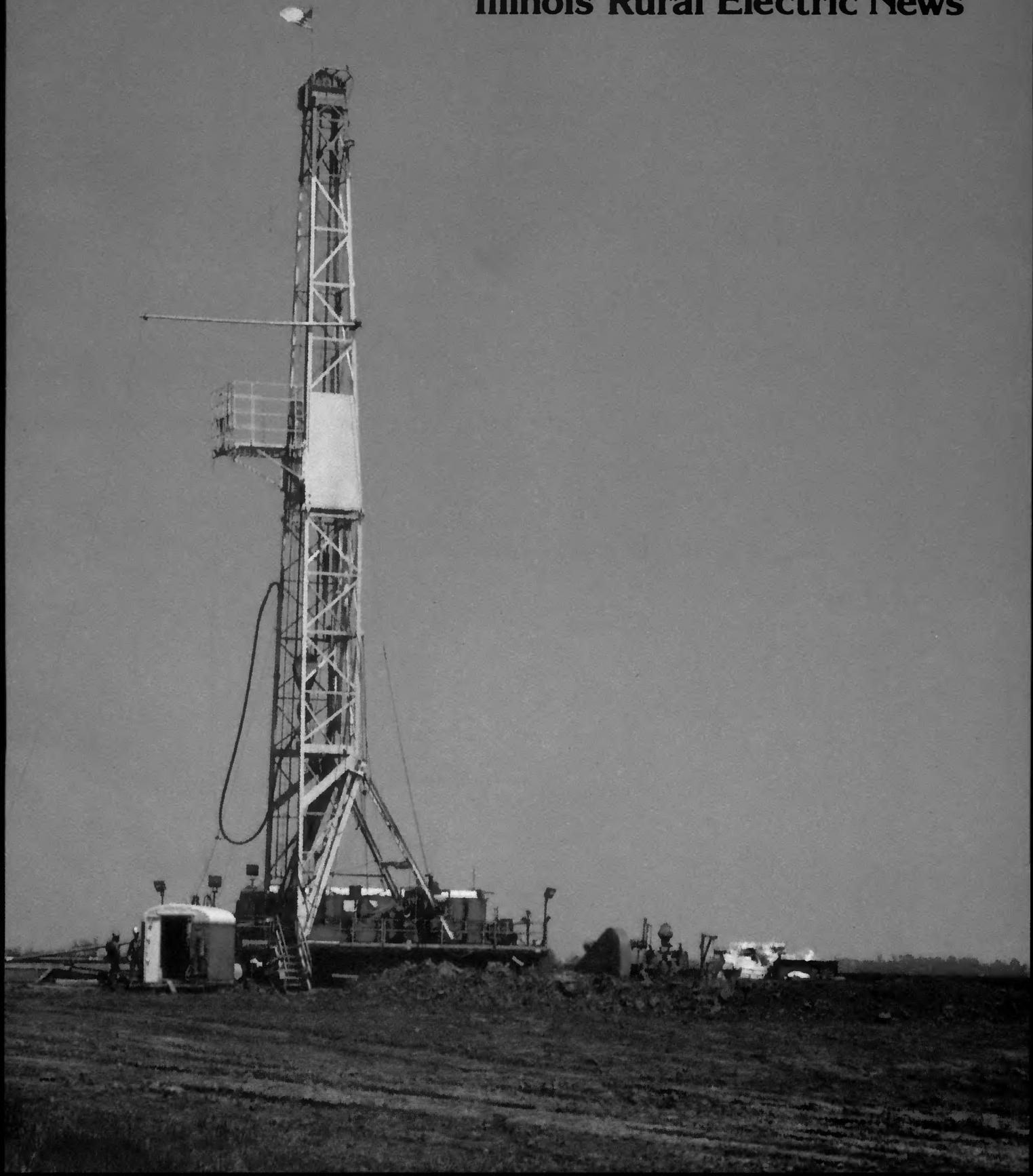


# ren

August 1984

## Illinois Rural Electric News



Of course we were worried. . .

# IT WAS THE BIGGEST WATER BILL WE'D EVER GOTTEN!



**Perry and Linda Owens**

The new rates had just gone into effect, and we knew that even bigger water bills would be coming in the months ahead.

You see, flower and vegetable gardening is our hobby, especially since we retired. But in this part of Texas it takes almost constant watering to keep things green and growing in the summer.

Recently several people in our town have had water wells drilled. They seem to get plenty of water, but the cost of drilling a well is about \$2,500. Then someone told us about a man who saved a lot of money by drilling his own well.

That's how we met Mr. Messersmith. Although he is very active and enthusiastic, he is at least 20 years older than we.

"Did you really drill your own water well?" we asked.

"You bet I did," he told us. "By myself! And, I did it for less than half what the commercial drillers were asking."

"Was it hard work?" we inquired.

"Last summer I painted my garage. Now *that* was hard work. But drilling my well - - *that* was fun!"

Of course we wanted to know how much water he got.

"Look at this," he said. He turned a valve and six big sprinkler heads began rotating, watering a huge garden at least 4 times the size of ours.

"I run this system all night, every night. It's the only way to grow things in this climate." He said that the cost of pumping all that water was less than \$10 per month!

Mr. Messersmith explained that he drilled his well with a **HYDRA-DRILL**. Afterwards, he drilled a well for a neighbor and then sold the **HYDRA-DRILL** to a friend who was moving to Nevada. "I figure my own well ended up costing me about \$100," he said.

On his recommendation, we ordered a **HYDRA-DRILL**. Like our

friend, Mr. Messersmith, we found that drilling our own well was more fun than work. Our new well supplies all the water we can possibly use for our garden and our house, too.

Best of all, we'll never again worry about water bills!

If you would rather spend a little time and energy instead of a lot of money to get all the water you'll ever need, call or write today for the free book, "How to Drill Your Own Water Well."

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# Senators: S. 1300 'an essential effort'

*(Legislation to bolster financing for rural electric cooperatives, approved overwhelmingly by the U.S. House of Representatives, awaits Senate action as time draws short before adjournment. There is considerable concern among supporters that the bill may not make it to the floor of the full Senate for a vote. In June the Senate Agriculture Committee voted out S. 1300 with only one dissenting vote. The Committee report on the bill offers insight into the strength of the support among Senators. The following excerpts are views expressed by Senators Walter Huddleston of Kentucky, Thad Cochran of Mississippi, Ed Zorinsky of Nebraska, Mark Andrews of North Dakota, John Melcher of Montana, Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota, David Pryor of Arkansas, Roger Jepsen of Iowa, David Boren of Oklahoma, Alan Dixon of Illinois and Howell Heflin of Alabama.)*

We are pleased that the committee is reporting S. 1300 to the Senate with the recommendation that it pass. This far-reaching legislation addresses one of the most critical issues before the Congress this year and is an essential effort to hold down the upward pressure on rural utility rates.

S. 1300 will amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to ensure that the nation's rural electric and telephone systems will be able to continue to provide high-quality, affordable electric and telephone service to consumers in rural America.

A major source of financing for rural electric and telephone systems — the Revolving Fund administered by the REA — is in jeopardy. The solvency of the fund is threatened because of the high interest rates in recent years.

Without legislation to strengthen the fund and improve the operation of the REA loan programs, in the near future there will be only two options: provide huge amounts of tax dollars each year to bail out the fund or greatly increase

the cost of financing for many rural electric and telephone systems.

It is clear from the testimony presented on S. 1300 that, if Congress does not act, the assistance provided through the REA Revolving Fund will be terminated and the financing costs of rural utilities will sharply escalate. Higher financing costs will put additional upward pressure on rural utility rates.

On the average, consumers in rural areas already pay higher utility rates than city dwellers because of the high cost of providing electric and telephone service in areas of low population density. Recent evidence of this was disclosed during the hearings when an REA internal memorandum dated Nov. 1, 1983, was made part of the hearing record.

The memorandum indicates that 68.7 percent of the REA electric utility borrowers charge rates that are higher than comparable investor or publicly owned utilities. Further, the memorandum indicates that a trend has been established whereby each year fewer REA borrowers are able to charge rates that are below the rates charged by comparable investor or publicly owned utilities.

Although the challenge of bringing electricity and telephone service to rural areas has been successfully met by the REA programs, the job of the agency is not done. Like the utility systems in large cities where utility services have been available for decades, rural utility systems continue to need financing to replace obsolete facilities and equipment, extend service to new customers and repair damaged equipment. Without a viable Revolving Fund, as provided under S. 1300, for many rural utilities there will be no investment for the future and rural utility rates will have to be increased to prohibitively high levels.

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*Below, crude oil emerging from the ground. While this looks like a relatively small flow, over many years, it will add up.*



# WILDCATTERS

**T**he Effingham "wildcatters" have a winning streak going, and they definitely do not plan to fade. The wildcatters are not a ball club, but a small oil production company called New Spirit, Inc.

New Spirit received the coveted title of "Wildcatter of the Year" from the Illinois Oil & Gas Association for tapping into a major new oilfield near St. Elmo, about 80 miles east of St. Louis. The company won the award over 39 other firms nominated last year. Electricity to equipment in the field is provided by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Greenville.

Herschel Monroe, who proffers a hearty handshake while introducing himself as "Skinhead" — for obvious reasons — is one of the principals of New Spirit, while his son, Terry, and son-in-law, Tom Bushue, make up a large part of the rest of the organization. All three live in Effingham.

"A wildcatter," Terry says, "is an individual or company that goes out into an unproven area and develops a new oilfield or 'pay zone.' A wildcatter's the guy you see out where people ask, 'What in the world are you doing out there?'"

Oil people are often traditionalists, and when New Spirit started drilling "out there," they did it in their time-honored way. They asked their drilling contractor, Decatur Drilling Company, to use No. 5 because it is their lucky

rig. And, they instructed the crew not to start until there was a nice, new U.S. flag flying from the highest part. Then they were ready to break new ground.

"Today's oil business isn't like it was in the old John Wayne movies," Terry says, "where they had every well come in a gusher. In fact, a gusher like you'd see in a movie is very rare.

"But this field was different," he says with an enthusiasm undampened by the passage of two years, "and the oil just shot up out of the ground. It was a mess, but it was beautiful. What a way to bring in a new field!"

Since that jubilant start — and it was made even more jubilant by a prolonged dry spell before the gusher — New Spirit has drilled some 40 wells, and they are still drilling.

They are finding oil at a fairly shallow depth, just over 3,000 feet, but even at that depth, things get expensive in a hurry, and New Spirit has to dig deeply into the coffers to drill shallowly into the ground. "It'll cost from \$150,000 to \$200,000 to drill a new well," Terry says, "so you need to have a lot of faith in your geologist before you start up."

The three did not know when they started drilling near St. Elmo that they would strike oil, but they were "pretty confident." Now, after having pulled 275,000 barrels out between August, 1982 and the middle of 1984, they

know the field is a sizable find.

Still, finding oil is only half the chore, he notes. Getting it up out of the ground profitably is often as difficult as picking the spot to drill a hole.

"We take core samples after 1,500 feet," Terry says, "and the geologist keeps careful track of where we're at. He knows if we're drilling through sand or limestone, and just what formation we're in. Still, there's a lot of educated guesswork, and we're always trying to figure out what's happening better than half a mile down. It'd sure be nice to be able to talk down that hole and get some answers back."

Of course, if it were that simple, anybody could drill for oil and score, and some of the gamble that makes the oil business attractive to many would fade. "This business is like a fever," Terry says, "and it'll get in your blood. It's a risky, boom-or-bust business, but I really like it."

In fact, it was the "bust" nature of the business that got the company its name, Terry says. "We'd been in a long dry spell and we were all kind of moping around. We were trying to think up a name for the business, too. It had kind of fallen on me to do it, and I'm not very good at that kind of thing. Well, one day I was saying, 'What we need around here is some new spirit,' and that was the name we stuck with. It wasn't long after that that we hit the gusher in the new field."

While some of the wells in the new field produce a fairly hefty volume, a large output is not everything, the oilmen note. "When the market's paying \$29 a barrel," Herschel says, "a slow, steady trickle over several years can still be profitable."

Once oil is found, it is Herschel's expertise that will help get it out of the ground in the most efficient manner. He spent the first 27 years of his career working on rigs throughout the U.S., and on many offshore rigs, too. Always in the back of his mind

*(Continued on page 15)*



*The principals in New Spirit Inc. From left are Terry and Herschel Monroe, and Tom Bushue.*

# Wise water heater use can be a saver

About 15 percent of the energy used in the average home is used for heating water. Hot water is a necessity in today's homes and is often an unrecognized energy user because it is used indirectly in tasks such as dishwashing and laundry. Except for home heating, the water heater uses more energy than any other appliance in the home, according to the Cooperative Extension Service and the Small Homes Council - Building Research Council at the University of Illinois.

When you buy a water heater, make energy efficiency your main criterion. Keeping large quantities of water hot requires a great deal of energy. Buy the correct size heater for your family and plan your hot water needs so that they do not occur at the same time during the day. For example, do not plan on turning on the dishwasher, washing a load of white clothes, and bathing the children all at once. If you spread out tasks that require quantities of hot water, a smaller, more efficient heater will be adequate.

Select a water heater that meets your needs as closely as possible. Two people living in a small apartment without a clothes washer or dishwasher will not need the same amount of hot water as a large family that has a clothes washer and draws water for several baths as well. The size water heater you need depends on the com-

position of your family, how many bathrooms you have, and the number of hot-water-using appliances you own. Usually, a 30- to 40-gallon gas or a 40- to 50-gallon electric water heater is adequate for a family of four with two bathrooms and an automatic clothes washer.

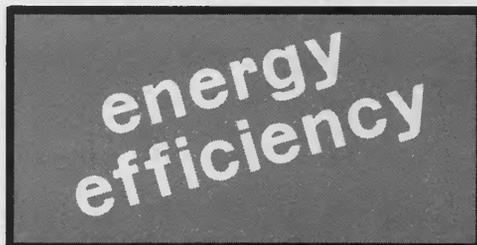
Consider the water heater for its tank size, input rating, and recovery rate. The input rating and recovery capacity determines its continuing ability to produce hot water. Input rating is determined by the number of heating elements or burners and their wattage or Btu/hour ratings. Lower wattage or Btu/hour burners will require longer to heat a given quantity of water, but give quieter operation, and last longer.

Recovery rate is the water heater's capacity to replace the supply of hot water while an appliance is in use. It is usually stated as the number of gallons of water that can be raised 90 degrees F in one hour.

Locate the water heater as close to the bathrooms and kitchen as possible. This reduces the amount of heat loss from the water as it runs through the pipes. If a bathroom is far from the kitchen or water heater, consider installing a small water heater just for that bathroom. Also, insulate hot water pipes if they run through unheated spaces.

You can cut your water heating bill by reducing the amount of hot water your family uses. Here are a few tips for conserving hot water.

- Operate hot-water appliances wisely. Run your automatic dishwasher and clothes washer with full loads only. Use warm or cold wash temperatures in your clothes washer, when possible. Always rinse with cold water.
- Never leave hot water running unnecessarily. When doing dishes, put



the rinse water in a pan or the second sink.

- Use cold water to flush away food in your sink waste disposer.
- Take quick, warm showers instead of baths. However, long showers at full flow do not use less water than a bath.
- Install a flow restrictor in the showerhead pipe.
- Do not let water run continuously when you shave. Close the drain and fill the basin instead.
- Fix leaks and dripping faucets. A faucet that leaks one drop per second waste 650 gallons of water a year. In most cases, a dripping faucet can be fixed simply by replacing the washer.
- Install faucet aerators. An aerator mixes air with water and reduces the amount of water used, while providing a water flow adequate for washing.
- Do not heat water you will not use. Whenever you leave home for an extended period, turn your gas water heater to "pilot." If you own an electric heater, shut it off.
- Every three months, or more often if you have hard water, drain water from the faucet near the bottom of the heater until it runs clear. This removes the sediment and mineral deposits that form in your tank and make the water heater work harder. If you hear water gurgling when the heater is on, there is sediment build-up.

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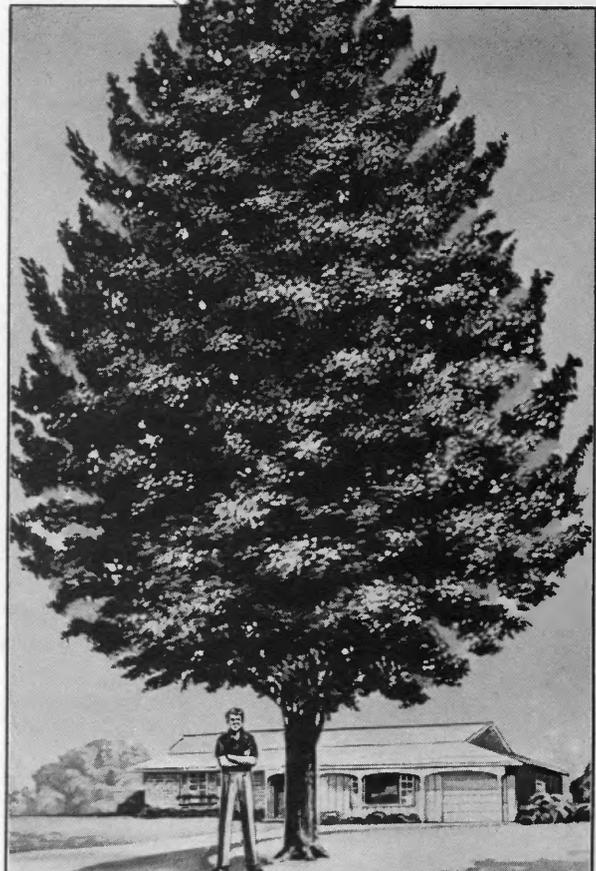
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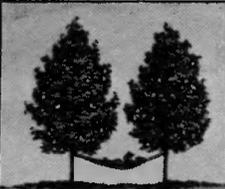


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David Fullarton, left, executive vice president of the National Telephone Cooperative Association, talks with Ben Snowden and wife Eileen during a retirement dinner for the long-time telephone cooperative manager.

---



# Ben Snowden

## Telephone career has seen much change

**T**he 1930s, and more specifically the establishment of the rural electrification program, launched the electrification of this nation's rural areas — farms and small towns. The benefits of electricity reserved up until then mainly for city dwellers were coming the way of rural residents.

Unfortunately, the same couldn't be said for rural telephone service. The 30s were tough years for rural telephone systems. Many small independent systems went out of business when they could not get enough capital to maintain lines or replace obsolete switchboards. By 1940, there were actually fewer rural families with telephones than there were in 1920.

The success of the rural electrification program in the 1940's helped lead to a solution of the rural telephone problem. The Rural Electrification Act was amended in 1949 to establish a rural telephone program under the direction of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

In Illinois, six telephone cooperatives now provide modern, dependable service to about 21,800 subscribers in all or parts of 25 counties.

Eldon (Ben) Snowden of Macomb has been involved in rural telephone service a good portion of the 35-year

lifetime of the REA telephone program. Snowden's retirement June 30 of this year closed a career that spanned more than 29 years, beginning when he became assistant manager of McDonough Telephone Cooperative in April 1955. From April 1956 until his retirement, he was manager of the system, watching it grow from two exchanges to the 12 exchanges that make up the McDonough System today.

Snowden's career in rural utilities was not limited to telephone service. For nine years before becoming assistant manager of the new telephone cooperative, he was a lineman and maintenance supervisor for McDonough Power Cooperative, headquartered in Macomb.

Anyone who remembers early rural telephone service probably recalls the limit of the convenience if it were to be compared to today's service. Snowden says the two exchanges that made up McDonough Telephone were of four- and eight-party lines. If you lived in or quite near the town, you had to share the line with only three other families. If you lived in the country, there were up to seven other families on the line.

Snowden, along with managers of

other rural telephone cooperatives, has been involved in the rapid technological changes which have taken place since the eight-party line.

"In 1964, we applied for REA loan funds to change everyone to one-party service. We started construction in 1965 and we converted our last exchange and last subscriber to one-party service in August 1970.

"And, incidentally, we did all that work with our own construction crews; it was not on a contract. I've always thought that anytime you can spend money in your own area and keep it there that it is beneficial to the area in which you serve. We got REA permission to do our own construction, we hired our own people, bought our own equipment and did the complete project with our own people."

The one-party line may have been the biggest news for rural telephone subscribers in the 1960s. It was made available largely by the changes in technology. Another type of change was coming, and all telephone users would be affected. It would be a philosophical revolution and it would lead to divestiture and deregulation of the telephone industry.

Snowden doesn't see the present  
ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

structure of deregulation being necessarily positive for the rural telephone user. "It's going to have a drastic effect on all telephone subscribers and especially those in rural communities," Snowden says. He foresees local service rates doubling by 1990, and the access charges for long-distance service climbing.

A key factor in controlling local rates over the years has been the subsidy supplied local companies from the distribution of long-distance call charges between the companies and the long-distance carriers. This tended to hold local service rates lower than they otherwise might have been. Recent regulatory orders have changed all this. "As replacements the regulators have come up with some rather arbitrary access charges. These new fees are intended to replace the toll money that we used to get. However it is still too early to judge how well these access fees will do the job," Snowden says.

What all this boils down to, Snowden says, is that local telephone companies, such as the six rural telephone cooperatives in Illinois, must establish new operating methods. No longer is the small local company solely a provider of local and long-distance telephone service. "They are going to have to go out and find the areas of merchandising that will keep their cash coming in for their cash flow.

"We've never been able to sell equipment before. Now we have to sell equipment in order to be competitive. We sell telephone instruments,

PBX's and small communications exchanges."

Snowden agrees that rising rural rates for telephone service threaten to price the service out of reach for many, eliminating what has been almost an American institution: universal telephone service. He says there are some tough revenue questions to be answered in the next few years: Where will the revenue come from? How much will be provided by service charges? How much will be

provided by merchandising?

Further, Snowden says, those who cannot bear the costs of telephone service are faced with doing without. Many of those who would be forced away from telephone service would be those, many on fixed retirement incomes, who need the telephone service mainly for fire, personal and health protection rather than for social contact or business. He says there is some talk of a "lifeline" rate for these people, he adds.

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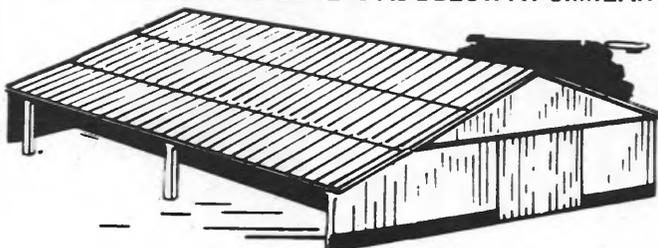
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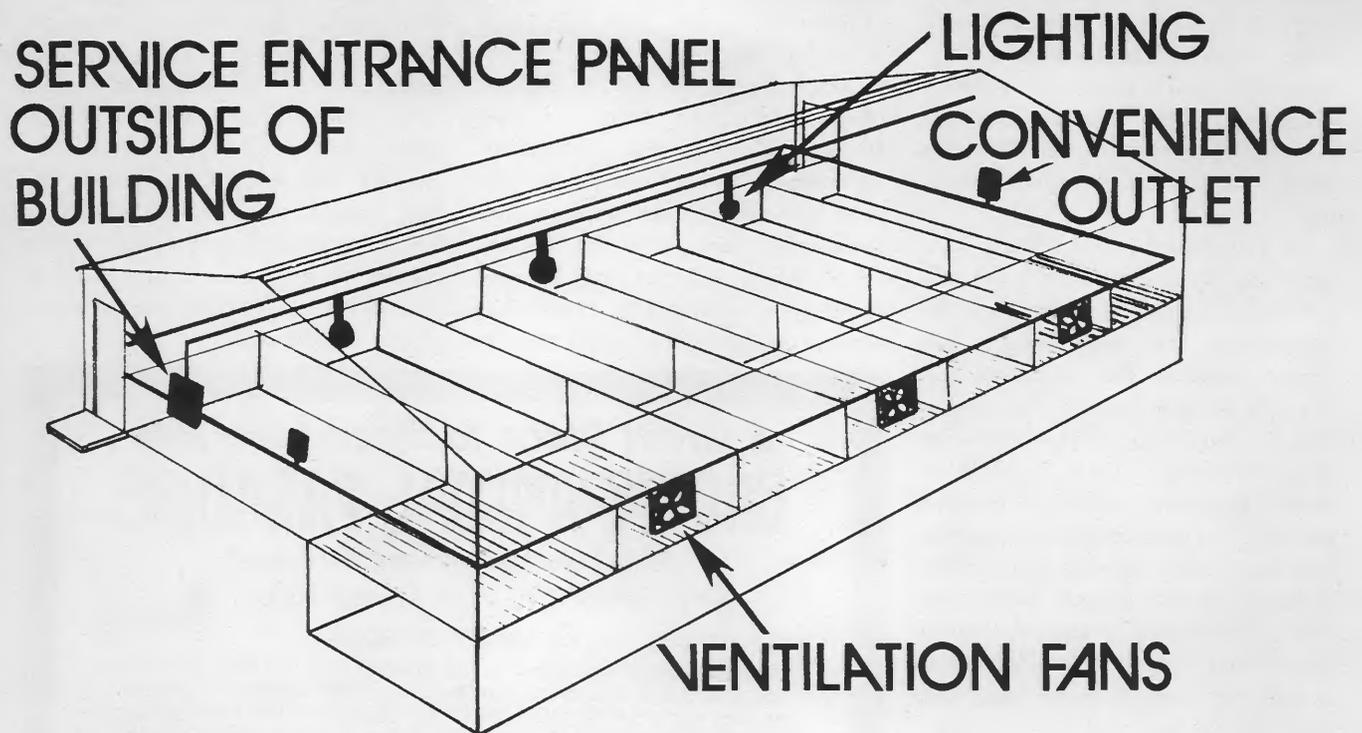


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## ELECTRICAL WIRING

### *Make certain it is the equal of other components in livestock building*

**T**oday's livestock producers depend on electricity to provide convenience in managing and handling their animals or poultry and to remove the drudgery from feeding, watering and handling waste. Confined livestock and poultry depend on electric power to provide them with ventilation, warmth or cooling, feed, water and light.

If producers expect the electrical wiring in their buildings to provide these conveniences and services for a long time, they must choose correct wiring materials and equipment and see that they are properly installed.

Farm builders estimate that the cost of electrical wiring accounts for about 10 percent of the total construction costs for farm buildings. Foundations and floors for such buildings are usually concrete; and, in areas subject to rotting, pressure treated wood is generally used. Equally durable are siding and roofing mate-

rials which are designed to last at least 20 to 25 years.

With buildings that have this kind of longevity, it is unwise to install electrical devices, appliances and con-

(This article is the first of two parts reprinted from an Illinois Farm Electrification Council fact sheet and was written by Roland Espenschied, Professor of agricultural engineering at the University of Illinois. The second article will appear in September.)

ductors that deteriorate in one to five years. Even so, conventional wiring materials are selected and may result in failures within the first six months of use.

The quality and type of wiring materials should match the quality of the rest of the building and be suitable

for the environment of a confinement building.

Consider present and future electric needs as part of planning. It is more economical to plan for the total power needed, the types of motors, lights and controls when other planning is in process than to add circuits later. Also, consult your power supplier and your insurance company when planning construction or renovation. Be sure the electrical system is safe, convenient, expandable, easy to maintain and neat.

An electrical installation must be free from hazards to the operator, livestock and the building to be considered safe. In addition, the wiring system should provide convenient power and controls for the operator. For example, locate switches so that the operator is able to turn on lights ahead of him and turn them off behind him as he moves through the

building. Also, install enough light switches and motor controls for convenient operation.

No matter how carefully you plan, there are always changes in technology or changes in the operation that make it necessary to expand and revise an electrical system. For this reason, do not begin by installing circuit distribution panels that are only large enough for present electrical loads. Allow some room for expansion.

Design electrical systems for easy maintenance. For example, locate lampholders so that bulbs can be easily changed; and locate motors and fans so that they can be easily disconnected for repair and maintenance.

Finally, install the electrical system carefully so that the appearance of the finished work is a credit to the farming operation as well as to the person who installed it.

Most rural areas have no electrical inspection of either new construction or remodeled buildings. In most cases the only inspection is by a representative of the insurance company after the work is done. Before hiring an electrician discuss his workmanship with other producers and your insurance man. Sometimes the lowest bidder is the most expensive over the long run. All too often, the individual who wires a confinement building is either unfamiliar with the type of equipment needed or does not know where to purchase the proper wiring materials. Be sure that the electrician you choose has skills that match your needs.

Electrical installations and equipment should be in accordance with the National Electrical Code and any local codes. Particular attention must be paid to Article 547 in the code concerning agricultural buildings. Although there are five environments listed in Article 547 that create unique problems for electrical installers, the environments of primary concern have a high dust level from litter, feed or feathers as well as a high moisture level and a corrosive atmosphere brought about by vapor from manure.

The equipment used in environmentally controlled livestock buildings presents a new set of problems to most electrical installers. These buildings are classified as "damp" or "wet" loca-

tions. To be suitable for use in these locations, wiring must seal out dust and moisture.

The recommended practice today is to use type UF (underground feeder) cable rather than type NM cable in wet

Table I. Support Spacing for Rigid, Nonmetallic Conduit

Diameter	Maximum Support Spacing
.50-1 inch	3 feet
1.25-2 inch	5 feet
2.50-3 inch	6 feet
3.50-5 inch	7 feet

areas. UF cable is approved for use in wet locations while NM is not. Mount the cable on the surface for ease of maintenance and inspection rather than enclose it in attics or inside walls. Secure the cable within eight inches of each box and at two-foot intervals on horizontal surfaces and three-foot intervals on vertical surfaces. Use nonmetallic cable straps with stainless steel nails to secure the cable, and mount the cable so that it follows the surfaces of structural members such as studs and trusses.

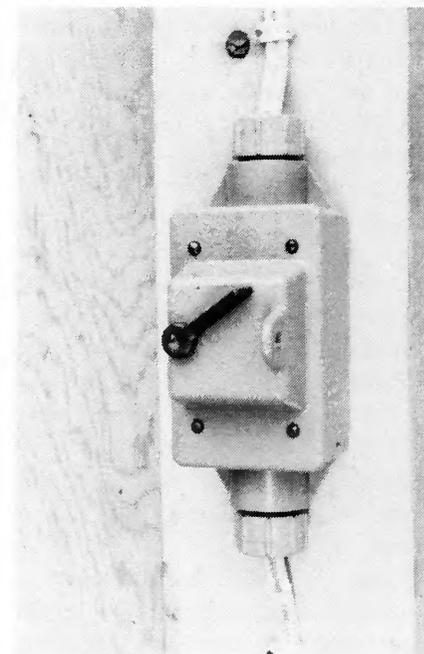
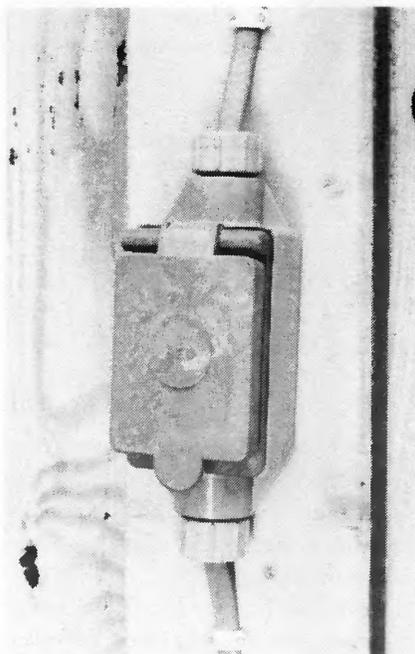
Locate the cables so that they are not subject to contact by animals or exposed to mechanical damage. Also, be sure not to make sharp bends in cables. In fact, the radius of the bend should be at least five times the diameter of the cable. Install switches

so that they open the ungrounded (hot) conductors. Use care when removing the outer covering from the UF cable so you do not slit the insulation on the wires. Be sure all splices are properly insulated and enclosed in boxes. Use approved, moisture-tight, non-corrosive boxes with gasketed covers and connectors that seal tightly to prevent moisture, dust, insects and rodents from entering.

In some cases, conduit must be used for mechanical protection or where multiple wires are needed, as in motor control systems. However, do not use metal conduit and boxes because they will corrode in the wet environment of a livestock confinement building. Instead, use Schedule 80 rigid, nonmetallic conduit and nonmetallic boxes.

Rigid, nonmetallic conduit and nonmetallic boxes eliminate the corrosion problem. There have been some problems, however, with sagging of nonmetallic conduit. The data in Table I indicates the maximum support spacing for use of Schedule 80 rigid nonmetallic conduit.

Several brands of corrosion-resistant, watertight boxes and cord and cable connectors that will seal out moisture and dust are available. These items may be difficult to locate in electrical stores but can be purchased through electrical wholesalers.



UF cable entering dust- and water-tight, nonmetallic boxes in corrosive environments must be secured to structure within eight inches of box.

# Make sure your home's wiring system is safe

**W**ithin your home's electrical system there could be a threat of fire. It is estimated that some 60,000 residential fires begin each year in homes' electrical systems. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that about 500 deaths — and another 5,800 injuries — occurred in 1981 from home electrical system fires.

The electrical distribution system includes the circuit wiring, lighting fixtures, fuses or circuit breakers, receptacles, switches, cords and plugs. When a part of this network fails or is misused, a fire may result.

Wiring and other electrical equipment sometimes does not last the life of the house. There are signs that can indicate your electrical system is beginning to fail, signs such as lights dimming, and fuses blowing or circuit breakers tripping frequently. Other signs often reported by consumers with "old technology" aluminum-wired branch circuits include electric sparks and "glowing" from receptacles, lights flickering, and overheated outlets. These signs are symptoms of a potential hazard.

If any of these signs occur, or if your system has not been inspected for a number of years, CPSC recommends that you have either a licensed electrician or your local power company (if it makes inspections) evaluate the condition of your entire electrical system. Some problems, such as loose connections at receptacles, may be apparent only to a professional. Don't wait until such conditions cause a fire.

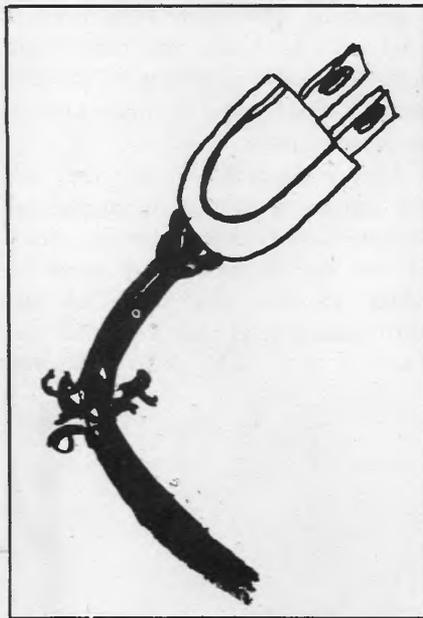
The Consumer Product Safety Commission advises that fires can occur in the following home situations:

Over the years, the insulation on wiring can deteriorate or be worn away, exposing wires that carry the electric current. You should ask the electrician to look for deteriorated

wiring during an inspection.

Electrical appliance cords and extension cords can become damaged or overheat when they are placed under carpeting or furniture, or coiled up during use. Check your appliance and extension cords and replace any that are damaged.

Called overlampping, the use of bulbs of higher wattage than is recommended in light fixtures and lamps may lead to fires through overheating. A homeowner can easily correct overlampping. If the recommended wattage is not printed on the light fixture, a



rule-of-thumb is to use bulbs no higher than 60-watts.

Fuses and circuit breakers are intended to warn when you are overloading the circuit (that is, using so many appliances that their combined current exceeds the rated value of the fuse or circuit breaker) by blowing the fuse or opening the circuit breaker. Thus the power is shut off to the overloaded circuit.

Most fuse boxes are not labeled as to what size fuse to use. In older homes especially, people tend to substitute fuses rated as high as 30

amperes when the 15-ampere size should be used. This is called overfusing.

If you use a higher amperage fuse or circuit breaker than is called for, excessive current will continue to flow, causing the circuit to overheat, which can lead to an electrical fire.

Only a trained person, such as an electrician, can determine which fuse rating is right for your circuit. Branch circuits in most homes are wired with #12 or #14 copper wire; #14 copper wire should be fused with 15 amperes, and #12 copper wire with 20 amperes.

Many older homes use Edison-base fuses, which have the same size base for various amperage fuses, which allows higher rated fuses of up to 30 amperes to be substituted for lower amperage fuses. To prevent overfusing, it is recommended that this type of fuse be replaced with "S"-type, non-interchangeable fuses. Once a qualified person has determined the proper size fuse for the circuit, an appropriate adapter is screwed into the fuse holder, which will then accept only the proper size "S"-type fuse.

Like overlampping, overfusing is easy to correct once a qualified person has inspected your electrical system and advised you which rating of fuse or circuit breaker is required.

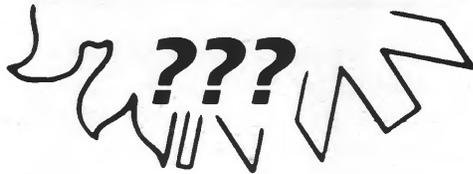
Remember, conditions created by deterioration of wire insulation, overlampping, and overfusing may lead to a fire. If your home wiring system has not been inspected for safety hazards, consider having an electrician check your system to make sure it is in safe working condition. You should not attempt to repair any wiring defects yourself.

But you can create a safer home when you:

1. Use only the recommended amperage fuse or circuit breaker.
2. Never overload a wall receptacle with too many appliances.
3. Use the recommended wattage bulbs.
4. Replace or repair extension and appliance cords at the first sign of wear or damage.
5. Avoid coiling appliance or extension cords during use to prevent possible overheating of the cord.
6. Avoid placing cords under carpets or furniture.
7. Avoid overloading extension cords.



# **Does Your Thinking Run Hot *and* Cold**



## **Think About the Add-On Heat Pump!**

It's easy to think about heat in midsummer . . . since the sun provides so much of it. That's also when you should think about the electric add-on heat pump. Because it removes unwanted heat . . . cooling your home just like a central air conditioner.

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So, when you've got heat on your mind . . . either taking it out of your home or putting it in . . . think ahead a little. Consider the efficient, versatile add-on heat pump. For more information, contact your electric cooperative. We'll be happy to share our thoughts on the subject.



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## ***Electric Cooperatives of Illinois***

**Good for ALL Illinois**

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# Congress will not approve acid rain controls this year

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Congress has killed, for another year, attempts to control acid rain.

The end of months of emotional debate, political maneuvering and intense lobbying came when the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment voted 10-9 against the leading acid rain bill. Other proposals have been introduced, but with little time left in this campaign-shortened legislative year, further action is unlikely.

Now the sponsor of the bill, Rep. Henry Waxman of California, and his supporters will have to wait until the 99th Congress convenes in January to reintroduce their proposals to reduce the amount of sulfur oxides in the air.

And Waxman, who chairs the Health and Environment subcommittee, promises he will revive the issue next session. "Acid rain," he says, "is not an issue that will go away."

But proposals such as Waxman's to finance regional pollution control with a nationwide tax on electricity are bound to face stiff opposition next year.

"I'm not implacably opposed to acid rain legislation," said Rep. John Dingell of Michigan, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees the Waxman subcommittee. But in voting against Waxman's bill, he called the proposal intolerable, saying, "It is a nationwide financing bill, but not a nationwide control bill."

Central to the acid rain controversy is whether cleanup efforts will work, and who should pay. It has pitted regions of the country against each other, and even has supporters of acid rain control bickering among themselves.

New England contends that the

chief culprits are smokestacks in the industrial Midwest where coal is burned by utilities, steel plants, paper mills and other industries.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the four states with the highest sulfur oxide emissions in 1980 were Ohio, with 2.4 million tons, Pennsylvania and Indiana, with 1.8 million tons each, and Illinois, with 1.3 million tons.

Some Midwesterners say that the astronomical expense of controlling that pollution — possibly as much as \$6 billion a year — outweighs the uncertain effects on fish and trees. New Englanders disagree, saying their multi-billion dollar recreation industry is being threatened, and that the Midwest should pay for the cleanup.

Some researchers say that lowering industrial and vehicle emissions would reduce acid rain, but they don't know enough about the chemical action in the atmosphere to predict where the controls would take effect. In other words, no one knows whether curbing sulfur emissions in the Midwest would reduce acid rain in New England.

For that reason the utility industry, and the Reagan Administration, have called for more research before mandating expensive emission controls.

The nation's 1,000 rural electric cooperatives have urged a go-slow approach. A resolution adopted this year at the annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association notes that a nationwide program could greatly increase the cost of electricity to consumers, and that, "There is no validated scientific basis for assuring that further reductions in emission from coal-fired generating plants will result in meaningful

reductions of acidic deposition anywhere in North America."

Meanwhile, the South, which apparently neither creates nor suffers from acid rain, does not want to help pay for the cleanup. And the West doesn't want to share the cost, arguing that the lower-sulfur coal in that part of the country doesn't contribute to the problem.

Greater use of Western coal has been suggested as a way to lower sulfur emissions, but that could threaten the economy in the Eastern coal-mining region where higher-sulfur coal is mined. United Mine Workers President Richard Trumka says a switch to Western coal would eliminate the jobs of 26,000 coal miners and 61,000 other industrial workers in the four states with the highest emissions.

Most of this year's acid rain control bills reflected at least some of the Midwest's concerns.

Waxman's bill, which attracted the most attention, called for the 50 electric utilities with the highest sulfur emissions to reduce those emissions by six million tons by 1990. This would be achieved by installing filtering devices called scrubbers. All coal-fired power plants built since 1978 have scrubbers, which can account for more than 25 percent of a plant's construction and operating costs.

Under Waxman's bill, 90 percent of the cost of installing scrubbers would have been paid from a \$1 billion trust fund, supported by a tax of one mill (one-tenth of one cent) per kilowatt-hour on all nonnuclear electricity. That tax would have cost the average household about 75 cents a month.

Another bill, sponsored by Reps.

Morris Udall of Arizona and Dick Cheney of Wyoming, would make polluters pay all of the costs of reducing sulfur emissions.

Still another version, introduced by Rep. Norman D'Amours of New Hampshire and backed by the New England congressional caucus, modified the Waxman plan and would have reduced sulfur emissions by 12 million tons and raised the electricity tax to 1.5 mills per kilowatt-hour but exempted hydroelectric and nuclear power.

A bill introduced in May by Reps. Dennis Eckart of Ohio and John Seiberling of Ohio calls for a 10 million-ton-a-year reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions by 1996, and would provide utilities with 90 percent of the money to install scrubbers on coal-burning power plants. Utilities would get financial aid to operate those scrubbers for 10 years.

The Eckart-Seiberling proposal also would require washing of higher-sulfur coal. That method of controlling sulfur dioxide emissions has been criticized as ineffective because it rinses away only 15 to 20 percent of the sulfur.

The co-sponsors have called their version "a better deal for Ohio" and other Midwestern states. Eckart says the bill might entice Midwestern politicians to accept acid rain controls.

Under a Senate bill, which won easy approval in mid-March from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, but will not reach the Senate floor during this session of Congress, the 31 states east of the Mississippi River would have had to cut sulfur dioxide emissions by 10 million tons by 1995. The Midwest would have borne most of the reduction as well as much of the estimated \$3.6 billion-a-year cost.

Generally, utilities have opposed the Waxman bill, saying it forces reductions on some utilities that have already installed pollution control equipment. That bill, the utilities claim, unfairly focuses on electric power companies to the exclusion of other industry and does not ask New England to make any reductions.

—By Sharon O'Malley  
Rural Electric News Service

## Wildcatters

(Continued from page 5)

was the hope that he could go into business for himself.

"There are several ways to get oil out of the pay zone," Terry says, "and Dad is the one who designs the method. He decides what we'll do and how we'll do it."

Tom takes care of construction, working with subcontractors who build pipelines and tank batteries, and

he also handles workovers on the new wells.

"I talk a lot on the phone," Terry laughs, adding, "I kind of take care of the legal and financial end of the work, and keep the rest of the paperwork in line too."

Herschel, whose lifelong dream of owning his own business has finally come true, has even more to be pleased with with New Spirit and the "Wildcatter of the Year Award." "We make a heck of an outfit," he says.

## Protecting a valuable asset

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4971  
8-18

9085  
10½-26½

478

- No. 4971 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. See pattern for yardages.
- No. 9085 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, 24½, 26½. See pattern for yardages.
- No. 478 is Candlewick Quilt, a tissue transfer of motifs for a quilt about 75 by 101 inches.

9369  
2-8

4819  
SIZES 8-20

Clever Holder  
7332

- No. 9369 is cut in child's sizes 2, 4, 6, 8. Size 6 takes 1-5/8 yards 45-inch fabric. Transfer.
- No. 4819 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Yardages given in pattern.
- No. 7332 - clever holder - is a pattern for a child's dress that holds clothespins. Directions and pattern pieces.

For Bird Lovers

4844  
34-50

9111  
Women's waist  
31-46½"

7386

- No. 4844 is cut in Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50. See pattern for yardages.
- No. 9111 is cut in women's waist sizes 31, 33, 35, 38, 40, 41, 44, 46½ inches. See pattern for yardages.
- No. 7386 for bird lovers contains transfers, color charts for 8 motifs.

9449  
34-48

4758  
6-20

4574  
SIZES  
10½-22½

- No. 9449 is cut in Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48. Order your regular sizes.
- No. 4758 is cut in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 3 yards 60-inch fabric.
- No. 4574 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½. Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 3 yards 45-inch fabric. ½ yard contrast.

# PATTERNS

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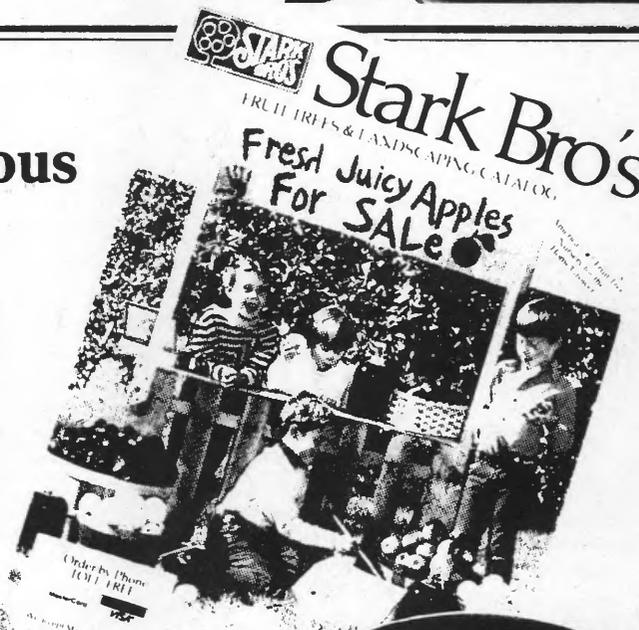
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August 1984

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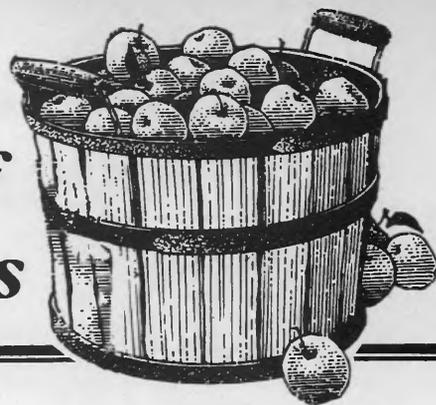
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**Plant in  
Fall and  
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# A blend of seasonal specialties



## PICKLED OKRA

- 3 lbs. small okra
- 3 cups vinegar (5% acidity)
- 3 cups water
- 6 tablespoons salt
- 12 heads of dill
- 1 garlic bud to each jar

Use small tender pods of okra, cut with as much stem as possible, wash and drain. Pack okra into clear jars. Place a small bunch of green dill and a bud of garlic in each jar with okra. Boil water, vinegar and salt together until salt dissolves. Fill jars with boiling brine. Put on cap and screw band tight. Process jars 5 minutes in boiling bath. Ready to eat in 4 to 6 weeks. Dill may be omitted and add in its place 1 teaspoon mustard seed and 1 green hot pepper to each pint jar.

## CRYSTAL PICKLES

Wash 25 large cucumbers. Put in brine of 1 gallon of water and 1 quart of salt. Use stone jar or enamel jar. Leave in brine 2 weeks. Skim off every day or as needed. Then drain, wash and peel. Take out seeds and cut in small strips. Cover with cold water to which add 2 tablespoons of alum. Soak 24 hours. Make syrup of the following ingredients.

- 1 quart vinegar
- 2 sticks cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon whole cloves
- 2 quarts sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground mace
- 1/4 teaspoon fumeric

Put spices in bag. When syrup is boiling, pour over cucumbers. Repeat for 4 days. On the fourth day, pack in jars and seal. Put in green food coloring to add color.

## POPPY SEED DRESSING

- 1/2 to 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Onion juice or grated onion to taste
- 5 tablespoons white vinegar
- 1 cup salad oil
- 1-1/2 teaspoons poppy seed
- 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice

Mix sugar, mustard, salt, onion, and 2 tablespoons vinegar. Add salad oil slowly, beating constantly. Add remaining vinegar and lemon juice and continue beating until dressing is thick. Stir in poppy seed. Store in refrigerator. Serve with fruit salad, fruit gelatin molds, grapefruit avocado combination or cole slaw.

## OLD SOUTH BLUE CHEESE DRESSING

- GRATE:
- 1 medium dill pickle
- 10 olives
- 2 or 3 cloves garlic (crushed)
- 1 pkg. blue cheese (crumbled)
- 1 pint mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons vinegar

Combine ingredients. This is also good on baked potatoes as well as green salads.

## CHEESE BALL

- 1 or 2 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1 tub sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 jar Old English cheese
- 1 jar Roka blue cheese
- Chopped nuts

Soften-Blend on mixer. Chill for about an hour. Roll in chopped nuts.

## TOWN & COUNTRY CHICKEN

- 3 chicken breasts, halved
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 pkg. dried beef (3 oz.)
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 carton (8 oz.) sour cream
- 1 small pkg. (3 oz.) cream cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon curry powder
- 3 cups cooked rice—hot—Cook as directed on pkg.

Place chicken single layer in baking dish. Sprinkle with pepper. Cover with dried beef; spoon soup over and cover. Bake at 325 degrees for one hour. Bake 20 minutes longer uncovered. Remove chicken from pan and keep warm. Arrange hot rice on heated platter. Place chicken over this and pour sauce over all. Sauce contains sour cream, cream cheese and the curry powder. Blend the ingredients together and heat until it is hot. Pour over chicken. This recipe won a Chicken Cooking Contest for Elaine Robus.

## MEXICAN CHICKEN CASSEROLE

- 6 chicken breasts
- Dorito chips
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup milk
- 1 can Rotel tomatoes
- 1 medium onion diced
- 1 bay leaf

Cook chicken breasts in salt water and a bay leaf. Cool and take meat off the bone and chop coarsely. Cover bottom of casserole with 2 layers of Doritos. Spread chopped chicken over Doritos. Combine remaining ingredients and pour mixture over chicken. Cover top with grated cheese. Let stand 24 hours in the refrigerator. Bake 75 minutes in 350 degree oven.

## APPLE DUMPLINGS

Pare and core cooking apples. Make a good short pie dough and roll it very thin. Cut in squares according to the size of apples. Put one tablespoon of sugar per square and sprinkle with nutmeg. Place large apple half over this, fold dough and pinch together. Place in greased baking dish. While you are doing the above, have your apple peelings boiling in enough water to partly cover your dumplings and a large lump of butter. Pour liquid on dumplings, place in oven at 350 degrees and bake until dumplings are done, basting them two or three times. Serve with this sauce: Two cups milk in a sauce pan, 1/2 cup sugar. Thicken slightly, and let boil for a few minutes. Add one teaspoon of vanilla and a lump of butter the size of a walnut. The richer the better.

## PINEAPPLE-PEAR SALAD

- 1 can #2 1/2 pears
- 1 can #2 1/2 pineapple chunks or equivalent
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 4 regular marshmallows or 12 small ones
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 2 pkgs. unflavored gelatin
- 1/4 cup water
- Grated cheddar cheese

Drain pineapple and pears, reserving liquid. Arrange pineapple chunks and diced pears in bottom of baking dish. Measure 2 cups liquid into saucepan, add sugar and 2 tablespoons lemon juice; bring to a boil. Dissolve gelatin in water and add to liquid. Pour over pears and pineapple mixture. Chill until firm. For topping: melt butter over low heat, and add beaten egg, lemon juice and marshmallows. Cook, stirring constantly until thick. Completely cool, fold into whipped cream, spread on gelatin mixture and top with grated cheddar cheese. Makes 15 servings.

## CHEESE CAKE

- Graham crackers
- 1 stick oleo
- 1 tablespoon powdered sugar
- 1 pkg. lemon gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 large can evaporated milk, chilled
- 1 can pie filling (cherry, blackberry or your choice)
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese

Make crust of graham crackers, oleo and powdered sugar. Press into pan. Stir gelatin and boiling water together. Let cool but do not let gelatin set. Cream the cheese, sugar and vanilla together. Beat evaporated milk until peaks form. Add gelatin and cheese mixtures together. Mix well and let stand 12 hours or more in refrigerator. Top with favorite pie filling. Will keep for one week.

## RITZY DESSERT

- 6 eggs whites, beaten
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 2 cups crushed Ritz crackers
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Dash salt

Whip egg whites in large bowl until foamy, and add cream of tartar. Whip until stiff but not dry or cake will be chewy, rather than like a cake in texture. Gradually whip in sugar. Fold in crackers, nuts, vanilla and salt. Bake in ungreased pan at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes.

## TOPPING FOR RITZY DESSERT:

- 2 pkgs. Dream Whip
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 cup cold milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Into deep chilled bowl turn 2 envelopes Dream Whip with sugar, milk and vanilla. Beat until peaks form. Spread over cold cake and spoon one can pie filling over dessert topping. Use 9"x12" pan.

## ORANGE BALLS

- 2 3/4 cups vanilla wafer crumbs
- 1/4 cup melted margarine
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1/4 cup frozen orange juice (undiluted)

Mix and shape into small balls with hands. Dip balls in butter icing.

## BUTTER ICING:

- 2 tablespoons soft margarine
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- Enough milk to spread

Mix ingredients together to make icing for orange balls. Roll balls in fine coconut. Store in air tight container. These will freeze and are better after setting a few days.

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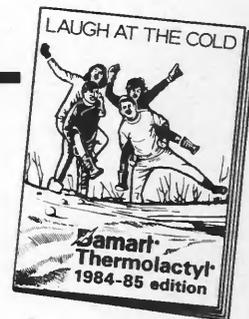
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# Enterprise stems from 'knack,' determination to be own boss

**K**en Oakley's lifelong love of "growing things" and a four-year stint working for a Charleston florist got Ken, his wife, Gayle, and brother, Ron, into the nursery business.

B & G Enterprises — the name derives from Ken's "Bic" nickname and Gayle's given name — is located south of Kansas and east of Westfield (Clark County), and is served by Edgar Electric Co-operative, Paris.

Ken and Ron were raised on a farm about five miles from Westfield, Ken notes, and both seemed to have a knack for making green things grow. A firm desire on Ken's part to be his own boss suggested that a nursery operation might just be the way to go.

Gayle, who teaches junior high in Marshall, helps a lot after hours and during the summer. "Her regular paycheck helps the cash flow situation an awful lot sometimes, too," Ken laughs. A Springfield native, Gayle admits that the very rural location of the nursery was "a little spooky" when the Oakleys first moved there, although she has since become accustomed to the pastoral silence.

The nursery complex consists of 4,000 square feet of greenhouse, and it is made up of plastic sheeting over a framework, rather than glass, which is expensive initially and is patently susceptible to hail damage, too. The greenhouses are somewhat low profile to keep costs down.

"Greenhouse growing is energy-intensive," Ken says, "and it takes energy to heat air and to distribute it, so we keep the volume of the greenhouses down as much as we can. It doesn't make sense to heat any more air than we have to. If we keep our costs down, we can keep our prices

more reasonable."

Ken is also looking at the possibility of installing small electric heating elements under each flower pot, to keep the soil warm. "That way," he says, "we can maintain an ideal soil temperature while we can keep the rest of the greenhouse a little cooler. We're thinking of using wood heat as a supplement, too."

Most — but not all — of the flowering plants B & G produces are presold and are distributed to florists from Champaign to Vincennes, Ind. Until recently, Ron drove the route in a panel truck, but increasing volume dictated a change, and now he drives a good-sized truck.

"We were thinking of expanding into the Decatur area," Ron says, "but we have enough sales that we're working hard just to supply demand on existing routes."

Even though much of the business

is wholesale, B & G does sell at retail too and Gayle says, "We did a booming business over the Memorial Day holiday."

A good part of the firm's business is in tropical plants, and Ken flies to Florida once a month. He rents a truck and fills it with exotic flowers to sell in Illinois. "That way we can broaden our product line without making a big investment in additional greenhouses," he says.

Vegetable and bedding plants are an important part of the product line in the spring, Gayle says, and normally about 80 percent of those plants are sold in the first couple of weeks in May.

With the prudent management and "green thumb" expertise at B & G, it will be surprising if the Oakleys do not increase their greenhouse area and perhaps buy yet another truck in the not-too-distant future.





*Clockwise from far left: Ken talks about his greenhouse operation. Gayle holds a potted arrangement. Gloxinia are popular flowers. Zinnias add a colorful accent to many arrangements. A begonia ready to go into an arrangement.*

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ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

# Thank Goodness for Flannel Sheets! I Thought I'd "Freeze to Death"



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What I overlooked was the English idea of central heating. After I left London the weather suddenly turned shivering cold and wet. By the time I got to my destination I was too tired and miserable to care about picturesque charm and history. All I could think of was how uncomfortable I was going to be in an old, drafty castle.

Sure enough, my room was freezing. But when I crawled into bed I was dumbfounded to discover how marvelous cozy it was despite the lack of heat.

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Then and there I decided I was going to have sheets like that at home. What a great way to save on heating costs at night and still feel rich and special!

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When I got back to the United States I soon learned that the flannel sheets in stores didn't feel or look the same at all. The polyester in them made such a difference.

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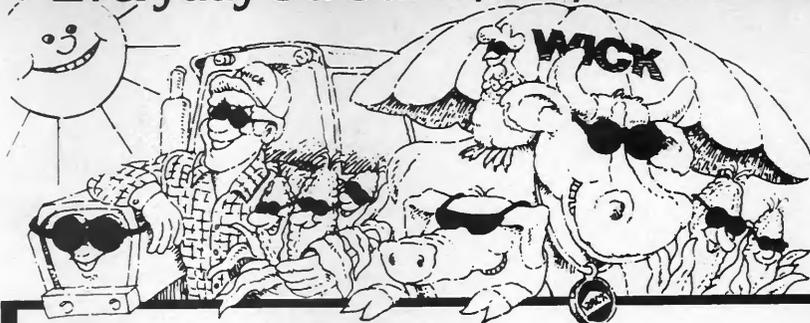
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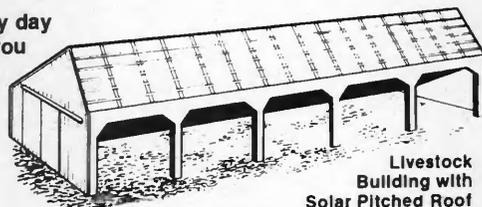
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