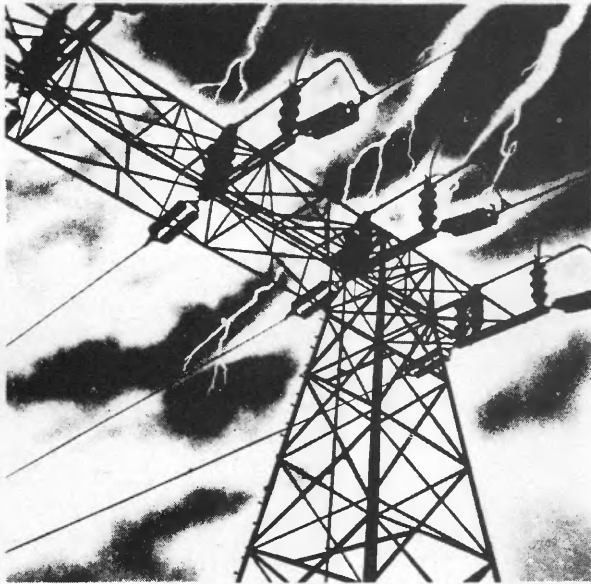


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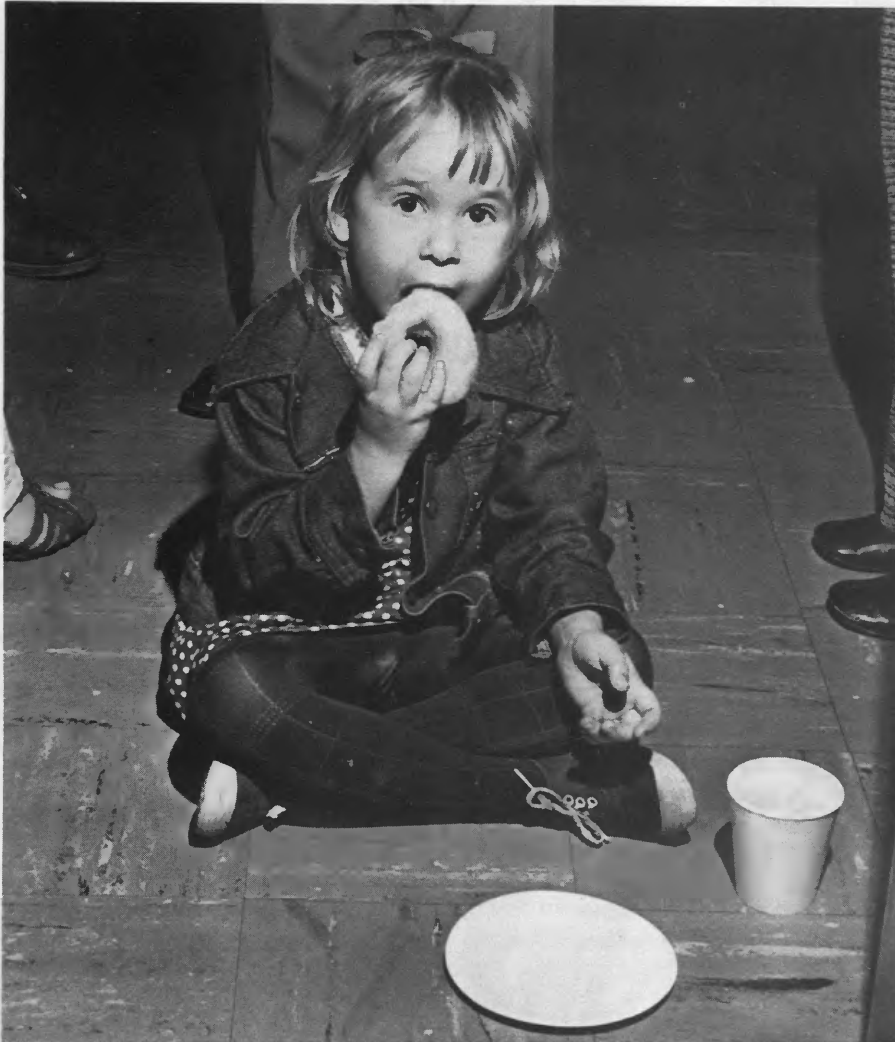
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Spoon River Electric News

SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC. 309-647-2700 CANTON, ILLINOIS



President Erb

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"In my opinion, the only realistic approach to adequate electric power, at costs that our consumer-members can afford in the future, can only be achieved by a national energy policy which all of us should be urging our Congressional leaders to draft without further delay," Cooperative President Ralph Erb of Ipava said in his report to members at the 38th annual members' meeting held recently.

Manager William McCamey reported to members that their cost of electricity had risen 26 percent in the past

24 months and will continue to rise in the future unless fuel costs can be stabilized. "Coal and the cost of coal is the key to the escalating cost of electricity," McCamey told the cooperative's member-owners. He said coal costs of Western Illinois Power Cooperative, which supplies the electricity distributed by Spoon River, have risen from \$5.00 a ton in 1966 to more than \$21 a ton today and further increases are expected.

McCamey noted that coal prices have increased along with oil prices

ever since the 1973 Arab oil embargo and suggested part of the cause is the concentration of coal ownership in the hands of oil companies. "Coal and oil should be competing for customers," he said, "but that is next to impossible when one industry is owned by the other."

Consumers of electricity should conserve energy in every way possible, McCamey said, and they should contact their governmental leaders to urge adoption of a national energy policy that will assure adequate supplies of electricity at a reasonable price in the future.

During the cooperative's business meeting, members expressed approval of the actions of officers and the board of directors in dealing with the many problems facing the cooperative. They also voted to reelect three directors to new three-year terms on the cooperative's governing board. Re-elected were David A. Bailey of Maquon, Bernard A. Camp of Avon and Donald L. Elliott of Farmington.

Other candidates in the board election were Harlan Cook of Knox County, Allen Blout of Fulton County and Warren G. Roberson of Orion Township.

Erb was reelected president of the cooperative in a reorganizational meeting of the board of directors following the members' business meeting. Other officers elected to continue serving Spoon River's members were Gene H. Burton as vice president, Camp as secretary, Elliott as treasurer and Bailey as assistant treasurer.

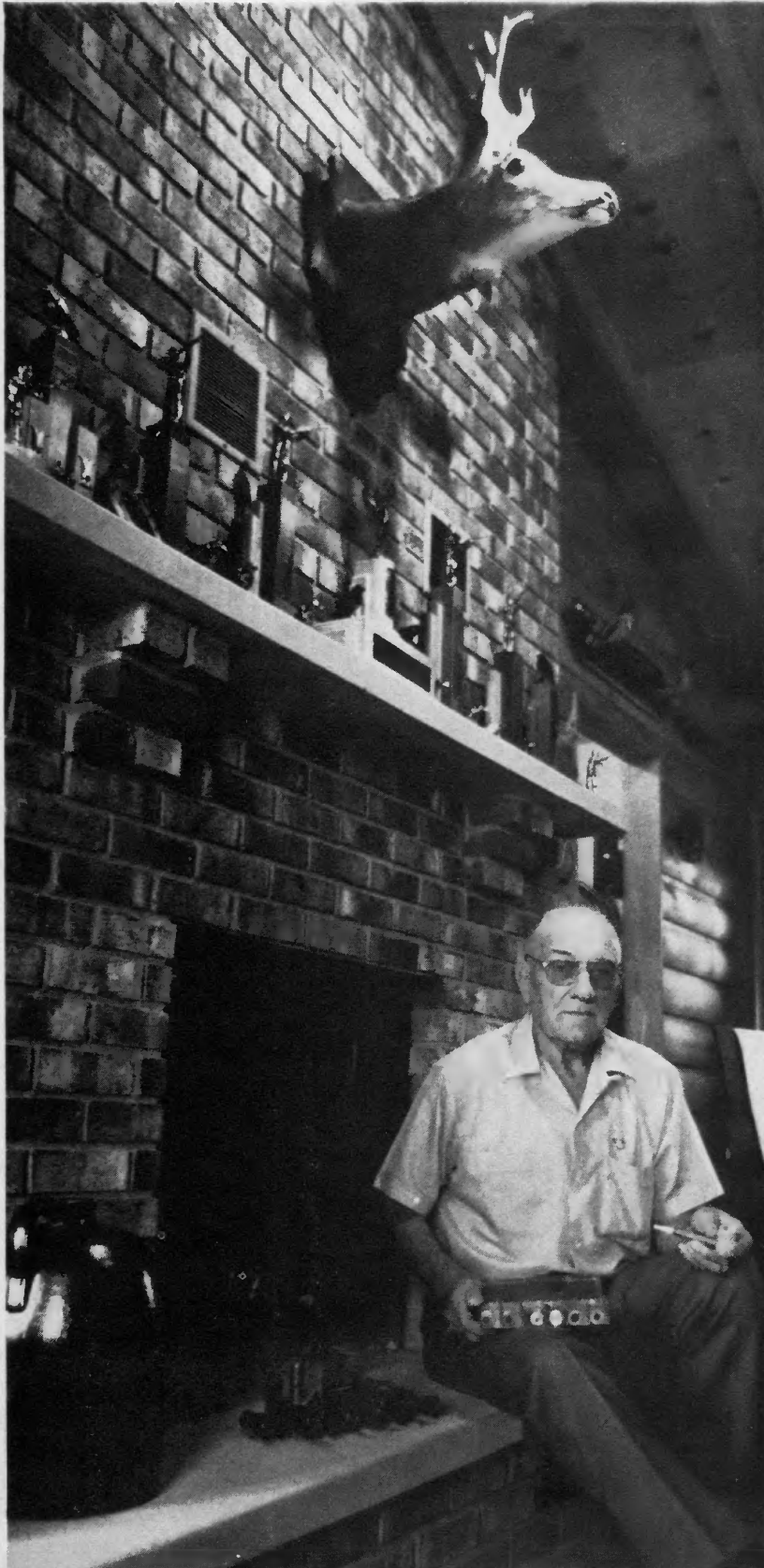
Here are a few photographs of members who attended the meeting.



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***ational Energy Policy is
ly realistic approach."***

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