

New Offices Occupied by State Group

Nearly 300 persons visited new headquarters of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives six miles south of Springfield during a recent open house.

The one-story limestone building contains 4,556 square feet of office and meeting room space on the first floor plus an equal amount in the basement. The latter houses chiefly the printing and mailing departments which include the most modern of offset printing facilities and darkroom.

LYLE E. DUNHAM, director, the state associations member service department, described the new headquarters in this way in an article published by Contractors' Electrical Equipment magazine:

"The installation is not spectacular. It is not designed to dazzle. Instead it is intended to be intensely practical, economical and efficient, reliable and satisfactory over a long period of years."

The structure includes the latest ideas in electric heating installed by E. P. Allison Company of Chicago and manufactured by Radiant Electric Heat Company of Centerville, Iowa. Mr. Dunham worked with Radiant Electric in designing the system.

"We regard this installation as highly practical for office buildings of all kinds, plus hotels, motels, senior citizens' homes and similar structures," a company spokesman said.

"This will stand the test of time and the wisdom of the electric heating plan will become increasingly apparent as the trouble-free years pass."

RAYMOND W. RUSTEBERG, Valmeyer, president of the state organization, said of the new building:

"We believe it will prove of considerable interest to builders and others concerned with planning and construction of similar structures.

Our estimates indicate heating costs will be less than \$600 annually."

Mr. Rusteburg said cost of the building and three-acre site was around \$140,000.

Members of the building commit-

tee are Walter Johnston, chairman; Owen Chaney, Paul Deisher, L. C. Groat, Loyd Pickard and W. L. Walker.

Ralph N. Morrisett, Springfield, was the architect.

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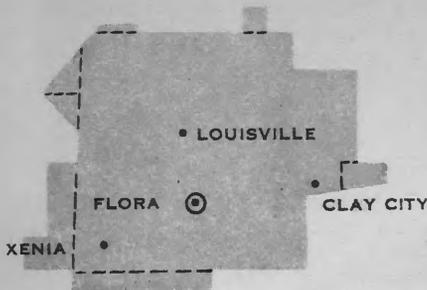
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Clay Electric News Special

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Flora, Ill.



A 25th anniversary cake was presented to Clay Electric Cooperative by Mrs. Edith McElyea and Mrs. Clifford Cammon. With them (from left) are Directors William L. Stanford, Scott Harrison, Carl Barnick, Ralph L. Smith, Attorney William R. Todd, Ralph Hastings, Leo Iffert, Manager Elmo A. Cates and Edwin T. Henson.

Clay Electric Praised For 25 Years of Service

The growth and service accomplishments achieved by Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc., during the past 25 years were observed at the cooperative's 21st annual meeting recently.

Speakers noted that the cooperative had to overcome many obstacles in order to bring low-cost electricity to its 2,200 member-owners in Clay and parts of Wayne, Richland, Marion, Fayette and Effingham counties. Two cooperative incorporators recalled that persons once thought the obstacles were too great for the cooperative to overcome.

ELMO A. CATES, manager of Clay Electric, told member-owners at the meeting that lower rates have been in effect since Jan. 1. In addition, the cooperative is absorbing a one per cent increase in the state utility tax, with a further savings to the member-owners.

Mr. Cates said rates will be as low as possible, but he stressed that

the cooperative will not lower its standard of providing as high quality of service as possible.

A new substation southeast of Iola was energized on June 29 to provide better service in that area. The manager also said work around the Flora substation will improve electric service there.

IN ANOTHER PART of his report, Mr. Cates said Clay Electric is providing electric service at cost, calling attention to the capital credit checks mailed on May 1 to all members who received service in 1953 and 1954. Capital credit payments represent the difference between operation expenses and revenue and these payments are authorized by the board of directors when financial conditions permit.

More than 1,000 persons who attended the meeting held in a community building in Charley Brown Park near Flora heard two directors

recall some of the problems the cooperative had in bringing non-profit electric service to its member-owners.

RALPH HASTINGS and Ralph L. Smith told the audience some of their experiences while serving on the board of directors continuously since Clay Electric Cooperative was organized on July 16, 1940.

Mr. Hastings told the member-owners that they can be proud of the cooperative. He said "This is your own business and it is retiring its debt ahead of schedule and it has paid you capital credits. Also, the co-op has never raised its rates when almost everything else costs two or three times as much as it did a few years ago."

Mr. Smith recalled the high costs in providing electric service to a low number of consumers per mile of line. "Despite the hard times in getting started, the co-op has succeeded where many thought it impossible," he said.

STATE REP. Leslie N. Jones (R-Flora) also noted the coopera-



Miss Marjean Henderson is the new "Miss Clay Electric Cooperative."

tive's accomplishments in a short talk at the annual meeting. Mr. Jones told the member-owners they should be proud of the job Clay Electric has done.

"It's a wonderful job," he said, "the co-ops in the state of Illinois have done." The Republican legislator added that much of the country's success can be attributed to electrification "and the co-ops have played a big role" in making low-cost electricity available to the rural areas.

During the business meeting, the member-owners re-elected three directors to three-year terms. The three are Franklin C. Byers, Edgewood; Edwin T. Henson, Xenia, and Melvin O. West, Bible Grove.

The board of directors reorganized following the annual meeting and re-elected these officers: William L. Stanford, Flora, r.r. 3, president; Carl Barnick, Mason, vice president, and Mr. Smith, Flora, secretary-treasurer.

THE OTHER DIRECTORS are Scott Harrison, Xenia; Leo Iffert, Noble, r.r. 2, and Mr. Hastings, Louisville.

In the entertainment portion of the meeting, Miss Marjean Henderson, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Henderson, Louisville, r.r. 4, was crowned "Miss Clay Electric Cooperative of 1965" by last year's queen, Miss Phyllis Stremming, Dieterich.

The first runner-up in the field of 15 beauty contestants was Miss Judy Kay Gerber, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Gerber, Flora, r.r. 1. Miss Kay Jacobs, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Jacobs, Flora, r.r. 1, placed third.



Directors Ralph Hastings (left) and Ralph L. Smith have served on the board since the cooperative was organized 25 years ago.



There were 15 girls competing in this year's queen contest. They are (from left) Carol Bryan, Kay Jacobs, Arilla Coble, Winona Weidner, Caroline Stanfield, Darlene Carder, Loretta Veith, Judy Kay Gerber, Marjean Henderson, Linda Hemrich, Neoma Weidner, Shirley Jean Loughton, Melody Ann Lewis, Marilyn Payne and Janet McNeely.



Winners of attendance prizes awarded at the annual meeting are (from left, seated) Mrs. Fatheree, Mrs. Otis Smith, William J. Cox, Mrs. Alfred Bohnhoff, Mrs. Della Cook, John Hardin, Mrs. Lucinda McCormick, Herman Lewis, Mrs. L. R. Harris, Mrs. Lyman Cantrell and Mrs. George Wood. Standing (from left) are Carl Cash, Ed Wendte, Robert W. Kuentler, Mrs. Harold O. Gill, Mrs. James Quinn, Mrs. Mattie Bryan, Mrs. Glenn D. Hall, J. L. Newton, Mrs. Isom Wolfe, Mrs. Fred Bloemker and Mrs. Clifford Harrell. Mrs. A. H. Neeley, another prize winner, is not shown.

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