

mission, the Federal Power Commission, the U.S. Justice Department or other governmental or regulatory agencies.

Cooperative leaders are resigned to paying a higher price for wholesale power but insist that such increases be reasonable and consistent with the actual cost of providing service to the cooperatives. Some increase, however is, as one official put it, "a sign of things yet to come."

Air pollution control facilities at power plants is a relatively new, but an increasingly expensive, factor in the cost of wholesale power cost which you, the consumer, must ultimately pay.

If a power company burns coal with more than one percent of sulfur content, current federal regulations require that the company remove the sulfur dioxide waste-product before it is emitted into the air.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urges utilities to buy gigantic scrubber control systems to remove the sulfur dioxide.

The EPA estimates by 1980 one of every three plants burning coal will have to use scrubbers. Cost of these scrubbers is an estimated \$5.4

billion.

Furthermore, the EPA encourages state utility commissions, the agencies which decide if and when a private power company can increase its rates, to allow such costs to be passed on to consumers.

Increased wholesale power cost is only one of the reasons your electric bill is going up. The cost of electricity is rising for much the same reasons the cost of everything else we buy is rising—inflation.

Electric loads continue to grow and cooperatives must continually increase their plant by extending service to new customers and by replacing old worn out equipment with new.

In fact, many of the poles the cooperatives installed are now as much as 35 years old and nearing the end of their useful lives. The poles to replace the decaying ones will cost five to 10 times as much as the originals did 35 years ago. Maintaining service while the pole is being replaced is even more difficult than new construction and adds to the cost.

Poles are just one example.

Dean Searls, manager of Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Camp Point, recently presented a staggering

list of rising material cost figures to members at the cooperative's annual meeting.

Consider the following prices Adams Electrical, as well as other cooperatives, are now paying compared to prices paid at the end of 1972, just a year and a half ago:

—Crossarms to support the distribution lines have nearly tripled in price—from \$4.88 to \$14.88 each.

—Copper wire, used in transformers and in line construction, has jumped 50 to 75 percent.

—Conductor used in the lines you see along the road has in some cases doubled and tripled in price since the end of 1972 and is often hard to find at any price.

"Construction costs have almost doubled during the past two years," Searls said. "The most serious question is—when will prices level off?"

If high prices for materials were not enough to contend with, cooperatives are also facing shortages of steel, aluminum, copper, timber and other construction material. If a

(continued on page 28)



Oaks Mfg. Inc., Oaks, N.D., introduces Model L600—New—Compact—4 Wheel Drive Loader. Hydrostatic Drive—Turns in its tracks—Operation is smooth and easy...and economical to own. Ideal for any job on the farm, construction, factory and warehouse. Various buckets and forks available.

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Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. 618-662-6126 FLORA, ILLINOIS

Clay Holds 30th Annual Meeting

Approximately 1,300 persons attended our 30th annual meeting held July 8, at Charley Brown Park in Flora.

The weather cooperated in cooling down what started as a hot day, providing comfortable temperatures for the evening of entertainment, food and business.

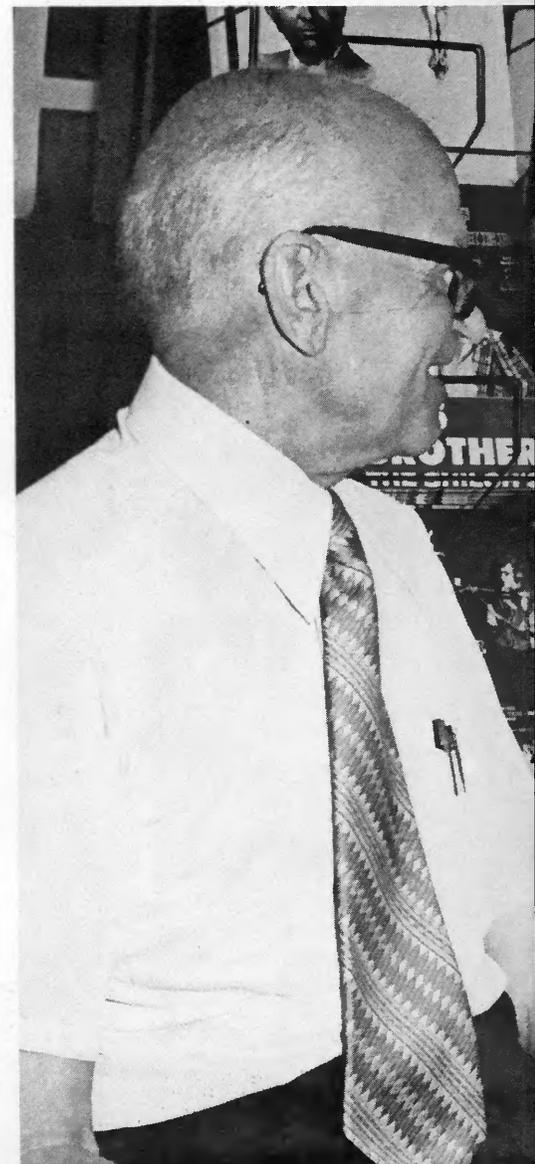
It takes many hours and many people to prepare for such an event and our thanks go to all of those who helped.

Although it was announced at the meeting, rates, by necessity, would have

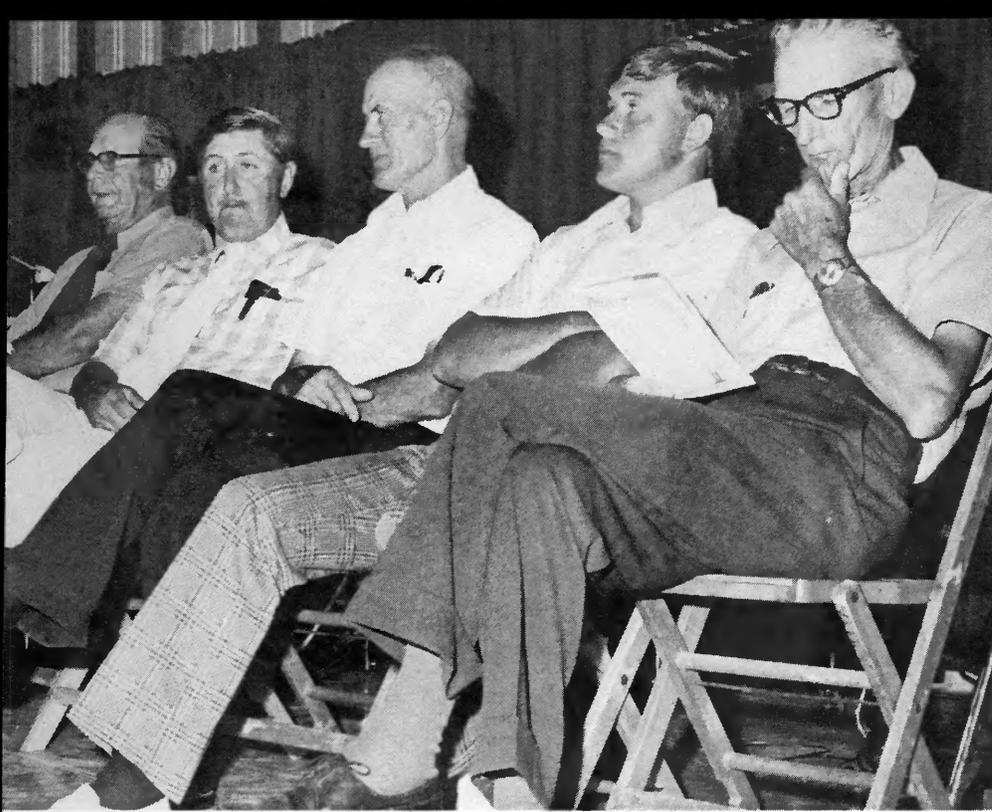
to be increased in January, we still believe the cooperative way is the best way. We will continue to supply dependable power and service to our members at the lowest possible cost.

The splendid turnout we had reinforces this belief and shows why the cooperative way is so strong today—our members care. Without the members there would be no cooperative. But with them and with their cooperation, great things are possible. Thank you all!

Here is a cross section of photographs from the meeting:



ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS



FAR LEFT, BELOW: A portion of the 1,300 persons who attended the meeting. CENTER BELOW: Elmo Cates, manager, left and Clay's new Assistant Manager Stanley N. Huffman. Cates announced he would be retiring in January and at that time Huffman will assume the position of manager. CENTER ABOVE: Directors William L. Stanford, Edwin T. Henson, Leo Iffert, Delaine Traub and Franklin C. Byers, are seen on stage during the business session. Other directors are Carl Barnick, Scott Harrison, Cliff Hilmes and Ralph Hastings. ABOVE RIGHT: Lunches served at the meeting were prepared by the members of McCabe Church. BELOW RIGHT: Members received a free attendance gift upon registration.

With its buggy and train rides, one might call it an amusement park. But Old Bagdad Town and the Amish community proclaim it a historic site and the floral and rock displays make it a flowery paradise.

Perhaps it's better just to call Rockome Gardens one of a kind.

The curious blend of amusement park, historical site and floral wonderland is what makes Rockome unique. It also makes it one of Illinois' most attractive and visited tourist spots.

Located five miles west of Arcola off I-57, Rockome is the product of two different designers—Arthur Martin and the present owner, Elvan Yoder—and one great ethnic influence, the Amish community which surrounds it. Electrical power for Rockome Gardens is supplied by Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon.

Martin, a wealthy industrialist from Arthur, started the floral design of the Gardens in 1939, during the latter days of the Depression.

When his business could no longer sustain his employees, Martin used them to work on his estate, rather than turn them out on the welfare roles. He bought tons of native Illinois rocks, which his workers broke by hand and inlaid into cement to form the rockwork and fences for which Rockome is noted for today.

In 1951, Martin donated the 208-acre farm to the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities for use as a retirement haven for missionaries. Seven years later, the Board sold the farm and gardens to Yoder, himself a Mennonite who had been reared in the Amish faith.

"I bought the land originally to farm it," Yoder said. "My wife and I were raising three sons and a daughter and everyone helped plant and weed the flowers and keep the rock formation patched."

And when thousands of people drove by to view the gardens from the road, Yoder realized farming

