

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A FREE DEMONSTRATION  
CONTACT THE ILL. REP., BOB DICKEY--P.O. BOX 826  
CHATHAM, ILL. 62629, PH. 217-483-3324

See Us At The Illinois State Fair

## World's Fastest, Easiest Fencing!



## tep-POSTS 66" PLASTIC LINE POSTS

New 72" Line Posts, Heavier & Larger

- Strong, Durable, Attractive
- Non-Conductive, Non-Corrosive
- Drive-In Easily with Tepco Driver
- No Digging, Setting, Filling

Build your fences the easy way with TEPCO Line Posts—just like hundreds of ranchers and farmers throughout the nation are doing. Tep-Posts are strong, light weight and durable. Easy to carry in quantity. Weighted steel driver is necessary to drive in the Tepco posts. Wire clip fasteners and postdriver furnished at nominal costs.

Get literature on line fence posts and

48" electric posts

See your dealer or contact us

Write or Call 405 424-2222

(TEPCO, INC.)

THOMAS EXTRUDED PLASTICS CO., INC.  
P.O. Box 145, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73101

# I.V.E.C. COMMENTS

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Princeton, Ill.

## ANNUAL MEETING

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Registration

All members attending the meeting should register on arrival. Dorothy Eaton is in charge of registration, assisted by Lois Hoffman, Scherry Strader, Bonnie Dye, Wanda Lille and Betty Burrel.

12:30 P.M. – 1:15 P.M.

Mickey Conant Playing the Organ

1:15 P.M.

Call to Order . . . . . Roy E. Horton, President

Invocation . . . . . Rev. Harold Burkey  
Princeton Bible Church

Welcome to Members . . Princeton Chamber of Commerce

Introduction of Visitors . . . . M. M. Jontz, Manager

Official Notice of Annual Meeting

Minutes of 1973 Annual Meeting . . . Mrs. Edith Kays,  
Secretary

Reports by Officers . . . . Roy E. Horton, President

Mrs. Edith Kays, Secretary

Mrs. Eileen Slingsby, Treasurer

Report . . . Roy E. Horton, State Board Representative

Report . . . . . M. M. Jontz, Manager

Speaker

Report of Nominating Committee . . . . Chairman,  
Nominating Committee

Action on Delinquent Accounts

Introduction of New Directors

Adjournment

Refreshments



## BUREAU COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 24, 1974

REGISTRATION

11:30A.M.

MEETING

1:00 P.M.

## *Attendance Awards*

## *Business Session*

## *Entertainment*



Members of the nominating committee met on July 12 and nominated the following persons as directors for a three term:

Roy Horton of Princeton

Edith Kays of Ottawa

Wayne Williams of Victoria

Members of the nominating committee included: McKinley Gaddie of Princeton; Robert W. Arndt of Cambridge; William Currie of Ogelsby; Phil Corcoran, Jr. of Ottawa; Donald C. Kenny of Tiskilwa; Ernest Rehn of Magnolia; James A. Jackson of Toulon; Mervin Weston of Kewanee, and George England of Dahinda.



## "YOUTH TO WASHINGTON" TOUR

Lori Picatto of Oglesby and Kenneth Rowe of Sparland were among 50 outstanding high school students from Illinois who toured Washington, D.C., the week of June 8. This was part of the annual "Youth to Washington" tour sponsored by Illinois electric cooperatives.

Kenneth and Lori represented Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative at Princeton. They left the Springfield headquarters of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Saturday, June 8. From left are Bob Patton, AIEC tour director; Lori and Kenneth.

## COOPERATIVE RECOVERS FROM JUNE STORMS

August is here and it looks like the storm season is over. I know all of the members of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative are glad, too, as are the employees of the cooperative.

We are just now recovering completely from what is believed to be the worst damage to our electrical distribution system in the cooperative's 35-year history. The damage was caused by the severe storms during late June.

Even today, over a month later, exact estimates on the total damage to farms, cities and our electrical system are still not totalled up.

The storm, really a series of storms, hit the cooperative's eight-county service area the evening of Thursday, June 20, and caused extensive and wide-spread damage to poles and lines.

Our crews were dispatched quickly and worked around the clock until Sunday morning to restore service to our members.

The high winds and lightning during the storm resulted in over 200 broken or fallen poles along your cooperative's 1,460 miles of line. The rains, which came in torrents in some locations during the two-day period, caused further flooding which

complicated servicing of the downed power lines and poles.

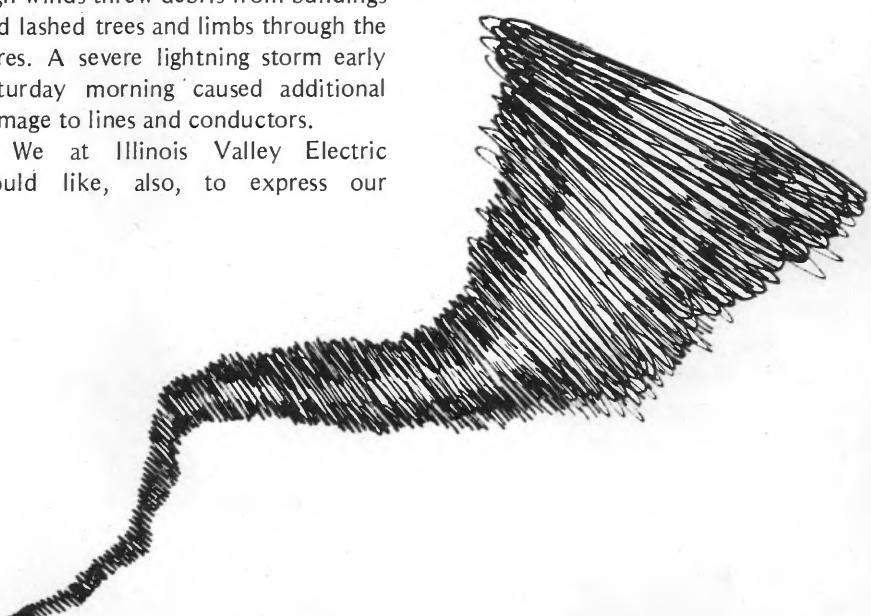
The Statewide Electric Cooperative Emergency Work Plan was activated and additional men and equipment from two of our neighboring electric cooperatives (WEIC, McDonough), along with crews from F. M. Olds Construction Company of Davenport, Iowa, and Whitlock Tree Co., of Princeton, were called in to assist in restoring service.

Spans of wire were downed when high winds threw debris from buildings and lashed trees and limbs through the wires. A severe lightning storm early Saturday morning caused additional damage to lines and conductors.

We at Illinois Valley Electric would like, also, to express our

appreciation to our members for assisting our linemen and repair crews with tractors and equipment. Some members also provided food and coffee to the men during their long working hours.

We realize the hardships created for many of our members by the seemingly long outages which resulted from the storms and we particularly appreciate the understanding and the patience our members had during this trying time.



**W**ith 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



# Festival

**T**housands recently stepped back into yesteryear for a few hours and enjoyed the sights and sounds of their forefathers.

The scene was the Land of Lincoln Crafts Festival, held annually each fall at the New Salem Carriage Museum, one-half mile south of New Salem State Park. Because of the central location, the festival has become popular with visitors from all corners of Illinois and neighboring states.

More than 160 local people, many of them electric cooperative members, demonstrated 60 crafts which our ancestors took for granted in

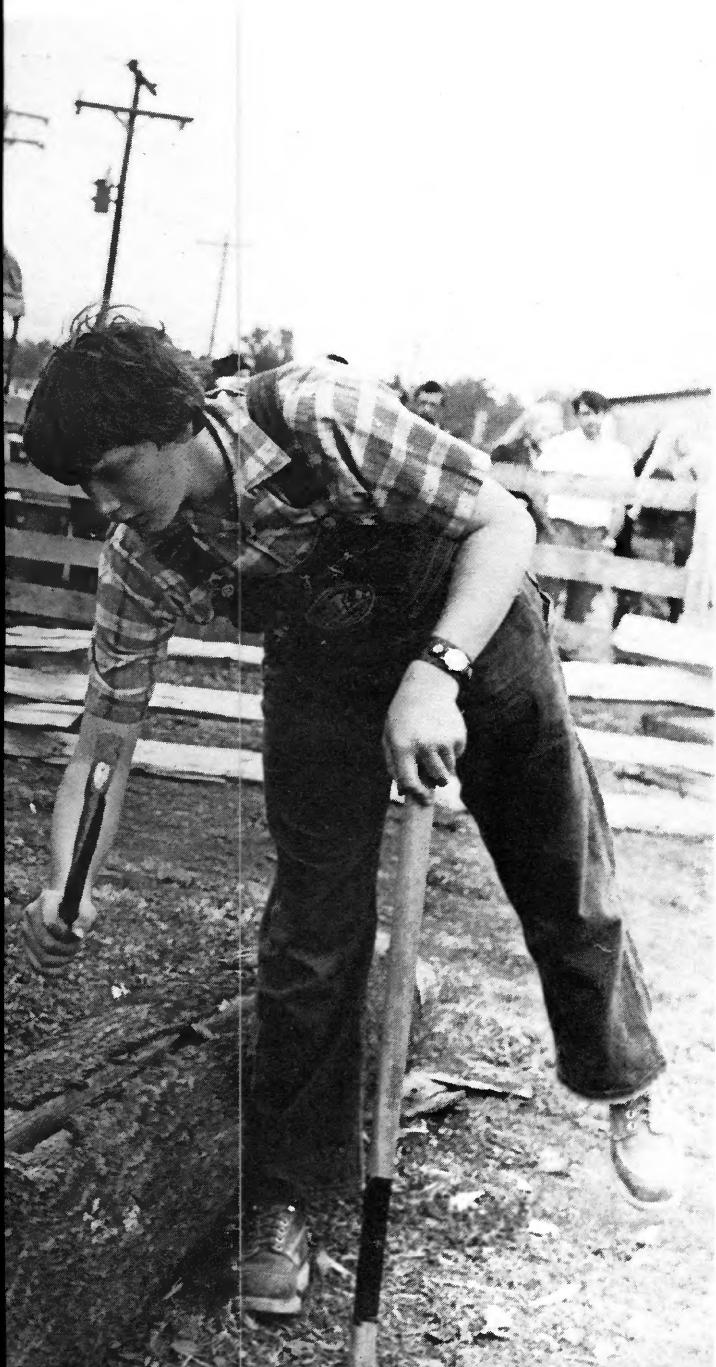
their everyday lives, but today have been forgotten by most people.

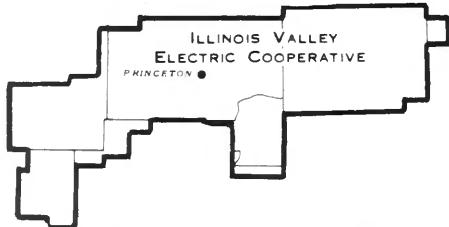
The annual event was sponsored by Petersburg Town and County Women's Club. Electric power for the site was provided by Menard Electric Cooperative, Petersburg.

Much of the festival was a gourmet's delight with fresh smoked ham, sassafras tea, bittersweet, paw-paws, pumpkin bread, cottage cheese, kraut, hominy, sorghum and sweet cider.

There was something for all ages. And although it only lasted a weekend, it brought back many fond memories of days gone by.

*BELow: Chester Petitt of Springfield (left) and Homer Lounsberry of Oxford, a member of Menard Electric Cooperative, set their team to work. BOTTOM: Dell Price of Petersburg, also a cooperative member, slowly stirs a fresh batch of sorghum. CENTER: The fine art of rail splitting was handled by several hearty young men. FAR LEFT, BELOW: Mary Hurie of Petersburg demonstrated chair caning. FAR LEFT, ABOVE: According to Mrs. Ernest Ayers of Pawnee, a member of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., Auburn, goose plucking really doesn't hurt the pluckee.*





# I.V.E.C. Comments

ILLINOIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

815-875-1913

PRINCETON, ILLINOIS

More than 400 persons crowded into the Bureau County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall in Princeton for the cooperative's 35th annual members' meeting on September 24.

Reflecting on a year of spiraling operational costs and damaging wind storms, cooperative leaders praised members for their cooperation and commended all employees for their hard work during the unusually severe field conditions experienced during the past year.

Cooperative officials reported the cooperative had constructed 35 additional miles of line and welcomed 265 new members to the system.

Today, Illinois Valley Electric serves nearly 5,000 consumers along 1,460 miles of energized lines in Bureau, Henry, Kendall, Knox, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam and Stark Counties.

The splendid turnout reinforced the belief that the cooperative way is the best way. The reason—cooperative members care about the well-being of their member-owned business.

Without the members there would be no cooperative. But with them, and with their cooperation, great things are possible.

And even though there seems to be no way to avoid higher electric costs in the future, Illinois Valley Electric will continue to supply dependable power at the lowest possible cost.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the many people who made our meeting such a success. We feel our 35th annual meeting was one of our best.

Here are a few scenes from the meeting:

## Illinois Valley Holds 35



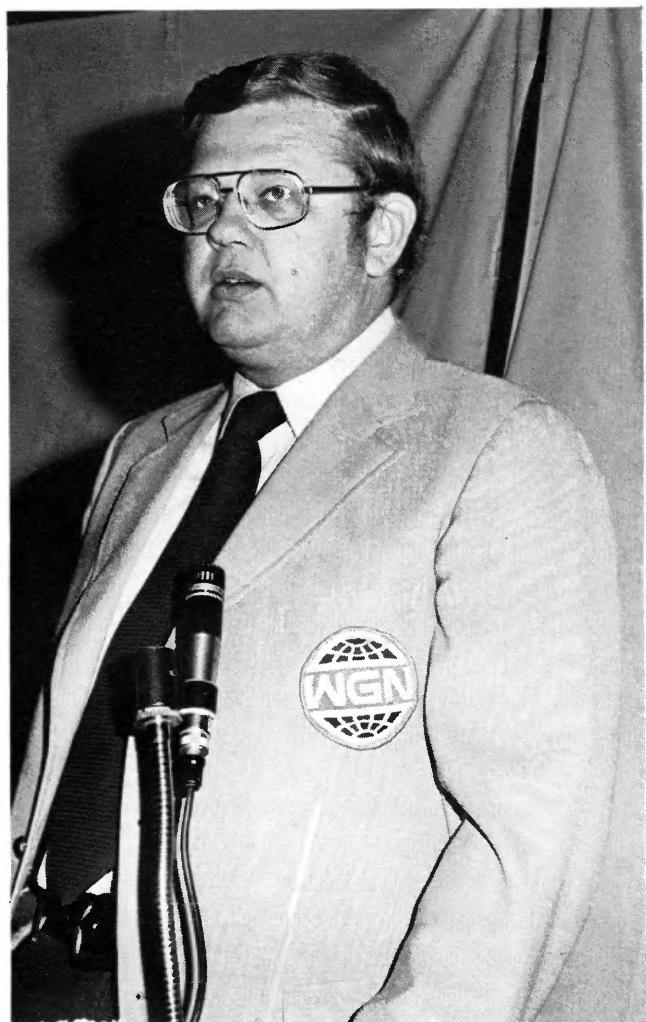
ABOVE: Directors Wayne Williams of Victoria, left, Edith Kays of Ottawa and Roy E. Horton of Princeton were re-elected for three-year terms at the business session. CENTER: Harry Simpson, job training and safety instructor, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield, dramatically showed the necessity of being safe around power lines. FAR RIGHT: Orion Samuelson, farm service director for WGN radio and television, Chicago, stressed the need for farmers to take a more active and positive voice in the future of the agricultural industry.



ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS



## *Annual Meeting*



illinois  
is  
coal

the challenge

## Mines to Market:



**I**t's easy to get along with Harry Davidson—just don't make fun of his mules. According to him, you could do a lot worse than having a mule for a pet. You could have a horse for instance.

Davidson, who lives on a small farm south of Nashville, has one of the best team of mules in the state—maybe the nation, considering the declining mule population. At least, when he took his team to the National Mule and Donkey Jubilee in Indiana recently, they were good enough to win the half-mile chariot race and place fifth overall in the halter or show class from among 1,400 animals.

The mules' home is located 27 miles west of Mt. Vernon, headquarters of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc., which supplies electric power for the farm.

Davidson doesn't exaggerate about his mules' capabilities. In fact, he has a tendency to underestimate them—which often leads the interviewer to ask one question too many.

"I got a stallion out in the pasture," Davidson said, "but he hasn't got much of a bloodline."

The first mistake. "How far back can his bloodline be traced?"

"Well, he is a great-great grandson of General Ulysses S. Grant's horse, Leopard," Davidson said. "Guess he does go back a ways, doesn't he?"

Or, "Got me a mule across the road, but he can't jump very high and he's pretty slow, too."

Haven't you learned. "How high and how slow?"

"Well, he once cleared a four-foot fence and did a quarter mile in 26 seconds," Davidson said. "Never seen any other mule jump that high. And the speed is up to a quarterhorse's."

When Davidson talks about his mules in a serious vein though—listen. He probably knows as much about them as any self-proclaimed expert. He has been around mules most of his 58 years. Davidson's father spent his life breaking mules he had purchased and Davidson picked up his father's habit early.

"I had my first mule when I was six," Davidson said. "When I was 12, I traded a heifer for a mule and the mule for an old car. Been swapping ever since then."

Davidson now has only four mules. A heart attack in 1971 forced him to sell most of the 13 head he had. Eventually though, the heart attack

also forced him to give up his job as a railroad switchman in St. Louis, so he's back in the mule-raising business again—if on a much smaller scale.

"Before I had the heart problems, I used to do some serious swapping," Davidson said. "Figure I probably traded more than 300 in the years I been around them. Anymore though, it's just a hobby with me."

Davidson only recently has begun entering his mules in competitions. And they have done exceptionally well, even though his mules are considerably smaller than most of the mules and ponies they compete against.

"These are 'mini-mules,'" Davidson said. "They are a cross between a donkey and a pony instead of a donkey and a regular-sized horse. The biggest one stands an inch under four-feet high, the smallest is only 45 inches tall."

In another era and area, the mules Davidson breeds would be called cotton mules, bred in the Old South to do work in cotton rows that a large horse could not negotiate.

Which brings us rather obliquely to the horse. In many ways, Davidson feels the mule is maligned when compared to his larger cousin, the horse. According to him, it should be the other way around.

"The mule is superior to the horse, intelligence-wise and most other ways," Davidson said. "For one thing, they are easier to train than a horse. I can train a mule to do things in one year it will take a horse three years to figure out."

"That's why you mostly see trick mules in rodeos instead of trick horses. Same thing with being used as a pack animal. Mules are just more surefooted going up a mountain slope, and they are about half-again as strong as a horse of the same size."

"Mules aren't stupid, but the people that own them can be," Davidson said. One story he uses to illustrate the point is about a mule pulling a load of hay.

"The mule pulled until it couldn't pull anymore, which made the farmer mad. He lit a fire under the mule to get it going. Well, the mule moved alright. It

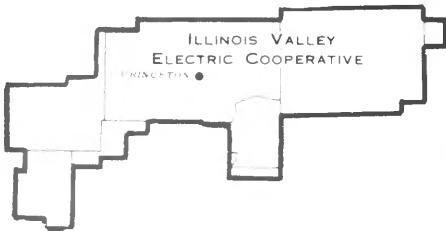
moved until the fire was under the wagon and the hay was blazing.

"Same way with hurting a mule," Davidson added. "Besides showing how dumb some people are, it also proves how intelligent the

(continued on page 16)

HARRY DAVIDSON IS BASICALLY JUST AN . . .





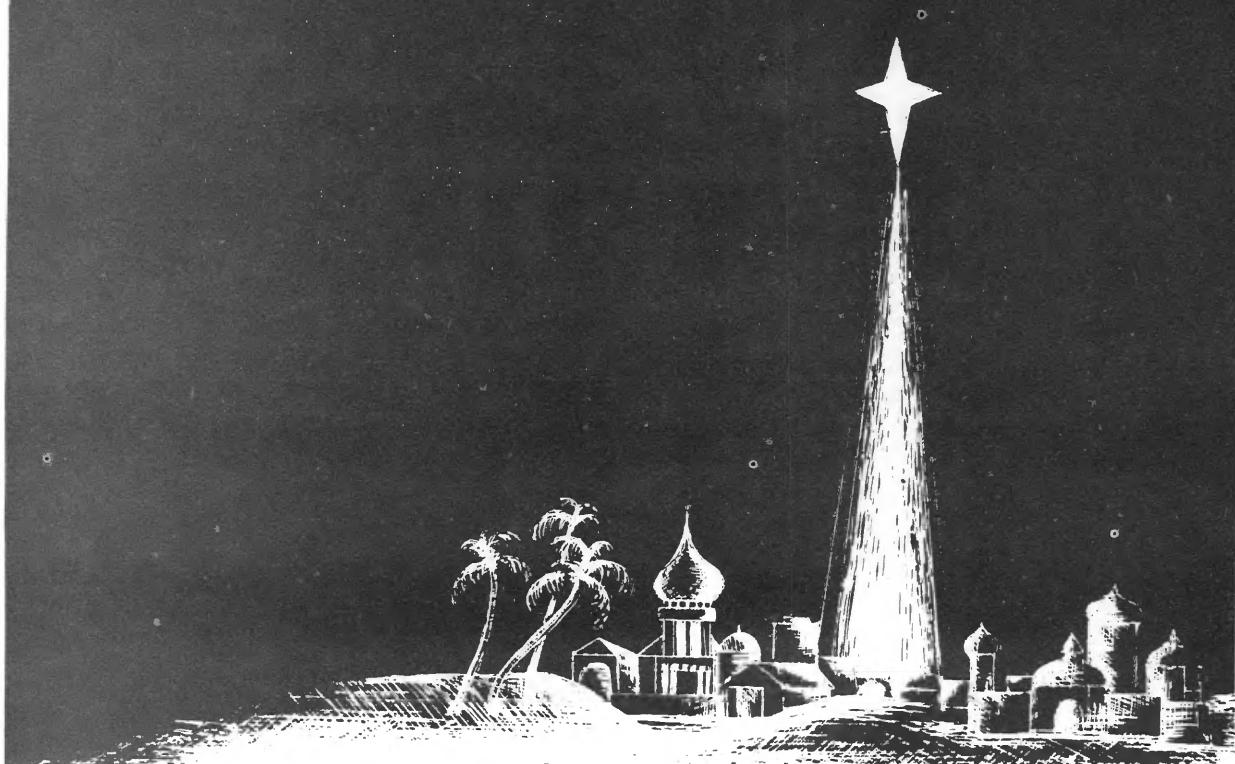
# I.V.E.C. Comments

ILLINOIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

815-875-1913

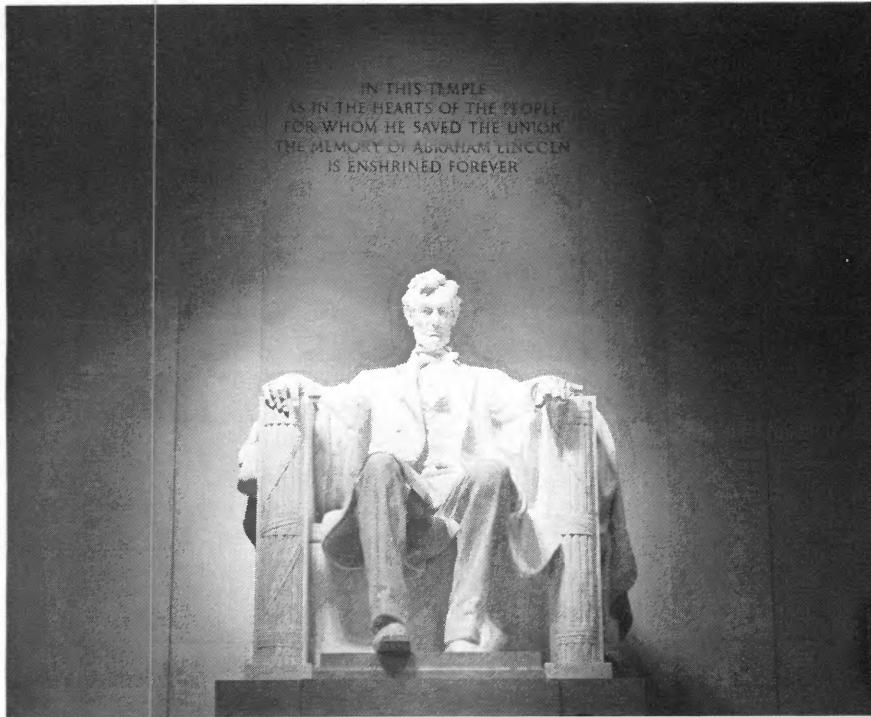
PRINCETON, ILLINOIS

*Season's Greetings from  
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative*



Roy E. Horton, President  
John Reed, Vice President  
Edith Kays, Secretary  
Eileen Slingsby, Treasurer  
John Bittner, Director

Alvin Hepner, Director  
Milan Jackson, Director  
Howard Kinney, Director  
Wayne Williams, Director  
M. M. Jontz, Manager



*Lincoln Memorial is just one of many sights for you to see at this year's "Youth to Washington" tour.*

## Time Now to Enter "Youth to Washington" Tour

Just a reminder to all sophomores and juniors in Illinois Valley's service area that the time is fast approaching for the 1975 "Youth to Washington" essay competition.

Time is important, because this June 7, two lucky winners from our service area will leave Springfield on a week long, expense-paid trip to the nation's capital—and the time of their lives.

Check with the cooperative, or perhaps someone at your high school and find out if you're eligible to compete.

Don't think you have a chance to win? That's what many of the former essay winners once thought. Give it a try. There's a wealth of information about your cooperative. You'll find out it's a good neighbor.

While in Washington you'll see the

Capitol and the White House; you'll visit historic shrines and scenic spots; you'll dine at famous restaurants and take a night cruise on the Potomac; you'll breakfast with congressional leaders and meet staff members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, as well as leaders of the Rural Electrification Administration.

And who knows, you may get to see the President.

This year's trip will be one that the winners won't soon forget. Talk to previous winners from this area and they'll tell you what a fantastic trip it really is.

Plan now to enter the contest. With a little bit of work, you might win the best summer vacation you have ever had.

Get started today—summer is only a few months away.

## Possible Rate Increase

Increased wholesale power costs, coupled with inflationary trends in fuel, labor, capital and materials (and the effect they are having on your cooperative) will probably force us to implement a general increase in our assessments for electric service early next year.

The amount of this increase has not yet been determined. The staff of your cooperative is studying every possible method to cut every possible corner to make sure the rate increase will be kept as low as it is possible to make it.

This action is not being taken lightly by your Board, and is being taken as the last line of defense against rising costs. For the past 35 years, this cooperative has been dedicated to providing its members with a dependable supply of electric power at the lowest possible cost. Unfortunately, the days of unlimited power at bargain basement prices are gone forever.

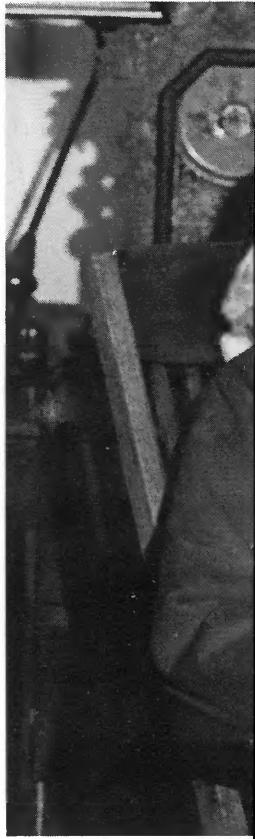
Please bear with us during these trying times. We will do our best, as we know you will do yours, to win this battle against sharply rising prices.

## NOTICE

Envelopes received at the Post Office without postage will NOT be delivered to the ADDRESSEE. Such mail will be returned to the sender, if possible, or placed in the DEAD LETTER FILE.

Each month we receive 12 to 15 payments without any postage. This mail will not be delivered to us in the future.

B E S U R E Y O U R  
P A Y M E N T O R L E T T E R H A S  
A W E L L - G L U E D S T A M P O N  
T H E E N V E L O P E A T T H E  
T I M E O F M A I L I N G .



Is it true that Santa Claus lives on Bannon Hill near Grayville rather than the North Pole?

Not really, but one of his helpers who has portrayed the jolly old gent for the past 49 years does live there. And from time to time he receives mail addressed: Santa Claus, Route 1, Bannon Hill, Grayville, Illinois.

Santa's helper is Willard Bannon. And with almost a half century of ho-ho-hoing, one might say he has quite a bit of experience under his wide, black belt.

Bannon, a director of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, started as Santa's Grayville area representative in 1925. He enjoyed it so much he hasn't been able to resist donning that fancy red suit since.

Bannon's interest in portraying Santa came after seeing an uninteresting portrayal by another of Santa's helpers.

"What bothered me," Bannon said, "was the person, not wanting to give away his identity, wouldn't speak. A Santa without a voice isn't worth a hoot—I felt I could do a better job so I gave it a try."

"I soon realized it wasn't an easy job to be an interesting Santa. I remember waiting to make one of my first appearances and I noticed an elderly couple walking out. Asking where they were going, they

replied 'Santa Claus is not for old folks.'

"Since then I've tried to make my program interesting to young and old alike. I've found out the red suit alone fascinates children, but the older people tend to listen to what you say."

Bannon works out a special program for every appearance. His repertoire includes stories, joke gifts and various types of letters to Santa.

"As far as Santa's concerned," Bannon said, "everyone's a child—men are boys and ladies are little girls. Just referring to an elderly lady as a little girl creates a jovial atmosphere."

"Whatever I do, I just try to keep the program interesting," Bannon said.

And interesting his programs must be, for he has played the role many times in an area from Fairfield to as far away as Evansville, Indiana.

He counted 10 churches and eight schools he has played many times. Sometimes he plays as many as three different engagements in one night.

"Santa, like a mailman, has to go rain, ice or snow," Bannon said. His wife does the driving when he is in costume and she keeps track of his engagements. She also makes, repairs and maintains his fancy red suit. He has worn out several over the years.

Bannon proudly says he has never missed a year in nearby Fortney. His endless list of other engagements include the Edwards County Fair, Grayville Christmas festivities, service organization parties and many private parties. Bannon has been Santa to five generations of one area family.

He is also proud of the times he has been able to bring Christmas to less fortunate families because of the generosity of many people in the Grayville area.

The years have provided many memorable experiences, some humorous. He recalled one school program where he was supposed to appear, and when dressing found the pants to his costume had been left at home. "Luckily, it was a short drive and I had enough time," Bannon said.

"Children can be mischievous at times," he said recalling an incident after another school program. "Three 12-year-old boys decided they would disrobe Santa and were waiting for

# Grayville Area Resident Nearly 50 Years of Ho