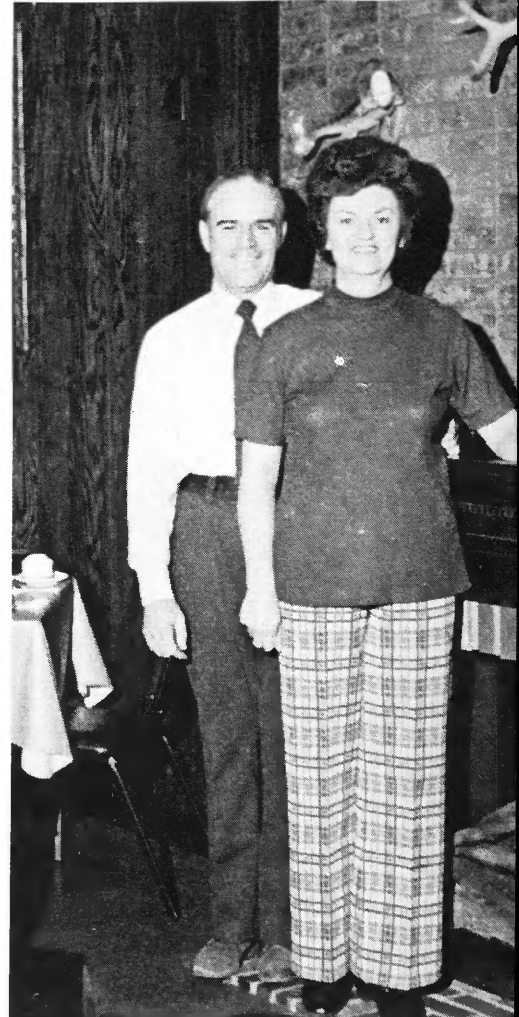




BOTTOM: Six of the Hammann's 11 deer graze on the lakeshore. LEFT: Tinsel, the family favorite, takes a cracker from the youngest Hammann, Chris. BELOW: Leonard and Roberta pose by the fireplace at Deer Run Inn.



Deer Run Inn

25 Years of Dreaming





Clay Electric News

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

Across the Manager's Desk

by Stan Huffman, Manager

Electric rate increases are spreading like wildfire across much of Illinois this winter as consumers feel the effects of a new power supply contract between Clay and nine other Illinois electric cooperatives and Central Illinois Public Service Company.

The new five-year contract calls for an average boost of 36 percent in the wholesale rate cooperatives pay the investor-owned utility for electricity they distribute to their member-owners.

Although technically accurate, the 36 percent does not reflect the actual cost Clay charges for power because it does not include the changes occurring in fuel adjustment charges—very definitely a part of the increasing cost of wholesale power.

The general statement that “the new contract represents a 36-percent increase” is based on actual usage for calendar year 1973 and an assumed constant fuel cost for the entire year. However, the cost of fuel is not constant. In fact, fuel cost are skyrocketing.

While I doubt the cost increases for fuel can be justified by any economic standard, the plants that generate electricity have to have fuel to operate, and they pay the fuel cost demanded. They pass that fuel cost on to us and we in turn have to pass it on to our members.

Based on the new contract, the rate per kwh for 1975 will increase 47 percent. Based on the previous contract which went into effect on January 1, 1967, the new contract

means a 101-percent increase for the cost of wholesale power for Clay Electric.

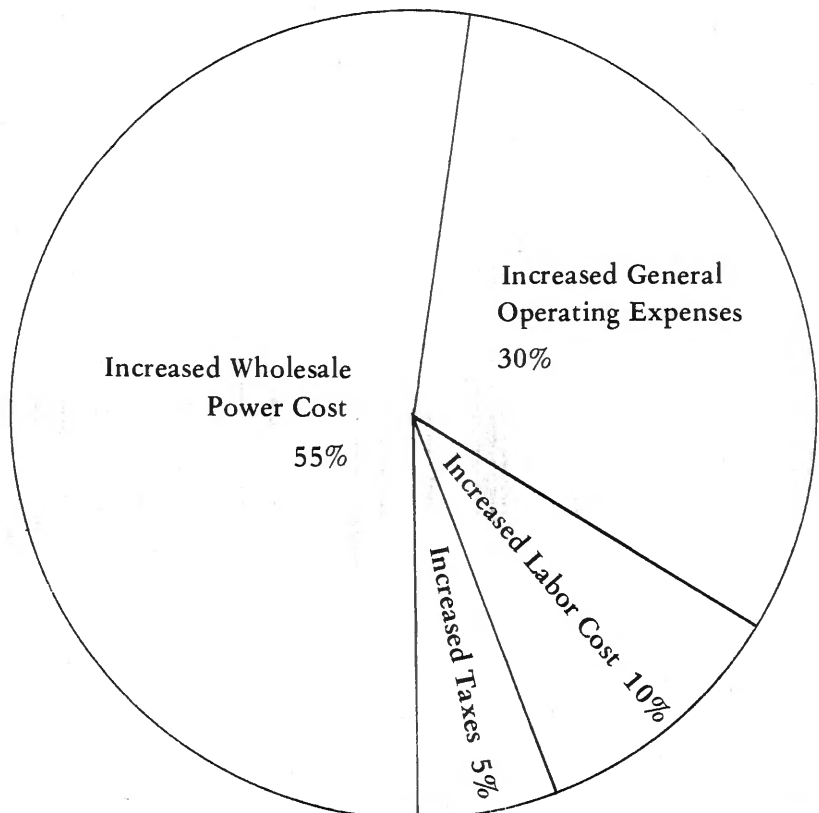
Your new rate which went into effect last month is basically the same rate that was established when the cooperative was formed in 1944. In the past, we were able to lower your rates because of efficiency and increased electric sales. But that is no longer possible.

Most electric utility officials agree that unreasonable increases in the cost of fossil fuels and high interest rates are behind the higher cost for generating electricity. Two years ago coal was selling for \$7.44 per ton, up from \$4.39 in 1969. It increased to approximately \$17.00 per ton in October. The new coal industry labor

contract will mean still higher coal prices.

Oil companies, which own three-fourths of the nation's coal fields, received similar increases for No. 6 fuel oil. This oil sold for \$4.04 a barrel a year ago, went to \$11.23 last July and recently was quoted at \$12.75 a barrel.

Energy management may be one way consumers can soften the blow of increased electrical rates. While we work to hold the line on cost in every manner possible, we urge every consumer-member to become more aware of his own energy consumption habits. As a way of life, energy management offers one of our most promising hopes in the fight against inflation.



You might be interested in knowing what made up that seemingly staggering increase in your power bill of about 55 percent. The chart above shows the approximate increases in operating expenses the cooperative will face in 1975.



Director, Member Win Award

More than 100 persons attended the Clay County Soil and Water Conservation annual meeting held recently in Louisville.

At the meeting, Director Stanford Schoonover presented a plaque to the Paul Mullins family as winners of the farm family contest. The Mullins' have been longtime members of Clay Electric.

Also at the meeting, Clem Hilmes was named Cooperator of the Year. He was presented a plaque from the District and one from the Goodyear Company for his work in soil and water conservation. Hilmes is a director of Clay Electric.

Members at the meeting elected Schoonover and Floyd Weber as directors. Other directors include: William Cutright, Albert Van Dyke and Jake Klein.

David Patton, Conservation Teacher of the Year, was awarded a desk set on behalf of the district.

Herb Bible, chairman, reported on the district's activities during the past year. Reports were also given by Donald Hoover and Larry Camp, extension adviser.

Guest speaker was Robert E. Craft. His speech was entitled "Communications, Conservation and Country."

ABOVE: Stanford Schoonover, director of the Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District, left, presents the Paul Mullins family with the Farm Family award. BELOW: Mrs. Clem Hilmes holds on to the Cooperator of the Year award as Clem Hilmes is also presented with the Goodyear Award from District Director William Cutright.



Important Notice!

During the next couple of months the line crews will be doing some routine maintenance on the cooperative's system. Unfortunately, some of our

members will be without power for a couple of hours during construction. We'll try to keep you posted.

Flints, Frizzens and Flashpans

(continued from page 13)

"Usually, in foreign-made flintlocks, the grooves in the rifle aren't cut well . . . the rifling isn't always properly done. They just aren't as good," Lilly explained.

Lilly is as knowledgeable about the history of the muzzleloaders as he is about the ones he makes. Each one of the rifles he has made has at

least one story he can tell about the original weapon.

"This is a .38-calibre slug rifle," Lilly said as he held up a 40-pound monstrosity outfitted with a telescopic lens. "It was used first during the Civil War and today is used as a match rifle.


"A group of Union Army sharpshooters called Burden's Riflemen

used a similar gun during the Civil War to pick off Confederate officers from about a half-mile away.

"As the story goes, one of the sharpshooters was trying to hit a Confederate general who was sitting at a desk. Another officer came out of a tent. The Union rifleman fired. By the time the slug got to the Con-

(continued on page 22)

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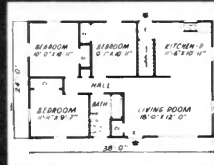
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A place named the Garden of the Gods should have at least a little trouble living up to its billing.

It should, but it doesn't. In fact, having once walked around the recreation area and feasted on this particular example of nature's majesty, one might well imagine it as a place where the Gods would establish a latter-day Eden.

The Garden of the Gods recreation area is located in the northern part of the Shawnee National Forest approximately 15 miles southeast of Harrisburg in Saline County. Power for the area is provided by Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc., Eldorado.

Although the history of the Garden as a recreation area is only a little more than 12 years old, its history as a spectacular and beautiful area far predates the advent of man. The unique, picturesque rock formations the area is noted for were formed about 200-million years ago as the land underwent a geological uplifting and went through subsequent wind and water erosion.

