

Bache Chapel

“He who leaves the world better by his having lived, has not lived in vain.”

This was a favorite phrase of Joseph Lloyd Bache (Bay-che), a schoolmaster who compiled a modest fortune through shrewd investments and conservative living.

Bache, a Chicago resident, died October 1, 1965. Having no children, he left two-thirds of his \$1.7 million estate to the trustees of Garrett Township (Cartwright) Cemetery of Tuscola. It was here he grew up and it was here his will directed a fitting memorial be built.

Planning for the memorial began in 1970, keeping in mind the building was to be used for weddings,

community activities, funerals and interdenominational worship.

He wanted the memorial to be constructed of lasting material, designed to provide modern comfort and to have a restful and attractive atmosphere for any gatherings.

The memorial was fashioned in the tradition of English country churches, “bearing in mind modern design.”

To accomplish this, Joseph E. Coble, an architect from nearby Urbana, spent a week in England studying architectural designs of churches.

As a result of the study, a unique structure, which would later bear the name Bache Memorial Chapel, be-

gan to rise from the flat Illinois plains.

The memorial was literally poured out of 12 million pounds of concrete, enough to pave a two-lane highway a mile and a quarter long. Its 18-inch thick walls were left bare to resemble stone.

The sheer, rising walls of the building are severed by a steep roof and a 100-foot high clock tower. The tower has an observation platform accessible by 92 steps, from which visitors can view the surrounding countryside. Its roof is formed out of stainless steel terne and the doors are handmade from heavy oak timber.

(continued on page 21)



Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



LeRoy V. Hard
Manager

Another year has passed. The year 1974 is now history. It was a successful year. It was one in which the operation of your cooperative became even more complex; a year which saw the cost of providing reliable electric service to the membership increase at an unbelievable pace.

We do not want to dwell on the past, but would like to point out some of the areas where accomplishments have been made, enabling the cooperative to continue its efforts in providing a dependable continuity of service at the lowest possible cost.

We, as a cooperative, just as you as a family, have had to tighten our belts and take a look at priorities in planning and providing for the future needs. Decisions made by the board of directors and management of the cooperative have taken into consideration long-range plans and goals along with present day needs.

Faced with continually rising costs of wholesale power, as well as the increased costs of material, equipment and labor, the board of directors, after much deliberation, voted a Wholesale Power Adjustment clause surcharge of 2.5 mills per KWH which began with the July 15 billing period.

In 1974, the cooperative again utilized Rowco, Inc., a helicopter spraying service, to assist in right-of-way maintenance and foliage control. This service has produced excellent results and is more economic than hand spraying and trimming. We still trim trees where it is not feasible to use the spraying service in our regular maintenance program.

Kearens Meter Testing Service was used to test approximately 700 meters this past summer. This is a continuous program whereby all meters on the cooperative system will be tested approximately every five years. This service is for your protection, as well as for the cooperative's.

To facilitate the improvement of service and assist the employees in performing their duties, it is necessary to provide them with up-dated and safe equipment. This year, two new trucks (see picture) and a fork-lift have been purchased. Some new electronic office machines have been

purchased to replace worn out ones. The use of this new equipment will increase the efficiency of our personnel; therefore improving the services offered to the membership.

Looking ahead, the management and staff have been busy preparing work plans and preparing a budget for the new year. This will give the cooperative guidelines as to where and how to direct our efforts to best utilize the facilities and resources in meeting the growing membership needs. We again pledge our dedication to meet the changing and trying times facing the cooperative in the future and ask your cooperation and understanding in the cooperative's effort to provide a reliable continuity of service to the membership.

We wish you a happy and prosperous 1975.



These two trucks are the latest in the cooperative's fleet of trucks and cars.

A Willie Conserve-A-Tip



© NRECA

It pays to conserve energy

You can save nickels and dimes turning off lights in your home . . . but you can save dollars conserving the big three: heating, cooling and water heating. They account for three-fourths of your energy bill.

Youth to Washington Tour Underway

Two area young people will be awarded an all-expense one week tour of Washington D. C., June 7-14, 1975, by Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

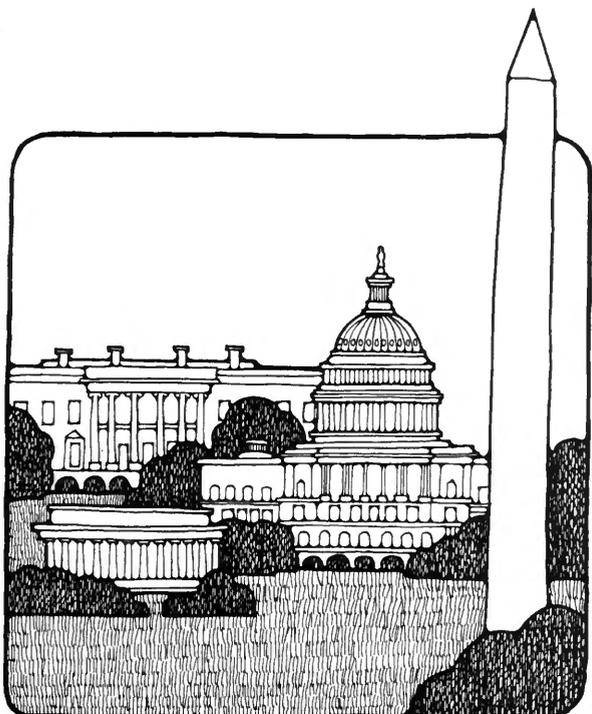
This format of this year's competition will be similar to that of last year. We encourage participation from high school sophomores and juniors of high schools within the cooperative service area. Students from Columbia, Dupo, Freeburg, Gibault, New Athens, Red Bud, Waterloo and Valmeyer High Schools are eligible to enter into competition.

A questionnaire will be attached to the entry forms. It must be completed and returned to the cooperative office by March 17, 1975. Students with the five highest scores on the questionnaire will qualify as finalists. These five finalists, upon notification, must submit a one page essay titled, "Illinois Coal and its Future in Generation of Electricity." The students who submit the most original and informative essays will be chosen as winners to participate in the Washington tour.

The five semi-finalists will be invited to participate in the "Springfield Youth Tour" that will be held in early May.

Entry forms will be available at your high school or at the cooperative office in Waterloo.

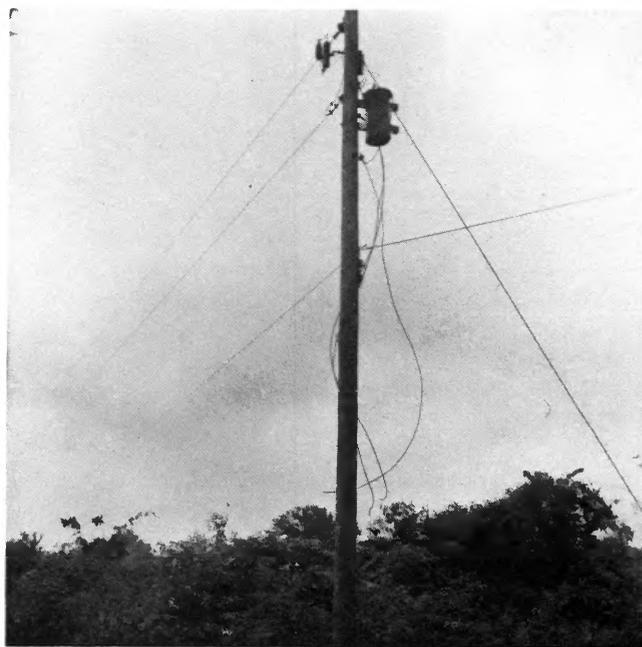
Remember—all sophomore and junior students in area high schools are eligible.



Copper Thieves Strike



The light streak on the side of the vacant house shows where thieves removed the service entrance.



The dangling wires from this transformer pole are all that is left from the service drop to this house.

With increasing regularity, copper thieves are cutting copper conductors and, in some cases, taking down meter loop and service drops on vacant and abandoned houses. This is costly to both the cooperative and homeowner.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative would appreciate any information concerning the theft of cooperative property. If you are suspicious of any person or persons of illegal removal of conductor or service drops, please contact our office in Waterloo.



the great american coon hunt

by Jim Pottorf

We were looking for a story at Edgar Electric Co-operative Association in Paris. As I stood out in a farmer's field on a cold, windy and dark November night, I kept thinking, "surely there must have been some OTHER story!"

When I got the invitation to go on a raccoon hunt with Ed Adams, a lineman with the cooperative and raccoon hunting aficionado, my first reaction was "you can't fool this kid." Having been a veteran of several snipe hunts when I was younger, I thought I was in for something similar.

Little did I realize I could have offended thousands of hunters who actually do go after the furry little bandit-faced fellows. Any day I expect a seething editorial from one of the many (I found out there were such things) coon hunting magazines. I guess I could always plead ignorance—it has gotten me through before.

Two days before I ventured to Paris, it was probably one of the most pleasant days of the year. And, as luck would not have it, the night I did go was the night after the first snow storm of the year. It was cold.

It was cold enough for John Robinson, member public relations director for Edgar Electric, to first wonder if I was coming, then shake his head. It was also cold enough for three other Edgar members who were going out to remember previous engagements. Probably the only person it wasn't too cold for was Ed—he seems to thrive on it.

We packed up two coon hounds in Ed's combination pickup and mobile kennel and drove off into the night.

"It all depends on whether the coons are going to go out to feed early or late," Ed said. "You have to be right when you pick for the best hunting."

I was by now feeling a slight chill; I was hoping the coons wouldn't come out, see their shadow and go back up a tree. Or is that groundhogs?

"I have been doing this since I was in my teens," Ed said. "A lot



among hundreds of entrants throughout Illinois, the students will experience a whirlwind holiday and at the same time secure a wealth of knowledge about our government in action.

And, in May, more than 100 contest finalists will meet in Springfield to participate in the annual "Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day" activities.

This will be the third year where finalists from several cooperatives have been honored for their participation with an all-expense-paid trip to the state capital.

If you are interested in winning either tour, the thing to do first is to contact your own cooperative, or perhaps your high school principal, and find out if you're eligible to compete. Do it right away. Deadlines vary from cooperative to cooperative, but not much time is left.

Most cooperatives are determining their winners through essay contests. Most limit participation to high school sophomores and juniors. But find out about your own cooperative.

If you win your local contest, you'll travel to Washington in air-conditioned buses, stay at a fine motel on the bank of the Potomac River close to downtown D.C., dine at distinctive restaurants, meet notable government officials and Illinois congressmen.

It will, in short, be a week you'll never forget. Better get going on those essays . . . NOW!



youth to washington



Some 50 outstanding Illinoisans will converge on Washington, D.C., June 7-14 for a VIP tour, courtesy of 19 Illinois electric cooperatives.

These young adults will join

nearly 1,000 other high school students from 23 states and several foreign countries for the annual all-expense-paid "Youth to Washington" tour.

Selected as contest winners from

Youth to Washington

Two area students will be awarded an all-expense one-week tour of Washington, D.C., June 7-14, by Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

The format of this year's competition will be similar to that of last years. We encourage participation from high school sophomores and juniors in the high schools within the cooperative's service area. Students from Columbia, Dupo, Freeburg, Gibault, New Athens, Red Bud,

Waterloo, and Valmeyer High Schools are eligible to enter into competition.

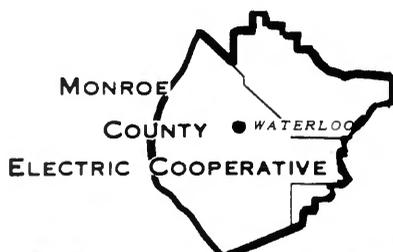
A questionnaire will be attached to the entry forms. It must be completed and returned to the cooperative office by March 17. The students with the five highest scores on the questionnaire will qualify as finalists. These five finalists upon notification, must submit a one page essay titled, "Illinois Coal and its Future in Generation of Electricity." The students who submit the most original

and informative essays will be chosen as winners to participate in the Washington Tour.

The five semi finalists will be invited to participate in the "Springfield Youth Tour" that will be held in early May.

Entry forms will be available at your high school or at the cooperative office in Waterloo.

Remember — all sophomore and junior students in area high schools are eligible.



Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

An important characteristic of an electric cooperative is its close relationship to the people it serves. Although its main responsibility is to supply low-cost dependable electric power, your electric cooperative also performs other functions.

One of these is referred to as "member services." Principal duties are to aid and assist cooperative members in wise and efficient utilization of electricity. We are

Across the manager's desk



LeRoy V. Hard
Manager

interested in assisting the membership in their home planning so they may enjoy the many benefits and comforts of modern, total electric living.

Our member service department will be happy to discuss your home heating plans. We will determine a heat loss for your home and recommend the proper equipment size; whether it be for each room with individual room controls or a central electric furnace unit. We can explain the differences and benefits of the various types of electric heating equipment.

A satisfactory and efficient electric heating system depends on proper design and installation of insulation. Effective insulation will save both on heating costs and the cost of heating equipment. The personnel of the member

services department can give you advice on selection and installation of proper insulation.

Electric heat is efficient and economical if certain conditions are met. A bargain heating system or insulation installation will usually cost more over a period of years than properly designed systems.

We would be happy to sit down with you and discuss your home heating plans and give our recommendations on proper insulation and equipment at any time.

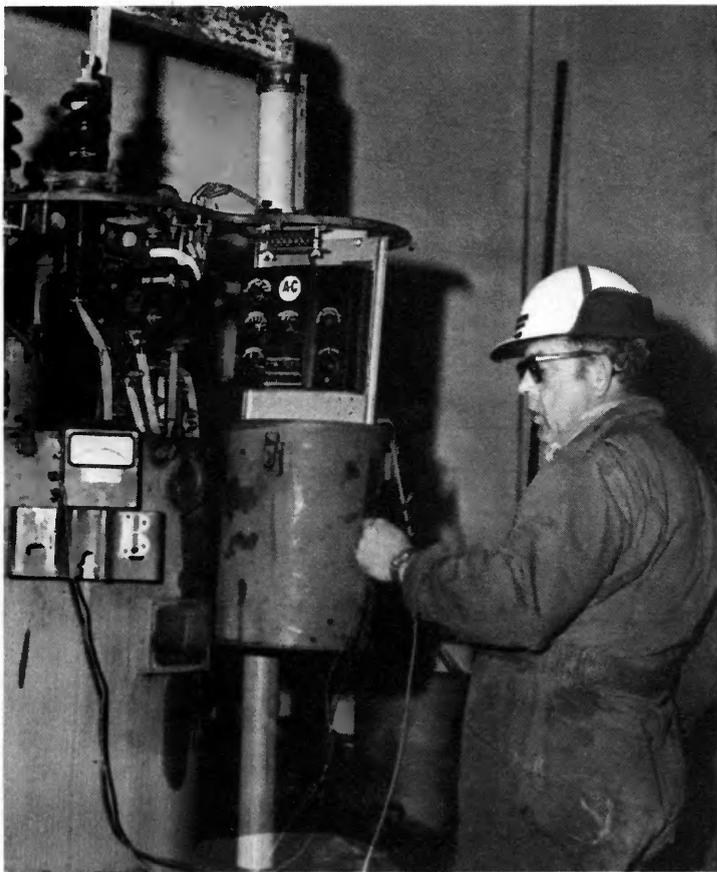
There are cases where some have come to us after the home was built, and they were living in it, and did not have a properly installed heating system or have inadequate insulation. Then the cooperative is blamed for the high cost of electric heat.

We cannot take the responsibility for inadequate installations and want to impress on you that you are only hurting yourself by skimping on insulation to save a few dollars now, whether you use electric heat or some other type of fuel for energy.

Keeping our members informed about the cooperative is another important function of the member services department. We do this through the *Rural Electric News* and the *Monroe Co-op Echoes*. We know you read these two publications from the comments we receive from you.

The annual meeting is another way for you to be informed and become involved in the operation of the cooperative. This year's annual meeting will be held on Monday, April 14, at the Waterloo Grade School gymnasium. You are urged to attend and exercise your privilege to vote and take part in this member-owned business. An interesting program is being planned.

See you there!



A factory specialist running a test on a voltage regulator.

A Voltage What?

A voltage regulator is just what the name implies. It is a device that regulates the voltage coming out of a substation. It can also be installed on the distribution lines to regulate the voltage up or down. This enables the cooperative to maintain constant voltage no matter how far the lines run from the substation.

The voltage regulator is capable of automatically handling a surge or drop of voltage up to 10 percent increase or decrease from a present level.

To assure continuous operation, we have the regulators on our system checked for mechanical stress. We also have the oil tested for its dielectric strength on a regular basis. A factory representative of the Allis Chalmers Corporation performs this preventive maintenance.

This is just another of the many maintenance operations performed by the cooperative to insure adequate, dependable electric service to the membership.

AFTER-DINNER orator who imbibed too freely: "It's in the wonderful insight into human nature that Dickens gets the pull over Thackeray; but on the other hand, it's in the brilliant shafts of satire, together with a keen sense of humor, that Thackeray gets the pull on Dickens. It's just this, Thackeray is the humorist, and Dickens is the satirist. But, after all, it's 'bsurd to instoot any comparison between Dackery and Thickens."

ELECTRIC CARS?

Maybe Sooner Than You Think

Many scoff at the thought of electric cars, but you may be using one sooner than you think.

Detroit is scrambling to develop engines that can meet the 1976 pollution standards; most cars turned out by Detroit at present are getting mileage that is less than desirable.

Gas prices are expected to double in five years, and double again in another five years. It is estimated that in five years it will cost about \$1,500 a year for an average driver just to gas up his buggy.

What's the alternative? Very small, very efficient non-polluting gasoline engines are one alternative, but a second strong alternative is the electric car.

Before you jump to the conclusion that electric cars mean greater demand for electricity and more plants to produce it, several things should be pointed out. Utilities consider electric vehicle research a practical venture because (1) the electric car doesn't pollute (2) the cars charge for the most part at night, providing a higher level of usage for plants during those hours and (3) and common use of electric cars would considerably lessen the drain of petroleum reserves.

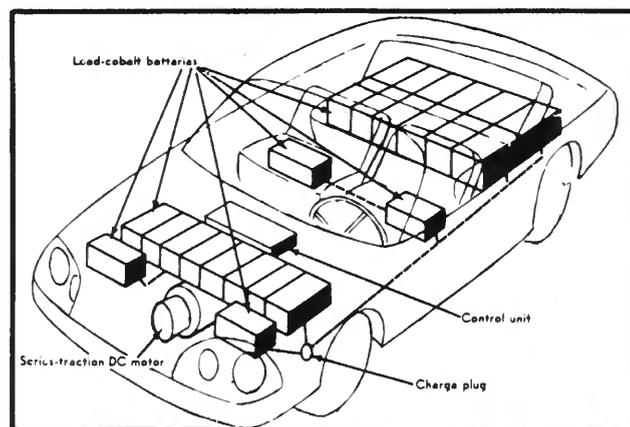
The most exhaustive study to date has indicated that, conservatively, the net pollution effect for a total electric car population would be one tenth the pollution for heat-engine vehicles.

The study assumes that all cars will be electric powered in the year 2000, and half of all electric power will be generated by nuclear generating plants.

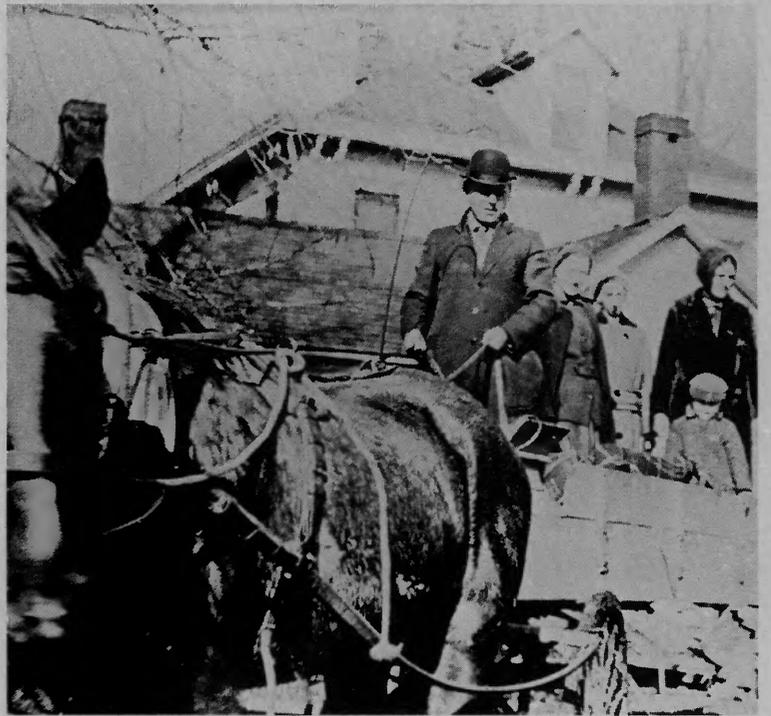
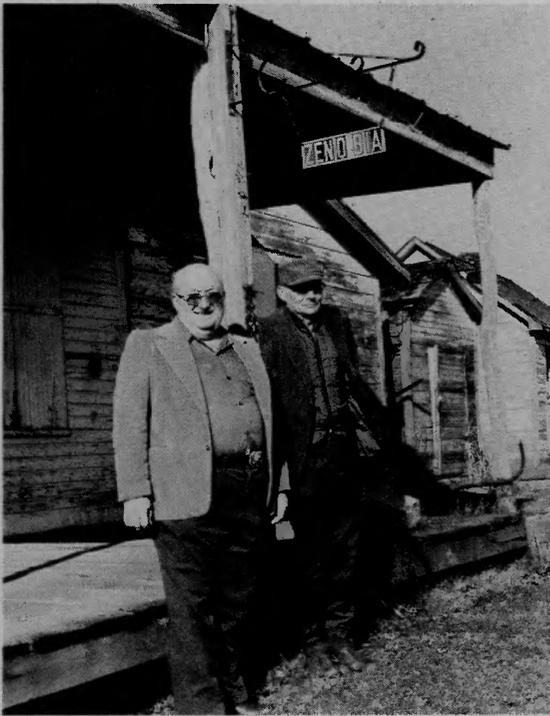
The short-term outlook is favorable, also. A recent study indicated that "a gradual transition of electric propulsion starting in the early 1980's, would have negligible impact on the total energy demand for power plants and would reduce air pollution nationally."

The study estimates that practical batteries for electric cars will not be available until 1980.

In any event, don't be surprised if you are driving an electric vehicle much sooner than you ever thought was possible.



This station wagon was converted to an electric car using lead-cobalt batteries to power it. Other forms of electric transport include industrial and delivery types.



zenobia:



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



Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



LeRoy V. Hard
Manager

I indicated in a recent column it was our intent to keep you informed and lay the facts on the line and "tell it like it is." You as a cooperative member have a right to expect straightforwardness, honesty and full knowledge of the facts as to the future economics of the cooperative.

It was just a decade ago the *Illinois Rural Electric News* reported to cooperative members throughout Illinois that one of our sister cooperatives was planning a seven-percent rate reduction.

"With a reduced rate you can economically use more power for the equipment you have considered but have not yet acquired. . . Volume sales will make up the difference and everyone will benefit. Our basic function is to render electric service to you in the best quality possible and at as low a cost as possible. . .," an officer told members of that cooperative gathered at their annual meeting (in the days before the term "double-digit inflation" was known).

Contrast those heady words with the stern warning given by another Illinois cooperative's president a short time ago. "The question is not if rates will have to go up to meet rising costs. . . Perhaps a more important question we should be asking is whether or not we will have the power our members need at any price!"

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative and its members have been fortunate that we have not faced any power shortages, or the brownouts and blackouts in our area that have become commonplace in the East. But we have been paying a price and so have our members.

As fuel costs have gone up over the past months, our cost of wholesale power have gone up. The cost of wholesale power is approximately 60 percent of the cooperatives total expenses. In 1974, 20 percent of the wholesale power cost was attributed to fuel adjustment which was 87 percent higher than in 1973. Our energy supplier, Illinois Power Company, has passed this increased fuel cost on to us in the form of a fuel adjustment.

You are well aware of the effects of the fuel cost adjustment on your monthly energy bills. No longer able to absorb the IP fuel cost adjustment, the cooperative began

passing this cost through our members in July, 1973. This painful process is necessary to keep your cooperative financially sound and ensure our ability to provide you with reliable electric power in the future.

Coal is the most abundant natural resource in Illinois, yet it is at the heart of our problems. Coal accounts for about 80 percent of the cost of generating electric power and the price of coal has gone up more than 130 percent in the past five years. While we cannot know yet what effect the recent coal strike settlement and the new mine workers' labor contract will have on future coal prices, we can be assured we face still higher coal prices which will mean further increases in the fuel cost adjustment for the cooperative and our members.

Unfortunately, we already know our revenues will not be sufficient to cover our increased costs. This means a general increase in assessments to our members will be necessary in the months ahead.

We have no way of knowing how much this increase will be at this time. Our staff is studying our cost mix and cutting every possible corner.

Because a cooperative does not operate for profit it is particularly vulnerable to inflationary pressures. In the "good old days" we passed our cost savings on to our members through lower assessments when economics of scales made the cost per kilowatt hour decrease. Now, however, we find rate increases our last line of defense in the battle with inflation.

The members of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative can be assured that your board of directors and the management of your cooperative are doing everything possible to hold future electric rates as low as possible. While we know the days of declining electric rates are over, we at Monroe County Electric Co-Operative are not ready to say, "Power at any price."

We will continue our goal for providing our members reliable electric power at the lowest possible cost and we are also working with other cooperatives through our state association to seek long-range solutions to our energy and inflation problems. No definite solution is yet in sight but in the meantime, our members can help their cooperative and themselves through increased efforts at "energy management."

As we work to hold the line on costs 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 for the short-run fight against inflation.

14th ANNUAL Southern Illinois



WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Nashville, Illinois

March 4, 5, 6, 1975

Three Days & Two Nights

37th Annual Meeting

The cooperative's 37th Annual Meeting will be held Monday, April 14, 1975, at 7:30 p.m. Registration will begin at 6:45 p.m. at the Waterloo Grade School Gymnasium. This year the early bird prize, drawn promptly at 7:30, will be a Hotpoint 8000 BTU room air conditioner. Attendance and door prizes will be awarded. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Mark your calendar—April 14, 1975—Monroe County Electric Co-Operative's Annual Meeting.

FARM MATERIALS HANDLING SHOW

HISTORY OF SHOW

The first Farm Materials Handling Show was held at the Agriculture Building, Southern Illinois University, in June, 1960, under the general arrangement of SIU and two area farm equipment associations. Display equipment was limited and attendance small, but it did spur the idea of a Southern Illinois show.

West Frankfort Show - A planning committee of power suppliers, University of Illinois cooperative extension service and SIU representatives met several times and decided to hold a show in April, 1962. Many sites were investigated, the armory at West Frankfort was selected, and the show was held there for two years. Facilities were very good, and the exhibitors turned out well (about 12 each year). However, it was apparent to all West Frankfort was not in a farming community and the show should have moved to another location.

Nashville Show - An enlarged planning committee selected the Washington County Fairgrounds (Nashville) for the 1964 show. The fairgrounds offered one permanent display building and two tents were rented. Thirty-four exhibitors rented 80 spaces.

The 1965 show at the same location showed 49 exhibitors and 71 spaces. Following the 1965 show, the fair built another permanent section to the exhibit hall. Thirty-nine exhibitors showed at the 1966 event.

Since that date the show has grown in size and interest each year. The third indoor exhibit hall was added in 1969. The show has expanded until 1974 a record of over 100 spaces of exhibits attracted about 6,000 guests.

A home show (white goods, electric heat and cooking demonstration) has been a part of the exhibits in recent years. There is now something for everyone.

Won't you help us make the show still bigger and better by joining with us for the 1975 show?

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)

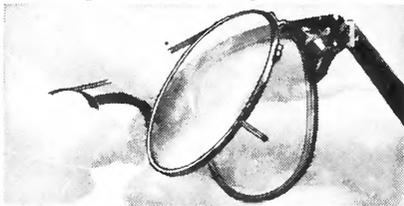
JESUS CHRIST Identification Card



Get your own personalized Jesus Christ I.D. Card to carry in wallet or purse. Made of plastic in beautiful color. Order this unique card honoring our Blessed Lord and Savior, it could change your life. Your identification embossed into plastic. Send name, address, christian denomination, birthdate, social security number, with \$2.00 to:

Jesus I.D. Card, P. O. Box 3446, New Orleans, La. 70177

Clip-On Magnifiers



Clip **MAGNIFIERS** on regular glasses. SEE CLEARER INSTANTLY. Read fine print. Do close work. Neat, metal frame. 10 day trial. **SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.** Send age, sex. On arrival pay postman \$5.95 plus C.O.D. or send only \$5.95 and we pay postage. **PRECISION OPTICAL CO., Dept. 109-E Rochelle, Ill. 61068**

Get rid of all **ROACHES** and **WATERBUGS** with

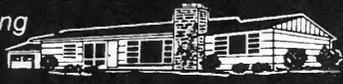


SURE KILL
Or You Pay Nothing

Roaches eat Sure Kill greedily and return to their nests which they contaminate, starting a chain reaction that wipes out all other roaches and eggs. Sure Kill never wears out, is absolutely odorless and safe to use. It contains no D.D.T. A single can cleans out six rooms and keeps them free of roaches and waterbugs for years. Money back guarantee. Send just \$3.98 for one can, two for \$6.98 postpaid.

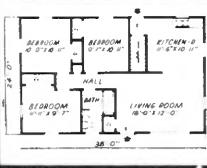
FOX ENTERPRISES
Box 211
MARION, KY. 42064
Mfr. and Distr.

Over Quarter Century of Building for the American Family . . .



QUALITY HOMES AT LOWEST PRICES

ON YOUR FOUNDATION / INCLUDING PLUMBING, WIRING & BIRCH CABINETS



Every Nordaas Home includes full-weight conventional construction, NOT PRE-FAB or PRE-CUT! Your new home completely framed, roof shingled, fully enclosed, 70% of the carpenter work is done for you, or we will finish carpentry for a little extra. All finishing materials furnished — blanket insulation, hardwood cabinets all ready-made, inside doors ready-hung with trim installed. Western dry dimension lumber. All materials direct from mill and factory to you saves hundreds of dollars! FREE planning service — build to your own plans or choose from over 1000 floor plans.

FREE PLAN SERVICE • FREE DELIVERY 1500 MILES
One of America's Largest Builders of Homes
Write for Free Floor Plan at No Obligation

NORDAAS AMERICAN HOMES
Dept 41-F • Minnesota Lake, Minnesota 56068
PHONE (507) 462-3331

5% FARMERS' OPEN HOUSE DISCOUNT

Over 1001 Floor Plans To Choose From



Available throughout the entire Midwest in America's Great Farming States — Save this Ad for Future Discount.

Pick giant berries off your own vines in just 60 days

EASY-TO-GROW KING SIZE CLIMBING STRAWBERRIES

Our own Gardener's Pride™ climbing strawberries will bear three times a year, from the very first year — in the Spring, Summer and Fall — right in your own back yard, in as little as 60 days from the day you plant them! Then pick up to 4 pints a year off your own vines. The best and biggest grade. Strong well developed crowns and climbing roots withstand all climates.



Bears 3 times a year.

Each plant yields 4 pints a year.

FAST-GROWING! Our biggest and best.

WINTER-HARDY, withstands all climates!

EASY TO GROW- EASY TO TRAIN!

12 PLANTS ONLY \$2.49



SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
on arrival or we will either replace or refund your money. You may order as many plants as you wish.

SEND YOUR ORDER TODAY!

Don't miss out on this amazing offer! Shipment will be made at just the right time for planting in your area. Planting instructions included. Tell us when to ship.

VILLA PARK NURSERY SALES
P.O. Box 332, Dept. 12, Villa Park, Illinois 60181
I have enclosed my check money order
cash for \$ Please send me the following number of Climbing Strawberries, postage paid.

- ___ 12 plants — \$2.49 plus 40¢ postage
- ___ 25 plants — \$4.89 plus 50¢ postage
- ___ 50 plants — \$9.49 plus 80¢ postage
- ___ 100 plants — \$17.95 plus 95¢ postage

Sorry—No C.O.D.'s at these fantastically low prices!

Name
Address
City State Zip

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.

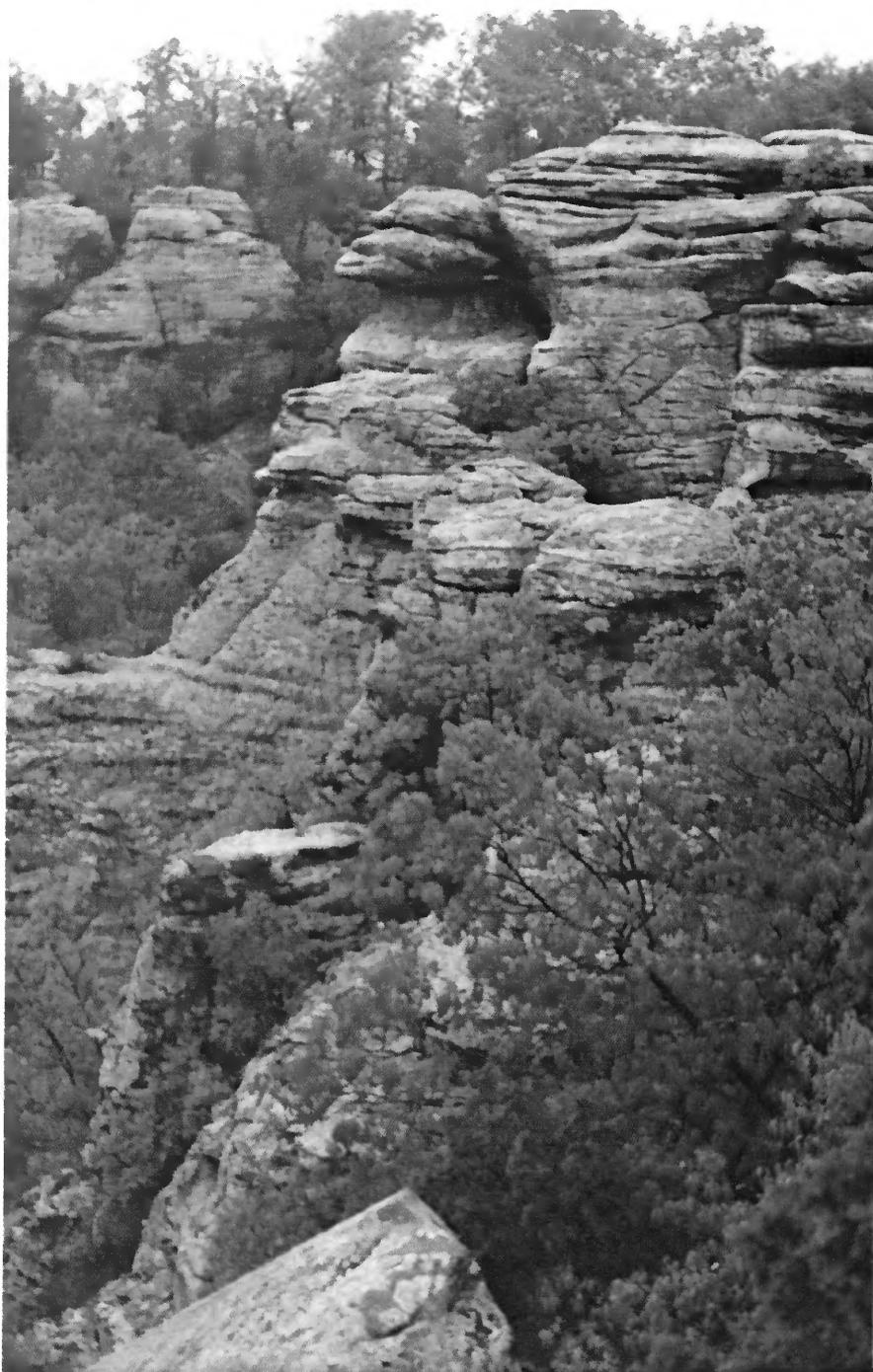
In 1963 the recreation area was revitalized by the Elizabethtown District of the Shawnee National Forest with help from the Job Corps.

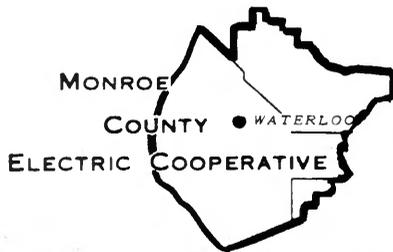
The stars of the Garden of the Gods are the rock formations. But you have to have imagination and take the time to study them.

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





Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



LeRoy V. Hard
Manager

For the past year, and particularly in the past few months, there has been much rhetoric concerning the energy crisis inflation and the economy of our nation. You have read about these topics in your local newspaper in trade publications and magazines. These subjects dominate the news broadcasts on radio and television. You can easily listen or read of widely divergent versions of what will happen to our nation and to us in the years ahead.

Our leaders in Washington, the President of the United States and Congressmen, cannot reach a mutual decision on ways and means to alleviate the economic woes of our Nation. These same problems confront us as individuals. Our cooperative is also feeling the burden of these times of adversity.

We in the electric industry and particularly those of us in the rural electric movement cannot afford the luxury of indecision and bickering that our political leaders are providing. We have a responsibility to our membership to provide and maintain a reliable, efficient electric service.

We may as well face up to the fact inflation in general, skyrocketing fuel cost and environmental considerations are adding to the spiraling costs in which all segments of the industry are caught. There are no easy solutions to these problems, but we do know they exist. We cannot turn our back on them and expect them to go away.

Today, the electric industry uses more coal than ever, and the price is higher now than it was a few years ago. In 1965, coal used to generate electricity cost approximately \$3.65 per ton. Coal to fuel the same generators costs more than \$19.00 per ton today. As coal costs increase, so does the cost of producing electricity. These additional costs are passed on by our power supplier in the form of a fuel adjustment to the cooperative's monthly wholesale power bill. Up until July, 1974, the cooperative absorbed these fuel adjustment costs. At that time a 2.5 mill wholesale power adjustment was added to your electric rate. The additional fuel adjustment absorbed by the cooperative is currently 2.8 mill over that passed on in July, 1974. This increase will be added to the present wholesale power adjustment that you are now paying and will be applied in June, 1975.

General inflation has also affected the costs of providing dependable electric service to the membership. The prices of material are now higher than ever before. Transformers, poles, crossarms, insulators, conductors, meters, clamps and other electrical hardware needed to construct new lines and maintain old ones have increased in price.

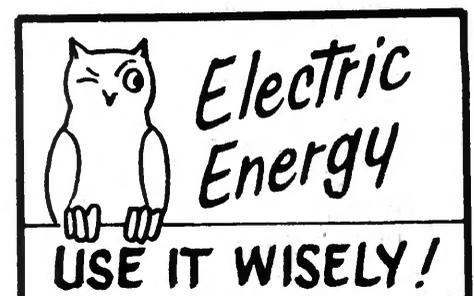
The price of special equipment and service vehicles used in line construction and maintenance has

gone up tremendously. Bucket trucks, special "hot line" trucks and even small service trucks are more expensive now to buy and are more costly to operate.

The cost of providing electric service increases proportionately as the cost of labor, equipment and materials for operation and maintenance of the cooperative system increases. We may as well face up to the fact that rate increases are inevitable.

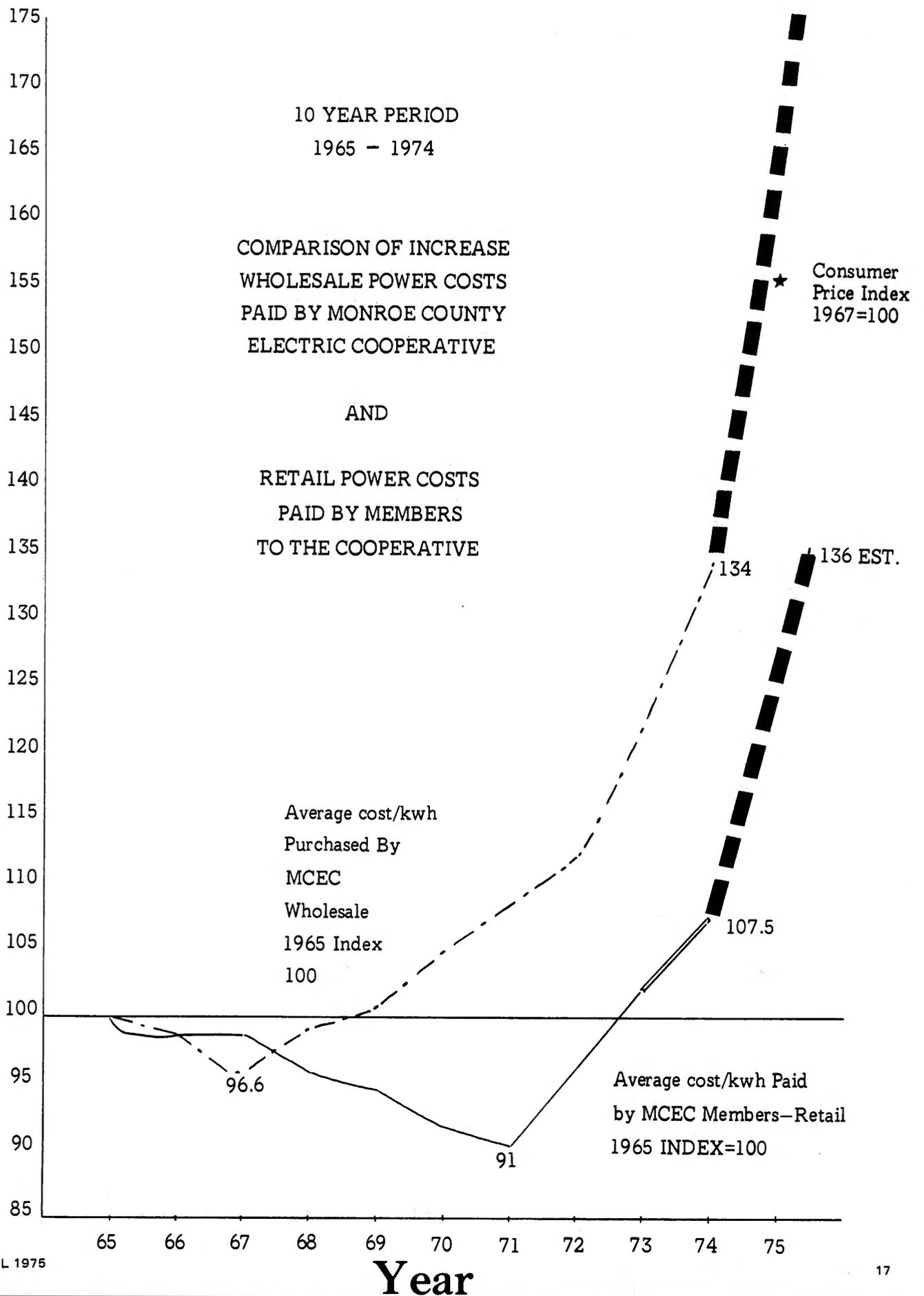
Your board of directors and management has spent much time in planning and forecasting the financial needs of the cooperative. With these forecasts in mind it was concluded to implement an approximate 15-percent increase in membership assessments effective June 15, 1975. I can assure you this was not an easy decision or a pleasant task. It was the feeling that we could not shirk this responsibility and a decision had to be made. Such decision was made with the best interest of the cooperative and its total membership in mind.

For the past 38 years your cooperative has been dedicated to providing its members with a dependable supply of electric power at a reasonable cost, consistent with sound business practices. We have not changed our objectives, philosophies or goals. We still pledge and dedicate our efforts to providing dependable service to our membership on a competitive basis. Even at today's prices, electricity is still the best bargain that your dollars can buy.



ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

Percent of 1965



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.

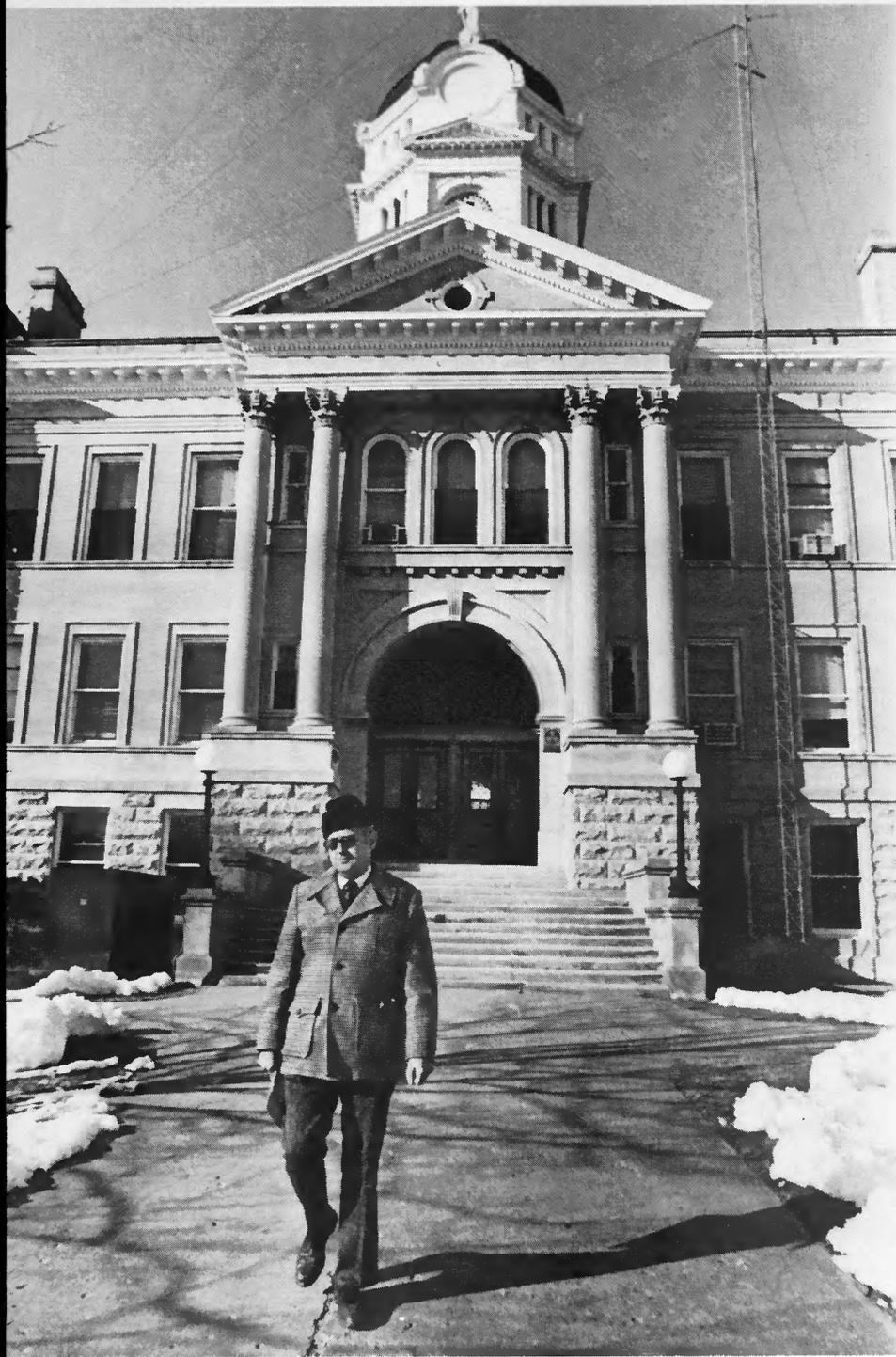
3. An annual meeting is held where members obtain information on the latest soil and water conservation practices and procedures.

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)



city. "Another of the election promises was, that should we feel anything was going to be controversial, there would be a hearing on it," Aeilts said. "By the attendance at the hearing on the airport, we were glad we had one. Besides giving the people a voice in their government, it also gave the council an indication of the feelings of the community. A majority felt we should look into the possibilities and come up with a proposal."

The mayor believes that although

Mayor

there are few major problems that the city faces, there are many immediate needs the council and mayor must try to meet.

"It seems like there is an almost constant need for improvements in streets and roads, as well as surface water drainage," Aeilts said. "These are the kinds of problems we are working to solve and hopefully anticipate in the future."

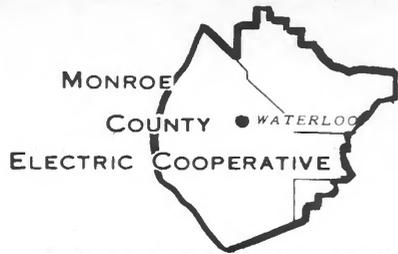
What he feels would be the major accomplishment of his administration and of immense benefit to Carthage is the placement of new money in the city by new industry.

"Carthage's economy is presently centered almost entirely around agriculture and agricultural products," Aeilts said. "In the past, either a low crop yield or a low crop price would adversely affect the city's sales and growth.

"By bringing in an industry—not just any industry, but one we feel will not pollute our air, water or soil—we will be able to stabilize the

(continued on page 21)





Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Rate Increase Explained at 37th Annual Meeting



Members of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative will be paying 15 percent more for their electric service effective June 15 to cover an 87 percent rise in fuel adjustment costs and other wage and materials cost increases experienced by the cooperative last year.

Manager LeRoy V. Hard reported the rate increase to approximately 750 members and guests of the Waterloo-based electric distribution cooperative at its annual meeting. In addition to the 15 percent increase in base rates for electricity, he said members will be paying a wholesale power cost adjustment of 2.8 mills more per kilowatt-hour than in the last rate schedule.

After absorbing cost increases throughout 1974, Monroe County Electric Co-Operative ended the year with net operating margins of only \$5,379. Margins in a consumer-owned cooperative are the money left over after paying all expenses and are used to repay the cooperative's indebtedness. They become the members' equity in the



cooperative.

"This electric cooperative is facing the same dilemma you and I, as consumers, are facing," Hard reported to cooperative members, "inflated general costs, spiraling fuel costs and rocketing wholesale power costs. All of these factors are reflected in the need for this cooperative to adjust its rates in order to maintain a sound financial structure and to continue providing dependable electric service."

In addition to the 87-percent increase in fuel adjustment costs paid by the cooperative in 1974 to its wholesale power supplier, Hard cited additional increases of about 16 percent in distribution costs and nearly 18 percent in wage costs as factors that lead to the sharp drop in operating margins.

"Because a cooperative does not operate for profit it is particularly vulnerable to inflationary pressures," cooperative President Robert Rippelmeyer explained to the members in his report. "In the good old days, we passed our cost savings on to our members through lower assessments when economics permitted. Now, however, we find that a rate increase is our last line of defense in the battle against higher fuel costs and inflation."

Besides inflation, Rippelmeyer said problems facing the cooperative in the future include planning for bulk power supply, financing and obtaining properly trained personnel to do the best job.

On the brighter side, Manager Hard reported the cooperative constructed 16 miles of distribution line during 1974 to serve 132 new connections as membership grew from 3,504 to 3,584. Kilowatt-hours of electricity consumed by members increased by 1,236,159 over the previous year to 34,924,329.

During the cooperative's annual business meeting members reelected Rippelmeyer of Valmeyer, Victor Schrader of Waterloo and Gilbert Fischer of Freeburg to three-year terms on the cooperative's nine-man board of directors.

Entertainment was provided by the Waterloo German Band.



OPPOSITE, BELOW: A portion of the more than 700 people attending Monroe County's 37th Annual meeting. OPPOSITE, ABOVE: President Robert Rippelmeyer of Valmeyer explained the rising costs that will necessitate a rate increase effective June 15, 1975. ABOVE: Director Victor Schrader of Waterloo attempts to blow an Alpine horn belonging to the Waterloo German Band which provided the entertainment at the meeting. RIGHT: Manager LeRoy V. Hard presented a 25-year service award to Calvin Vogt, journeyman lineman for the cooperative.



**LIFETIME
TANK COATINGS**

Stop all leaks in steel and concrete — Prevent rust forever. Raaf coatings for tar paper, composition and cedar shingles, and metal buildings. Anyone can apply all coatings.

Fix it once and forget it. This is our 25th year. Let us send you complete information.

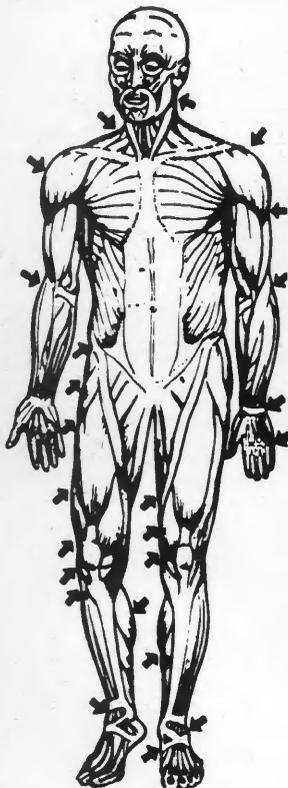
VIRDEN PERMA-BILT CO.
Box 7160 IN Ph. 806-352-2761
Amarillo, Texas 79109

**50 BRAND NEW
TOWELS \$1²⁵!**

Biggest Towel Bargain In U.S.

UNWOVEN COTTON AND RAYON—Assorted beautiful Pastel Colors. BRAND NEW—NOT Seconds—50 Towels for \$1.25. (a 10¢ for only \$2.37! Super Quality. Pls. include 25¢ extra for post. & hdiz. with EACH set of 50 Towels you buy. Make good money selling these Towels. We've sold 20,000,000 already and include sure-fire MONEY-MAKING Plans with your order. Money-Back Guarantee. No C.O.D.'s. Order NOW!
50 TOWEL CO. Dept TO-272, Box 662, St. Louis, Mo. 63101

Where Rheumatism Pain Strikes



Rheumatic and Arthritic Pain can strike the joints in any of the indicated areas. (see arrows on chart)



**Puts Pain To
SLEEP**

Now for the first time, overnight blessed temporary relief from the pain of arthritis, bursitis, rheumatism, soreness, stiffness. Just rub

Icy-Hot's creamy balm over the affected joints or muscles, and you can actually feel the pain start lessening. Begin to sleep peacefully again. If you don't have relief in 24 hours we'll refund your money. Not available in stores. Send \$3.00 for 3½ oz. jar or \$5.00 for 7 oz. jar.

SEND ME ICY-HOT QUICK!

**J. W. Gibson Co., Dept. IRE 5
2000 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46202**

Please rush ICY-HOT to me. I must be completely satisfied with the results or I will send you a note for a full refund. (I won't bother returning the unused portion.)

- I enclose \$3.00 for the 3½ oz. jar. Cash Check
 I enclose \$5.00 for the 7 oz. jar. Money Order

NAME _____

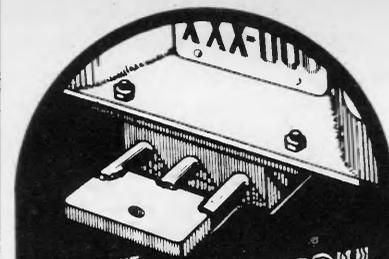
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

© J. W. GIBSON CO., 1974



**SMASH-HIT
SHOCK HITCH**
PROTECTS DRIVER AND PICKUP
FROM JOLTS AND JARS!

The SHOCK-HITCH, a triple spring-loaded shock absorbing trailer hitch, is a boon to anyone pulling a trailer... especially farmers and boat owners.

Among the benefits of owning a SHOCK-HITCH are: helps protect driver's back and neck from sharp jolts and snaps; prolongs life of both trailer and pickup; and, it prevents possible injury to livestock by absorbing jerks caused by starting and stopping.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

For information on SHOCK-HITCH write
THE PERRY COMPANY
BOX 7187 • WACO, TEXAS 76710 1 X 45

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

**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



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, Steelville; 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.



Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



LeRoy V. Hard
Manager

Much has been written about our increase in rates and the necessity for such increase. At the time you receive my monthly message the new rates will be in effect. If you have questions relative to the need for the increase in rates, please do not hesitate to contact the cooperative office. Great care has been taken in the establishment of the new rate schedule and we have qualified personnel available to answer your questions and supply information pertinent to the issue.

We wish we could tell you there will not be future rate increases next year or the year following. Unfortunately this is not the case owing to the financial and economic condition that prevails in our country. It is our philosophy, as stated at the annual meeting, not to increase rates to an extremely high level merely to protect our financial position. This is not the answer.

A rate increase should be implemented when needed and justified, not merely to build up margins for no particular reason. Consideration must be given to minimum levels to protect the viability of any organization.

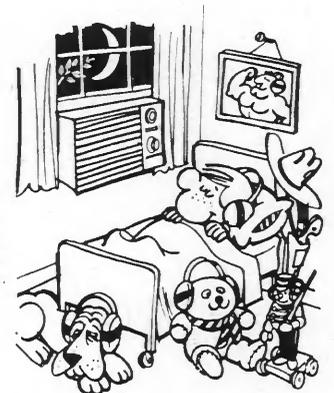
Starting sometime in mid to the latter part of June, the cooperative will be using Kearns Meter Testing Service. This summer approximately 1,000 meters will be checked and tested for accuracy. This service also includes cleaning and maintenance of the meters. This is a continuous program whereby all meters on the cooperative system will be checked and tested over a five year period. When all the meters on the system are tested the process will be repeated. This service is for your protection as well as for the cooperative.

Lowell Kearns, owner of the meter testing service, is the individual who will be performing this service on your premises. He will have REC emblems on the side of his vehicle and will have proper identification. If you are in doubt of any person or persons stating they are

representatives of the cooperative, ask them to show you their Employees Identification Card. If they or he cannot or will not produce proper identification, call the cooperative office or the police.

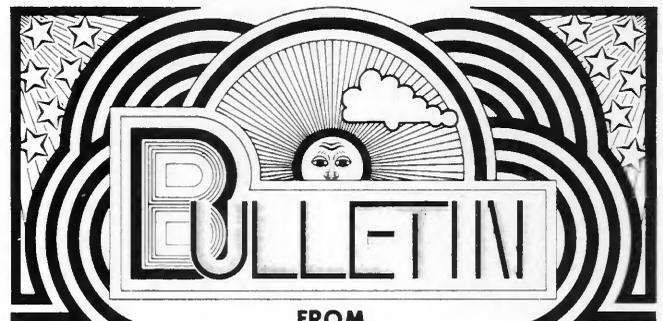
SLEEP BETTER TONIGHT

WITH AN
ELECTRIC ROOM
AIR
CONDITIONER



Stop tossing and turning these hot, muggy nights. And then dragging through the sweltering days. Install a room air conditioner and sleep in cool comfort all summer long.

Add one or two units each summer—in no time, you have whole house air conditioning!



FROM

Monroe County Electric Cooperative

52 GALLON

MODEL NUMBER
IQER 52D



WATER HEATER

UPRIGHT ROUND GLASS LINED
5 Year Outright Warranty

\$105.00

Available at Cooperative Headquarters and Participating Dealers

Bucket Truck Damaged in Accident

One of the cooperative's bucket trucks was recently involved in an accident resulting in considerable damage to the truck, with the frame being twisted. Due to the age of the truck and the extent of damage, the truck was a total loss. Fortunately none of the cooperative employees were injured, although the driver of the other vehicle had a broken wrist and was badly bruised.

As a result, a new bucket truck was purchased. Additional features of the new truck are a twin bucket, extended reach on the boom and hydraulic operated hand tools. The body is mounted on a two-ton F 700 Ford chassis built to specifications of the manufacturer of the specialized equipment listed above.



ABOVE: Both vehicles involved in the accident were extensively damaged. The accident happened in front of the cooperative as the linemen were returning at the end of the working day. BELOW: Cooperative linemen Steve Candler and Ross Mueller using the twin bucket on the new truck to trim trees.



Make Sure Your Mobile Home Is Grounded

The seriousness of a hot wire becoming grounded can be much greater in a mobile home than an ordinary home of wood construction.

Since the outer sheeting is usually metal, it can become energized with 120 volts; and a person on the outside would provide the perfect path to ground. This could be very serious in the case of a child who was barefooted.

A home that is grounded with a ground rod is not always safe during dry weather when the ground insulates the rod or if the ground wire becomes loose or is broken.

REA and the National Safety Code have recommendations on the proper grounding of mobile homes. The REA recommendations are as follows:

“All noncurrent-carrying metal parts of the mobile home and equipment frames within the home, both electrical and non-electrical, are to be grounded through the green colored conductor in the primary supply feeders to the service ground in the outside service equipment. In both the mobile home and the supply feeders the neutral conductor is to be insulated from the grunding conductor, equipment frames, mobile home chassis and all other grounded metal parts. Also, the separate supply cords are to have no electrical interconnections other than for grounding purposes.”

We recommend, in addition, that a separate ground wire be attached to the chassis and tied to Monroe County Electric Co-Operative's system ground.

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.

For more information regarding this Disability Income Protection Plan, just mail in the coupon below. Or contact your local Mutual of Omaha representative.



L. Earl Cutler
7600 West Main Street • P.O. Box 965
Belleville, Illinois 62223
Phone: (618) 398-1950

S. B. Stottrup
111 East Decatur • Decatur, Illinois 62525
Phone: (217) 429-5495

A. H. Harris
1119 South Sixth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62705
Phone: (217) 528-3434

W. C. Hayes
407 Rockford Trust Building • P.O. Box 419
Rockford, Illinois 61105

Jack B. Williams
Jack Williams Division: Office
285 South Plazaway
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
Phone: (314) 334-2841

R. L. Thomas
309-10 Bondi Building
Galesburg, Illinois 61401

Dept. 2R

UNDERWRITTEN BY
**Mutual
of Omaha** 

People you can count on

Life Insurance Affiliate: United of Omaha

MUTUAL OF OMAHA INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Disability Income Protection Plan
Mutual of Omaha • Dodge at 33rd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

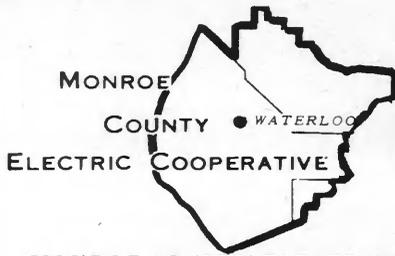
I would appreciate having a licensed representative explain a program of Disability Income Protection to me.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

FILL OUT AND MAIL TODAY. NO OBLIGATION!



Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



LeRoy V. Hard
Manager

There has been alarm among some of the cooperative's members concerning future electric service. Apparently the concern is being motivated by the sudden awakening of federal officials and the news media that we have an energy crisis, a fact well known to rural electrification leaders for some time. In the early '70's we in the rural electrification were pointing to signs indicating our nation was plunging headlong into an energy crisis.

While we don't minimize the seriousness of the situation, we don't foresee a serious power shortage for cooperative members, not at this time nor in the near future. We are presently far more concerned about cost of fuel and power than about a shortage of it. We are, however, very much concerned about the energy situation and the future role of domestic fuels in the generation of electricity.

Today's growing energy shortage constitutes one of the worst peacetime crisis in our nation's history. Unless action is taken to end our dependence on foreign petroleum—a dependence that is draining our nation's wealth—we face disaster in the years ahead.

It has been said we do not lack for energy resources in our country, but we do lack a comprehensive program and an organization with the determination and authority to carry it out.

It is our opinion our nation must act now to establish a single, powerful federal body that would supersede and absorb the function of the various agencies that now administer energy production. It should have the authority to tell the energy industries what is expected of them. It would help raise capital needed to expand production of all forms of fuel, cut through red tape required to obtain licenses and permits for new facilities, administer intensive research and engineering programs to develop new forms of energy and fully develop the reserves we now have.

A priority for this federal agency would be to devise an accelerated production program that will ensure our nation's self-sufficiency in energy production by the mid 1980's.

The U.S. Geological Survey indicates at present rates of consumption we have a 12-15 year supply of indicated oil

reserves plus a 30-60 year potential supply in untapped reservoirs. The survey estimates a 16-22 year supply in measured natural gas and 40-80 years of undeveloped potential. We have sufficient coal reserves to last for at least 800 years.

Our nation has the technical capacity to build any number of nuclear power plants. To meet our goal of self-sufficiency in energy production, our nation will need 200 more nuclear power plants than the 54 now in production.

You may ask with the indicated reserves of fuels and the technical know-how in nuclear power production, what's the problem? Why the concern? There are obstacles to overcome in the development of and the research for the various energy forms. We must take the "hands off" signs down at once for exploration of the thousands of square miles of land containing oil and gas. We must loosen the restrictions of the Clean Air Act. Unless the restrictions of the Environmental Protection Agency are modified, we will be burning even less coal than we do now.

The construction of nuclear power plants has been detained by scare headlines and the hostility of opponents who have paralyzed such plant development under an avalanche of legislation and court injunctions. The proposed agency must be given the authority to thwart such objection.

The cost of realizing energy self-sufficiency is going to be enormous. It will impose hardships on all of us. It will strain industries, resources, raise taxes, affect the environment, cause inconvenience and add expense to consumers. But at least the money will be circulated at home among Americans, not the sheiks of the oil rich nations.

But these are small prices to pay to keep America strong, free and independent. The one thing we cannot afford is delay. We are running out of time.



New identification signs were recently placed at all substations, with the exception of the Fults substation. The RE stands for Rural Electrification. We will be using common identification in the future.

Tornado Rips Cooperative Area

The tornado and high winds that passed through the area northeast of Red Bud Friday evening, April 18, caused considerable damage to Monroe County Electric Cooperative's distribution system, according to Manager LeRoy V. Hard. Approximately 300 cooperative members were without electric service at one time or another from 6:30 p.m. Friday evening to 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

One section of line was extensively damaged with poles broken off just above the ground, crossarms and other hardware torn from the poles and high tension wires were scattered and twisted on the ground.

"One hundred and sixteen man-hours of work were involved to restore service to all members on a temporary

basis by 8:30 a.m. Saturday," Hard said. "It took several days of cleanup and rebuilding to restore the distribution lines to their original condition."

"We sincerely hope no members were inconvenienced to a great extent. The cooperative in recent years has spent many hours of planning, resources and construction to loop its distribution system to avoid extended outage time. We pledge ourselves to keep outage time caused by unfortunate catastrophes such as happened Friday evening to a minimum. We appreciate the understanding and cooperation given by all concerned. We give special thanks to the cooperative linemen who worked throughout the night to restore electric service."



The roof on the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Schrader, r.r. 2, Red Bud, was completely blown off the house. It was found broken and twisted about 100 yards from their home.



A barn and other farm buildings at the Walter Gregson farm were completely destroyed by the tornado. Note the electrical wires hanging from the utility pole.



A self-propelled combine and other farm machinery was turned over and strewn around the farmstead.



The force of the tornado broke poles off in mid air.

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 statewide 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."

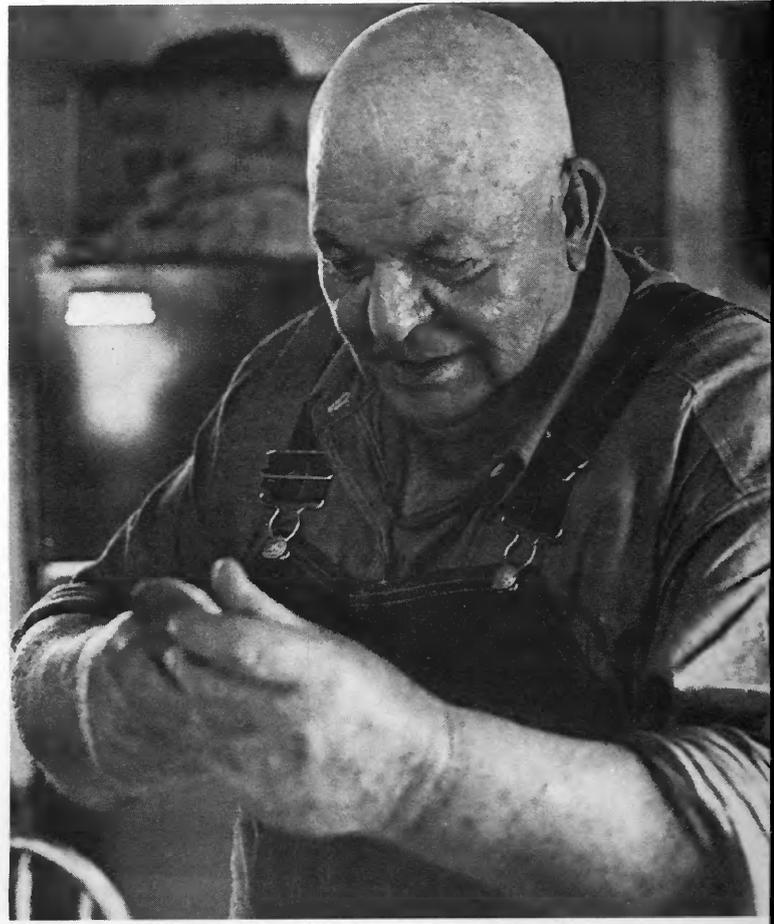
Downs has even read books on archaeology written in Russian, although he admits "I had to look at the pictures to try to match them with the words.

"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.





Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



LeRoy V. Hard
Manager

By the time you read this message, the electric rate increase will have been in effect for one billing period and the second will be due soon. As we stated before, the board of directors and management of the cooperative spent much time studying the need for the rate increase.

For the past several months we have been passing on information in this column, in our Coop Echoes Newsletter, in our annual meeting notice and through news media concerning the need for the rate increase.

I don't intend to dwell on this but we want you to know the management and staff at the cooperative are ready and willing to discuss any questions you may have

concerning the new rate structure. Feel free to visit the cooperative office or call us at 939-7171.

We are in the process of scheduling area meetings where we can come out and discuss the rate increase and any other points of interest concerning the cooperative with you personally. A slide presentation has been prepared for these meetings. We invite all of you to attend. You will soon receive a letter advising the date, time and place of the meeting in your area.

Recognizing that rates have increased substantially, although we have not publicized it to any degree, the cooperative is paying an equal amount each month, based on your previous 12-month consumption. In July of each year an accounting is made and you are billed or given credit for the difference—whichever applies.

If you have high seasonal usage and there is a wide fluctuation in your monthly electric bills it may be advantageous to you to look into budget billing. This way you can avoid the harsh payments at time of peak usage. However, if your monthly payments are uniform throughout the year, it would be of no benefit for you to consider budget billing. If you are interested, contact the cooperative office.

Planning Prevents Accidents

Accident rates in most industries are lower than agriculture's. Reasons include management planning to prevent accidents, making work places as safe as possible, providing workers with personal protective equipment when needed, proper training and supervision of the work force and setting up and enforcing safety rules.

Plan to prevent accidents on your farm or ranch to spare you the pain, grief, time and money losses accidents can inflict on you and your farming success.

Here are some guidelines:

- Make accident prevention a management goal.
- Be informed about safety. Read safety articles in farm magazine and newspapers. Study all instruction manuals, noting safety and maintenance information. Obtain available safety publications from dealers, insurance companies, extension, safety councils, etc.
- Develop and write out a safety plan which suits your particular operation, then put it to work full time.
- Routinely inspect all equipment and buildings, then correct faults or hazards.
- Learn how to safely cope with hazards which cannot be changed (bad weather, ice, steep hills, ditches, etc.) and how to safely handle materials and work operations which

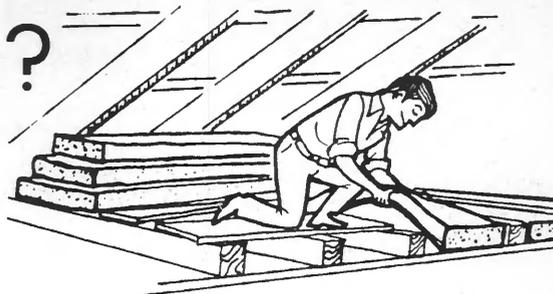


are hazardous by nature.

- Train others to work safely.
- Observe work practices in your operation, then correct those which are unsafe.
- List safety rules and require those working with or for you to comply.
- Routinely use personal protective equipment when needed. Also safeguard yourself and others with protective cabs or frames on tractors, fire extinguishers and alarm systems, well-supplied first aid kits, etc.
- Be prepared for medical emergencies and natural disasters.
- Keep up with federal, state and local safety and health regulations.

Conserving Energy?

*Home Heating, Cooling and Water Heating
Takes 75% of Energy Expenses!*



Most members of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative have read energy conservation articles and have heard energy conservation speeches in the past year or two. Like millions of other Americans you have endeavored to conserve energy in one form or another. By obeying the 55 mile-per-hour speed limit you save on gasoline consumption. You have probably set your thermostat back a degree or two in your efforts to conserve.

However, it is one thing to say, "I'll be more energy conservation minded," and it's another thing to know where your individual action will produce the biggest payoff. We agree it is important to conserve all forms of energy, but being an electric utility we are more interested in electricity.

Actually, home heating, cooling and water heating account for approximately three-fourths of the electric usage of the average household. Thus, these are the areas where wise and efficient utilization of energy is necessary. Electricity plays a big part in home heating regardless of the fuel you use. It takes electricity to run the blowers, fans and pumps which are common in most heating systems.

Insulation is the best energy saver. Check your home insulation by placing one thermometer on the exterior wall of a room and another in the room's center. If there is more than four or five degrees difference, your insulation can be improved.

Select insulation by "R" value, not by thickness. "R" stands for resistance to heat flow. The higher the "R" value the better the insulation. For adequate insulation we recommend a minimum of R-22 in ceilings, R-13 in walls and R-11 in floors.

The greatest heat loss and heat gain occurs through glass. Double glazed or storm windows will keep cold air out and heating costs down. Weather stripping around doors and windows, keeping outside air from entering the home, is important.

Make use of your draperies and shades. Let the sun in during winter months when heat is necessary and keep the sun out in summer months, while cooling your home.

Do not block registers with furniture or draperies. Be sure vents are clean and free of obstructions.

Close off unused rooms, set your thermostat at the temperature you are most comfortable and leave it there, unless you leave home for a few days. In such a case, turn your thermostat down, but never off.

Proper humidity is important to comfort and heating costs. If a home is too dry it takes more heat to maintain the same comfort; conversely during the summer months

humidity must be controlled to obtain cooling comfort.

Water heating is an area where prudent use can be a savings in energy consumption as well as in your utility bill. Place the water heater as near the place of use as possible. If you have a dishwasher, wash dishes once a day. Don't run hot water to rinse hand washed dishes. Wash full loads of clothes. A shower takes less water than a bath. Repair all dripping faucets.

These are just a few tips in practicing energy conservation. Enjoy electricity throughout your home. But use it sensibly. You'll get best results and save yourself money, too.

The member service department of the cooperative will be happy to cooperate with you in the wise and efficient use of energy. Call the cooperative office and ask for Willard Wiggers, phone 939-7171.

FROM
Monroe County
Electric Co-Operative

52 GALLON

Model Number **IMPERIAL** UL Approved
IQR 52D **GLASS-LINED**

WATER HEATER
Upright Round Glass Lined
5 Year Outright Warranty

\$105.00
Cash and Carry

Available at Cooperative Headquarters and Participating Dealers

Smithton Lumber Company, Smithton, Illinois
Eichenseer Plumbing, Hecker, Illinois
Leonard Mohr, Inc., Red Bud, Illinois
Valmeyer Lumber Company, Valmeyer, Illinois
Kommunity Lumber Company, Millstadt, Illinois

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.

ROACHES?

**WIPE OUT
THE NEST**

**Guaranteed
Chain reaction
of death to all!**



PROKEM has the formula to rid homes of roaches and waterbugs — up to 5 years. Simply place PROKEM where roaches and waterbugs will readily eat it, then return to their nests to die. A chain reaction starts and all roaches, waterbugs and their eggs are overcome. Death eliminates them as health hazards and pests.

ODORLESS—SAFE TO USE

PROKEM — a pure white powder, odorless and harmless to humans and pets but sure death to roaches and waterbugs. Buy from the manufacturer and save.

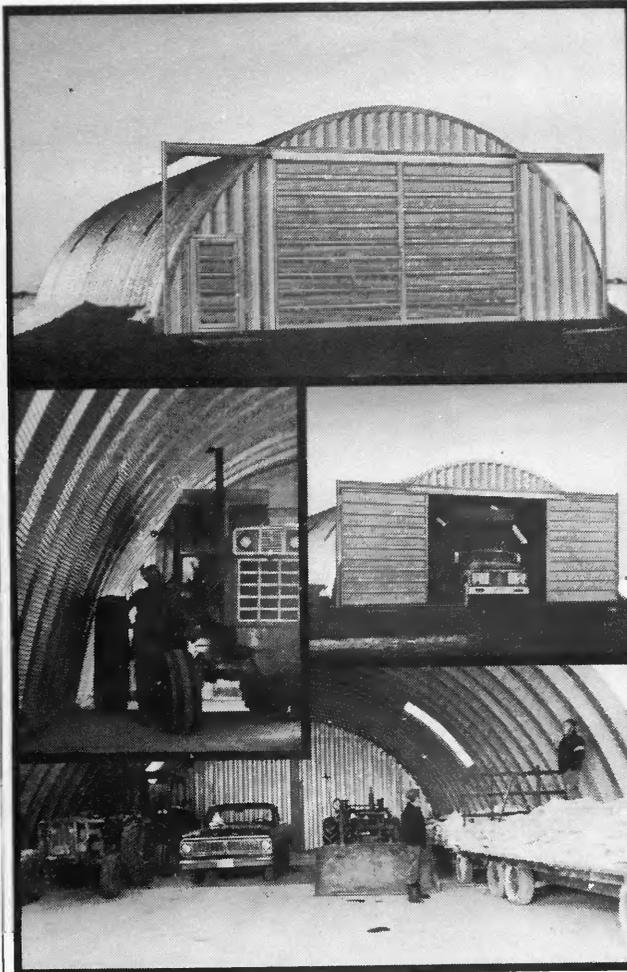
Rid Roaches From an 8 Room House for Only \$3.95 — 2 for \$6.90 ppd.

Satisfaction Guaranteed. Send Check or M.O.

TEXMO

Suite 1604U
664 Surf Dr.

Lewisville, Texas 75067



It all adds up...

STRENGTH

Rugged galvanized steel panels with deep 7/8" corrugations provide tremendous structural strength eliminating the need for poles, beams or trusses. Equipment can be stored next to the wall with head room to spare—100% usable space.

ACCESS

Large doors up to 24' wide x 14' high have ball bearing rollers for ease of operation allowing easy access for even the largest combines (doors can be supplied for both ends). Standard size all steel man doors are also available.

VERSATILITY

IDEAL FOR: Machine Sheds, Grain Storage Units, Livestock Shelters, Workshop, Corn Storage, Hog Barns, Livestock Confinements or Dairy Barns

IT ALL ADDS UP TO...

A dependable all steel building for your investment. We can manufacture any dimension to suit your needs now or in the future.

CALL COLLECT OR MAIL COUPON TODAY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL. _____

CITY/TOWN _____

STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

DATE PLANNING TO BUILD _____

SIZE OF BUILDING—WIDTH _____

X LENGTH _____

MIRACLE SPAN STEEL BUILDINGS

Box REN-8-75

1821 North Office Square, Schaumburg, Illinois 60172

Call Collect (312) 397-0700





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

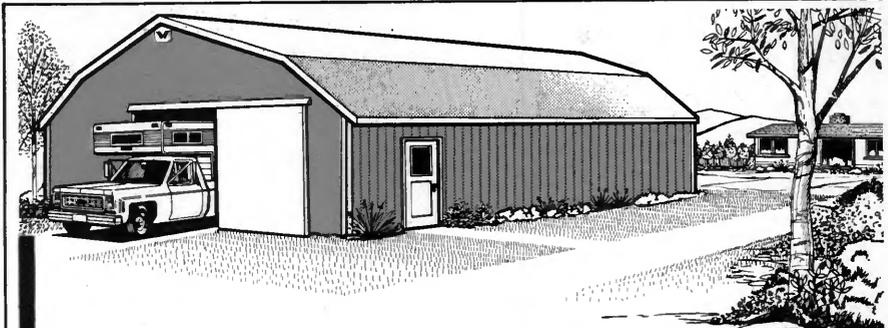
year got us off to a good start," said Guild President Mrs. R. L. Holder, "but this year more people know we are here and the crowds have been excellent."

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.



'Sitting Pretty'

TOWN & COUNTRY—The New Wickes Utility Building with Gambrel Roof Design

You'll be sitting pretty in more ways than one with a new Wickes *Town & Country* on your property.

One of the most attractive utility buildings we've ever offered, the *Town & Country* has a traditional early American charm that fits right into any setting—home, farm or ranch.

More than just another pretty face, our *Town & Country* is also a practical, efficient building, with plenty of storage space for vehicles, recreational equipment, implements—or workshop if you want one. A spacious 30' x 40' clear span structure with maintenance-free exteriors of color aluminum or color steel.

Call today, and we'll have a beautiful, new Wickes *Town & Country* sitting pretty on your land tomorrow.

W Wickes Buildings

A Division of The Wickes Corporation



Shelters, garages, workshops, utility buildings

Call collect or mail coupon today

Name _____

Address _____

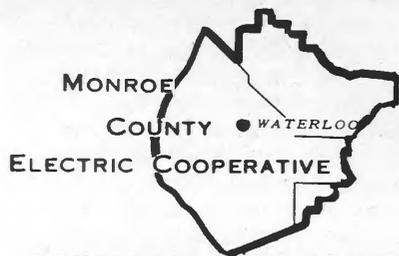
Town _____ County _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

IR 9

ILLINOIS

Box 548, Galesburg (309) 342-3416
 Box 9, Mendota (815) 539-9325
 Box 158, Opdyke (618) 756-2347
 Box 117, Taylorville (217) 824-4441



Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



LeRoy V. Hard
Manager

With electric rates of all utilities—public and cooperative as well as private power companies—rising consumers may ask or wonder: What's the difference between investor-owned and consumer-owned electric service?

Basically, of course, investor-owned utilities, as private power companies choose to call themselves and critics have abbreviated to "IOU's," exist to earn profit for their stockholder owners. Consumer-owned electric systems and electric cooperatives exist solely to serve their consumers or members.

For those of you who do not remember the "dark ages," the days before electricity was available in the rural areas, you probably don't remember reading by a coal oil lamp, pumping water by hand, being without refrigeration. Let us briefly outline the advent of rural electrification.

The Rural Electrification Administration was created by Executive Order of the President on May 11, 1935. The order number 7037, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt granted powers to an administrator to initiate, formulate, administer and supervise a program of approved projects with respect to the generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy in rural area.

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 was signed May 20, 1936, established "REA" as a lending agency and authorized appropriations available for loan.

In pursuing the development of rural electrification, rural leaders met with representatives of large power companies. You would think they would have been the ones that would carry forward the work of building rural lines. These rural leaders' confidence was shaken when a committee of the power companies reported, quote "there are few farms requiring electricity for major farm purposes that are not now served" end of quote.

At that time 89 percent of farms in the U.S. lacked electricity. This made it clear that commercial electric companies were not going to apply for REA loans, and some other form of organization would have to fill the vacuum.

16

This paved the way for the formation of rural electric cooperatives. The idea that electric power could be delivered throughout areas where farms and residences averaged only three per mile was thought impractical by many. The IOU's scoffed at rural leaders for attempting the job. But these rural leaders, undaunted, forged ahead organizing cooperatives and getting members signed up.

The fruits of their efforts were rewarding. The first pole of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative was set on March 26, 1938 and the first line was energized October 20, 1938.

Rural electrification is not complete. It must keep on making its substantial contribution to the economic and social progress of our nation. We must meet the challenges that confront us today just as those 35 years before us. The electric energy industry is facing trying times. The industry must learn to work together and cooperate in the formation and research for new energy forms and for a national grid to "transport" electricity from spots of abundance to places where it is needed.

Please Note:

There was an error in the next to last paragraph of the August Across The Manager's Desk, due to a line of copy being left out. The paragraph should have read:

Recognizing that rates have increased substantially, although we have not publicized it to any degree, the cooperative has a budget billing program. Budget billing is paying an equal amount each month, based on your previous 12-month consumption. In July of each year an accounting is made and you are billed or given credit for the difference—whichever applies.

If you have high seasonal usage and there is a wide fluctuation in your monthly electric bills it may be advantageous to you to look into budget billing. This way you can avoid the harsh payments at time of peak usage. However, if your monthly payments are uniform throughout the year, it would be of no benefit for you to consider budget billing. If you are interested, contact the cooperative office.

THINGS certainly do change. When I was a kid we ate indoors and the bathroom was way out back. Nowadays, we eat out back and the plumbing is in the house.

NO MAN gives his wife as big an allowance as she makes for him.

WHAT the heart has once owned and had, it shall never lose.

—H. W. Beecher

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS



Black Light Controls Insects

Black light is becoming more widely used in insect control. Since the eyes of many night-flying insects are particularly sensitive to near ultraviolet and blue light, black light lamps are used in many types of insect traps.

Some of these black light traps use a combination of one or more types of fluorescent tubes to attract the insects to electric grids to kill them or containers or nets to trap them for identification and counting.

Black light insect control can be used for various applications. They are used in animal confinement areas and in control and identification to aid in crop dusting and spraying. Homeowners use black light traps to make outdoor living more enjoyable after dark. Owners of recreation facilities such as amusement parks, miniature golf courses, motels, marinas and refreshment stands use black light to lure insects away from their customers.

One such application is being utilized on the Floyd Niebruegge Farm, r. r. 2, Valmeyer. Mr.

Niebruegge, his wife, Ida and son Ricky operate a 450 acre grain and hog operation near Harrisonville in Mitchie township.

The Niebruegges have recently reentered the hog business, feeding out approximately 1500 feeder pigs annually. They purchase their feeder pigs from Bollinger County Livestock Producers Association, Marble Hill, Missouri. An auction is held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Floyd and Ricky go at least once a month to purchase feeder pigs at the auction.

Their 128 x 32 feeder building is designed to handle 120 hogs per month. They feed out the pigs in three to three and one-half months. The

hogs are sold at the National Stock Yards in East St. Louis. Mr. Niebruegge said the prices are holding well and they feel they got into the market at the right time.

Getting back to controlling insects, the Niebruegges are using two Gardner

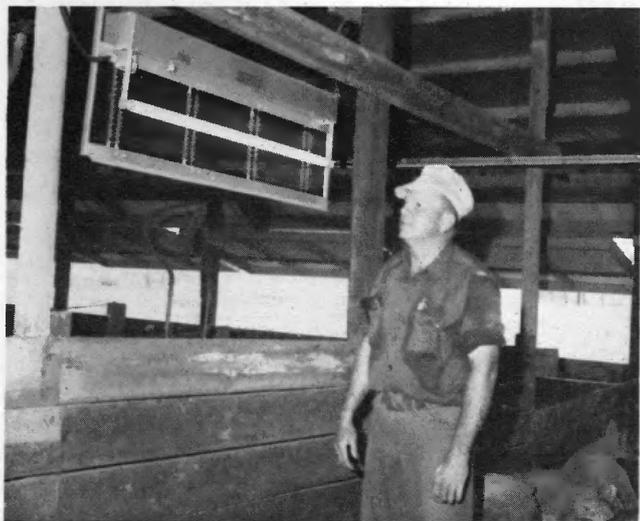
Insect Electrocuting Systems in their operation. These units, model AG600 use one 40-watt black light. Flying insects are lured to the unit through the attraction of black light. When contact is made, night and day flying insects such as flies, wasps, mosquitos, gnats and moths are instantly electrocuted by the electrically charged grids.

The units seem to be working fine, although they feel that one more unit could be utilized in the building of the size they have.

The Niebruegges attend church in Valmeyer. Mr. Niebruegge is a member of the Monroe County Farm Bureau, a 4-H Club Leader, and past president of the Monroe County Fair Association.

The family raises Morgan horses as a hobby and at one time traveled the show circuit. They presently have approximately 14 horses on their farm.

If you have any questions concerning the use of black light for insect control, please contact the cooperative office. We have information available.



Floyd Niebruegge inspecting the Gardener Black Light insect control unit in his feeder operation near Valmeyer.



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.

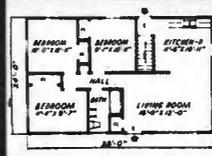
Never have so few given so much to so many. And never will the challenges be so great as in the future.

Over Quarter Century of Building
for the American Family



QUALITY HOMES AT LOWEST PRICES

ON YOUR FOUNDATION / INCLUDING PLUMBING, WIRING & BIRCH CABINETS



Every Nordaas Home includes full-weight conventional construction, NOT PRE-FAB or PRE-CUT! Your new home completely framed, roof shingled, fully enclosed, 70% of the carpenter work is done for you, or we will finish carpentry for a little extra. All finishing materials furnished — blanket insulation, hardwood cabinets all ready-made, inside doors ready-hung with trim installed. Western dry dimension lumber. All materials direct from mill and factory to you saves hundreds of dollars! FREE planning service — build to your own plans or choose from over 1000 floor plans.

FREE PLAN SERVICE • FREE DELIVERY 1500 MILES

One of America's Largest Builders of Homes
Write for Free Floor Plan at No Obligation

NORDAAS AMERICAN HOMES

Dept. 236-F, Minnesota Lake, Minnesota 56068
PHONE: (507) 462-3331

5% OPEN HOUSE DISCOUNT

Over 1001
Floor Plans
To Choose From



Available throughout the entire Midwest
in America's Great Farming States
Save this Ad for Future Discount



**A
Halloween
Treat
for only 25¢
\$1.25 value**

GLITTERS BY DAY . . . GLOWS AT NIGHT

Put some fun in your window . . . brighten a door or a wall. This translucent Jack-O-Lantern will welcome little "Trick or Treaters" with a smile. Made of thousands of glowing plastic beads, it's a delightfully different decoration that captures the happy Halloween spirit.

EASY WAY TO RAISE MONEY

When you receive this unusual decoration, you'll see immediately how you or your club or organization can earn needed money fast selling Halloween Plaques and many other products just as unique and just as much fun.

MIDWEST

CARD COMPANY

Dept. 208-H

1113 Washington Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63101

I enclose 25¢ for my colorful Jack-O-Lantern and information on other easy ways to earn money from Midwest at absolutely No Obligation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Also send Fund Raising Plan for Organizations

Name of Organization _____

Now Available To You: The Professional Exterminator's Secret Weapon!

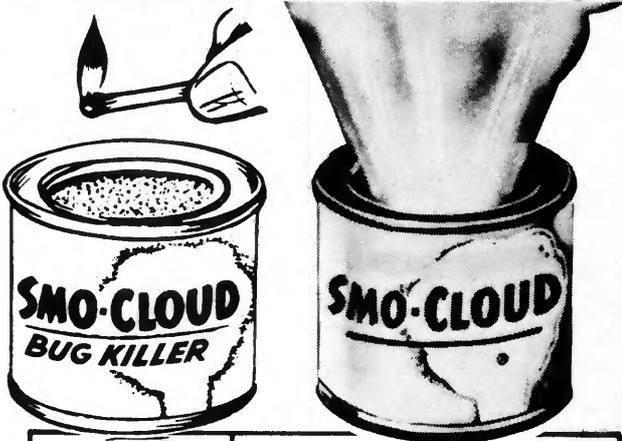
AMAZING SMO-CLOUD SEEKS OUT AND DESTROYS ROACHES & OTHER BUGS!

PENETRATES DEEP INTO CRACKS & HARD-TO-REACH HIDING PLACES!

**THE FIRST
PESTICIDE REGISTERED
WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY!**

**GUARANTEED TO WORK
OR YOU PAY NOTHING!**

Used as directed, SMO-CLOUD *must* clear 6,000 cu. ft. of crawling bugs, and 15,000 cu. ft. of flying insects — or we'll refund your money!



Never again be plagued by roaches or other dirt-carrying bugs. Don't just try to stamp them out the old-fashioned hit-or-miss way — with your feet or ineffective sprays. Use SMO-CLOUD — the extra powerful penetrating fog that kills bugs which sprays and liquids can't reach. It's made and used by professional exterminators to destroy roaches, waterbugs, spiders, ants, wasps, flies, mosquitoes and many other crawling and flying bugs.

HOW IT WORKS

SMO-CLOUD is so easy to use. Just light contents of can. (Don't worry about fire — there's no flame.) Immediately a clean, white "fog" rises into the air and penetrates deep into cracks and crevices, attacking and killing roaches and other bugs where they're hiding in nests in the hard-to-reach places of your home.

SMO-CLOUD — the first pesticide registered with the Environmental Protection Agency — is so powerful, you can do three connecting rooms with just one can! Effective for 15,000 cubic feet against flying insects; 6,000 cubic feet for crawling bugs!

So don't waste your hard-earned money on sprays that don't work. No need to hire a professional exterminator either. Do it yourself and get professional results — at a fraction of the price!

Order SMO-CLOUD today! And enjoy the wonderful feeling of not being "bugged" every time you walk into your home!

SMO-CLOUD Bug Killer.....Only \$2.99

Use Smo-Cloud in Houses, Apartments, Basements, Restaurants, Factories.

90-DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE
TRY SMO-CLOUD 90 DAYS
IF NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED—RETURN FOR PROMPT REFUND

JAY NORRIS Corp., 25 W. Merrick Rd., Dept. CBB-10, Freeport, N.Y. 11521

Please rush me _____ Can(s) of Smo-Cloud Bug Killer @ \$2.99 plus 75¢ shipping and handling.

- SAVE!** Order TWO CANS for only \$5.50 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling.
- SAVE MORE!** Order FOUR cans for only \$9.99 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling.
- SAVE EVEN MORE!** Order SIX cans for only \$13.99 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling.

Enclosed is check or money order for \$_____.

Sorry, no C.O.D.'s—(N.Y. residents add sales tax.) **PLEASE PRINT:**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

© Jay Norris Corp., 1975



Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



LeRoy V. Hard
Manager

October is Cooperative Month

In Illinois and across the nation, October has been designated as Cooperative Month. This year's theme, "Cooperatives—Pioneers in Serving America" is especially meaningful to rural electric cooperatives as the nation approaches its 200th birthday.

The rural electrification program has just celebrated its 40th birthday this year, and we feel the Co-op Month theme pays special tribute not only to the founders of the program and other cooperative organizations, but also to the millions of people who are today's consumer-owners.

When the rural electrification program was first started, in 1935, only about 10 percent of the nation's rural areas had electricity. Now the countryside is nearly 100 percent electrified. Today there are also nearly 1,000 rural electric cooperatives which serve about 25 million people in 46 states.

Providing electricity the cooperative way proves that people working together can get a job accomplished more efficiently than by individuals working alone. The role of electric cooperatives today and in the future will be to continue to provide an adequate supply of electricity in spite of the many problems related to the energy field such as rising costs, fuel shortages and environmental concern.

The rural electric cooperatives and the consumer members are a vital part of rural America and the community. What we do and say has a direct effect on the community and what benefits our community contributes to our country.

Monroe County Electric Cooperative was organized on June 2, 1938, for the purpose of providing electricity to those in the rural areas of Monroe, Randolph and St. Clair counties. The first 175 miles of line were energized on October 20, 1938, to serve 383 members. As a comparison today, the cooperative has over 863 miles of transmission

and distribution lines serving approximately 3,500 members.

The cooperative has 16 full-time and four part-time employees with an annual payroll of nearly \$218,000.00. For the year 1974 \$69,306.00 in federal, state and local taxes were paid.

Monroe County Electric Cooperative's personnel are active in civic and community affairs, working with community leaders to broaden the base for opportunity for both young and old.

This is the 12th year Co-op Month has been observed on a nationwide basis by the more than 40,000 cooperatives of many kinds meeting the varied needs of rural families across the nation.

Our cooperative is proud to be a part of this annual celebration. Our founders were truly pioneers in serving America and today's consumer members are modern-day pioneers seeking new and better ways to serve our community and nation.



cooperatives--
pioneers in
serving america

Worried about Your Electric Rates?

Then perhaps you can take some measure of comfort from a recent Associated Press report. It shows the nation's 50 largest utilities in America boosted their rates by an average of 55 percent during the first six months of 1974.

Florida Power Company had the highest increase—up almost 90 percent. Consolidated Edison of New York had the highest average selling price of 5.8 cents per kilowatt-hour to their residential, commercial and industrial users.

While no one likes increasing rates, it's good to know your cooperative is holding them to the lowest possible level.

helicopter spraying service

For the third consecutive year the cooperative has utilized the services of Rowco, Inc., Industrial Herbicide Applicator of San Antonio, Texas, to aid in right-of-way maintenance of our transmission and distribution lines.

This annual spraying program was initiated to maintain the necessary right-of-way maintenance over a three year period. We spray approximately one-third of the foliated right-of-way each year. (Foliated right-of-way is that which has brush, trees and undergrowth along the cooperative's transmission and distribution lines.)

A Bell 47-G5 Helicopter equipped with a Rowchem spray system specially designed for right-of-way spraying is used. The boom varies from eight feet to 16 feet, depending on right-of-way conditions. The product used, a selective broadleaf herbicide mixed with a drift control agent, meets the Environmental Protection Agency and State specifications for herbicide application. The drift control agent is mixed with the herbicide to make it heavy so that it will drop straight down as it is being applied.

The pilot and crew chief, Lou McCasland, Jr., from Perry, Georgia, is licensed by the state and is also approved by the state EPA. The back-up crew consists of Chuck Jehlen, chief mechanic and ground crew chief, and Douglas Hallmark, chemical formation engineer, both of San Antonio, Texas. Both have several years of experience and are well qualified in their field. Support vehicles include a service truck, tank truck and a lift gate chemical supply truck.

This year approximately 260 acres of right-of-way were sprayed. The large number of acres of soybeans planted by the farmers this year proved to be a disadvantage. Right-of-way maintenance could not be performed where soybeans were adjacent to cooperative lines.

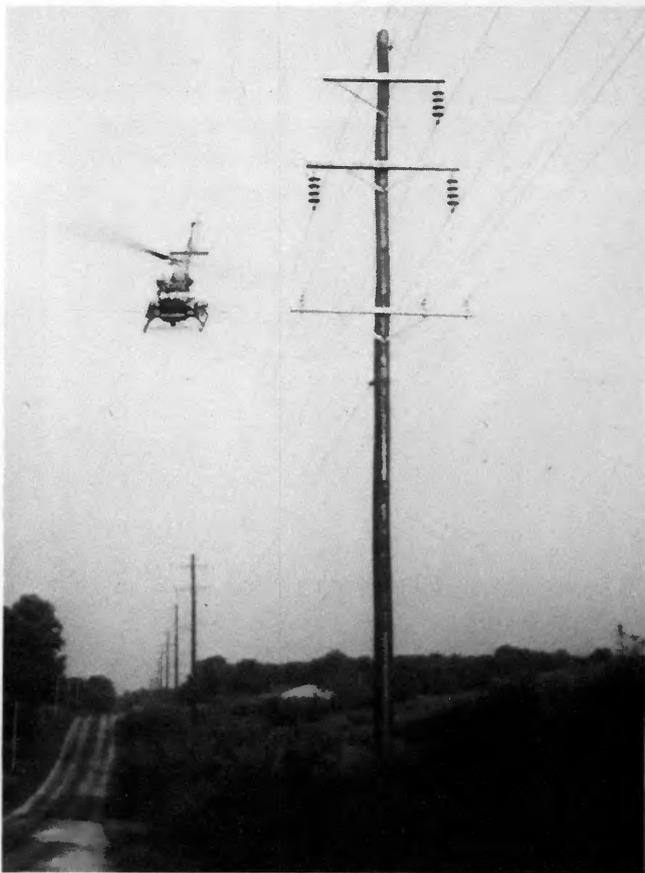
Advantages to the cooperative of using the helicopter spraying service include: The inverted water emulsion system causes the herbicide to drop straight down thus you have no over shooting as with hand spraying from the ground. There is no tree overhang, eliminating trimming. This increases accessibility to right-of-way for maintenance and is less costly than hand spraying.

The cooperative's policies and goals are to continue to provide reliable, dependable service to its membership. By implementing new, less expensive and faster methods of operation, such as the spraying service, we can maintain the service you are accustomed to.

The board of directors and management express our appreciation for the cooperation we have received from the membership concerning the right-of-way maintenance program.



ABOVE: Monroe Electric Cooperative Lineman Eddie Esker discussing spraying operation with helicopter pilot Lou McCasland, Jr. as ground crew reloads herbicide. BELOW: Pilot Lou McCasland, Jr. is making an actual spraying run. In this picture it was hoped you would be able to see the spray pattern as it fell to right-of-way.





TOP: An FEC publication "Food and Energy," depicts the sun working its miracle. LOWER LEFT: Administrator David A. Hamil, of REA (left), lunches with Dean L. Searls, manager of Adams Electrical Co-Operative. LOWER RIGHT: Hamil and Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, right center, listen during the symposium.

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.

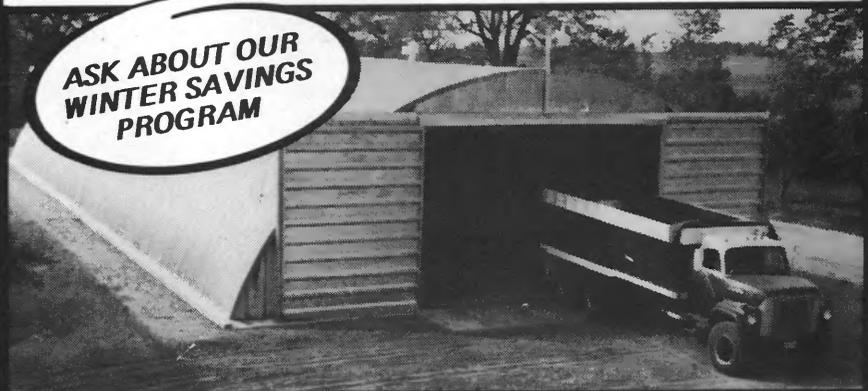
And maybe someday, someone will be restoring one of his classics.

NOVEMBER, 1975

FACTORY DIRECT SAVINGS

SAVE NOW

WHILE STEEL INVENTORY IS BEING REDUCED



ASK ABOUT OUR WINTER SAVINGS PROGRAM

THE ALL STEEL STRAIGHT MASTER

40'x82' FOR ONLY **\$5,995.**
F.O.B. FACTORY

EQUIPPED WITH:
EXTRA LARGE 20' WIDE X 14' HIGH DOUBLE SLIDING DOOR AND HEAVY DUTY ENDWALLS SYSTEM



IMMEDIATE DELIVERY AVAILABLE

55'x100'
NOW ONLY
\$9,900.

EQUIPPED WITH:
LARGE 24' WIDE X 16' HIGH SLIDING DOOR AND HEAVY DUTY ENDWALLS SYSTEM
A GREAT BUY

40'x50'
NOW ONLY
\$3,980.

EQUIPPED WITH:
LARGE 20' WIDE X 14' HIGH SLIDING DOOR AND HEAVY DUTY ENDWALLS SYSTEM
ANOTHER GREAT BUY

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON ALL OTHER SIZES

MIRACLE SPAN
STEEL BUILDINGS
1821 North Office Square,
Suite 510,
Schaumburg, Illinois 60172



WRITE OR
CALL COLLECT
(312) 397-0700
FOR OUR
FREE COLOR
BROCHURE

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/TOWN _____
STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
TELEPHONE _____ AREA CODE _____
DATE PLANNING TO BUILD _____
SIZE OF BUILDING—WIDTH _____ X LENGTH _____

- CHECK TYPE OF BUILDING
- Combination Machinery/Grain Storage
 - Machinery Storage/Workshop
 - Grain Storage
 - Other





Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



LeRoy V. Hard
Manager

We have, in the past, expressed our concern of the energy situation facing our nation. In the early 1970's the utility industry found itself caught between meeting increased energy demands on one hand and rapidly growing environmental concerns on the other. Diminishing gas and oil reserves and production, along with increasingly stringent environmental standards, turned a potential energy problem into a reality.

Recognizing the need for research and development and to encourage all sectors of the electric utility industry to join in cooperative sponsorship of electric energy research and development, an organization, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), was founded.

EPRI began operation in 1973 for the purpose of expanding electric energy research and development of the nation's utility industry—public, private and cooperative. Its goal is to develop a broadly coordinated, advanced technology program for improving electric power production, transmission, distribution and utilization in an environmentally acceptable manner.

EPRI is supported by all segments of the electric utility industry including investor-owned companies, public-owned agencies, rural electric cooperatives, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the U.S. Department of Interior.

There are nearly 500 member organizations supporting the EPRI program. These utilities account for approximately 85 percent of the electric power generating capacity of the nation. Monroe County Electric Cooperative is one of the voluntary sponsors of EPRI, contributing the equivalent of .10 mills per kilowatt-hour of annual sales. All other supporting organizations contribute to EPRI according to the same formula.

Research toward technological options that will permit continuing use of coal for power production in conformance with environmental standards is of high priority. This work includes coal gasification and coal liquefaction. Clarification of safety issues for conventional light water reactors is one of the most pressing concerns in the nuclear power field. Development of the fast breeder

reactor which would extend our nations uranium resource for hundreds of years and the gas-cooled reactor are also of high importance.

Improvements in the transmission of electricity are of near-term importance. The carrying capacity, efficiency and esthetics of our transmission systems must be improved. EPRI will work closely with equipment manufacturers in research and development in this area.

Other areas included in research and development programs of EPRI include fuel cells, high capacity storage batteries, solar energy and geothermal energy.

You may ask why a small electric cooperative such as ours would become involved in funding a research and development organization such as EPRI? The directors and management of Monroe County Electric Cooperative clearly see the need and justification for new techniques in the generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy throughout the nation. The growth of electric energy demand is outgrowing the resources to produce enough energy to meet the growing demand. Coupled with the demands of environmentalists who restrict the use of some coals, the construction of nuclear plants and fast breeder reactors, we have an energy problem that needs to be solved—and in a hurry!

Your cooperative through its small contribution is helping to fight the battle. In the long run with cooperation within the electrical industry we will win the war and have a dependable supply of electric energy for the future.

Little Things Can Be Dangerous

A little thing—tacking posters, ad cards, political signs and no hunting signs on power poles—can endanger our linemen's lives. Here is why:

A lineman uses sharp pointed, steel spurs to climb the poles. If a spur hits a metal object like the head of a tack used in posting signs, he may fall and be badly injured.

These same tacks may also tear the lineman's rubber gloves, and even a pin prick makes the gloves unsafe.

Our linemen work both day and night in all kinds of weather, to keep electricity on the lines to you. Their safety and welfare are priceless.

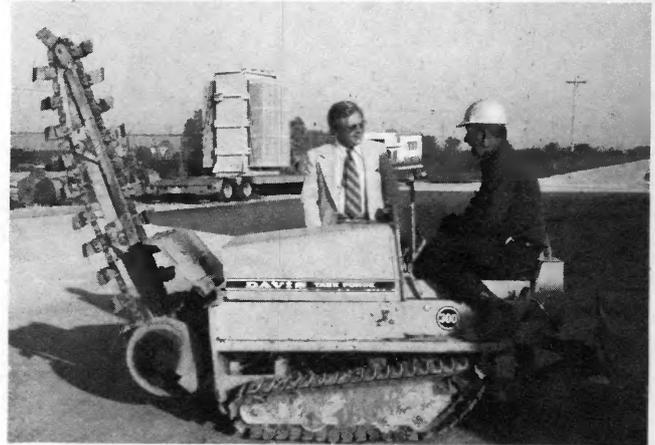
So, please, don't put signs on power poles. It's a little thing, but it can endanger men's lives.

New Service Added

The cooperative recently purchased a Davis Trenching Machine which expands the service that we offer to the membership. With underground service becoming more and more popular the acquisition of this piece of equipment will enable us to perform all phases of underground installation in one trip to the members' premise. Prior to the purchase of this equipment we had to wait until the member had the trench dug before we could complete the underground installation.

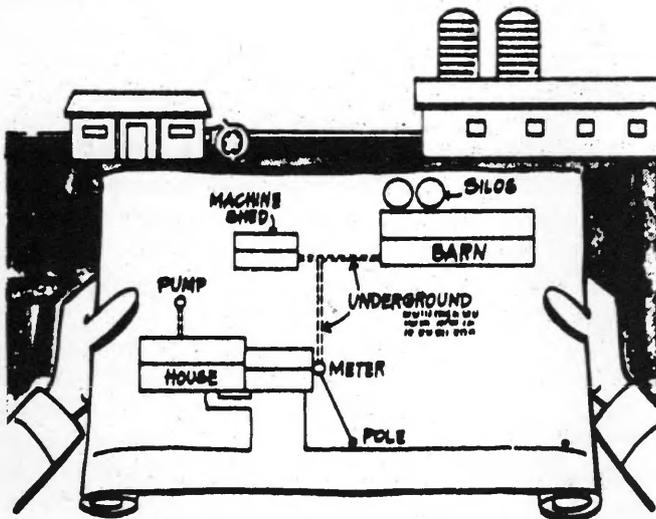
Digging the trench and furnishing underground conductor to the meter will cost the member 10 cents per foot if the cooperatives provides this service. The member may dig the trench himself if he desires. Any trenching and wiring needed past the meter will be provided by the member at his expense.

In making this service available we will be able to give faster and more efficient service to the membership. It has always been the cooperative's policy to provide reliable and dependable service. Adding services such as this will enable us to continue to provide the service that the membership expects and deserves.



Cooperative Manager LeRoy V. Hard and Line Foreman Ermin Brinkmann discussing the added service that the trenching machine will provide.

Map Your Underground Utilities



| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| UE—Electric wire | _____ |
| UW—Water pipe | _____ |
| UT—Telephone cable | —+—+—+—+—+— |
| US—Sewer pipe | —○—○—○—○—○— |
| UG—Gas pipe | —×—×—×—×—×— |
| UD—Drainage tile | - - - - - |
| ST—Septic tank | ■ |
| SF—Septic drain field | × |
| OT—Fuel oil tank | ● |
| GT—Gasoline tank | ▲ |

Today, the trend is to bury wires and other utilities underground. This makes the farmstead neater and lessens danger of damage by natural elements or man-made equipment. But when these utilities need maintenance, or when new construction digging is required, it is important to know exactly where wire, pipe, tile or tank is located.

Use a sheet of graph or grid paper to record the location of underground utilities. Keep this record with other property ownership papers where it can be found quickly when needed.

Here are some suggestions for preparing such a record: Label sheet as "Record of Underground Utilities."

Use one sheet and scale for farmstead or building area; another for field areas.

List property owner's name(s).

List legal description of property.

Establish scale for drawing—number of feet per square or per inch.

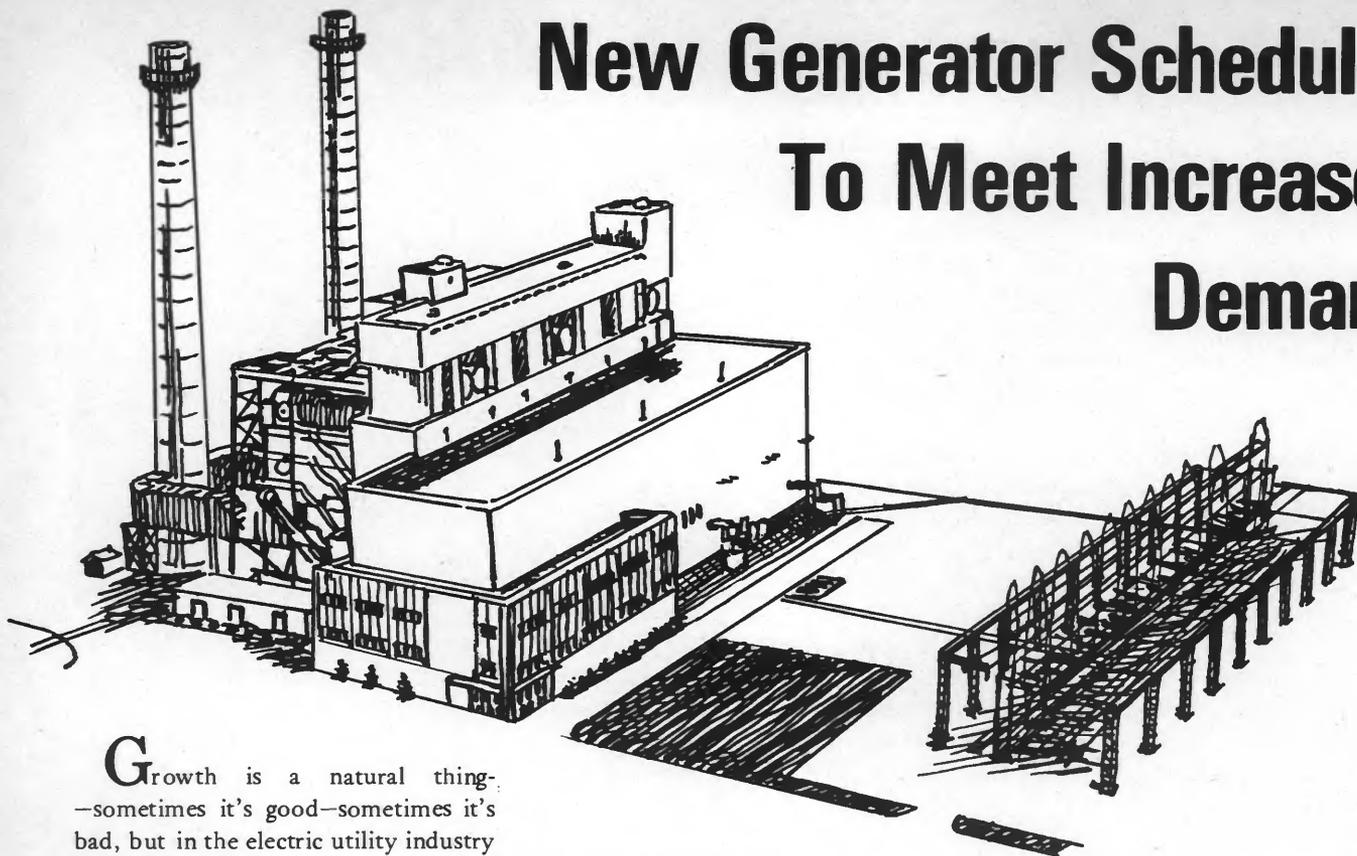
Locate and sketch in, approximately to scale, all buildings, driveways and other permanent farmstead fixtures.

Draw path or location of each underground utility using the accompanying codes lines and symbols. Identify all utilities owned by city, county, community or commercial interests with a large "C."

Make and mark measurements from fixed reference points to pinpoint exact locations as needed.

Indicate date of installation and type, size and depth of each utility.

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 Coopera-

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.

For more information regarding this Disability Income Protection Plan, just mail in the coupon below. Or contact your local Mutual of Omaha representative.



L. Earl Cutler
7600 West Main Street • P.O. Box 965
Belleville, Illinois 62223
Phone: (618) 398-1950

S. B. Stottrup
111 East Decatur • Decatur, Illinois 62525
Phone: (217) 429-5495

A. H. Harris
1119 South Sixth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62705
Phone: (217) 528-3434

Lee Weckerly Division Office
P.O. Box 419
Rockford, Illinois 61105

Jack B. Williams
Jack Williams Division Office
285 South Plazaway
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
Phone: (314) 334-2841

R. L. Thomas
309-10 Bondi Building
Galesburg, Illinois 61401

UNDERWRITTEN BY
**Mutual
of Omaha** 

People you can count on

Life Insurance Affiliate: United of Omaha

MUTUAL OF OMAHA INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Disability Income Protection Plan
Mutual of Omaha • Dodge at 33rd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

Dept. 2R

I would appreciate having a licensed representative explain a program of Disability Income Protection to me.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

FILL OUT AND MAIL TODAY. NO OBLIGATION!



Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



LeRoy V. Hard
Manager

We have recently completed a series of area meetings. These meetings were held at Fults, Valmeyer, Waterloo, Hecker and Columbia.

Realizing there is a limited time at our annual meeting to answer your questions, we scheduled the meetings to enable us to renew acquaintances and answer those questions that you may have concerning the cooperative's operation.

We become deeply concerned when we hear a member or director say, "We had a good annual meeting. There were no questions asked. They must be satisfied." A lack of questions does not indicate that everyone is satisfied. It indicates that the membership came only for the entertainment or worse that they do not fully understand the problems that we face now and in the future. We feel it is essential that the membership of our cooperative be fully informed and aware of the events and conditions that affect the decisions made by the management and directors of the cooperative. We must have two-way communications. We must reach out to you the consumer if we expect your support.

History may be interesting but we are more interested in the present and future. When questions are asked we must be able to answer them. We are prepared to respond to your questions.

Perhaps here is a sampling of questions that you may have considered:

1. How do our costs compare with those of other systems in the area?
2. How do our costs compare with the computed costs in REA's Expense Comparison Study?
3. Do our records show that we are making every effort to control expenses and achieve the best results for dollars spent?
4. Do our retail rates treat each class of consumer fairly and can we demonstrate it through a cost of service analysis?
5. How do our retail rates compare with those of other suppliers?

6. Do we provide through board representation for all major consumer categories?
7. How does our quality of service compare with that of others?

Most of the above questions, among others, were answered in a slide presentation at the area meetings. The slide presentation gave an explanation of the increasing cost of wholesale power to the cooperative, the fuel adjustment clause and the reasons causing these increasing costs.

Space will not allow us to answer the questions listed above or to relate the message that we presented at the area meetings. However, we would be pleased if you would come to the office to visit and discuss the operation of the cooperative.

Two questions that stood out at the meeting were, "What can we as individuals do to combat the high costs of coal and energy costs?" and "Would the cooperative prepare a form letter to be sent to area legislators?" The answer to the first is obvious, write your Senators and Congressman, both state and national concerning these high costs. We would be pleased to write a form letter for the membership to sign and forward to the appropriate individuals. However, a form letter loses individuality and impact. Therefore, we are listing facts relating to coal and energy costs that you may want to use in writing a letter to the legislators from this area.

- A. Coal and the cost of coal is the key to the escalating cost of electricity.
- B. Coal prices have shot up to incredible rates. Approximately 300 percent in the past several years.
- C. There is no relationship between the cost of coal and coal company profits.
- D. Fifteen companies produce almost one-half of the nation's coal. Thirty-five percent of the tonnage produced by these companies is controlled by four oil companies.
- E. Coal and oil are basic fossil fuels and should be competing for customers. This is impossible when one industry is owned by the other. (Restraint of trade and auto trust implications.)
- F. The price of coal increases as the price of oil goes up.
- G. OPEC nations have formed a cartel and forced the price of oil up by 400 percent. Coal raced to catch up.
- H. The tight money market and high interest rates are halting and delaying generation plant construction.
- I. Stringent environmental regulation forcing the use of antipollution devices are costly and restrictive in the use of coal for generating electricity.

The above facts point out a very severe problem facing

(Continued on next page)

Notice! Notice! Notice!

The following policy on estimated bills will be effective January 1976.

"In the event the cooperative does not receive a remittance including meter readings from a member by the 26th day of each month, the consumption for the period will thereafter be estimated by cooperative office personnel.

Estimated bills shall be based on the average of the three previous months kwh usage. The member will be requested through notice to adjust his billing booklet to conform to the cooperative's calculated accounting records.

If after a period of three months, the cooperative has not received a correct reading from the individual member, the meter will be read by cooperative service personnel and an appropriate trip charge will be assessed for such service."

In the event your meter reading along with payment is received after the estimated bill has been determined and recorded by the cooperative, it will be necessary for you to adjust your billing booklet to agree with the cooperative records. Should the amount of remittance differ, a correction card will be mailed to you.

(Manager's Column Continued)

electric utilities. Illinois is one of the great coal producing states and should not and cannot allow situations such as listed above to happen.

The impact of high coal prices is being felt currently. By writing your legislature it is hopeful we can gain their support in developing the necessary legislation both on state and national levels to correct this situation.

If you need assistance in obtaining addresses of your representatives in government, please contact the cooperative office.

Think Safety with Christmas Lights

The decision to do Christmas lighting is not as simple as it once was.

Today there are many approaches to attractive Christmas lighting both indoors and outdoors and for ultimate safety during the festive season, each string of lights should be used for the job it is designed for.

Outdoor lighting can be broken down into two specific types—the older strings of small colored lights and the newer flood or spot lighting systems. It is of particular importance from a safety standpoint that all outdoor lighting equipment be specifically wired for outdoor use. A three wire grounding system is imperative for the safety of everyone involved. All cords, plugs, sockets and bulbs used should be weatherproof so that December weather will not make a disaster out of something beautiful.

There are as many ideas for the use of string type lights as there are people decorating. They can be blinked, made all one color, used on indoor and outdoor trees or used in a multitude of other ways.

Flood or spot lighting methods are much newer and also leave the decorator with many alternatives. Silhouetting of certain objects can be made particularly effective. The new black light sources may be used in conjunction with luminiscent paint to give particularly attractive yard scenes.

We offer these suggestions for safe use of Christmas lighting:

- Check old wiring carefully for chipped sockets, cracked connections and damage to frayed wire.
- Buy only UL-approved lights.
- Mount socket so bulb will not touch foliage, paper or cotton.
- Use only waterproof decorations.
- Place cords out of traffic areas to reduce injury from shock and tripping.

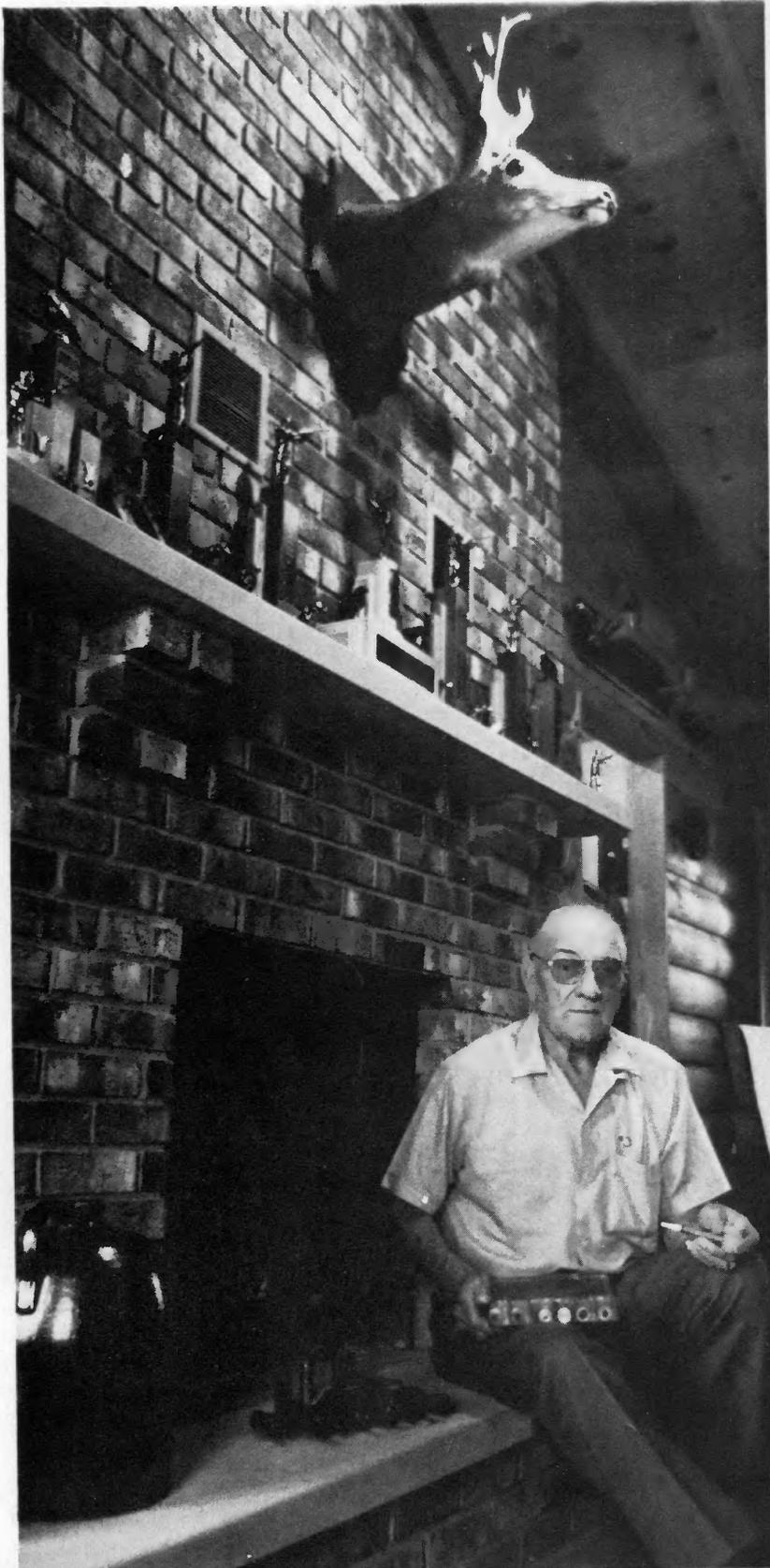
REMEMBER TO DISCONNECT

- Disconnect lights at the outlet when not in use or when family is asleep or away.
- Be certain that the tree has plenty of water and that the needles near the lights have not dried out and turned brown. If this occurs, change the position of the light. If the tree gets too dry, discard it.
- Use floodlights on metallic trees. It is much safer because the foil will readily conduct electricity.
- Again, all outdoor wiring should be a weatherproof type and all connections should be kept above the ground.
- Use insulated staples to hold light strings in place. Never use nails, tacks or brads.

A safe approach to Christmas lighting can go a long way toward keeping the holiday season merry for everyone.



former
national
crow
calling
champion



The life a national crow calling champion leads while he is still in competition isn't all glory, Herb Dieckmann of Vandalia can attest to that.

"Mess up once and come back with only one lousy crow and you'll never hear the end of it," Dieckmann said, telling how that happened to him during the 25th annual crow shoot which was held in Southern Illinois. And how as the old saying goes, he had to "eat crow" because of it.

What was even worse, a photographer was present, the crow was placed on a meat platter, Dieckmann was given a bib and carving utensils and the whole humiliating scene was captured on film and reproduced in a number of newspapers.

Dieckmann still chuckles when he tells the story and swears it was an "isolated incident" and has over 30 trophies won in crow calling and shooting competition to prove it.

He won his first championship in 1954 and topped the field once again in 1964, placing well up in the running all the years between, with the exception of that one year.

A crow shooting and calling championship is held over a specified area of several counties. Hunters draw by lot, an area in which they are to hunt and are given an hour to get there, three hours to "call in" and shoot the crows and an hour to return to the tourney headquarters.

To win the 1954 championship, Dieckmann killed 27 crows in his

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS