity to meet peaking and reserve requirements.

good terms on our contracts for that wholesale power so it was determined by the cooperatives they would benefit their end users more by having full control of their own power supply through which they could not only render service at a cheaper rate, but have control of the terms and conditions."

**Moore:** "Soyland Power Cooperative has earned the respect of the entire utility industry in its history of progress. All of us throughout the cooperative family join with you today in celebrating the groundbreaking. We recognize the many hurdles you've had to overcome thus far — your site selection process, your early coordination with the many regulatory

agencies, all dedicated themselves and worked toward this worthy end. At REA, too, there have been a lot of skilled, dedicated people who addressed themselves to the question of whether or not this is a worthy project for the support to be provided not just by you folks, but by the folks throughout the whole nation, because the national resources are behind, supporting, giving strength, encouraging this activity when REA gets into the act. REA does not get into the act lightly; REA looks at it very carefully."

Soyland's membership includes: Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc., Flora; Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., Breese; Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon; Corn Belt Electric Cooperative Inc., Bloomington; Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, Paxton; Edgar Electric Co-operative Association, Paris; Farmers Mutual Electric Company, Geneseo; Illini

## Soyland construction



*The map at the left shows the location of the plant site. In the photo, Soyland's Richard R. Ruzich addresses the crowd. Seated, from left, are Thomas H. Moore, Walter R. Smith, Rep. Paul Findley, and Harold V. Hunter.*

from 1963 when they started until today in 1982, but that doesn't mean that the work that he accomplished is any less of an effort or milestone than what we are doing today."

**Smith:** "Member cooperatives of Soyland have purchased their power from investor-owned utilities since their inception back in the mid-thirties. It became more and more difficult to negotiate reasonable rates and

your commitment to building a plant that can be fueled by Illinois coal — all show that Soyland Power Cooperative is committed to supplying the power requirements for all its members as well as being a good corporate citizen of the state of Illinois.

**Hunter:** "Let's talk for a minute about how these decisions are reached. Certainly this board, this co-op, this manager, this chairman of the board,

Electric Cooperative, Champaign; Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., Princeton; McDonough Power Cooperative, Macomb; Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc., Waterloo; Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelbyville; Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., Greenville; Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc., Mt. Vernon; and Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield.

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*Right: Roger Mohrman, left, talks with Dave White, a newly elected director of ABS Water Co-Operative. Mohrman is manager of Adams Electrical Co-Operative and was chairman of the ABS steering committee. Opposite page: Junior Ideus, left, and Penny Padgett were also elected to the seven-member board October 19. Explaining some of the hardware for the system is Kenneth Woods, project engineer.*

---



## Water cooperative spring

**A**dams County residents Junior Ideus and Penny Padgett had a common problem. Ideus found it quite expensive to drill a deep water well to provide water for his hog operation and Mrs. Padgett had to take her family wash to a laundromat because of inadequate water supply.

They found a solution, in the form of what is thought to be the state's first water distribution cooperative. After years of putting up with an inadequate supply of mostly sulfur and salt water, they were among people in Adams, Brown and Schuyler counties near Quincy who set out a few years ago to do something about the problem.

What they determined was that a cooperative, organized much like the electric and telephone cooperatives that serve the rural areas, was the answer.

Ideus explains that the cooperative approach to providing rural water is a major advantage for two reasons. The organizers and potential users would not be restricted by defined boundaries and limits of taxing bodies, as they would if they chose to organize as a water district, and the cooperative

would be owned and controlled by its member-consumers.

Dave White, who has a cow-calf operation and grain farm in Brown County, agrees with Ideus. "I think the cooperative has the advantage over the district," he says. "We're the sole owners. We own and control it. With a cooperative, everything just seems to work better."

Judging from the success of ABS Water Co-Operative since the original public meetings in January 1980, the cooperative concept does work better.

Ideus, White and the others who helped launch the water cooperative — including Roger C. Mohrman, manager of Adams Electrical Co-Operative of Camp Point in Adams County — recently received final approval of a loan from the Farmers Home Administration that will enable construction to start next spring.

That loan, for \$495,000, will be combined with a federal grant of \$1,419,000, and \$50,000 from the cooperative membership to provide the estimated \$2-million necessary to lay 130 miles of three-, four-, and six-inch water lines in parts of Adams and Schuyler counties.

Mohrman says he estimates that users will begin receiving water through the system about January 1, 1984.

The Adams Electrical Co-Operative manager served as chairman of the cooperative's steering committee, although his home near Camp Point was already served by the Clayton-Camp Point Water Commission.

Mohrman's involvement stemmed primarily from his role as electric cooperative manager and the important part the electric cooperative plays in community development.

"We at Adams have experience in working with cooperatives, of course," Mohrman says. "We can offer a place to meet, and help with the organizational details, too. And, perhaps most important, the largest portion of the water cooperative members are members of Adams Electrical Co-Operative. It's a matter of helping our membership," he adds.

Mohrman stepped aside in October, though. The cooperative conducted its first annual meeting October 19 in Camp Point and elected its first board of directors. Ideus and White were elected, along with five others:

Howard Bennett of Golden, Paul Humke of Camp Point, Jim Hesse of Mendon, Mrs. Penny Padgett of Golden, and Lyle Forsythe of Camp Point.

The last two directors listed are employees of Adams Electrical Co-Operative and were members of the steering committee. Mrs. Padgett served as the steering committee secretary.

She lives on a farm near Golden and the lack of a reliable water supply has presented problems for many years for her family and their neighbors.

At times the family's water supply is so inadequate that Mrs. Padgett must take the family wash to a laundromat. "I have a washer at home but I can't use it," she explains, adding, "I would like to have a dishwasher but I can't because of the water problems."

She said her family and 11 other families on the road she lives on tried to get water from the Clayton-Camp

Point Water Commission but the cost of such a project was prohibitive.

Mrs. Padgett's problems with water in the Golden area are similar to those Ideus has experienced at his farm. "We drilled 400 feet, spent \$7,000 and ended up with two gallons per minute, and that's not much. And, it was sulfur water at that," he says.

Ideus, a member of the Adams County Board, is considered the originator of the idea to distribute water to the rural areas. He called for a public meeting in January 1980, and the steering committee evolved from that first meeting. After discussions with FmHA officials, the committee decided to apply for the loan and grant.

Mohrman points out that providing the water distribution service to rural areas with low-density populations is not an inexpensive proposition. "Rates will be higher than in the area towns," he says. Estimates indicate the average

monthly bill will be about \$36, based on the costs of payments to FmHA for repayment of principal and interest, cost of water and establishment of a reserve fund.

That is why the grant money is vital to the cooperative. "Without the 75 percent grant funding by the FmHA, people in the rural areas would not be able to have a water distribution system," Mohrman adds.

Kenneth L. Woods, an engineer for the Hannibal, Missouri, firm of Crane and Fleming Engineers, Inc., and project engineer for the water cooperative, says the tentative rates will be \$12 for the first 1,000 gallons, \$6 per thousand for the next 2,000 gallons, \$4 per thousand for the next 2,000 gallons and \$3 per thousand above 5,000 gallons usage per month.

Clayton-Camp Point Water Commission will play a vital role for the water cooperative, organizers point out.

The Commission will supply the water, pumped from alluvial wells near the Mississippi River north of Quincy, Woods says. There will be no need for an elevated water tower, he adds, as the Commission system will provide adequate amounts of water.

The supply from the Commission was a key element. The expense of developing its own water supply and treatment facilities would have been too great to make the distribution cooperative feasible, Woods explains.

Mohrman gives considerable credit to Congressman Paul Findley of Pittsfield. Mohrman notes that Findley not only worked hard to help ABS obtain necessary financing to launch the water cooperative, but was also instrumental in helping the Clayton-Camp Point Water Commission become a reality several years ago.

In Brown County, where the lines will be extended when more funds become available, White looks forward to the day when he can have running water on the four sites he farms. In his area water must sometimes be hauled in, both for farm and home uses.

Although White's locations will not have water service during the first part of the project, he is optimistic, thus his interest and service on the steering committee. "I just want to see this project carried on through," White says.

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church that night to show the owner of the hydraulic splitter the tool that could outdo his splitter. Finally, last evening I hauled out the maul for some splitting on an apricot trunk...Just like clockwork it, attacked the green pieces! I'm more than pleased with your Monster Maul. Tomorrow morning...I'm taking it to the Chopper 1 owner's place and show him how to split knurly box elder that he had set aside for a trip to the dump because his Chopper 1 wasn't able to get any results whatsoever. Without saying anything more, I'll just say I'm one super-satisfied customer.

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Gene Chase, Trails End Farms,  
Lawrence, Kan.

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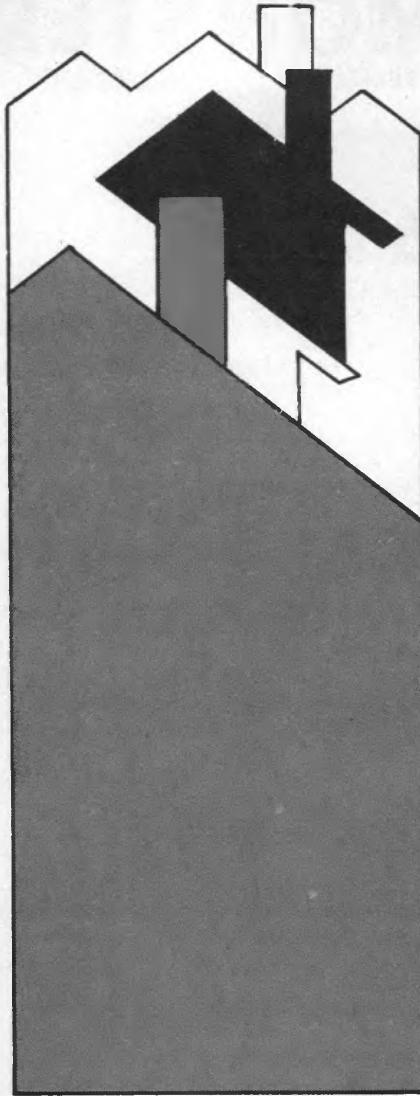
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Dave MacGregor, Washougal, Wa.

# Creosote build



**T**he renewed interest in wood heat presents safety problems for many Illinois homeowners, says Mike Bolin, University of Illinois Extension forester.

Bolin says many people not acquainted with wood heat or not familiar with today's efficient airtight stoves are ignoring safety precautions. The National Fire Protection Association reports that improperly installed or misused wood stoves cause more home fires than defective wood-burning equipment.

One of the major problems facing the inexperienced wood burner is creosote build-up in the chimney flue and stovepipe. Creosote is a complex mixture of unburned gases and tars condensed from smoke that deposits on the inside of the flue pipe. Creosote can range from a sticky fluid to a flaky solid, depending on flue temperatures, he says.

Large creosote build-ups in the flue or stovepipe can cause dangerous

chimney fires. Bolin says most wood burners who operate their stoves properly frequently will have minor chimney fires and never know it. But it's because they never let the creosote build up to the point where it's a serious fire hazard.

Creosote can form anywhere in a wood-burning system — from the stove to the chimney tops, says Bolin.

Smoldering fires are excellent sources of creosote, he says. Because combustion is incomplete, large amounts of smoke containing unburned gases and tars are produced. The flue-gas temperatures generated by smoldering fires or fires burning at slow rates often are relatively cool. These gases can condense on the flue wall much faster than when the fire is burning vigorously.

Bolin says flue temperatures must be more than 250 degrees Fahrenheit (F) to reduce creosote formation.

Non-insulated metal and masonry chimneys also will build up creosote more rapidly than well-insulated chimneys that keep flue temperatures high. Air-cooled, triple-walled, metal chimneys are designed to draw in cold air so that the outer chimney wall keeps cool, reducing fire hazards. Because the colder outside air cools flue gases, thereby promoting rapid creosote formation, their use with efficient airtight stoves should be carefully considered, Bolin says.

Restricting the outward flow of the flue gases also will cause increased creosote formation, says Bolin. As the hot gases travel up the stovepipe and out the flue, they heat the surrounding metal surfaces. If the stovepipe is extremely long, the gases may cool considerably before they reach the flue and may condense rapidly, leading to creosote build-up. He says numerous turns, bends or obstructions in the stovepipe also will slow the flue gases causing them to lose heat and condense.

Bolin says the type of wood and the size of the load or charge in the stove also can promote creosote formation. Burning wet, freshly cut wood leads to incomplete combustion and may add to creosote formations. However, a more important point to consider is that green, wet wood has less available heat than does dry, air-seasoned wood, he adds.

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# Wood can be fire hazard

Stoves that are loaded to more than one-third of their capacity will produce volatile gases from the wood near the top of the stoves. Because these gases are not near the fire they may not burn and may condense inside the stovepipe, says Bolin. Burning smaller pieces of wood also adds to creosote build-up. Small pieces burn faster and produce more smoke than large pieces of wood, he adds.

If a homeowner suspects that he has more than a quarter inch of creosote build-up in the stovepipe or flue, the deposit should be removed immediately by brush. After the flue and stovepipe are clean, Bolin suggests the following steps to avoid future build-up problems.

- Avoid prolonged, low-burning periods. Each morning when the stove is reloaded with fuel, take 10 to 15 minutes and burn a hot, vigorous fire in the stove by putting in smaller, dry pieces of wood and opening the air inlets. This will help burn off small deposits of creosote which formed the previous day.

- Before damping down the stove for the evening, vigorously burn a new charge of wood until a good bank of

coals develop. High temperatures will cause the volatile gases to burn in the stove rather than escape unburned up the flue.

- Fill the stove with a partial load of moderate-sized pieces.

- Avoid horizontal stovepipe runs of more than six feet where possible.

- Avoid more than two 90-degree elbows in the stovepipe.

- Run as much of the chimney as possible inside the home.

- Use only Class-A, all-fuel, double-walled, insulated or triple-walled, air-insulated metal chimneys or tile-lined masonry chimneys with efficient airtight stoves or furnaces.

- Keep flue and stovepipe temperatures between 250 to 400 F. Flue and pipe thermometers are available through stove dealers.

- Burn well-seasoned, air-dried wood.

Bolin suggests that all wood burners clean out their stove ventilation system at least twice a year. Homeowners can clean the system themselves or hire a chimney sweep. Some homeowners prefer to use chemical products that can be burned in the stove to clean off creosote deposits.

Bolin points out that recent testing of these products indicated that they have very little effect on reducing creosote deposits. Similarly, he says that salt is the primary ingredient in many of these products and that when salt is burned it can produce an acid in the flue vapors. If these products are used in excessive amounts, they may effect the life expectancy of the flue.

An important point for all wood burners is that the greater the efficiency of the wood-heating unit, the more creosote it will produce. The more heat you gain from the stove, the cooler the flue gas temperature will be, which will encourage condensation and creosote formation. So, if you're buying for maximum efficiency, you should plan to clean the system frequently.

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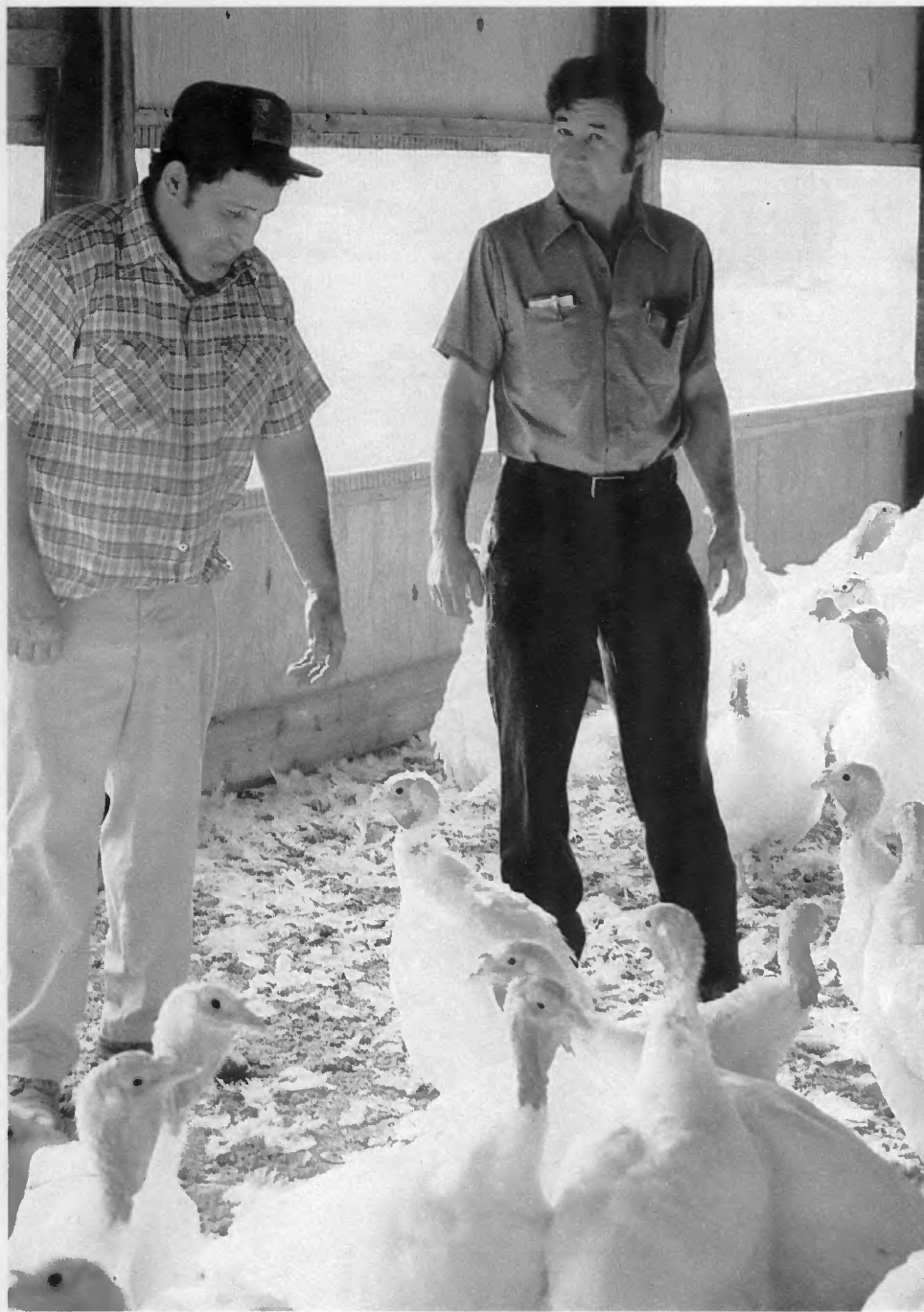


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## Long trip leads to fresher turkeys

**T**om Lederbrand and Walt Stevens have a small seasonal business that grew out of a desire to have a really fresh turkey for Thanksgiving a couple of years ago.

The two rural Pawnee (Sangamon County) men went to Gillespie to buy fresh birds and came away with the idea that they might be able to develop a fairly small clientele who

would be eager to buy a really fresh holiday bird. After all, they reasoned, they had just made an 85-mile round trip to make just such a purchase.

"If a man can develop a market in Gillespie, why can't we," they asked each other. After giving the matter some thought, they decided to have a go at a limited turkey production and processing operation.

---

*Tom Lederbrand, left, and Walt Stevens got into the turkey business after driving to Gillespie to get a fresh turkey for their Thanksgiving dinner. After starting with 125 birds, they have since expanded the operation to 500. With the help of family, friends and semi-automatic machines, they can process about 100 birds a day.*

---

"We bought 125 turkeys last year," says Walt, a maintenance man, "and put them in a building over at Tom's place. We shopped around for some small-scale processing equipment, which we installed at my place. Since we live across the road from each other, it works out pretty good."

Both are members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co.

Lederbrand, whose main operation is a 2,000-acre grain farm a couple of miles north of Pawnee, adds, "We take the birds from my place to Walt's for processing. We've got a big wire cage that we put on a front loader bucket. It works okay for us."

This year has seen an expansion of the operation. They bought 500 poults, which they feed a mixture of grain and turkey concentrate during the 26 weeks it takes the birds to grow to maturity.

"The toms usually weigh about 28-30 pounds after they're processed," Lederbrand says, "but we had one that weighed 40, and the people who bought it said it was really good. Hens usually weigh about 18-20 pounds.

We have some semi-automatic machinery," he continues, "and when our wives, friends and neighbors pitch in, we can usually process about 100 birds a day. When we get done, we have birds every bit as good as you'd get in a supermarket. We have a vacuum machine that removes the air from the plastic bags we put the turkeys in and that, along with the walk-in freezer we added this year helps keep them really fresh. But the main reason they're so fresh," he emphasizes, "is that we don't start processing until the weekend before Thanksgiving. That makes a world of difference."

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# Chainsaws require careful use

**F**or thousands of people every year, the word “kickback” takes on new meaning. To them, a kickback suddenly becomes more than a term used to describe taking bribes or what can happen when you stand too close to the hind legs of a horse.

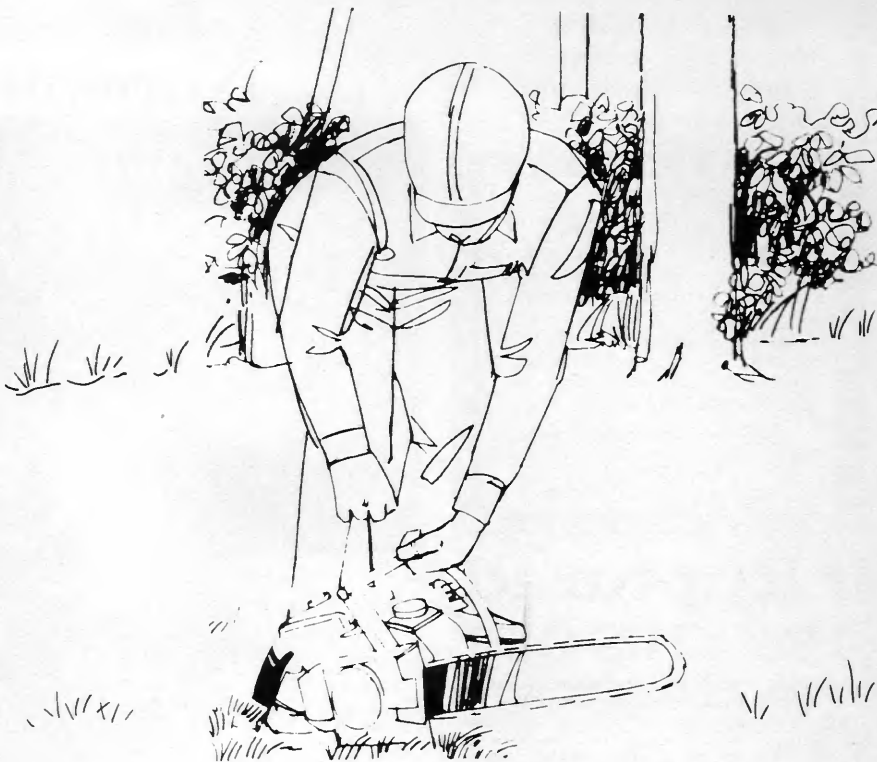
But they're learning the hard way. These are the people who must visit a hospital emergency room to learn that kickback is one of the major causes of chain saw injuries.

Kickback is what happens when a chain saw is thrown violently back towards the operator, sometimes with disastrous results, says Ordie Hogsett, University of Illinois Extension safety specialist. It can happen when the tip of the chain saw accidentally touches an object, and it can happen when the saw's chain becomes pinched between wood.

To prevent kickback, Hogsett says to avoid touching the tip of the chain saw bar to any object while the saw is running; use wedges to prevent wood from pinching the saw; avoid cutting limbs above your mid-chest height; use a sawhorse or similar device to support and hold logs when possible; and let the professional handle tricky cuts such as boring holes.

According to Hogsett, another chain saw danger is that the operator doesn't pay attention to the outward or downward path that the saw follows after the cut is completed. Then, when the saw moves all the way through the wood, its momentum carries the blade on a path toward his leg.

Also, some people use saws in which the chain continues to rotate for a short while after the trigger is released. Forgetting this, they inadvertently



tently touch the moving chain.

Hogsett says the first step in chain saw safety is to make sure the saw matches the job. Mini- or lightweight saws — which have a guide bar length of 8 to 12 inches — are for light and occasional use. They can be used for limbing, cutting small logs and felling small trees.

The midweight saws have a guide bar length of about 14 to 20 inches. They can be used for frequent log cutting and the felling of small trees.

The heavyweight saws — with guide bar length over 20 inches — are for professional use. They are not generally recommended for consumers.

Hogsett suggests that if you're in the market for a saw, look for these features:

**A hand guard** is a bar in front of the forward handle. It keeps the left hand from slipping onto the chain.

**A chain brake**, which is for gasoline-powered saws only, stops the chain in a fraction of a second. If kickback should occur, the chances of serious injury are reduced.

**A safety tip** covers the chain near the nose of the guide bar. It prevents the type of kickback that can result when the tip of the saw touches an object.

**A chain catcher** guards against injury if the chain should break.

**A vibration-reduction system** includes rubber bushings between the handle and saw body or on the engine mountings. It helps reduce vibration; and this, in turn, reduces fatigue.

**Bumper spikes** are large spikes on the front of the engine or motor housing that grip the wood and help hold the saw in place during cutting.

**An automatic chain-oiling feature** does just what its name says — automatically oils the chain.

**Electrical safety.** If you choose an electric chain saw, select one that has been approved by Underwriters Laboratories. Look for the UL label.

**A spark arrester**, which is a feature for gasoline chain saws, keeps sparks from being ejected by the exhaust.

**A trigger or throttle lockout** prevents the saw from being inadvertently started.

**An automatic chain-sharpening feature** keeps the blade sharp while on the job. But manual sharpening still should be done after every three to four hours of use.

**A compression release** makes it much easier to start large engines.

**A case and/or chain sheath** protects the saw from dirt during storage and transfer.

**An adjustment tool** includes the proper wrench sizes for adjusting the chain and removing spark plugs.

# ELECTRICITY

## It's easy to overlook its value

When's the last time you called the area bottling company to complain about the cost of soft drinks or grumbled to the hardware store manager that the price of a shovel was out of sight?

Chances are an electric bill is more apt to provoke comment. Funny, isn't it? This is probably the only time electricity comes to mind.

Because electricity is an invisible commodity, forgetting the work it does for us is easy.

Like nearly all other purchases, electricity costs continue to climb. But a closer look at what is provided for the price shows electricity remains a startlingly good bargain.

In the United States your way of life and very existence depend on electric power. In a typical day you might use electricity in dozens of ways.

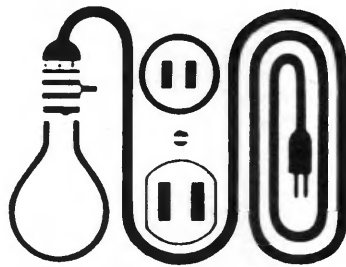
Many of these eliminate drudgery; for example, that electric trimmer lets you spruce up the yard without stooping for hours in the sun.

Electricity provides entertainment by powering televisions, radios and stereos. It's a grooming tool (razors, hairdryers, curling irons). It controls temperature (fans, air conditioners, heaters), keeps us healthy (X-rays, vaporizers, kidney machines) and stores and prepares food (ranges, refrigerators, blenders). In the evening it sheds light on the day's news.

Sometimes electricity helps us save money. Perhaps you're operating a freezer, so you can stock up bargains at the meat market or preserve produce from a garden.

Whether in the residential or business world, electricity plays a major role in improving efficiency and quality of life. The list goes on and on.

Compared to other fuels, electricity



is significantly cheaper. In the last decade the cost of electricity increased about 166 percent. Not too bad when you consider that a barrel of oil increased 1,317 percent; \$32.60/barrel in 1980 in contrast to \$2.30 in 1970. Over the same period, fuel oil costs rose 517 percent, gasoline 497 percent and natural gas 306 percent.

If electric rates had remained exactly the same between 1970 and 1980, bills would have increased 33 percent for the typical consumer — simply because an average consumer uses 33 percent more electricity today than was used 10 years ago.

When you compare electricity to purchases other than fuel, those utility bills might take on an even rosier color:

- Spending \$6 for a record album might not hurt a bit. Note, however, the same \$6 buys enough electricity to play a stereo two hours a day for almost a year.
- The \$5.49 spent for a broom will run a vacuum cleaner 10 minutes a day for close to two years.
- For the cost of a pack of cigarettes you can watch color television for about 60 hours.
- What's invested in one pair of medium-priced men's shoes could run an air conditioner for most of the summer.

Besides the work electricity does, there are other benefits people receive that are less obvious:

- To obtain most products you must either order them or go out and buy them yourself. Electricity is instantly available right in the home or workplace. A press of a button or a flick of a switch delivers power with the speed of light.
- Some products are available only during a business's regular working hours. Electricity is a service you can depend on 24 hours a day.
- Electricity is one product used *before* it is paid for.
- When rural electric consumers pay their electric bills, they are also buying peace of mind. Part of their power bill is paying for reclamation of mined lands, meeting air and water quality standards and alleviating social and economic impacts.
- Consumers can count on skilled personnel to make sure electric power is being provided as reliably and efficiently as possible.

As for costs for producing electricity rise, so does the variety of uses for electricity. In the next 25 years, electric consumption is expected to triple.

Rural electric systems face great challenges in providing the needed service at the lowest possible cost in spite of higher operating costs.

Today, rural electric systems have an enviable record for reliable service and a reputation as pioneers and innovators in energy conservation and research.

Your rural electric systems are continually striving to improve service and efficiency. The goal of your elected directors is to give the best service possible at the lowest possible cost.

Now. Think of all you get when you pay for electricity. Wouldn't you say it's quite a friend?

# Holidays make scents!

## FRUIT NUT STUFFING

- 1 1/2 cups hot water
- 1/4 cup margarine, cut in pieces
- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) chicken flavor stuffing mix
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 1 apple, peeled, cored and coarsely grated
- 1/4 cup walnuts or pecans

Combine hot water, margarine, contents of seasoning packet and raisins in 1 qt. baking dish, stirring until melted. Add stuffing crumbs and stir just to moisten. Stir in apples and nuts. Cover and bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes.

## CORNBREAD SAUSAGE STUFFING

- 1/2 lb. bulk sausage
- 1 1/2 cups hot water
- Break sausage into small pieces and brown well in skillet. Drain, reserve drippings. Add margarine to drippings, if necessary to make 3 tablespoons. Return to skillet. Add hot water and contents of vegetable/seasoning package to skillet. Add stuffing crumbs and stir to moisten. Mix in sausage. Spoon in 1 qt. baking dish, cover and bake at 325 degrees 30 minutes.
- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) cornbread stuffing mix

## PUMPKIN WHIP

- 1 pkg. (3 oz.) orange gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 pkg. (4-serving) vanilla instant pudding and pie filling
- 1 cup cold milk
- 1/4 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 envelope whipped topping mix
- 1 can (16 oz.) pumpkin finely chopped nuts

Secure a 2-inch wax paper collar to 1 qt. souffle dish. Dissolve gelatin in boiling water; cool. Prepare pudding mix with 1 cup milk as directed on package, beating only 1 minute. Blend in spice and cooled gelatin. Chill until slightly thickened. Prepare whipped topping mix as directed. Beat pudding mixture with hand beater or electric mixer until thick and fluffy. Blend in pumpkin; fold in whipped topping. Chill again until thickened, if necessary, and pour into souffle dish. Chill until set, about 3 hours. Remove paper collar and sprinkle sides with finely chopped nuts. Garnish with additional prepared whipped topping and sprinkle with additional pie spice, if desired.

## CRANBERRY PUDDING TARTS

- 1 pkg. (4-serving) pistachio instant pudding and pie mix
- 2 cups cold milk
- 6 or 7 individual commercial pastry shells in aluminum foil cups prepared whipped topping whole berry cranberry sauce

Prepare pie filling mix as directed on packet for pie, using 2 cups milk. Pour into tart shells. Chill. Top with prepared whipped topping, using pastry bag with star tip, if desired, and garnish with cranberry sauce.

## EGGPLANT CASSEROLE

- 1 large or 2 small eggplants
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- dash of black pepper
- 2 cups canned tomatoes, drained
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 2 cups cornbread crumbs
- 2 or 3 tablespoons margarine milk
- grated cheese

Peel and cut eggplant in cubes. Cook in water until tender. Drain thoroughly. Add salt and pepper to eggplant. Sauté onion in margarine until soft. Mash tomatoes, mix with onion and combine with eggplant, beaten eggs and bread crumbs. Grease casserole pan, spoon in eggplant. Pour milk over the top until covered. Top with 1/2 cup grated cheese. Bake at 375 degrees until hot and bubbly all the way through.

## CRANBERRY ORANGE RELISH

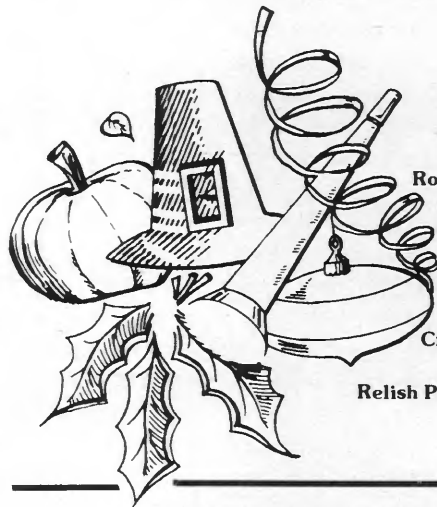
- 4 cups (1 lb.) fresh cranberries
- 2 oranges, quartered
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup nuts, chopped, if desired

Put cranberries, quartered and seeded oranges with rind through a food chopper. Add sugar. Mix well, chill in refrigerator several hours before serving. Makes 1 quart and will keep for several weeks.

## DROP PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

- 2 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 1/4 cups firmly-packed brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup granulated sugar

Sift flour, measure and sift again with salt, soda and baking powder. Blend shortening and peanut butter until smooth. Add sugar gradually, beating until creamy. Add eggs 1 at a time beating well after each addition. Add vanilla. Blend in flour. Mix until smooth. Drop from teaspoon onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 8-10 minutes. Makes 8 dozen.



## MENU

- Roast Turkey
- Fruit Nut Stuffing
- Cornbread Sausage Stuffing
- Creamed White Onions
- Broccoli Spears
- Warmd Dinner Rolls
- Pumpkin Whip
- Cranberry Pudding Tarts
- Hot Mulled Cider

Relish Platter or Waldorf Salad

## TUNA DIP

- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 7-oz. can tuna, drained and rinsed off
- 1 tablespoon horseradish
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, broken in pieces
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- onion, if desired
- dash of pepper
- dash of garlic salt
- 1/2 teaspoon Accent

Mix in blender (or mix with mixer) until smooth. Chill 2 hours. Yields 3 cups.

## FRUIT PIE

- 1 can Eagle Brand milk
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1 small can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 can peaches, sliced
- 1/2 cup nuts
- 1/2 cup coconut
- 1 can Mandarin oranges
- 9 oz. non-dairy whipped topping

Mix and pour into graham cracker crust. Put in refrigerator for several hours until firm or overnight.

## ORANGE PECAN PIE

- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 tablespoon orange juice
- 1 tablespoon orange rind, grated
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 unbaked 9-inch pastry shell

Combine first 8 ingredients in a medium mixing bowl; mix well. Pour into pastry shell. Bake 45 minutes in 350 degree oven.

## BUTTERMILK COCONUT PIE

- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 stick butter or margarine, melted
- 9 tablespoons buttermilk
- 1 cup coconut
- unbaked pie shell

Mix together. Put in unbaked pie shell and bake at 350 degrees for 30-45 minutes.

## PLUM CAKE

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 jars baby plum pudding
- 1 teaspoon cloves
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- dash of salt
- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 1 cup nuts, chopped

Cream sugar and oil, add eggs one at a time, beating well after each. Add pudding. Sift flour, cloves and cinnamon together. Add to creamed sugar. Dredge nuts in 2 tablespoons flour mixture, then add to mixture. Bake in well greased and floured pan for about 50 minutes.

**Gaze:**  
Spread plum jelly over warm cake or mix together 1 cup powdered sugar and enough lemon juice to taste. Spread over warm cake.

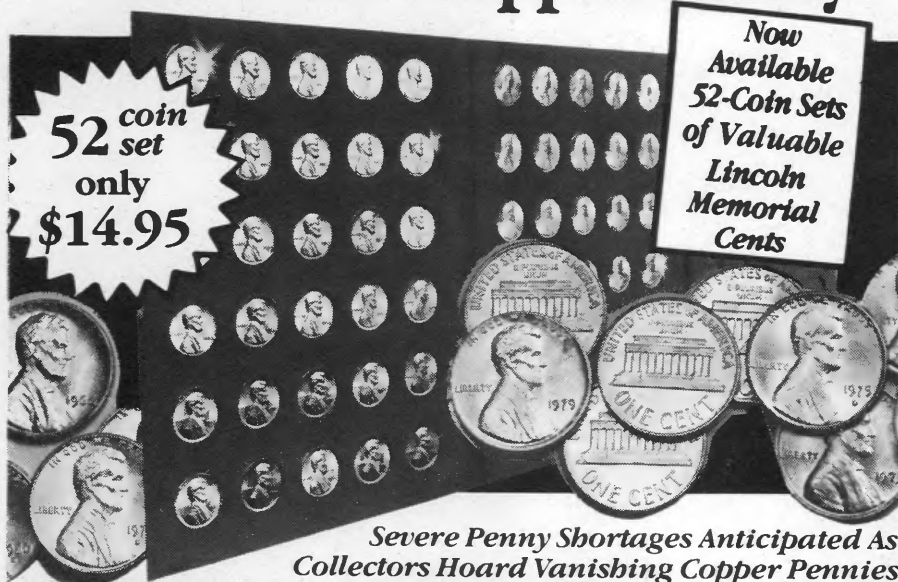
## AMBROSIA

Peel and remove membrane from 1/2-dozen oranges. Cut into small pieces. Add 1/2 cup fresh grated coconut and small amount of sugar. Let stand for several hours before serving.





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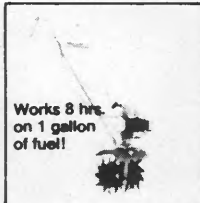
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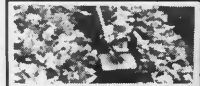
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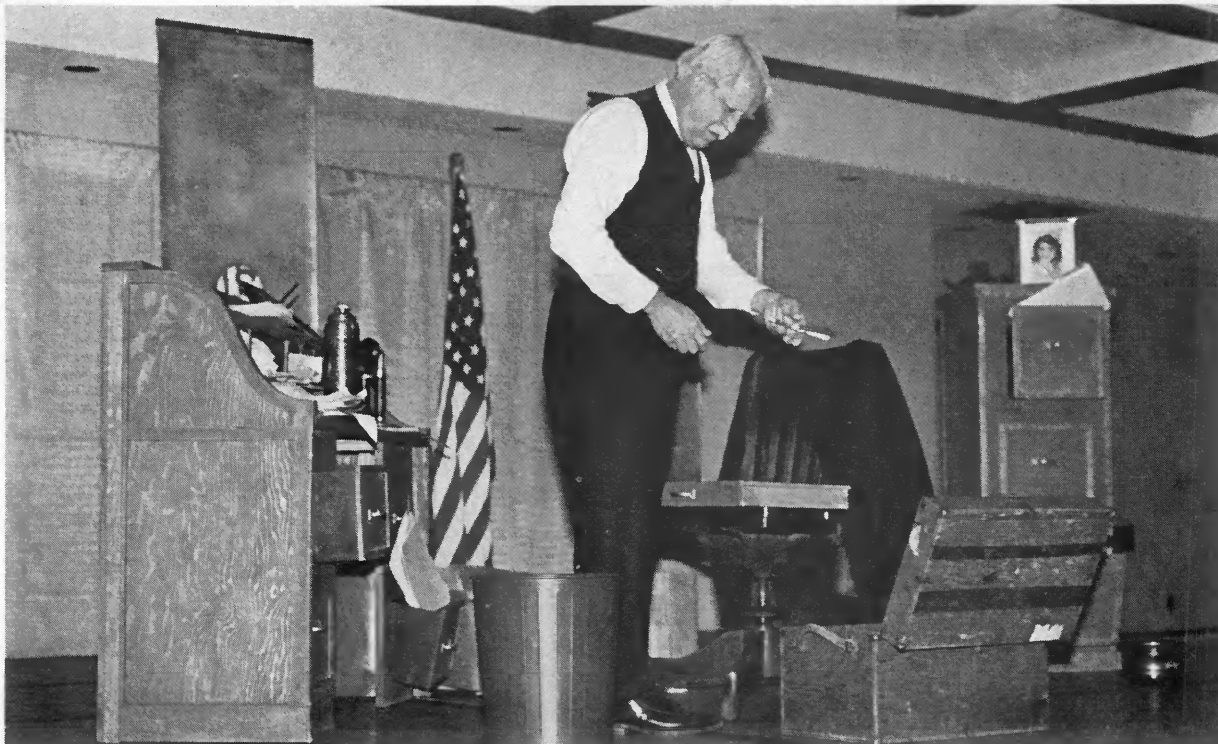
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*Alfred Anderson as Volstead*

## Cooperative performance focuses on Volstead

The principal author of the "Magna Carta" of cooperatives returned to life October in Springfield in a performance that helped launch Cooperative Month activities across Illinois.

Andrew J. Volstead (1860-1947), who wrote the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922, was portrayed by actor Alfred Anderson in a one-man show that highlighted a Cooperative Month kick-off dinner attended by nearly 180 cooperative leaders from throughout the state. Produced by The Great North American History Theatre of St. Paul, Minnesota, the one-hour play "For Amber Waves of Grain, But Undistilled!" provides insight into the former U.S. Congressman from Minnesota who is more noted for writing the Prohibition Enforcement Act than for the Capper-Volstead legislation. Capper-Volstead enables farmers, and others, to collectively process and market their products and obtain services through cooperatives without being prosecuted for anti-trust violations under the Sherman Act.

The Illinois Cooperative Coordinating Committee sponsored the performance and the kick-off banquet,

which serves as a rallying point for cooperative leaders and staff members who promote public awareness of cooperative principles and functions during October. Members of the ICC, a clearinghouse on matters affecting the growth and development of Illinois cooperatives, include representatives from most of the major marketing, supply and service groups in Illinois as well as Southern Illinois University and the University of Illinois.

W. Everette Specht, vice president and secretary of the St. Louis Bank for Cooperatives, is ICC chairman.

Participants in the Cooperative Month program included Larry Werries, Illinois Director of Agriculture, who read Governor James R. Thompson's Cooperative Month proclamation; Kenneth P. Baer, executive vice president and chief executive officer, GROWMARK, Inc., master of ceremonies; Roger Mohrman, manager of Adams Electrical Co-Operative, who delivered the invocation; and Gordon M. Olsen, director of Information and Printing, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), who is chairman of the ICC's Illinois Coop-

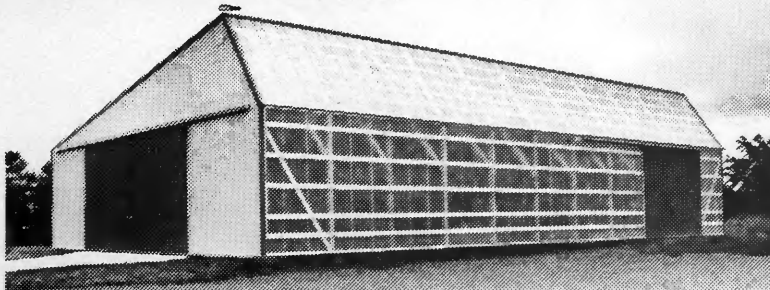
erative Month Subcommittee.

Olsen described to the audience the promotion efforts behind the 1982 Cooperative Month observance, which has the theme "Cooperatives: Building a Better America."

"The heart of the Cooperative Month promotion each year is in the many local committees where county extension advisers remain the primary motivators by organizing local leadership dinners, mall displays and school programs — imaginative programs designed to explain the cooperative way of doing business to friends of agriculture," Olsen said.

Cooperative Month promotion efforts earned national recognition for the subcommittee in 1980 and 1981. The 1980 subcommittee, under chairman John Campen, manager of the Illinois Milk Producers Association, received the State Activities Award for its Cooperative Month campaign. Last year, under Olsen, the subcommittee was awarded a special citation for its use of radio and television to promote better public understanding of cooperative principles and objectives.

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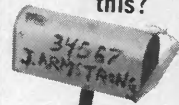
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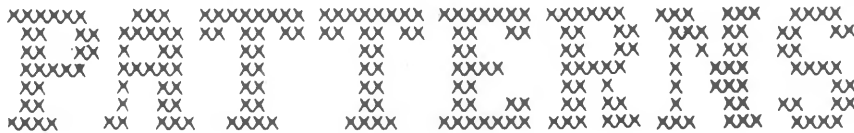
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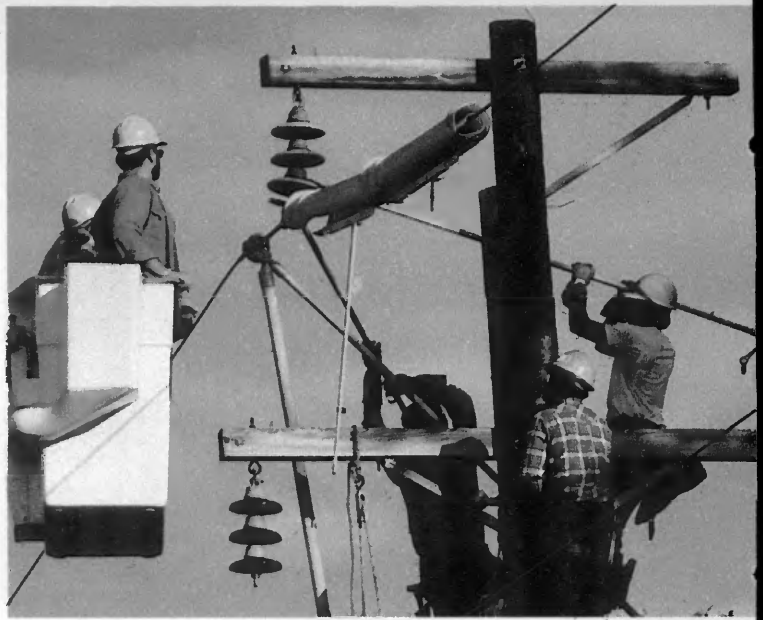
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*Right: Students work under the watchful eyes of instructors, in the bucket. Below: There is plenty of close-up instruction during the three weeks of schooling.*

## Safety is watchword for Hot Line participants



Two men at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Hot Line School perched near the top of a utility pole, held there by thick leather straps and heavy spikes on their boots. An instructor in a basket at the end of a long truck-mounted boom hovered nearby, pointing, talking and offering advice. Half a dozen men clustered around the base of the pole, and another instructor talked to them, letting them know what the two workmen were doing and why, pointing out rights and wrongs.

Another man, from another nearby work group, walked by and jokingly asked if the truck with the boom was grounded. A student replied, "No, because we know there's no current in the line." The instructor corrected him quickly and emphatically, speaking to both. "We're treating these lines like they're alive. The reason the truck's not grounded is because the man in the bucket is an observer and instructor and isn't involved in the work. Current or no current, if this truck were an actual part of the job, it'd be

grounded."

Treating the lines "like they're live" is what the Hot Line School is all about and, for safety's sake, things are kept as realistic as possible. Some 125 cooperative and municipal electric distribution employees turned out in October for one of three week-long sessions to learn how to maintain aboveground and underground lines, notes David A. Diederich, director of the AIEC Training and Safety Department. The classes were held for the third time at the new facility at Lin-



coln Land Community College in Springfield, and featured additional structures for student practice. "The classes were well attended," Diederich says, "and several of the students said the presentations were interesting. If we'd have had better attendance, it would have been a little crowded."

The term "Hot Line" in the school's name means exactly what it suggests. It is designed to enable linemen to learn to work on high-voltage lines under realistic conditions without turning off the current and subjecting consumers to outages that were so common, and frustrating, just a few years ago. Working conditions are exactly like they would be in the field, but instructors are handy to coach the men.

While hot line techniques are intended to prevent inconvenience to cooperative members, they were undertaken only when technology was developed to the point that well-trained employees could, by working carefully, work on energized lines in complete safety.

Through the use of specially designed heavy rubber gloves, thick, insulated "cover up" materials over the lines, and nonconductive "hot-sticks," men on poles can work on power lines with as much safety as a homeowner changing a blown fuse. For those working out of a bucket truck, there is the additional insulating value of a two-part fiberglass boom. The AIEC Safety and Training Department has equipment to regularly check this equipment to see that it stays non-conductive.

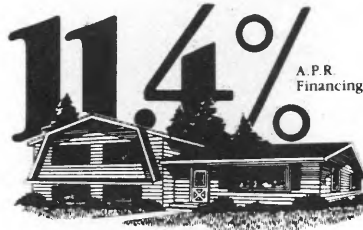
Safety gets first priority at the school, and new linemen learn the tricks of the trade from veteran "pole jumpers" with years of experience and many transformer changeouts under their belts.

Equipment manufacturers send representatives to show their latest offerings in hot line equipment, and the school involves a mixture of classroom lectures, demonstrations and hands-on work in an environment that is as realistic as it can be, right down to the less-than-perfect weather that October often brings. All that is missing is the high voltage.

While Diederich and Jim Nevel, job training and safety instructor, were in

overall charge of the school, several instructors from different cooperatives helped with hands-on work sessions. Instructors from Illinois electric cooperatives involved in the first two weeks of the school included: Bruce Hill and Chuck West, Corn Belt Elec-

tric; Wendell Letner, Coles-Moultrie Electric; Delbert Boston, Rural Electric Convenience; Danny Mitchell, Illini Electric; Dick Hillgoss, Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative; and Don Long and George Claus of Illinois Rural Electric Co.



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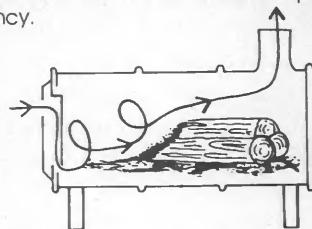
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Dick Motter, Jersey Shore, Pa.

## DON'T GET BURNT

The bottom drum kit that I bought a few years ago really works good. It heats my garage 24 x 24 in about twenty minutes. Just enough time to go in the house and get a coffee. I believe this is the first time that I ordered anything through the mail that I didn't get burnt.

George Bluda, McKeesport, Pa.

## SAVE HOURS OF LABOR

We are elated with your barrel kit. There is no comparison to the traditional wood burners on the market today. The two barrel stove will extract more heat from wood than any other burner we know. Besides saving in hours of labor. The 12" door opening plus 30"-36" long length saves time and labor in the preparation of the wood for the burner. My son recently installed one in his huge house which always had a heating problem and a tremendous fuel oil bill and today their savings amounts into a few hundred dollars each year.

J.D. Duch, Sr., Senecaville, Oh.

## THE WOOD CUTTER

This winter I bought your small drum kit and put it on a 40 gal. hot water heater. I have been able to cut my wood consumption from about 7 cords a winter in my fireplace to less than 2 1/2 cords. . . I think that your product is the best quality I

have seen in some years. I presently heat my entire home with your fireplace conversion.

P. Ramey, Fayetteville, N.C.

## OIL TRUCK DOESN'T STOP

It really makes us feel good to see the oil truck drive by our house. We are into our fourth winter using your heater kit. Our 10,000 cubic foot house is always warm night and day. Outside temperatures range from minus 10° to 30° above for 6 months; the barrel stove is never completely out during this time, and after twenty cords of wood there is no sign of wear or burnout. It is great what you can do with one of these barrel stoves. And for such a low price for a quality product you can't go wrong. We never had any problem with smoke or sparks; the only complaint is from my wife sometime when I get the temperature to around 80°. We have about 250 gallons of oil in our tank, and I expect that to last about 6 years. Please send your Lift-N-Saw treelifter, and keep the Sotz news coming.

R. Greiner, Greenville, N.Y.

## RISING TEMPERATURE

I put one of your single drum heaters in a few weeks ago, just in time too, as the chill index went down to 47° below zero. The heater kept the temperature at around 70 degrees without any trouble at all. I also received my woodstove tool and Monster Maul. I find the design simple but sound, with very good workmanship. The Monster Maul is something else again. It makes wood splitting actually fun.

Robert Hirt, Lee's Summit, Mo



## *Jones* brings out another facet of Jim Myers



Author Jim Myers with his book about a boy and a dog.

**I**s James Myers a department store executive, a progressive farmer, an ethnologist or an author and consultant in concise language? If you had answered "Yes" to any of the above, you would have been right, and if you had nodded affirmatively to all of them, you would still have been correct. Myers is — or was — involved in all those occupations, and more.

Writing and language consulting make up a good part of the Menard Electric Cooperative member's work now, and one of Jim's most recent accomplishments is the publication of his book *Jones*, the heart-warming story of an orphaned and embittered 16-year-old boy, his adoptive parents and, to a far greater degree, the neighbors and their dogs. The story is set in Sangamon County, with excursions to other places.

In his book, the 62-year-old Myers

shows a knowledge of both the bright and dark sides of human nature and a keen understanding of dogs and dog handling.

"I learned a lot about field trials from Herb Holmes, a veterinarian who owned a serum business in Springfield for several years," Jim says. "He owned some really good dogs and knew how to work them. I never did really get into field trialing because the dogs are expensive and if you can't devote a lot of time to them, you have to hire a trainer and that costs a lot of money, too. And you need horses, since field trialing is done from horseback. They're also expensive and require a lot of care. It's kind of a rich man's pastime, but I did enjoy working with Herb and his dogs. It's a great sport."

The author's affinity for field trialing rubs off on his book. A reader who

never thought of a dog as anything more than a pet or a deterrent to prowlers will soon find himself understanding the "hows" and "whys" of the sport as the protagonist, Tom Rieves, teaches the sport to the alienated Jones in the hope of bringing him out of his depression.

If you had never met Myers, his book would convey to you a real, deeply felt love of the outdoors. His descriptions of the surroundings at the Rieves home and at various field trials in *Jones* reflect hours of walking and, one suspects, horseback riding, through the central Illinois countryside. And Jim's love of the land goes deep.

"I graduated from the University of Illinois in 1935 with a degree in liberal arts," he related, "and spent the World War II years in India, where I worked with aircraft maintenance. After that, I took agricultural courses to allow me to do livestock farming."

Myers set about farming, using the most modern methods he had learned at the university. "We had Minnesota number one and number two hogs," he says, adding, "they were developed from the Landrace and Duroc breeds, and marked the beginning of the shift toward leaner hogs. We also used ammonium nitrate as a fertilizer. It had been tried before, but many people didn't realize that they needed other soil nutrients too, and it didn't work out for them. I won a five-acre corn contest in 1948-49, with 153 bushels an acre. That doesn't sound real great now," he says with a laugh, "but it was quite a yield then."

Myers was also involved in soil conservation in the late 1940's. "Not only did we terrace," he says, "but we contoured, too. We were very careful to take good care of our soil."

A self-styled historian and Lincoln scholar, Myers has also written *The Bridge of Time, A View of the Israeli People*.

*Jones* is an excellent blending of an understanding of people, a love of dogs and field trialing, a oneness with the outdoors and a feel for history.

*Jones* should be in local bookstores or in the book section of some large department stores. Lincoln-Herndon Press of Springfield has it and, Myers notes, you can have your copy autographed if you would like.

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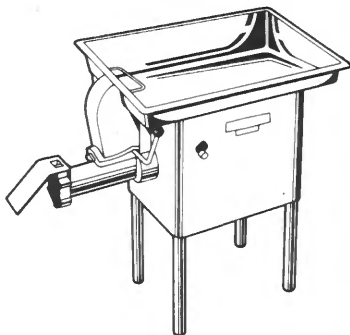
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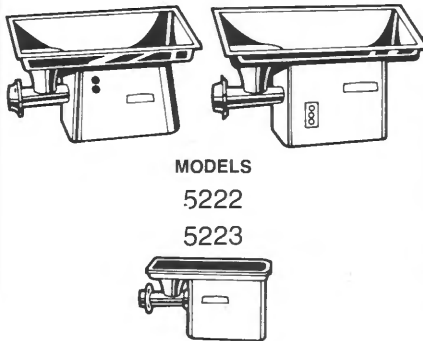
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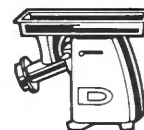
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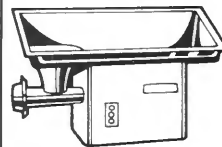
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