Even man, a late arrival, has been able to partake of the Garden's beauty for the past few thousand years. Garden of the Gods and the Shawnee National Forest have also been his home for 10-thousand years.

But man also gradually let the area fall in disrepair. The vegetation became overgrown, the rich soil was washed away and the streams were clogged with sediment.

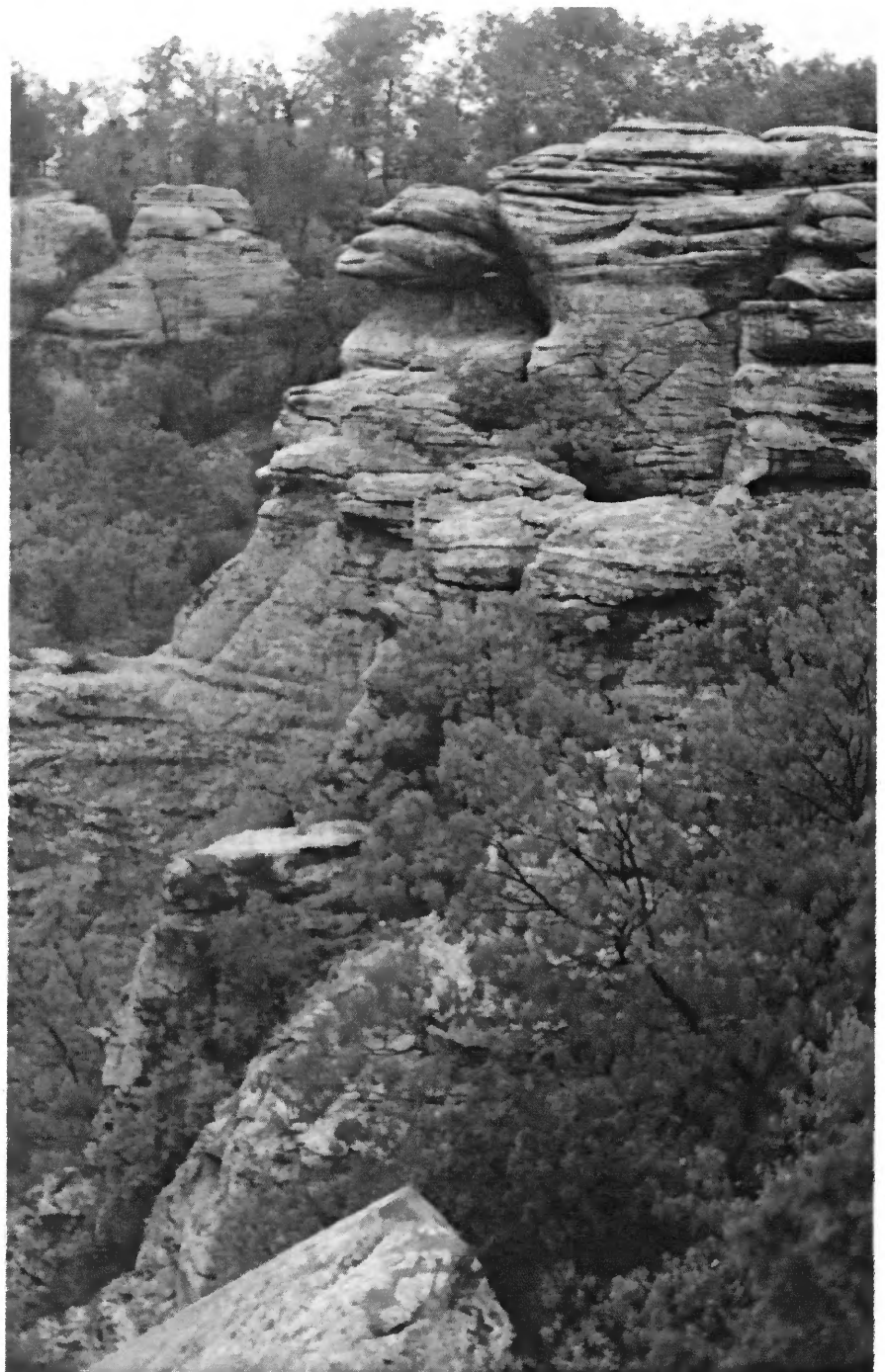
In 1963 the recreation area was revitalized by the Elizabethtown District of the Shawnee National Forest with help from the Job Corps.

The stars of the Garden of the Gods are the rock formations. But you have to have imagination and take the time to study them.

Some of the more picturesque and interesting formations are Cathedral Rock, Woman's Cave, Fat Man's Squeeze, Anvil Rock, Mushroom Rock and Camel Rock, one of the most impressive.

Without man, the Garden of the Gods became a beautiful place. And now, with his help, it should remain a beautiful place for many years to come.

GARDEN OF THE GODS





Clay Electric News

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

Across the Manager's Desk

by Stan Huffman, Manager

It seems these days everything we purchase is always at a greater cost than it was yesterday or the month before.

Housing, gas, clothing, food, machinery and yes, even electricity, have seen drastic increases in prices. We as consumers have to pay.

Certainly we complain, because these costs are rising at a much greater rate than our take-home pay is increasing. Many of our members find that after their wage increase, they are still left with less savings and many times have to borrow to make end of the month payments. Few can afford any luxuries.

The greater part of Clay Electric's members are farmers. In the past several months, they have seen a steady decline in their corn, soybean and wheat prices, while prices of fertilizer, machinery and seed for next year's crop are increasing.

Clay Electric Cooperative, owned by its members, is in the same position. The past December, we paid

Central Illinois Public Service (CIPS) \$44,800 for electricity. In January, the cost was \$55,260 and finally in February we wrote a check for \$66,130. We too wonder where it will end. Yet, we have to supply our members with electricity and we have to pay the price our supplier requests.

In 1974, your cooperative lost \$55,000. In 1975, we are expected to pay \$230,000 more for the same amount of kilowatt-hours we purchased in 1973.

This means CIPS charged your cooperative \$396,000 in 1973 compared to a projected charge of \$626,000 for the same amount of electricity in 1975.

This then explains part of your rate increase. Yet, purchased power is not the total story. I can remember three or four years ago when a 30-foot pole cost \$18. Last year the same pole cost your cooperative over \$50. Copper wire was 75 cents a pound. Recently, it was available if we wanted to pay two dollars a pound. Thus, to provide you with electricity, your cooperative has to pay the price.

Certainly our members are discouraged. Your cooperative is discouraged also. But we cannot "throw in the towel," because no one else can provide electricity at a lower cost than your own cooperative.

Though the future may seem dismal and while we expect our rates from CIPS to continue to rise, we feel there is a glimmer of light around the corner. In many instances electric material is more readily available. Pole prices have become more stable, and in many cases, suppliers are willing to accept a lesser price than last year. We hope the slow down in material costs will continue.

In the meantime, your board of directors, your manager and your employees are exerting every effort to save where ever possible.

Your cooperative has joined with 15 other cooperatives in an effort to own or generate part of our own electricity. Clay Electric Cooperative has made application for membership in the Soyland Power Cooperative. Eventually we will control and generate the greater portion of our own electric energy.

Yet, we have to justify the higher costs even though we wish the squeeze on your budget, produced from the rate increase, was less.

We share your burden because we are paying the same price.

Bear with us. We feel your cooperative, as in the past, will provide you with the best service at the least possible cost.



Important Notice!

After inspection your cooperative has found, on an average, one defective pole per mile of line. We will make every effort to change out these poles without interruption of service.

However, this is not always possible. If we have to interrupt service, whenever possible we will give advance information through radio and newspaper coverage.



ABOVE: Cooperative personnel from Clay Electric Cooperative attended a member relations course held recently in Springfield. The course, designed to broaden and update the managerial skill of electric cooperative personnel, was sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Washington, D.C. Pictured from left are: Lucille Thackrey, work order clerk; August Neeley, lineman, and Charles R. Burkett, lineman. Standing is Gib Snow, NRECA instructor. BELOW: Two exhibitors demonstrate a trail bike to Joan Huffman and Betty Walker, billing clerk at Clay, at the recent Farm Materials Handling Show in Nashville. Betty was exhibits chairperson at the show. More than 5,000 persons attended the three-day exhibit.



Good Ole Days

A man walked into a restaurant, sat down and ordered a sandwich. When he was ready to leave, he discovered he had forgotten his money. He promptly handed the waitress a handful of soybeans, which he had in his pockets and in the cuff of his pants.

She said "thank you" and gave him some change in return.

(Now you can't hardly give them away.)

Question: What is a buccaneer?

Answer: Not enough to pay for an ear of corn.

Keep Foods Safe

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, temperature and time influence the growth of bacteria including salmonella.

Like other living things, bacteria needs food, warmth, moisture and time to grow and multiply. A standard rule, recommended by USDA, is that hot foods should be kept hot (above 140 degrees) and cold foods cold (below 40 degrees). Particularly, food may not be safe to eat if held for more than two or three hours at temperatures between 60 degrees and 120 degrees, the zone where bacteria grows most rapidly, and the zone within which "room temperature" is traditionally thought to be.

This time-temperature relationship applies not only to foods containing eggs or milk products, but also to cooked meat and poultry products. When homemakers were asked how concerned they were about uncooked meat and poultry standing at room temperature for two to three hours, a large proportion of them (88 percent) indicated they were "very concerned" or "somewhat concerned."

To avoid the growth of bacteria, cooked foods should be refrigerated immediately after each meal.

ILICA



Albert J. Cross



Dale Knuppel

dedicated to soil and water conservation and improvement of the environment

by John Temple
former editor, Illinois Rural Electric News

Seventeen years ago a group of land improvement contractors around Trivoli in Peoria County decided the time had come to organize. They recognized an organization could provide services, promote the welfare and protect the interests of individual contractors in a manner they could not do alone.

The result was the formation of the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc. (ILICA) with Ed Williams of Trivoli as its first president.

Subsequently, the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association became the Illinois Chapter of the Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA). The LICA has offices in Brookfield, Ill., with Paul A. Bucha as executive secretary.

Land improvement contractors are dedicated to soil and water conservation and improvement of the environment. They construct grass waterways, build ponds and engage in other water diversion activities, construct terraces, install tile for better drainage and work on pasture improvement and land rehabilitation. In addition, a number of the contractors are active in farming and engage in other construction programs.

A land improvement contractor must be a good businessman and a skilled worker. The occupation requires a large investment in expensive machinery and equipment, and the work must meet high standards. Contractors work closely with representatives of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, county soil and water conservation districts, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the general farm organizations in Illinois and all organizations and agencies established to serve the rural people of the state.

Since its inception the ILICA has received invaluable assistance from Prof. Ralph C. Hay and Prof. Car-

roll J. W. Drablos of the University of Illinois, Department of Agricultural Engineering. Drablos now serves as educational adviser to the ILICA. Since Hay retired from university service he has continued to serve as a consultant to the state organization.

Some of the more important activities of the Illinois Chapter, LICA, throughout the years have included:

1. Members have conducted five soil and water conservation demonstrations in Illinois. The purpose of the demonstrations was to show the most up-to-date practices in soil and water conservation.

2. Each year members have participated in several conservation workshops in cooperation with the Department of Agricultural Engineering, University of Illinois, and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

3. An annual meeting is held where members obtain information on the latest soil and water conservation practices and procedures.

4. The ILICA has an active and effective state legislative program. From 1968 through 1974 the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) worked with members of the ILICA to provide this service. During this period the ILICA gained recognition as one of the responsible rural organizations in the state. According to Dale Knuppel of Mackinaw, ILICA president, "Tom Moore, the AIEC board of directors, the organization's staff and membership deserve our deepest thanks for what they have done to help us grow and develop, not only with a strong legislative program but with publicity, organization and management and in numerous other areas."

5. Frequent conferences with departments and agencies of the state have been held on problems affecting land improvement contractors.

The ILICA has received numerous national honors. Two members, Ed Williams and Max H. Norris of Polo,

(continued on page 22)



It is the nature of essay contests, beauty contests or almost any other type of contest that there must be winners and there must be losers.

Or is it?

Three years ago, cooperative officials sponsoring the "Youth to Washington" essay contest in Illinois decided that yes, there had to be winners, but no, everyone else did not have to be a loser.

That decision fostered the beginning of the now annual "Youth to Springfield" tour. After only a year of the tour for all essay finalists, the day the contestants visited Springfield was also proclaimed as "Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day" by Governor Dan Walker.

It was "Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day" again recently when more than 150 "winners" and chaperones representing 12 of Illinois' 29 electric cooperatives visited Springfield. There they saw their government in action, met with Congressmen and walked where Lincoln walked in the streets of his city.

Governor Walker in his statement this year said, "These young adults are to be commended for their interest in rural electrification and the role their cooperatives play in meeting the challenges of the energy crisis.

"This effort to interest youths in an important problem that all of us face and provide them with an in depth insight into how their government works is highly commendable and should contribute immeasurably to the development of loyal, responsible citizens," he added.

Sponsoring the capital tour were Adams, Camp Point; Clinton, Breese; Coles-Moultrie, Mattoon; Eastern, Paxton; Egyptian, Steeleville; Illinois Rural, Winchester; Menard, Petersburg; Monroe,

Waterloo; Southern, Dongola; Southwestern, Greenville; Wayne-White, Fairfield; and Western, Carthage.

A full day of touring was in store for the group. They first visited the State Capitol building and both the House and Senate chambers. The delegation was recognized on the floor of the Senate and given a round of applause by their legislators.

A reciprocal round of applause was given by the students to Secretary of State Michael J. Howlett, who addressed the group during the noon meal at the Forum XXX.

Howlett congratulated the contestants on their well-written and thoughtful essays and said he hoped they would consider "parlaying your talents by competing in our statewide Bicentennial Essay Contest." He said that his office is accepting entries in the contest on the theme "What is the Spirit of '76?"

If the morning tours belonged to legislators, the afternoon was strictly devoted to Lincoln. The students toured Lincoln's Home, the Old State Capitol Building and Lincoln's Tomb.

In the later afternoon, the tour ended for students from nine cooperatives. But for students representing Adams, Illinois Rural and Western the best part of the tour was only beginning.

Legislators from the 47th, 48th and 49th Districts, the districts covering the three cooperative's service areas, dined with the students at the Forum XXX in the evening.

And finally, it was over. Fifty of the finalists have been selected or will be selected to journey to Washington, D. C. on June 7-14. The rest went home—but not as losers.



Clay Electric News

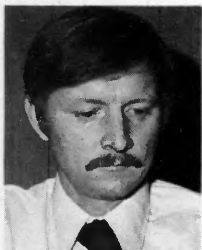
CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. 618-662-6126 FLORA, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's Desk

by Stan Huffman, Manager

Line Improvements

In order to provide better service, Clay Electric has recently converted four miles of three-phase tie line between the Bible Grove and Iola substations. This line was energized in May and has already operated on several occasions.



Stan Huffman
Manager

The tie line has greatly reduced the possibility of losing either the Bible Grove or Iola substation and gives greater flexibility in our electric distribution. Rephasing of our lines in the Noble, Flora and Xenia substations has also provided greater flexibility.

Service Interruptions

We know many of our members have endured the aggravation of service interruptions and we appreciate their thoughtful support while we have been making necessary maintenance repairs. We still have many broken insulators, bad poles and trees that have grown in our lines. These are all potential outage hazards that need to be eliminated. Members can greatly help the cooperative reduce line

outages if they are aware of, and notify the cooperative of, trees that need to be trimmed or cut, target practicing on insulators or other conditions that might cause a lengthy service interruption. We have a 24-hour answering service that can be used at any time.

Radio and Television Antennas

Many times we forget the danger of high voltage electric lines. Antennas should never be erected within falling distance of these lines as they can cause permanent injury or loss of life to anyone making contact. When cooperative linemen notice these dangerous conditions existing, they will make every effort to notify the members. Always look up before installing any antennas or when moving boom cranes, elevator augers or other sky-reaching farm equipment.

We will try to work with you if it requires the removal of our lines.

High Bills

We realize the cost of electricity has risen rapidly to the members this past year, however, in making comparisons, we have found Clay Electric's residential rate to be one of the lowest in the state.

Your board of directors and employees have been cutting costs wherever possible. Yet, the drastic increase in the cost of purchased power has cut deeply in the cooperative's ability to maintain its system. Though Clay Electric's financial position has been sound

during the first four months of this year, increasing wholesale power costs will, in great part, determine our ability to hold the line on rate increases to you, the member.

Annual Meeting

Remember our coming annual meeting at the Charley Brown Park, July 8, 1975. We will try to have the best in entertainment, good food, prizes and an interesting business session.

Bring your family—we are sure you'll enjoy it.

No Good News

Nothing would make us happier than to be able to tell our members that economic conditions have improved to the point where inflation has been halted and power rates can be stabilized.

Unfortunately, it seems such good news will have to be postponed until some time in the distant future.

Those who have been assigned the task of solving our economic problems have made no progress whatever. Inflation continues, energy supplies are uncertain and there is still no firm policy to cope with the situation. It would appear our "think tanks" have sprung a leak.

Environmentalists have chosen an inopportune time to press for pollution controls at the expense of the already overburdened taxpayer. Old King Coal is the prime culprit in increasing power bills, for the cost of coal is a major factor in generating electricity. As it continues to rise, so will your power bills.

Perhaps our tactics are all wrong. Instead of giving away billions of dollars in foreign aid, why don't we apply for a few billions from the oil producing countries? They will soon be the only ones who have any money.

Clay's Increasing Cost of Purchased Power

	1974	1975
Jan.	\$39,590	\$55,260
Feb.	37,150	66,130
March	33,460	66,570
April	35,720	69,880

Committee Nominates Directors for Reelection

On April 19, the nominating committee met for the purpose of nominating candidates for three board positions to be filled by election at the annual meeting of the cooperative on Tuesday, July 8.

The following incumbent directors were nominated for reelection to three-year terms:

Ralph Hastings of Louisville
Leo Iffert of Noble

William L. Stanford of Flora

The nominating committee consisted of the following members: Ralph E. Marti of Xenia; Robert Leak of Flora; Aden Robards of Louisville; Emory Thomas of Xenia; Clyde Montoney of Louisville, and Adam Buerster of Noble.



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Leo Iffert Vice President
Edwin T. Henson Secretary-Treasurer
Franklin C. Byers Director
Scott Harrison Director
Ralph Hastings Director
Clem Hilmes Director
William L. Stanford Director
Delaine Traub Director

31st Year

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

Clay Electric Cooperative
Tuesday,
July 8, 1975

Charley Brown Memorial Park,
Flora,

Early Bird Award

Attendance Awards

Business Session

Entertainment

Free Lunch

Attend Your Annual Meeting - It's Your Business

Legislative Rally: inroads into congress



Representative Paul Findley of Pittsfield talks to legislative rally participants from Illinois on the steps of the Capitol.

Feedback.

It's what legislators need in order to understand fully the positions of their constituents. Without it, they have little opportunity to judge the "back-home" feeling on bills, and often vote accordingly.

But with close interaction, a great deal of legislation that directly affects their constituents is passed for the greater good or rejected as adversely affecting well-being and growth.

Feedback is what more than 40 Illinois electric cooperative officials and more than 700 national delegates brought to their respective senators and representatives during a three-day legislative rally held recently in Washington, D. C.

Never has the feedback been more important. During visits to their legislators cooperative officials discussed issues vital both to the cooperatives themselves and in turn to their members. Three important topics were coal usage restrictions, nuclear construction and financing.

As more and more consumer-members are asking "why is my electric bill rising?," so are cooperative officials asking what can be done to stop the rising costs of power.

Why, for instance, cannot Illinois coal be used to fire the much needed generation plants and thus apply a

partial braking to the rising cost of power? Why does it seem environmental fringe groups are able to advance legislation that acts as a detriment to the energy business even at a time when forecasts predict an upsurge both in price and in electric needs?

Why are nuclear "terror-tactics" being applied even in the face of studies and practical applications to the contrary? And why, at a time when the greatest demands ever on cooperatives are being made, is there the least security in the financial market for the cooperatives?

Coal surely must become the nation's basic tool for achieving self-reliance over the next few years. It will be at least that long before reasonable alternatives—nuclear power, energy conservation and perhaps some of the more exotic fuel projects—can make a significant impact.

Illinois is fortunate in that it has a great supply of coal which could be used for generation. Because of its high sulfur content, it may never be used under existing laws.

The conflict between the values of energy and the environment has been too long portrayed as an either/or situation by environmentalists. Cooperative officials believe and have told their legislators

that reasonable approaches exist to ensure both clean air and adequate energy supplies.

One reasonable approach which cooperative leaders support is H.R. 1447, which would amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate ambiguous interpretations of certain clauses of the act, would allow the use of alternatives to uniform emission controls as a means of achieving air quality standards in state implementation plans and would permit an owner to petition for and obtain a less stringent emission limitation if he can demonstrate that air quality standards would not be exceeded and the cost of complying with a more stringent limitation would not be justified. In the latter case, an example would be the difference between requirements for a city such as Chicago and requirements for a non-metropolitan area where the generation plant was one of the few industries and would not produce exceedingly high air quality emissions.

Cooperative officials also asked for consideration of legislation concerning nuclear power. Of particular concern is an over reaction to charges by a small group of scientists that nuclear power is both unsafe and unsavory.

(continued on page 17)

Cut off the electricity and your life can be drastically affected for several hours.



Cut off your earning power and your life can be drastically affected for years.

Like electricity, good health is something we often take for granted. But just as lightning can suddenly cut off the electrical power, disability can just as quickly cut off your earnings. At a time when medical bills are added to the cost of everyday living, the loss of your income can be especially serious.

Your Disability Income Protection Plan can help see to it that you will have money to live on when you are unable to work because of a covered illness or injury. These are tax free benefits to help replace your paycheck. You use it on your family needs as you see fit.

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Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. 618-662-2171 FLORA, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's Desk

by Stan Huffman, Manager

Clay Electric has entered into a contract for the services of Central Area Data Processing Corporation. This action was taken by your board of directors at their regular meeting on May 29.

Central Area Data Processing Corporation (CADPC) of St. Louis, Missouri, is a non profit organization; owned, operated and controlled by the 70 electric cooperatives using its services. Central Area was formed by 14 statewide organizations to afford to electric cooperatives like Clay the benefits of group sharing of a large computer complex.



Stan Huffman
Manager

CADPC will be able to provide more economically a number of operations for Clay and its consumers. Included will be the processing of monthly electric bills and furnishing operating information which will be very helpful to the engineering department, as well as accounting and billing.

The switch of data processing represents a major change for both members and employees. The new system is being adopted only after your board has given serious consideration and attention to several alternatives.

The major change affecting you, the members, will be the change in the monthly billing procedure. Later you will receive more information about this by letter and also in the future issue of the "Clay Electric News."

The one situation that prompted your board of directors to go to data processing and computerized billing has been the rapid escalation of wholesale power costs resulting from increasing costs of fuel for generation as reflected in the wholesale power bills.

The escalating and uncertain wholesale power costs make it impossible to continue the preparation of billing charts that are necessary under the self billed system. In order to cover expenses we must go to a billing system where our wholesale power costs can be raised or lowered monthly. This must be done if we are to remain financially sound and provide you with the dependable electric service to which you are accustomed.

Be watching for a letter to you explaining the new billing procedure. You will be given full details at that time. Also, the "Clay News" in the *IREN* will carry the same information during the month in which you receive your billing information by letter.

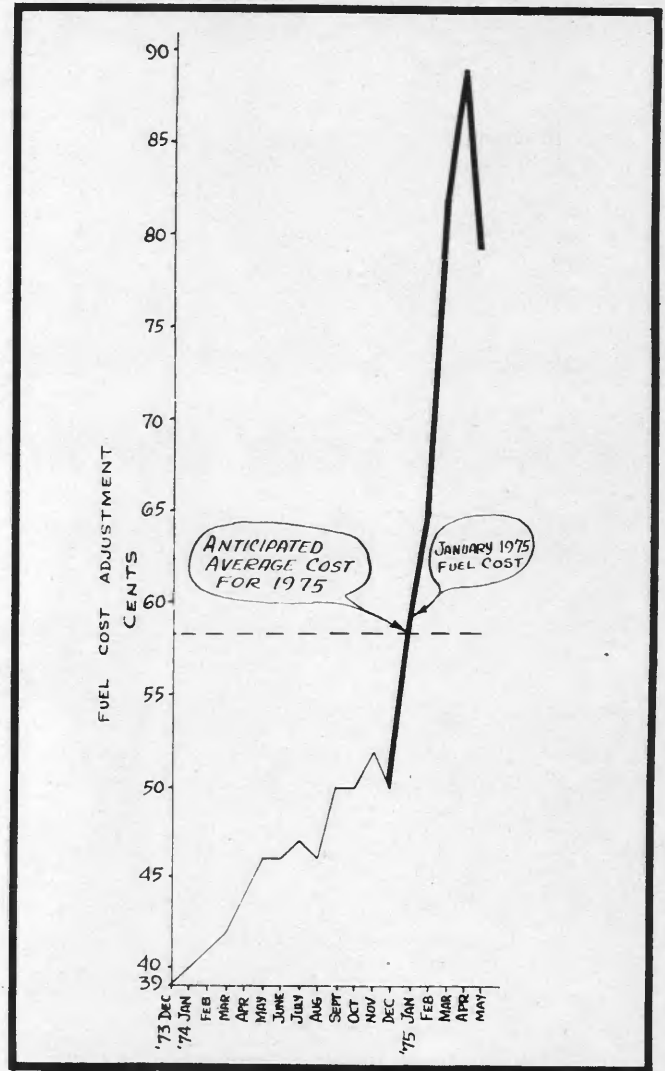
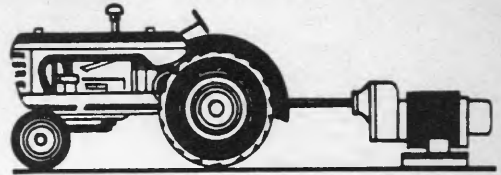


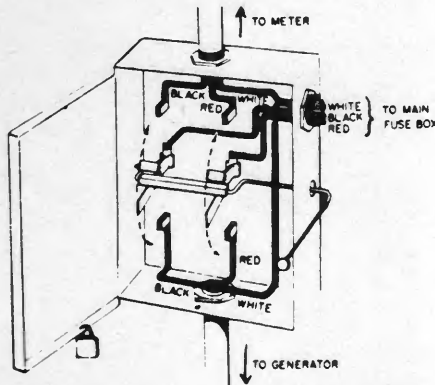
Fig. 1—FUEL COST SITUATION—We plan to keep you informed on a regular basis regarding the continuing inflationary trend in prices of coal. The price of coal significantly affects the cost of your own electric service. At present fuel adjustment charges for wholesale power are well above the 58 cents per million BTU which was the average fuel cost for 1975 anticipated by CIPS when the rate schedules and self billing charts were prepared and which became effective with the January, 1975 bills. The inability to adjust the wholesale power cost factor as fuel costs have changed drastically each month (from the December, 1974, level of 50 cents/million BTU) has made it necessary to change our billing system from the rate charts and self billing (used by the majority of our consumers) to a bill prepared by electronic data processing for everyone.

STANDBY ELECTRIC POWER



Tractor-driven standby generators are easy to hook up and can be put to work quickly in the event of a power failure.

In the early days of rural electrification, electric service was looked upon by many as a luxury. Today, electric service is a necessity. Modern farming operations are dependent on electricity to power milk coolers, water pumps, heating systems, ventilating fans and a countless number of other jobs.



A double-throw switch is of utmost importance when installing a standby unit.

Unfortunately, the power lines which serve rural homes and farmsteads are exposed to the whims of nature. This type of exposure can result in a power outage.

Be prepared by installing a standby power plant to keep your critical electrical equipment going during a power failure. A standby generator will insure you against lost time, inconvenience and the possibility of financial loss.

There are various kinds ranging from complete electric plants with automatic control to smaller self-contained engine units with manual controls to the most commonly used plant on the farm, the tractor driven power take-off unit.

The unit size required for your operation depends on the size of equipment you essentially need to

operate.

Generators are rated as to power output, generally in watts. In most cases, an average farm requires a 15,000 watt generator to adequately satisfy critical electrical needs.

As a general rule, a tractor used to power a tractor driven PTO type generator should be large enough to provide at least 2 to 2½ horsepower for each 1,000 watts of generating capacity.

The standby unit must be correctly installed to guarantee safe and convenient service. It is very important that the generator be connected to your existing secondary wiring by means of a double-throw switch. Why is this switch so important? If a double-throw switch is not used:

1. Your generator would not be isolated from the rest of the Clay Electric Cooperative system. A

lineman working on the lines which he thought were dead, could be electrocuted.

2. Your generator would possibly burn out from overload.
3. When electric service is restored, your generator would experience a reverse power surge which would possibly burn it out.

There are some electrical appliances which should not be operated with a tractor driven generator. It is not advisable to operate television sets, radios or any electronic equipment with this type of generator.

Do you have a real need for standby power? Picture yourself without power for an extended length of time. Now is the time to prepare for that situation. Clay Electric Cooperative will be glad to help you plan for emergency power.

Adding Appliances? Notify Co-op Office

Members are requested to notify the Clay Electric Cooperative prior to installing additional heavy use appliances, particularly air conditioners, grain dryers, etc.

Failure to report such additions may result in overloading the transformer, causing it to trip a breaker or burn up. In either event you would be out of power until the transformer could be replaced.

Several outages of this type have already occurred this summer. A telephone call can prevent this from happening to you.

Phone Number Change

The telephone number of Clay Electric Cooperative has changed. The new number is 662-2171. This is the number to use during business hours and when reporting an outage.

CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
P. O. Box 517
Flora, Illinois 62839

Office Hours — 8:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.,
Mondays through Fridays. Phone
618/662-2171 during the week for
service calls and at night for outages.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Carl Barnick	President
Leo Iffert	Vice President
Edwin T. Henson	Secretary-Treasurer
Franklin C. Byers	Director
Scott Harrison	Director
Ralph Hastings	Director
Clem Hilmes	Director
William L. Stanford	Director
Delaine Traub	Director

learning about electric cooperatives

Foreign Trainees Visit Monroe County

Rural electrification has been, and still is, one of the greatest single factors for the raising of living standards in rural areas. It is for this reason other countries, still in the infancy of rural electrification compared to the U.S., send personnel here for a two-month study tour and seminar on the development of distribution systems.

This international training program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agency for International Development, NRECA, universities, colleges and other organizations.

Monroe County Electric Cooperative, Waterloo, recently hosted four foreign visitors as they examined the workings of a typical rural electric cooperative in the midwest.

Manager LeRoy Hard gave them free run of the cooperative, and, as he put it, "threw open the doors" allowing his guests to ask any and all questions while observing the day-to-day operations of the cooperative.

The visitors were Mejardo Pulanco Arcelo, chief of the training division of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) in the Philippines; Antonieto Figueras Tacazon, head of the management audit section of NEA in the Philippines; Karjundi Wirapradja, chief of the Technical Department at the State Enterprise for Electricity in Bandung, Indonesia; and Abdul Wahid, executive construction engineer for the State Electrification Administration in Karachi, Pakistan.

The guests began their three-day

visit with a briefing. Manager Hard outlined the services offered, discussed the office procedures and in general gave a quick verbal picture of the cooperative.

The visitors separated into groups with Arcelo and Tacazon spending the rest of their first day in the office examining bookkeeping and billing procedures and talking with personnel in the engineering department and the warehouse.

Meanwhile, Wirapradja and Wahid journeyed southwest of Waterloo where they observed line construction. A cooperative crew was hanging transformers to provide power for construction of a pumping station on the levee near the Mississippi River.

The following day, the two groups traded places, thus giving each a long look at the total operation of the cooperative. For a bit of relaxation, Manager Hard and Monroe President Robert Ripplemeyer gave the visitors a taste of American hospitality and took them to St. Louis for dinner and a baseball game.

On their last day the trainees toured the cooperative area with members of the Monroe staff. They visited farms, a quarry and several businesses, to give them a closer look at how electric power is utilized in the rural area.

Leaving late in the afternoon, the four boarded a plane for Little Rock, Arkansas, the next stop on the two-month training tour.

Prior to coming to Monroe, they had gone through several training seminars, lectures and presentations



TOP: The trainees gave a cooperative line crew a hand with a sticky conduit coupling. ABOVE: Manager LeRoy Hard discusses the day with visitors, prior to an outing in St. Louis. RIGHT: The group watches a line crew finish wiring the transformer installation.

by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Electrification Administration and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. They also had toured cooperatives in North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida.

In Little Rock, the trainees will examine the operations of a state-wide association and the services it provides to member cooperatives. They will then spend several days at



Nuel Downs

amateur
archæology
expert

much as he can about artifacts and archaeology in general, has made him both an avid reader and a person many professional archaeologists have come to respect almost as an equal.

"When I became interested in artifacts, I started reading everything I could get my hands on," Downs said. "I guess I have read more than 800 books and I don't know how many periodicals.

"If you want to get into this you need to read everything from the Sears catalog to the Bible," Downs added. "It takes a lot of time and you have to grab every spare moment to read."

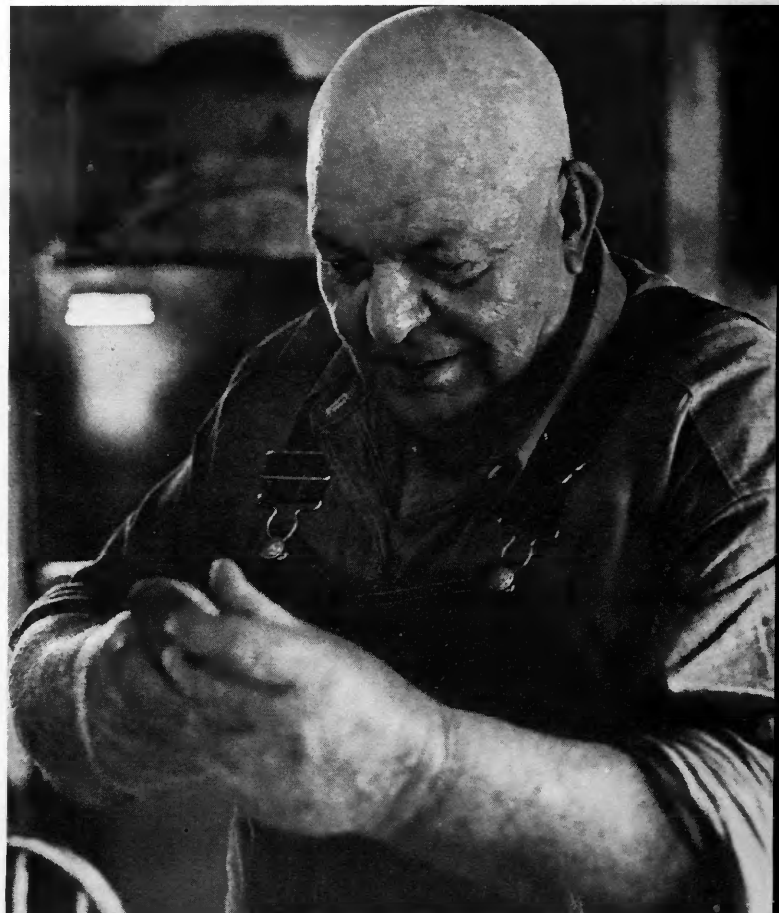
Downs has even read books on archaeology written in Russian, although he admits "I had to look at the pictures to try to match them with the words.

"People all over the world are ahead of the Americans in studying their pasts," Downs said. "We are only beginning to learn how to look and study."

Downs has become knowledgeable about the different cultures in Illinois and can identify most of the periods of Indian history through artifacts. At least 25 and perhaps as many as 50 separate cultures inhabited Illinois. The oldest culture started anywhere from 20,000 to 60,000 years before the white man first landed on American shores.

"There may have been hundreds of cultures, too,
(Continued on page 16)

LEFT: A major part of looking for Indian artifacts is walking the fields. Downs puts more mileage on his boots in front of his farm. BELOW: Downs examines a promising artifact for his collection.



Clay Manager Huffman Addressing Annual Me

"1974 was a tr



TOP: A cooperative clown entertained the youngsters and passed out candy. RIGHT: President Carl Barnick of Mason, talks with reelected trustees. Those pictured are, from left, Leo Iffert of Noble, Barnick, William L. Stanford of Flora and Ralph Hastings of Louisville. BELOW: Over 900 members and guests registered for the 31st annual meeting.

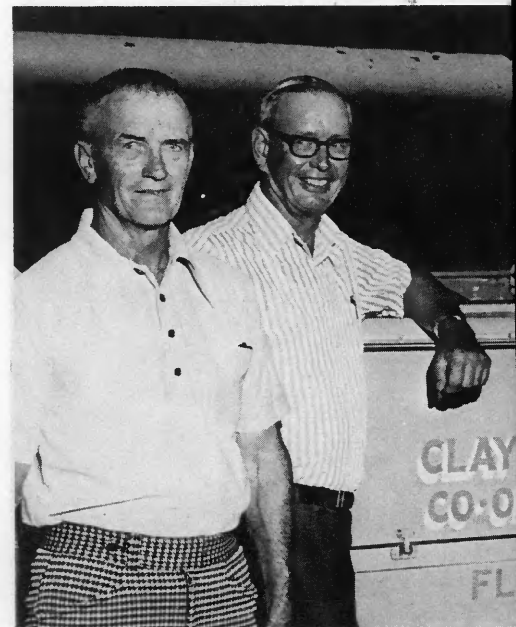


Clay Electric Co-operative's rate adjustment, effective in December, 1974, was sufficient to meet rising costs for wholesale power and necessary materials for this year, but another predicted rate increase by the cooperative's power supplier will pose a new challenge to the future of the Flora-based cooperative utility, according to President Carl Barnick of Mason.

In his report to approximately 900 persons attending the cooperative's 31st annual members' meeting on July 8 at Charlie Brown Memorial Park in Flora, Barnick outlined events leading to the recent request by Central Illinois Public Service Company (CIPS) to again increase the cooperative's wholesale power costs, effective January, 1976.

"As you are aware, in 1974, the spiraling cost of electricity from our power supplier, CIPS, along with high material costs necessitated an increase in your rates to combat our \$53,000 deficit," Barnick said.

"I can assure you it was a difficult



g Crowd:

ing time”

decision for the board. The decision to adjust rates was made only after an extensive study and a careful analysis of what was best for the membership and the cooperative.

“Increasing fuel costs, which were passed on to us from our power supplier, a new wholesale power contract with our supplier at an increased rate and the deficit we suffered were all major factors in the decision. Even with the rate adjustment, we anticipate only a very thin margin in 1975.

“Now, although we have not been informed of the percentage of increase CIPS is requesting, we do feel Clay Electric Co-operative is in a much better financial position to absorb a greater part of any possible increase than under the old rate structure,” the president concluded.

Stanley N. Huffman, in his first report as the cooperative’s manager, said kilowatt-hour consumption and memberships are growing and the cooperative’s dependence on oil field

loads is decreasing, indicating that the financial future looks brighter.

“We are presently negotiating with CIPS on the terms of their latest proposed wholesale power cost increase. Unless drastic increases in the cost of generated power are forced upon us in this proposed contract, our present rates should be able to hold the line on another member rate adjustment in the immediate future. However, we intend to keep members informed on developments in this area,” Huffman said.

Clay Electric Co-operative initiated some major improvements during 1974 including the conversion from self-billing to a computerized bill payment system, resulting in considerable savings of time and money.

“By switching to a data processing firm and a billed payment system, we will be able to allow for monthly adjustments—either up or down—as the cost of wholesale power fluctuates,” Huffman said.

“A 24-hour answering service was also put into effect to improve after-hours and emergency communications with the cooperative during outages,” he concluded.

In his treasurer’s report, Edwin T. Henson of Xenia said the cooperative paid more than \$443,000 for power in 1974, an increase of more than \$47,000 over 1973. “Our electric system is valued at nearly \$2.6-million and the cooperative paid more than \$59,000 in taxes last year,” Henson said.

In other business, members reelected Ralph Hastings of Louisville, Leo Iffert of Noble, and William L. Stanford of Flora to serve three-year terms on the board of directors.



ABOVE: Clay Manager Stanley Huffman reviews challenging year. BELOW: President Carl Barnick outlines reasons for CIPS request to raise rates again.



energy realities

(Continued from page 9)

plant on the ground and provide data needed to determine the level of pollution. If a high level of sulfur dioxide is present, the plant could be shut down, slowed down or use more expensive low-sulfur coal until an acceptable level is achieved.

"And if the plant is not polluting, then there is no reason to impose a regulation," Clevenger said. "As it stands, the EPA regulation assumes there is a problem. Provisions of this bill, intermittent controls, would determine if that problem actually exists."

The only alternative offered to power producers by the EPA is the implementation of scrubbers to remove the sulfur dioxide. "The EPA calls scrubbers an answer, but they don't say that the scrubbers now being made are both of unproven reliability and questionable impact,"

Clevenger said. "They are also so costly that they often will total about 25 percent of a power plant's total investment. By necessity, this additional cost will be passed on to the consumers in the form of higher rates."


Impact statements prepared by the Pollution Control Board (PCB) to determine environmental effects should include the cost-benefit ratio of an EPA impact study. At present, there is no effective mechanism—staff, governing body or financing—to provide these vital additions to the studies. Thus, a PCB regulation does not presently consider financial costs against the specific benefit to the environment.

Senate Bill 805 would amend the Illinois "Environmental Protection Act" to require the Institute for Environmental Quality to prepare and

publish economic impact statements for rules of the Illinois Pollution Control Board as selected by the Economic Technical Advisory Committee, also created by S.B. 805. The bill also requires an economic impact hearing by the Illinois Pollution Control Board before adoption of an amendment to its regulations.

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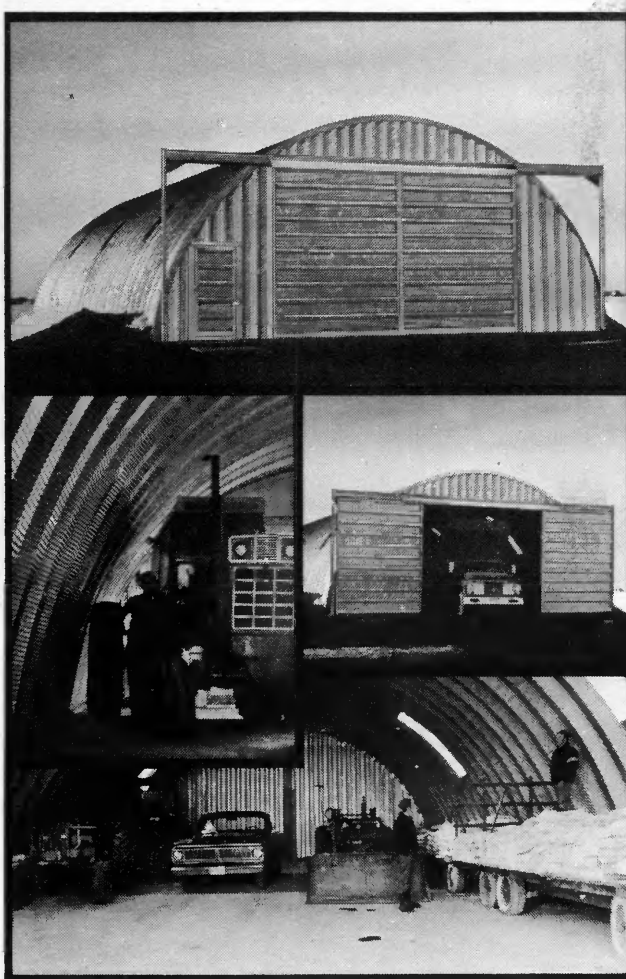
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FROM LEFT: Handcrafted jewelry by Helen Schumm of Secor gains the attention of ladies at the Goodfield Saturday Market. Lapidarist Lawrence Nichols of Congerville shows customers the different stones in his collection of handcrafted items. Fine handmade quilts are the family pride of Ora Koehne, daughter Ruth Sayer and granddaughter Melanie. Marie Bour and daughter of Eureka turn ordinary satin Christmas tree bulbs into highly decorative ornaments.

Market

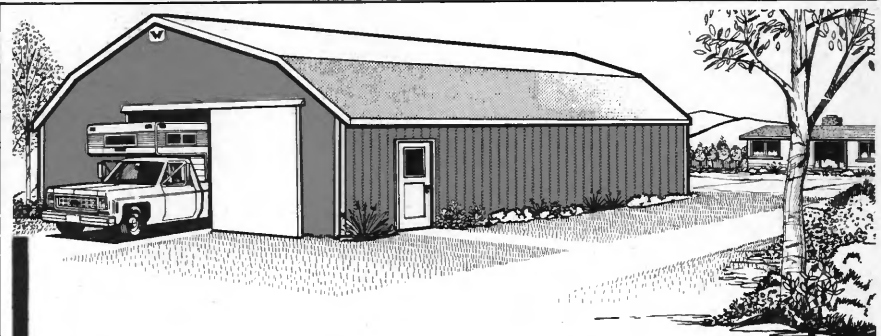
year got us off to a good start," said Guild President Mrs. R. L. Holder, "but this year more people know we are here and the crowds have been excellent."

Featured at the market are drawings and paintings, macrame', leathercraft, ceramic and eggshell jewelry, lapidary work, Christmas ornaments and needlework.

Also at the market, visitors may purchase vegetables from the gardens of members of a newly formed produce cooperative.

Home baked goods are available and for those who wish to do their own, one exhibitor sells freshly ground wheat flour, corn meal and cracked wheat, along with appropriate recipes.

One of the best items at the market, however, is not for sale. It is the friendly atmosphere, which is free to all and maybe is one reason why people keep coming back to the Goodfield Saturday Market.



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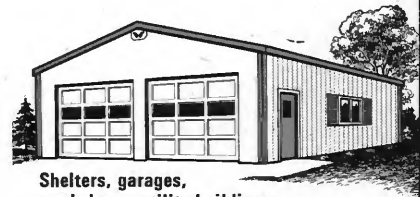
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 Box 117, Taylorville (217) 824-4441



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. 618-662-2171 FLORA, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's Desk

by Stan Huffman, Mgr.

During the first eight months of 1974, your cooperative paid \$283,733 for purchased power. The first eight months of this year, your cooperative paid \$488,366. This has been a remarkable rise in cost and has naturally caused hardship to many of our members and to the cooperative.



Stan Huffman

Although Clay Electric still offers some of the lowest rates in Illinois, no longer can electric energy be termed as cheap and ever abundant. The theme of conservation of energy resources is becoming increasingly more popular while uncertain supplies and the escalation of wholesale power costs seem certain to push electric rates upward in 1976.

To underscore the above points, Clay Electric has again been notified by its power supplier, Central Illinois Public Service Company (CIPS), of a request for an electric rate increase to become effective in January of 1976.

We have initiated several cost saving programs to improve the cooperatives financial position and feel the cooperative can absorb a part of any increase. However due to rising wholesale power costs and increasing fuel costs some adjustment may have to be made in our own members' rate schedules.

Your board of trustees and management will be studying the new

CIPS proposal in detail and will make every effort to obtain a fair and equitable contract. In the meantime we will keep you posted on

negotiations with CIPS in future editions of the Clay Electric News in the center of the *Illinois Rural Electric News*.

Rising Rates

	1974	1975
Jan.	\$35,832	\$55,267
Feb.	37,155	66,132
Mar.	33,465	66,575
Apr.	35,716	69,882
May	31,578	51,589
Jun.	31,725	55,501
Jul.	36,874	59,153
Aug.	37,625	64,264
TOTAL	\$283,733	\$488,366

Early Warning System

For storm watchers, here's a recipe for detecting a tornado. First, turn on your TV set and let it warm up. Then switch to Channel 13, and using the brightness control knob, darken the screen till it's black. Don't get it too dark, then nothing will show.

Now dial the channel selector to Channel 2. Do not reset the brightness, you might "turn off" a tornado. Channel 2 is the lowest frequency on a TV and the best for receiving a storm signal, although any channel from 2 through 8 will work. Lightning appears as bright flashes or streaks. Color TV shows colored lightning but a white tornado.

If the screen becomes bright and remains continuously bright or the darkened picture is visible and remains that way, look out. A tornado is close by and it's time to head for the basement. An approaching tornado will brighten the screen.

Any TV set will work. Black and white, tube or transistor, outside antenna or rabbit ears. Sets can pick



up a signal from a funnel 15-20 miles away and give up to 30 minutes warning.

And if the power is off, use a transistor radio. You turn the radio to the low end of the dial which is about 550 kilocycles. Here the radio picks up the same storm signals as the TV. Lightning makes intermittent static on the radio. A tornado makes steady continuous static.

Why does the method work? A tornado funnel acts as a huge vacuum tube, and like a gigantic pulse generator it radiates signals that a TV picks up.

It might be a good idea to clip this article and place it in a handy place, so that you will not forget the procedure. *April 1975, Rural Electric Missourian*

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

New billing to begin in October

The self-billing procedure will be discontinued with the October billing. This will eliminate the member using rate charts, billing books, etc.

Each month members will receive a card that will show the amount of their bill. Pay the amount as shown and enter the same day's meter reading on the right hand portion of the card, returning both the payment and the reading to the office.

To begin this type of billing, in October each member will receive a card in the mail. Please insert your meter reading on the card and return it to the cooperative office. You will not make a payment at this time.

Then on November 15, 1975 you will receive a card bill. This is your billing for usage from September 15 to October 15. Please read your meter and insert that reading in the proper place on the card. Then return the card along with the payment shown to your cooperative.

Each month thereafter follow the same procedure. Basically you will be paying for usage a month previous to your billing. This deferred billing will allow us to flow smoothly into the new computerized billing system.

As was mentioned in the July issue of Clay Electric News, which you find in the center of your *Illinois Rural Electric News* magazine, your bill will be computed by

Central Area Data Processing Corporation (CADPC) of St. Louis, a nonprofit organization which is owned, operated and controlled by the some 70 electric cooperatives using its services.

Central Area was formed by 14 statewide organizations to afford to electric cooperatives like Clay the benefits of group sharing of a large computer complex.

It will be able to provide more economically a number of operations for Clay and its consumers. Included will be the processing of monthly electric bills, and furnishing operating information which will be helpful to the engineering department as well as the accounting and billing departments.

The billing cards you will receive from CADPC will look exactly like the one on this page. It will show you the previous month's reading; the net bill, gross bill; KWH used; any balance; tax and the meter serial number associated with the location. This will be particularly beneficial to members who have more than one meter to read. The meter serial number will be associated with only one location and account number.

Please remember when you get your card in October to just read your meter and return it to the cooperative. Make no payment at that time.

Your new card-bill will look like this:

READ METER TODAY

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Pay Amount Shown Here.

WHOLESALE POWER COST ADJ. PER KWH

THIS STATEMENT IS FOR KWH'S USED TO	Mo	Day	Yr	Amount of Bill	S	¢	C	R	CR

Enter Meter Reading Here.

Rate Schedule	Mo	Day	Yr	Date Meter Read	Billing Date	Mo	Day	Yr	Previous Meter Reading	ENTER METER READING HERE

RETURN THIS PORTION

Cooperative Code	Meter Number	Account Number	Account Number	Gross Amt. Due	S	¢	C	R	B	C	Net Amt. Due	S	¢	C	R

Keep For Your Records

Farm Productivity— A Success Story

The chronicles of agricultural productivity—fewer and fewer farmers producing greater amounts of food for more and more people—is a success story unparalleled in U.S. history.

From 100 percent of the original settlers working the land for their own survival to the present total of less than five percent of the U.S. population engaged in farming to feed the remainder of the country and a sizable part of the world, it's a story of amazing agricultural statistics.

At the time of the Revolution, more than 90 percent of the population of the new nation was still engaged in farming.

By 1820, the percentage of farmers had dropped to some 83 percent and about 60 man-hours of labor were needed to produce an acre of wheat.

Gradually, the number of Americans in agriculture continued to slip until by 1870 farmers were no longer in a majority in the U.S. By then, only 47 percent of the country's population could be classified in agriculture.

The number of farmers dwindled further and by 1910 only a third of the growing population was in agriculture.

With only 21 percent of the population in farming in 1930, total man-hours required to produce an acre of wheat fell to just three.

In the 1950's, the farming population dipped to less than 15 percent and continuing declines reduced that percentage to less than five presently. But agricultural production maintained its upward climb and output per man-hour jumped some 3½ times in the past two decades.

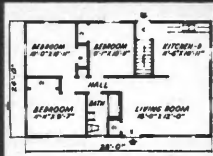
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CLASS BACK IN THE CLASSICS

(Continued from page 13)

and spend all his time writing and doing illustrations.

His artistic talent and knack with mechanical things may have been inherited from his grandfather Guy P. Smith. Although his grandfather didn't know much about vintage cars, he was a part-time inventor who came very close to fame and fortune.

Grandfather Smith, a photoengraver with a St. Louis newspaper lived in Richmond Heights, Missouri. It was there, in 1912, he built the world's first 35mm camera—years before a similar version was introduced by foreign camera manufacturers.

At the time of his invention, the only film available was movie film. It was extremely grainy and any enlargements from it were extremely poor. Because of the problems with the film, Smith didn't patent the invention and put it on the shelf.

Grandfather Smith's invention was written up in the December, 1938 issue of *Popular Science*. The article posed the editorial question, "Who Invented the Miniature Camera?" and explained about Smith's invention.

Although Grandfather Smith never achieved any great acclaim, he did live a very interesting life. In his early years, he lived for a period of time on the Sioux Rosebud Indian Reservation. His father was a doctor there and he was the only white child on the reservation.

Growing older, Guy Smith took up oil painting and began his inventing. Most of his inventions took their shapes in wood, a material he was very skilled with.

Picture frames, mandolins that were inlaid with mother-of-pearl, were later followed by the first 35mm camera, which itself had a wooden body.

While the elder Smith was intrigued with inventing new things, his grandson at the present time seems content with restoring autos of the past. But the same restlessness the elder Smith had is apparent in the ever-searching work of his grandson.

And maybe someday, someone will be restoring one of his classics.

NOVEMBER, 1975

FACTORY DIRECT SAVINGS

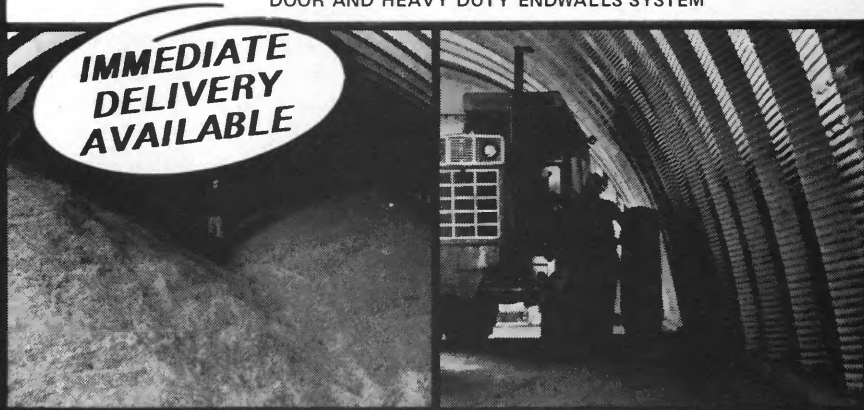
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- Machinery Storage/Workshop
- Grain Storage
- Other





Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC. 618-662-2171 FLORA, ILLINOIS

Across the Manager's Desk

by Stan Huffman, Mgr.

Progress on Billing Conversions

The changeover to our new billing system has been quite smooth. We are pleased with the expected long-range financial savings to the cooperative in billing, engineering and material control.

As to be expected though there have been a few errors. A majority of these have come from inaccurate readings sent in by members. These are minor mistakes and most were caught by cooperative personnel. Please note that ALL spaces in the meter reading portion of your card-bill must be filled.

And remember each month enter your reading and send in the amount shown on the card. We feel this will eliminate a great deal of confusion as members will not have to compute their own bills.

Trustee Retires

After 20 years of service to Clay Electric Co-operative, Scott Harrison of rural Xenia has decided to retire as a member of the Board of Trustees. Many of you who know him are aware that he has been a dedicated representative of your cooperative, and the employees, trustees and myself wish him well in his retirement. James R. (Bob) Burkett of rural Louisville has been selected by the board to fill the unexpired vacancy. Burkett, his wife Marjorie, and daughter, Debbie, own and operate a 400-acre farm approximately seven miles west of Louisville.

Wholesale Power Increase

Keeping you informed of current negotiations—CIPS is asking Clay

Electric for a wholesale power cost increase of \$165,000 per year—an approximate average of \$70 per member per year. While negotiations are underway your board of trustees are studying several proposals.

Even with the increase, trustee officials feel they can continue to maintain lower residential rates than other surrounding cooperatives and utilities.

System Improvements

Your cooperative system is now over 30-years-old and there are many defective poles and wiring which are in need of repair. During the past year cooperative personnel have made noticeable changes in the system which will result in better service to the members. Although certain areas have felt more than their share of outages, loss of service to each member on an average has been reduced nearly 50 percent.

Review of Cooperative Policies

1. Members requesting any connections are required to pay a \$20 deposit and a \$5 connection fee.
2. New members must purchase and maintain their own meter loops.
3. A collection fee of \$10 is charged to all delinquent accounts—this includes returned checks.
4. Members requesting field meter tests are charged a \$5 service call, if the meter is found to be accurate. If it is inaccurate, the charge will be refunded.
5. Each consumer receiving service must have a membership and deposit on file in the cooperative office.
6. Underground electric facilities are available to members under certain conditions and subject to approval by the board of trustees.
7. Cooperative bylaws are available to all members upon request.

Job Training

In an effort to bring cooperative

members a more efficient and knowledgeable operation, the following training sessions have been attended by cooperative personnel during the past year: Data Processing Seminar, Hot Line School, Meter and Voltage Regulator Workshop and Underground and Overhead Construction Workshops.

We feel this continuing educational effort by cooperative personnel will prove very beneficial in helping to maintain better service to you, the consumer.

For Your Reading

I came across this article the other day which appropriately stated the frustrations we have experienced and are experiencing.

"We in the electric utility industry are witnessing and experiencing a strange paradox. For several years there has been a rising tide of environmental concern in this country that has resulted in numerous laws, rules and regulations that greatly restrict our ability to produce and use energy, and adds to its cost. Now that the bills for environmental regulations are beginning to come in, along with the higher costs associated with the energy crisis, inflation, and higher money costs, consumer groups have begun to organize and lead protests against rising electric rates.

What is so frustrating to us in the electric utility business is that often the same groups who strongly oppose the construction of electric generating plants, transmission lines, nuclear energy, strip mining, etc. are often the same groups that are protesting the high electric rates that these restrictions have brought about. So we are in the position of a mule who is being prodded from behind to get in the stall, while hit over the head every time he steps into it." (Capsule Comments)

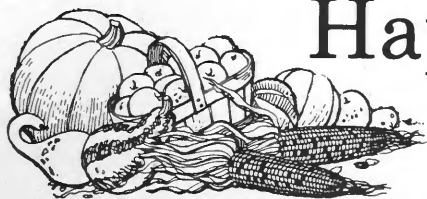
Xenia Diamond Brighter Now

Umpires officiating games on the Xenia Grade School baseball diamond will be able to see those strikes better, with the aid of a new lighting system.

The new lights are extremely powerful, with one unit replacing four of the older type previously used.

Clay linemen, under the direction of Xenia Mayor Eldred Knapp helped with the installation of the units this past summer. The lights were purchased by the city for use on the diamond.

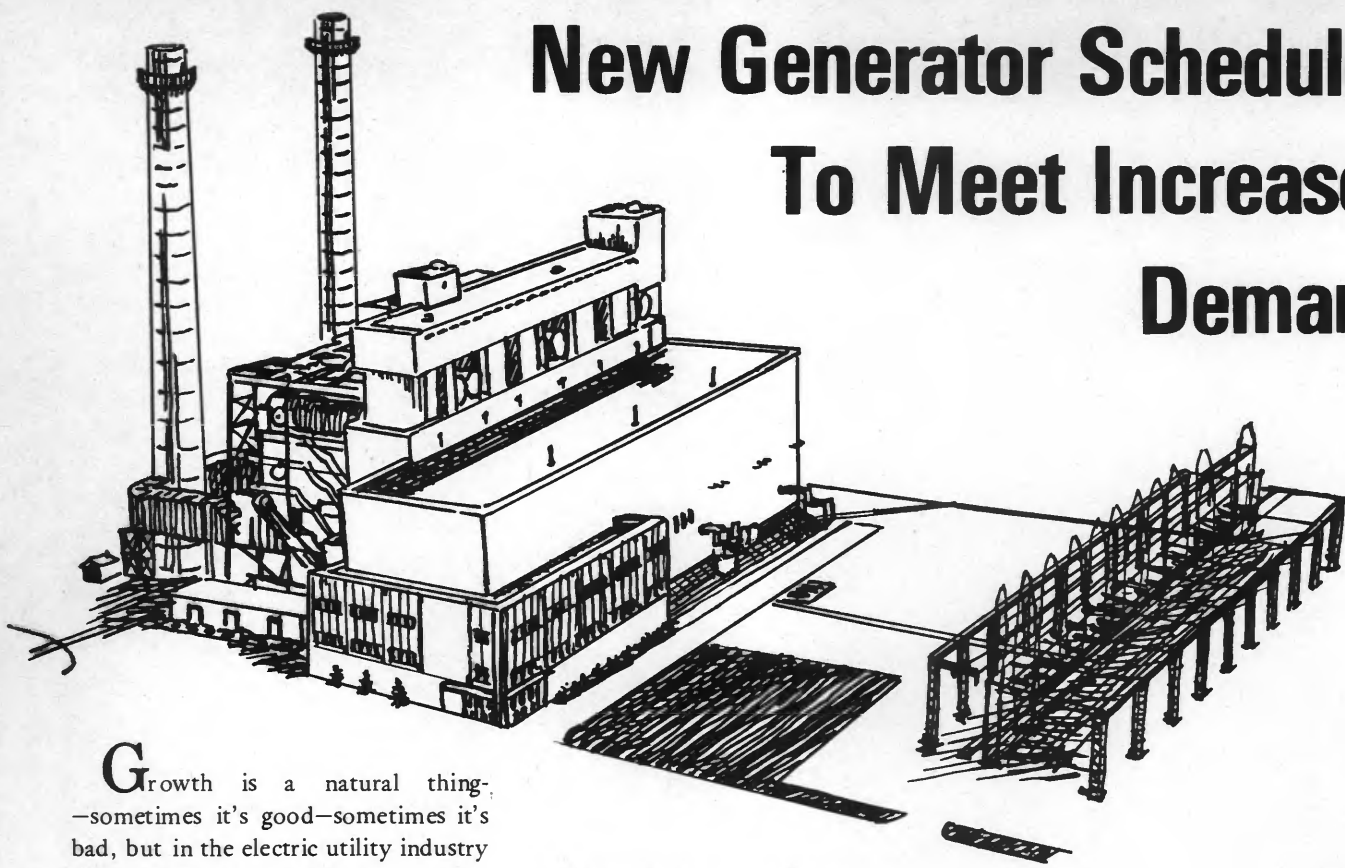
LEFT: Suspended in bucket trucks, Clay linemen prepare to top the old light pole. BELOW LEFT: Prior to mounting on the pole, Mayor Eldred Knapp, second from left and Clay linemen, from left William Lagle, Floyd Harden and Orse Wyman inspect one of the new lights. BELOW: A small chain saw was used to top off the pole.



Happy Thanksgiving

from the Board, Manager and Employees
at Clay Electric Cooperative

New Generator Scheduled To Meet Increased Demand



Growth is a natural thing—sometimes it's good—sometimes it's bad, but in the electric utility industry it is always necessary, necessary that is, if the supplier is to stay ahead of the consumer and his ever-increasing use of electricity.

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) located about eight miles south of Marion, presently supplies electric power generation for three electric distribution cooperatives in Southern Illinois. In taking steps to meet the projected growth in the service area of Eldorado-based Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Steeleville-based Egyptian Electric Cooperative and the Dongola-based Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, SIPC is in the process of more than doubling its capacity.

Although the increased capacity is extremely necessary, it is also expensive on the other hand. The original plant, which was dedicated in August in 1965 by Governor Otto Kerner, cost \$12.5 million. SIPC financed the plant, Lake of Egypt and 460 miles of transmission line with a \$25.8 million Rural Electrification Administration (REA) loan.

In today's inflated monetary terms it is going to cost \$83 million to double the plant's capacity. Breaking down the total costs, \$66 million will go for the generating capacity and approximately \$17 million will be used to purchase and install required

pollution control equipment.

Funds for the needed expansion have come to SIPC through a loan from the REA and is the first power supply loan of its type in Illinois. The money comes from the Federal Finance Bank, which was set up several years ago to handle all government loans. The loan is guaranteed by the government and is issued at the bank's going interest rate.

Presently the three generators in service provide net generation capacity of 35 megawatts (Mw) each. The new fourth unit alone will have 160 Mw of net generating capacity, some 55 Mw more than the present facility. Together they will produce enough power to meet short term needs.

According to SIPC officials, 80 percent of the material for the plant are on order and are being fabricated. However, no actual construction will begin until the first of January. Plans are for the unit to begin commercial operation in June of 1978, supplying a needed total (projected for 1979) of nearly 750 million kilowatt-hours (kwh) to consumers in the three cooperative area.

The projected figure for 1979 can be readily compared to the present three cooperative consumption of 482 million kwh's a year, and the projected

total consumption of 1031 million kwh by the year 1985.

These figures are from studies made by each of the cooperatives during the past year. The projected figures are growth that can be expected today for the next 10 years. It may be that these projections will be low, but it is very unlikely that they will be high.

Growth in the Egyptian Electric Cooperative service area is expected to climb more than 131 percent in the next 10 years. Canalization of the Kaskaskia River played a big part in boosting the growth figures. Industrial growth, bringing with it residential growth in the Kaskaskia basin has played an important factor in the Steeleville-based cooperative's plans for the future.

Along with this potential, the proposed coal gasification plant south of New Athens, will itself bring in satellite residential growth of a proportion that must be considered in any future power requirement planning.

Along with these factors, Egyptian officials are expecting a tremendous growth in the Carbondale-Murphysboro area, where it already serves over 2200 members.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative
ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS