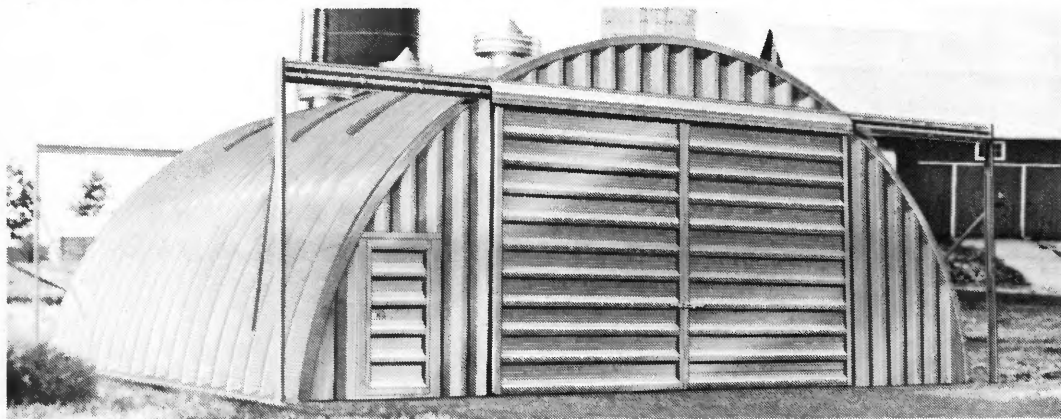


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# Norris Electric News

JULY, 1976

## Manager's Comments

by Damon Williams

None of us like to pay high electric bills. We moan and gripe and in general raise the devil about it because we would prefer to take the money and spend it for something else.

I am going to give you a few tips on how to conserve energy with your refrigerator and freezer. Those two appliances probably cause more misunderstanding even if they are two of the most valuable and necessary items in our modern, every day living.

1. Keep the door closed. Frequent and prolonged door opening lets in warm air. Don't kid yourself that it doesn't. Appliances work harder, use more current and be extra careful in hot weather even if this means smacking Junior on you know what to keep him from going in and out of the refrigerator all day.
2. Locate your appliances in the coolest part of your kitchen. Get them away from the stove, windows where the sun hits, or water heater, washer, or any place where air cannot circulate in and around them.
3. Defrost promptly. Nothing can cause a cooling unit to work harder than frostup when it is more than 1/4-inch thick. It causes your unit to use more energy and it wears out faster besides. It makes the appliance dealer happy but it also costs you money on your electric bill.
4. Prepare food for your refrigerator by letting hot dishes cool before putting them in the refrigerator or freezing. If you don't, your electric refrigerator is going to work overtime to bring that food down to the proper temperature.
5. Cover your dishes tightly before placing them in the refrigerator to prevent frost forming evaporation

of the liquid. It also makes them taste a dang sight better and they are supposed to be better for you. I don't know about the last, but I do know anything that gives me the gags is to try to eat something that has a smell of the second day cantaloupe mixed in with it.

6. By all means keep your freezer or refrigerator full but do not overcrowd it. A half empty appliance uses more energy because air is harder to keep cold than chilled foods and liquid you keep in them.
7. And this one is important. Check your gasket on the door of your appliances. Close your door on a heavy piece of paper. If it pulls out easily, don't blow your gasket about your high electric bill, but get a new one installed as rapidly as possible.
8. Last, but not least, if you leave on vacation reset your temperature controls on your refrigerator and freezer to a lower number (less cooling). Since the door will remain closed the food will keep cool and you won't have that continous running irregardless of whether you are at home or away. That's about the last of the tips for this beautiful weather we are having. Hope we get more rain. Watch those appliances and keep those electric meters turning.

## "News" Takes New Format

With this issue, the *Norris Electric News* takes on a new format as your cooperative is trying an improved approach to the twin problems of getting maximum energy information to the members and still hold down costs. About a year ago, your cooperative suspended its members' subscriptions to the statewide *Illinois Rural Electric News* while we continued to publish our local newsletter which was being mailed at Third Class postage rates.

If there's one cost that's rising faster than the price of coal, it's postage rates. Postage for the *Norris Electric*

*News* has increased by about 400 percent the past couple of years and another big increase is probably coming later this year. Our printer has his problems, too, and made them our problem by raising his prices.

By combining *Norris Electric News* into the statewide magazine published by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives for all electric cooperatives in Illinois, we'll be able to eliminate our Third Class postage costs and still bring our members news of their local cooperative as well as statewide news and features important to all cooperatives.

## This Is Important In Reporting Outages

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed Saturday and Sunday. Phone: Area code 618 783-2358

To report an outage after office hours or on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays call—783-2358 first

If no answer, dial	783-3221
	783-2059
or Lawrenceville area	943-4373
or Claremont area	869-2338

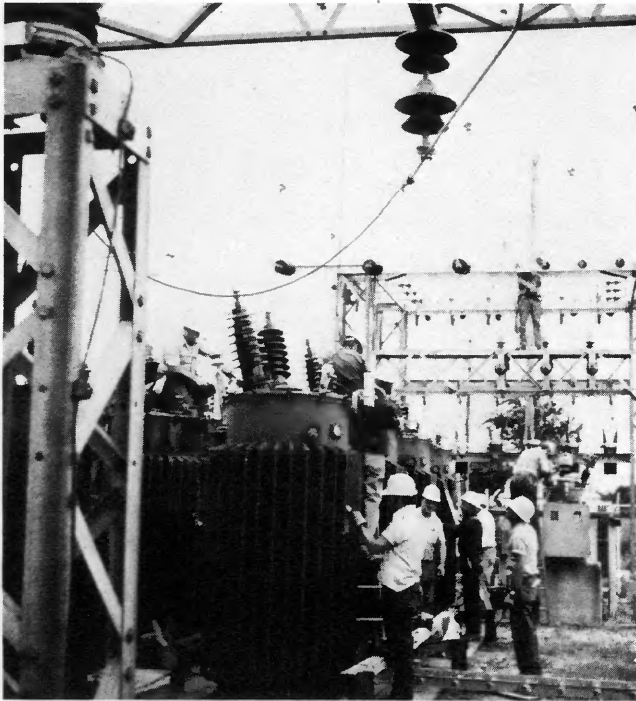
Please—When reporting an outage have your line and account number ready. You will find it in the lower left hand corner of your meter reading card.

There are many things money can't buy.

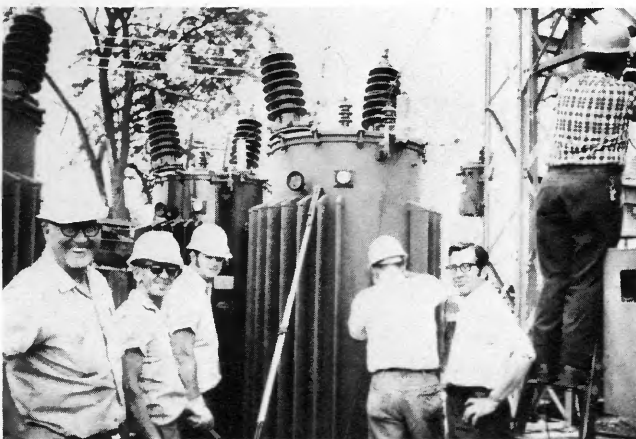
One of the most important are things it used to.

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

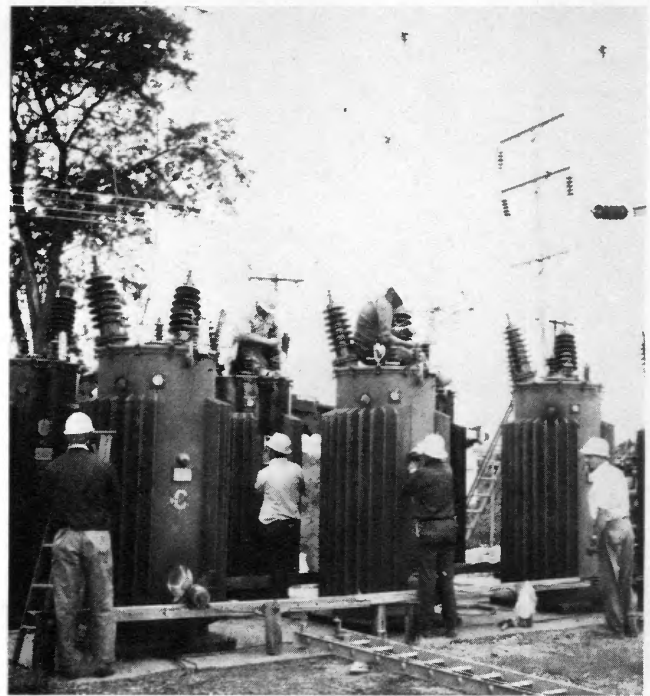
# Substation upgraded to 3000 KVA



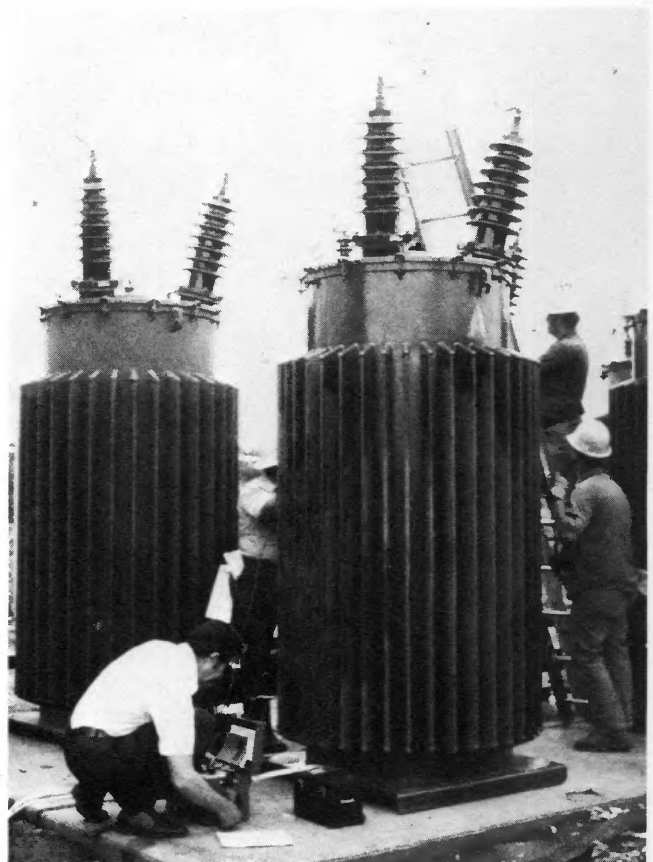
*Groundmen John Bogard, Karl Messenger, and Paul Linthicum and Linemen Loren Dean Kerner, Earl Millsap & Cloyce Johnson installing 3 new 500 KVA transformers and paralleling with transformers making the Substation a 3000 KVA.*



*Linemen Earl Millsap & Loren Dean Kerner, Groundmen John Bogard and Herman Schachmann, General Electric Engineer Jim Crossover from St. Louis Division and CIPS meter man checking with engineer to be sure transformers are all jumpered and tap settings are correct.*



*Groundmen Larry Matson, John Bogard, Karl Messenger, Herman Schackmann and Paul Linthicum and Lineman Earl Millsap checking transformers and installing jumpers.*



*Jim Crossover, General Electric Engineer is using instruments to check out transformers that were to be installed. Linemen Cloyce Johnson and Harold Kibler and Groundman Paul Linthicum calibrating and testing transformers before energizing.*

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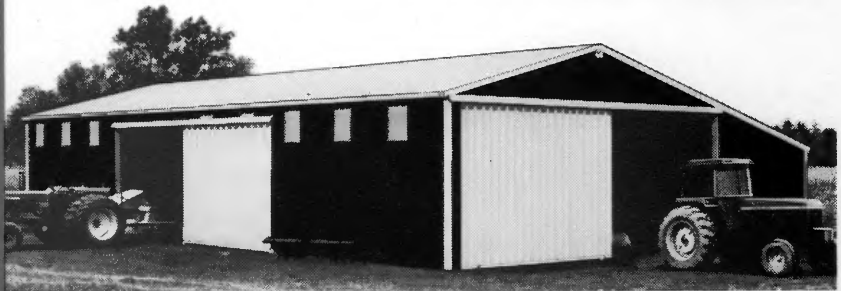
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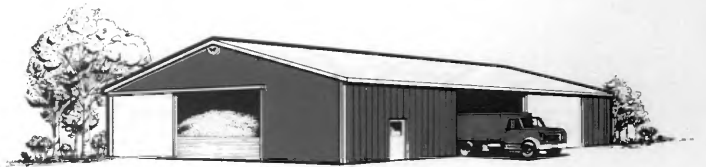
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# Safety



*TOP PHOTO: Richard "Slim" Rutschke explains the finer points of bandaging during a multi-media first aid class. ABOVE: Don Moranville at the blackboard.*

# Norris Electric News

AUGUST, 1976

## Manager's Comments

by Damon Williams

Our world is an ever-increasingly complex one and it gets more so each and every day. The conservation of energy seems to be bothering no one in particular—we're paying the ever-increasing cost of gasoline, fuel and electricity with scarcely a ripple. But the day of reckoning is coming and I can assure you that the COST of all such forms of energy will continue to go up including the COST OF ELECTRICITY. So don't let anyone kid you.

History has a way of repeating itself and throughout our past generations you can foresee events that could happen to us in the future. With this somber thought I would like to inject a little feeling of sympathy and sorrow for people who do not have a touch of history in their makeup. Without history there would be no tomorrow and we can use it as a measuring stick of what the future could be.

Many forms of energy have been

used in the past. Just think—in Abraham Lincoln's day the prime fuel was the wood that was cut and split by pure muscle power and all the nation's heat and energy came largely from the sweat and toil of the woodcutter. At that time the mightily whaling fleets of our Eastern coast were a magnificent sight if we can believe half the pictures we see and whale oil sold for \$3.00 a gallon and was used in the ornamental and fancy lamps that are still so highly prized and valued as antiques.

All of us that were alive prior to World War II can remember the coal era that existed in our country when the most of our homes and businesses were heated and our energy produced by the black, belching smoke that came from bituminous coal.

But each of these served its order, faded into the past as so many other things have done and will continue to do. But to me the prettiest picture concerns an old kitchen that I was privileged to visit a long time ago on a winter evening when the fingers of the past reached forward and touched into my then exciting, young life. I remember the winds were blowing

fiercely without and swirling snow around the windows of a log cabin. Inside was a grand old fireplace with its heaping wood fire of hickory over which on the crane the kettle hung, humming and singing and sending up the chimney the white clouds of savory smelling steam while before it stood two dutch ovens, one which held a rich, juicy roast and the other light, snowy biscuits the like of which have never come out of any modern day range. The fire lighted up the room with a rich warm glow as kin of mine set the table with its polished ware, golden butter and luscious comb honey. All these charming fancies that I remember so well today have gone into the past the same as much of our today's life will go into tomorrow's picture.

But that's the way it goes and, as we go backward into time, it tells us that today's form of energy will also undergo the same major changes and new developments as yesterday's. Sometimes I wonder if we are really going ahead or plunging inevitably forward until we fall backwards into oblivion.

## What Fuse Should I Use?

By Ernie Weber

Electric power can be one of the safest and most useful forms of energy. But we must handle and apply it in the right way if we expect it to do a safe job of helping us to do our work. The wiring and appliances must be built right to start with and then they must be well maintained and correctly used.

The main switch in the electrical system in your home is located near the point where the wires come into the house. This may be on the back porch, in the basement, or on a wall near the meter. This fuse box has at least two heavy fuses that are called cartridge-type fuses. They look very much like shotgun shells. These fuses carry the entire load that is in all the branch circuits.

What size fuse should I use here? With all the different type of appliances we use today with high starting current, we should use a time delay fuse or fustron. If we have a No. 6 entrance, then install a 60-amp time delay cartridge fuse. This fuse will blow as fast if you should have a short in your wiring as a regular fuse. The time delay fuse will carry a 100 percent overload for as long as 30 seconds. This type of fuse will keep

motor starting and other harmless overloads from causing interruptions in your service.

If you should be using the range side of your fuse box for your air conditioner and you used No. 10 wire rated at 30 amps, you may have 35-amp fuses in the range block. This is over fusing your circuit and not protecting your air conditioner. If you use fuse adapters in range block you will be able to use smaller fuses and fuse the appliance properly.

The other type of fuse found in your fuse box is called a plug fuse. These fuses protect the individual branch circuits. There are three types of plug fuses. The ordinary plug fuse has practically no time lag so it blows at the instant of overload. This fuse is fine for resistant loads such as irons, toasters, lights, etc., but not considered the type fuse for motor protection. Because of the no time lag you would have to use too large a fuse because of the high starting current in motors.

The two types of time delay plug fuses are the fustron and fustat. These fuses have a time lag following overload before it will blow. This short overload period will provide the extra current required in starting a motor without service interruption. On a

direct short, however, it will blow almost instantly.

Knowing the different type of fuses—what size fuse should I use? Never use fuses rated larger than the current rating of the wire. Most appliances will be stamped with the voltage, amp, and watt rating. If the appliance gives the watt rating or the motor size, which you may figure one horsepower to 1000 watts, you may find the ampere of the equipment by dividing the wattage by the operating voltage, it may be 120 or 240 volts.

Using a 23,000 BTU air conditioner as an example—

The voltage requirements is 240 volts, the amp rating 12 amps. Motor loads should be fused at 125 percent of running amps—12 amps multiplied by 125 percent would be 15 amps. We should use a 15-amp time delay fuse. When the compressor comes on your lights may dim some. This is caused by the high starting current of the motor.

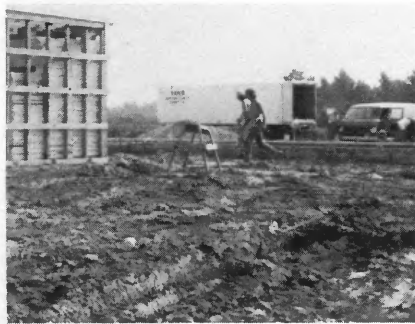
If the air conditioner was rated at three horsepower or 3000 watts, then divide the wattage by the voltage. This would be 3000 watts divided by 230 volts, which would equal 13 amperes. The fuse size needed would be 15-amp time delay.

# Pigs, Pigs, Pigs

By Jack Hubbert

When there is a need and a desire, people will band together and will meet the need. This is what has happened in a new industry which has come to our attention in Norris Electric area.

They are pig factories. The idea is for a guaranteed supply at a reasonable cost for hog raisers who need feeder pigs for their farming operation. We have in our area three such operations which are in various stages of operation.



*Moriah Pork Palace under construction.*

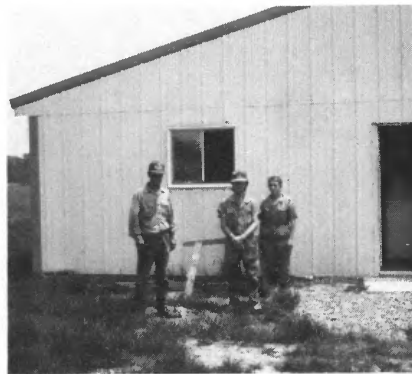
One is located in the Moriah area in Clark County which is known as the Moriah Pork Palace and is owned by five individuals, namely, Kent Ryan, Lee Ryan, Clinton Best, David Schiver and Ernest Edington. It is now under construction and the plan for this operation is three buildings parallel with connecting buildings which will house the three stages needed in this type of operation—the gestation building, farrowing building and nursery building. They are planning on farrowing twenty sows per week and approximately 170 feeder pigs will be their output when in operation. The manager for this operation will be housed on the property. It is being constructed by the Sand Construction of Columbus, Nebraska. They will have Dekalt breeding stock of 450 sows and 20 plus boars.

Another operation is located north and west of Oblong in Crawford County and is called Oblong Pigs. There are ten individuals interested in this, being Don Newbold, Larwence "Buck" Musgrave, John Meese, Nolan



*Showing building for gestation and breeding just finished, with one of the owners, John Meese, and Manager Darrel Mendenhall, left to right. (Oblong Pigs)*

Bailey, Ron Bailey, Mervin Utterbach, Kevin Utterbach, Louis E. Henry, Larry Henry and Lee Blin. Their construction is of a star nature and will house the same three stages as mentioned above. Their manager of this project is Darrel Mendenhall who is housed on the property. They plan on producing the same amount of feeder pigs per week as the Moriah people. They are using Kleen-Leen breeding stock and their contractor is Five States Agri-System. They have set up and completed the first stage of their operation and are under construction for the other two stages.



*Showing building, door leading to office and shower area with Jake Shonk, one of the owners, Ralph Beabout, manager, and Margaret White, employee. Also employed is Emery White, not shown, left to right. (Prairie Pigs.)*

The third operation is north of Eaton, Crawford County, and is called Prairie Pigs. This is owned by six individuals, being Arlie Guyer, Allison Guyer, Mark Brown, Jake Shonk, Tom Shonk and David Wilt. Their operation is a three stage operation and has been in operation for approximately one and one-half years. They have at the present time 369 sows and 18 boars with the output of approximately 120 pigs per week. In talking to their Manager, Ralph Beabout, and checking on their operation for the last thirteen weeks, they have averaged 8.9 pigs per sow, that is from farrowing to finish. This amount of pigs was produced out of 210 sows. Their original start of sows and boars were furnished by the Babcock Swine, Inc.

In each of these operations the waste is taken care of by a lagoon. They are completely isolation units and no one is permitted within the buildings without first showering and wearing special apparel—coveralls and boots—which are decontaminated and in each operation the time table is approximately two months from farrowing to feeder pigs. The owners of these operations divide the output between them.

## Outage Calls

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If no answer, dial	783-3221
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(continued from page 9)

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conducted a whirlwind campaign and was subsequently elected by state delegates representing over 900 students from throughout the country. He will serve as the official youth spokesman for the nation's more than 1,000 electric cooperative systems and represent NRECA at national youth functions, including the National FFA and 4-H conventions.

Illinois students were the special guests of Senator Charles Percy in the U. S. Senate Gallery during debate on national energy legislation. After leaving the Senate floor to meet with the students on the Capitol steps, Senator Percy spoke briefly on the great need for a more effective national energy policy. Senator Adlai Stevenson also took time from his busy schedule to meet with the Illinois tour participants and answer questions.

Representative George Shipley of Olney hosted a congressional breakfast for the students, who were joined by Representatives Paul Simon of Carbonale and Tim Hall of Dwight. Repre-

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# annual meeting

(continued from page 11)

Illinois Farm Bureau, and John Davenport, director of the Government Relations Department, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association of Washington, also addressed the meeting.

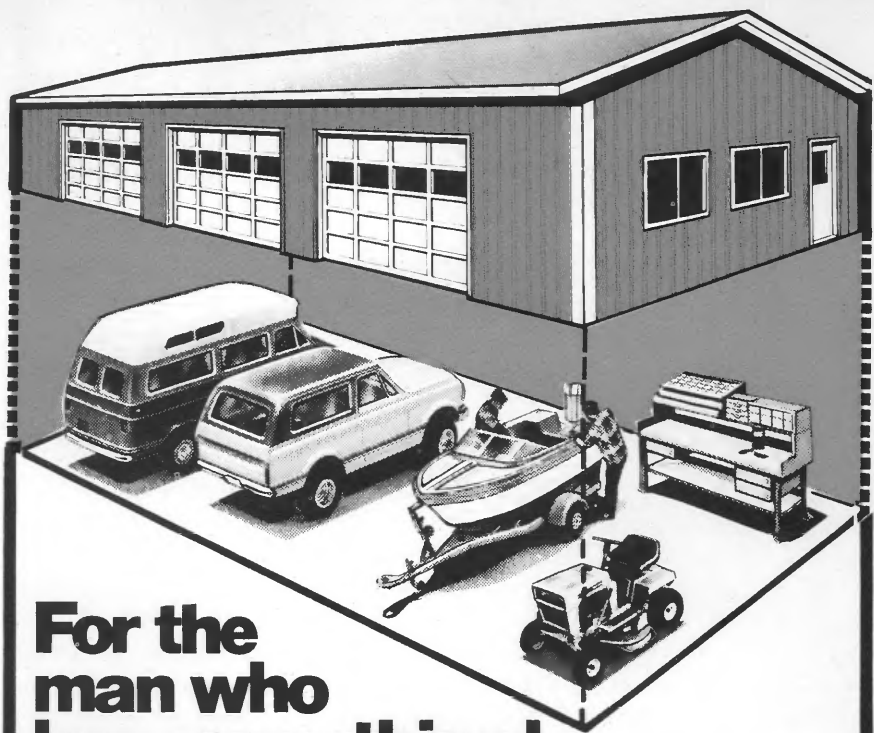
Cindy Morton, 19, of Paloma, was crowned "Miss Illinois Electric Cooperative." Miss Morton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn B. Morton of Paloma, succeeded Anita Carlson of Milford. She is a graduate of Camp Point's Central High School and will be a sophomore at Quincy College this fall. She represented Adams Electrical Co-Operative of Camp Point in the beauty pageant.

It was the last state beauty pageant, ending 22 consecutive years of service by two persons, Viola Suits and Lyle Dunham. Mrs. Suits, a former Miss Illinois, served during that time as pageant director, and Dunham, Director of the AIEC's Member Services Department, was master of ceremonies for all except the first contest.

Greathouse, a Wayne County school principal and director of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, was reelected for a second term as AIEC president. Clement Ikins of Onarga was reelected vice president, Donald Kerr Sr. was elected secretary and Paul Mallinson was chosen treasurer.

Three new directors and their alternates were also elected. Delegates chosen were Thomas Johns of Delavan, Corn Belt Electric Cooperative of Bloomington; A. C. Hayer of Sparta, Egyptian Electric Cooperative of Steepleville, and Gene H. Burton of Browning, Spoon River Electric Cooperative of Canton. Alternates names were Harry Miller of Bloomington, Corn Belt; Edward Timpner of Pinckneyville, Egyptian, and Richard R. Turner of Smithfield, Spoon River.

Stanley Otten of Modesto was elected president of the Illinois State-wide Power Cooperative, succeeding the late Ernst R. Hild of Illiopolis. Roy E. Horton of Princeton was elected vice president and Paul Mallinson of Geneseo was chosen secretary-treasurer.



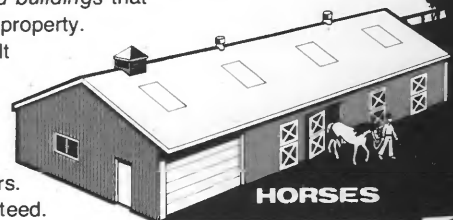
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(except a place to put it)



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IR-953

**W Wickes Buildings**  
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# Norris Electric News

AUGUST, 1976

## Manager's Comments

by Damon Williams

### Know... Don't 'No'

A brand new and completely inexperienced young clerk in the order scheduling office of a large printing company had not been alone at his desk for more than five minutes when his telephone rang for the first time. Nervously, he picked it up and said, "Hullo?" The party at the other end was an account executive with an advertising agency, one of the printer's most important customers. During the next sixty seconds, a torrent of change orders, requests for additional proofs, alterations in copy, and demands for assurances that new schedules could be met poured in on the printing firm's new order clerk.

Finally, the customer began to wax critical in his remarks. "What's the matter there anyway? Did you get

what I told you? Can you do it or can't you? Don't you know anything at all over there?"

The young clerk hesitated, as the line seemed to clear for an answer. Then he said firmly: "Mister, I just started on this job today. When I said "Hullo" a little while ago, I told you everything I knew about this business."

Well, at least he was honest . . .

But when you pick up the phone, KNOW! Be honest, but know. And if you don't know, say so and find out! Learn your line and account number when reporting line trouble. If you do you will help us, help yourself, help your neighbor because we simply can't go by names — there are too many the same. Too many Williams, Smiths, Browns, Jones and all the others, but your account number will tell us at once exactly where you live and where to send the linemen to help you get your problem solved the best way we can.

## Letter to Dave Sheppard

We are proud of all our employees. One was singled out this spring for special thanks. The letter he received follows:

Career Education  
Resource Laboratory  
Buzzard Education Building  
Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, Illinois 61920  
(217) 581-5524

June 23, 1976

Dave Sheppard  
Norris Electric Cooperative  
R. R. 3  
Newton, IL 62448

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

Thank you for your part in the panel discussion at the Newton Workshop. You all were really terrific! From the responses we heard, the workshop participants seemed to feel that the panel was one of the week's highlights. These educators have heard community people such as you say what they feel is relevant learning for youth, and have gained a renewed direction and purpose.

You have contributed greatly. Thank you for taking the time to be a part of our program.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Diane Blair  
Diane Blair  
Project Associate

DB/cee



## Electricity Is High Compared to What?

by Louis B. Strong, President  
Kentucky Association of  
Electric Cooperatives

Comparing electric rates is like the fellow whose friend asked him how his wife was, and he said, "Compared to what?"

Consolidated-Edison recently announced the new rates effective for the New York City area. Under these rates a thousand kilowatt hours will cost approximately \$80. Many cooperatives in this area of the country will average around 1,000 kilowatt-hours per user during July and August. In most of these cooperatives a thousand kilowatt-hours would probably average \$30 or less, so a New Yorker would certainly look at these electric rates and say they are very low.

Or take the case of Stanley Peterson of Evansville, Wisconsin, he operates a veal feeding operation. Here is what he had to say in a letter to the local paper following an ice storm last winter:

"Dear Editor:

Due to our experience in the recent ice storm, I would like to say a few words about our local electric utility. We were without electricity for two days, during which time we had to operate our tractor-driven alternator around the clock to provide ventilation for our veal feeding barn. We used 65 gallons of gas which cost \$33.80. Depreciation on a \$1500 alternator cost 82 cents, depreciation on an older tractor cost 87 cents; add to that a modest labor cost of \$10 for refueling the tractor every six hours night and day, and we have a total cost of \$45.59 for producing 152 kilowatt hours of electricity, or 29.9 cents per kilowatt hour. Our local electric utility has been producing electricity and transmitting to us for an average cost of 3.5 cents per kilowatt hour. I, for one, will not complain about the high cost of electricity."

Signed, Stanley Peterson

# Something New— in House and Insulation

By Carl Mitchell

We now have more than 1,250 homes and other buildings on our Norris Electric lines that are heated with some type of electric heat. It is common knowledge that in order to



*Applying Rapco Foam insulation in wall space of new home.*

keep the operating cost as low as possible, the home must be very well insulated. Good insulation also saves money on the initial cost of installing the heating system because fewer or smaller heating units will be required.

Rapco Foam is a fluffy, snow-white foam type of insulation produced by mixing two chemicals, one a resin and the other a foaming agent, with air. The foam is mixed and applied by a special gun connected through three hoses to the chemical supply and air compressor which may be 100 feet or farther away from the point of application.

Rapco Foam was first developed in West Germany and was introduced into the United States about 10 years ago. Chemicals used to produce the foam are being manufactured in Iowa. Locally, Rapco foam insulation is

being done by Richard Newbold of Oblong, and a few others in Illinois.

According to those who manufacture, sell or install this new type of insulation, the R value is about 5½-per-inch of thickness. That is a little more than R19 for a 3½-inch wall space filled full of the foam. The R value for the same thickness of most other generally accepted types of insulation is about 11. This insulation is flame resistant, non-toxic, and rodent proof. And there seems to be little or no deterioration with age, but the cost for insulating is more than most other types of insulation.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Linthicum have had the new home they are building south of Newton insulated with Rapco foam. Paul has also installed water pipes within his fireplace through which water will circulate in an attempt to harness a few more BTU that would normally escape up the chimney and be lost whenever there is a fire in the fireplace.

Another very unique construction feature in the Linthicums' new home is their use of an ancient two-room log cabin. The old logs were completely dismantled and each individually sand-blasted. The cabin was then reconstructed in its original form to serve as inside partition walls for their new home.

Living in a modern day log cabin just "ain't what it used to be," but Paul and Mary Ellen are very anxious to "give it a try."



*Rapco Foam insulation is being installed in new home by Newbold Insulation workmen.*



*Paul and Mary Ellen Linthicum in front of their fireplace. Paul is pointing to the water pipes which he hopes will recapture some of the BTU's which normally are lost up the chimney. The house is now under construction.*

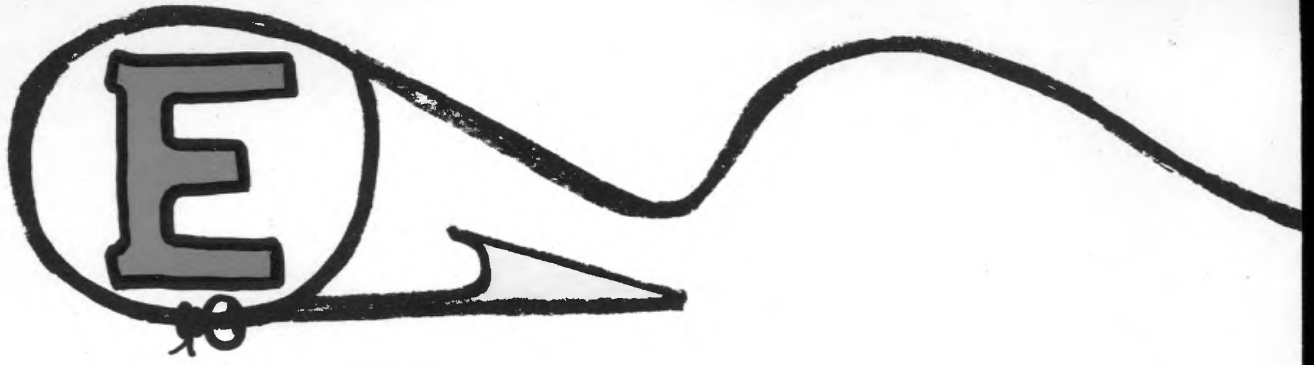
## Outage Calls

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m., Monday through Friday. Closed Saturday and Sunday. Phone: Area Code 618/783-2358.

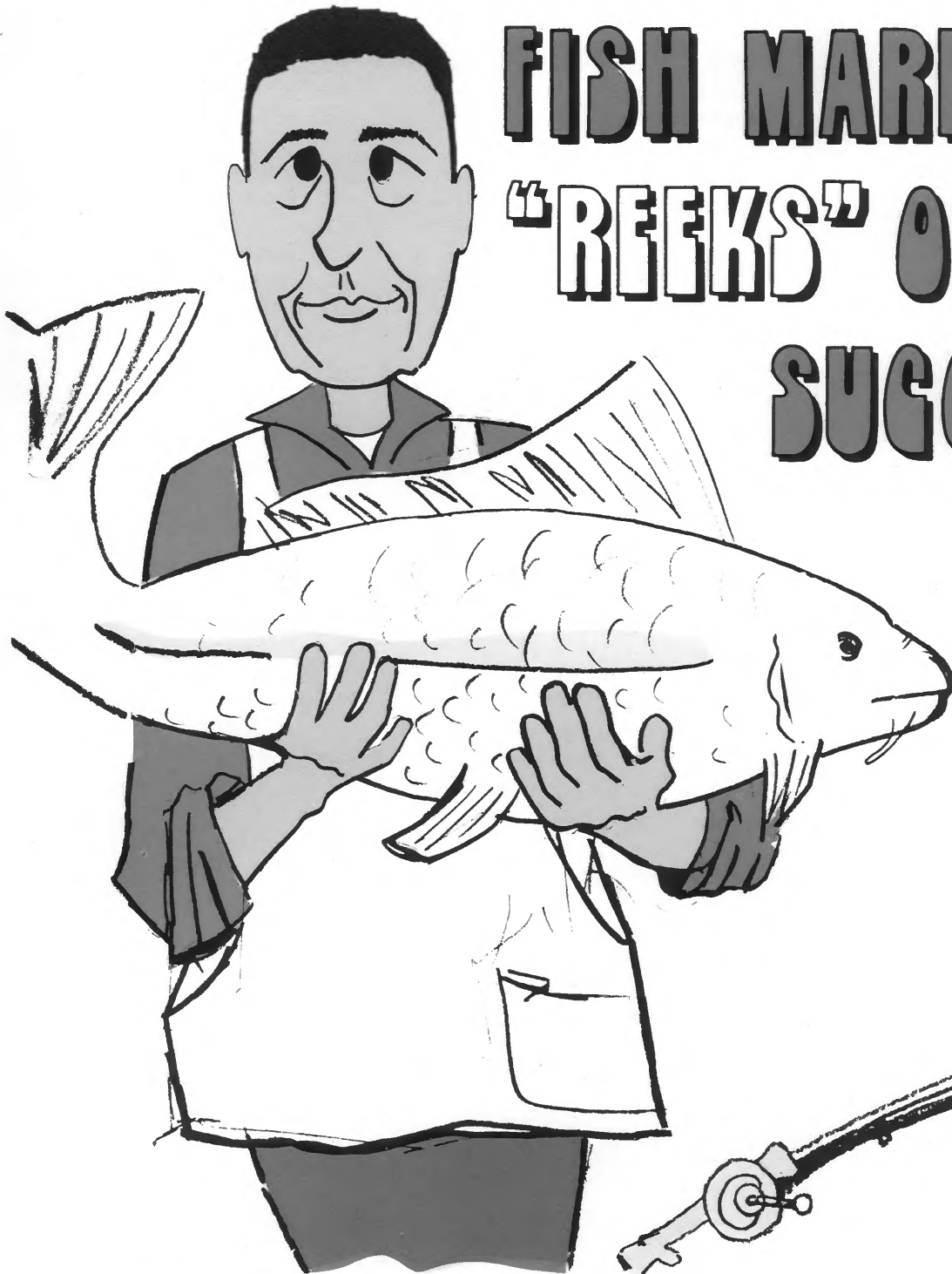
To report an outage after office hours on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays call — 783/2358 first:

If no answer, dial	783-3221
	783-2059
or Lawrenceville area	943-4373
or Claremont area	869-2338

Please — When reporting an outage have your line and account number ready. You will find it in the lower left hand corner of your meter reading card.



# FISH MARKET "REEKS" OF SUCCESS



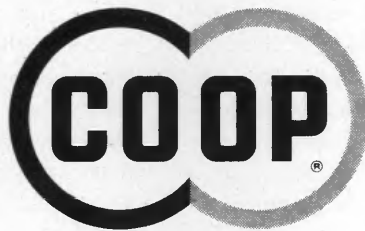


# More farm choices from the choice of more farmers

**What do you need to do your farming?** Your double-circle Co-op has the equipment to make your job easier. Plus the buildings and bins cattle. Programs backed by the right feeds, animal health care products, feeding and watering systems. CO-OP has even established livestock markets, like our exclusive "Pig-to-Plate" program.

**What do you need to grow your crops?** Your double-circle Co-op is the world's largest supplier of fertilizer, ready and willing to meet your schedule. You'll also find a ready supply of seed, pesticides and herbicides.

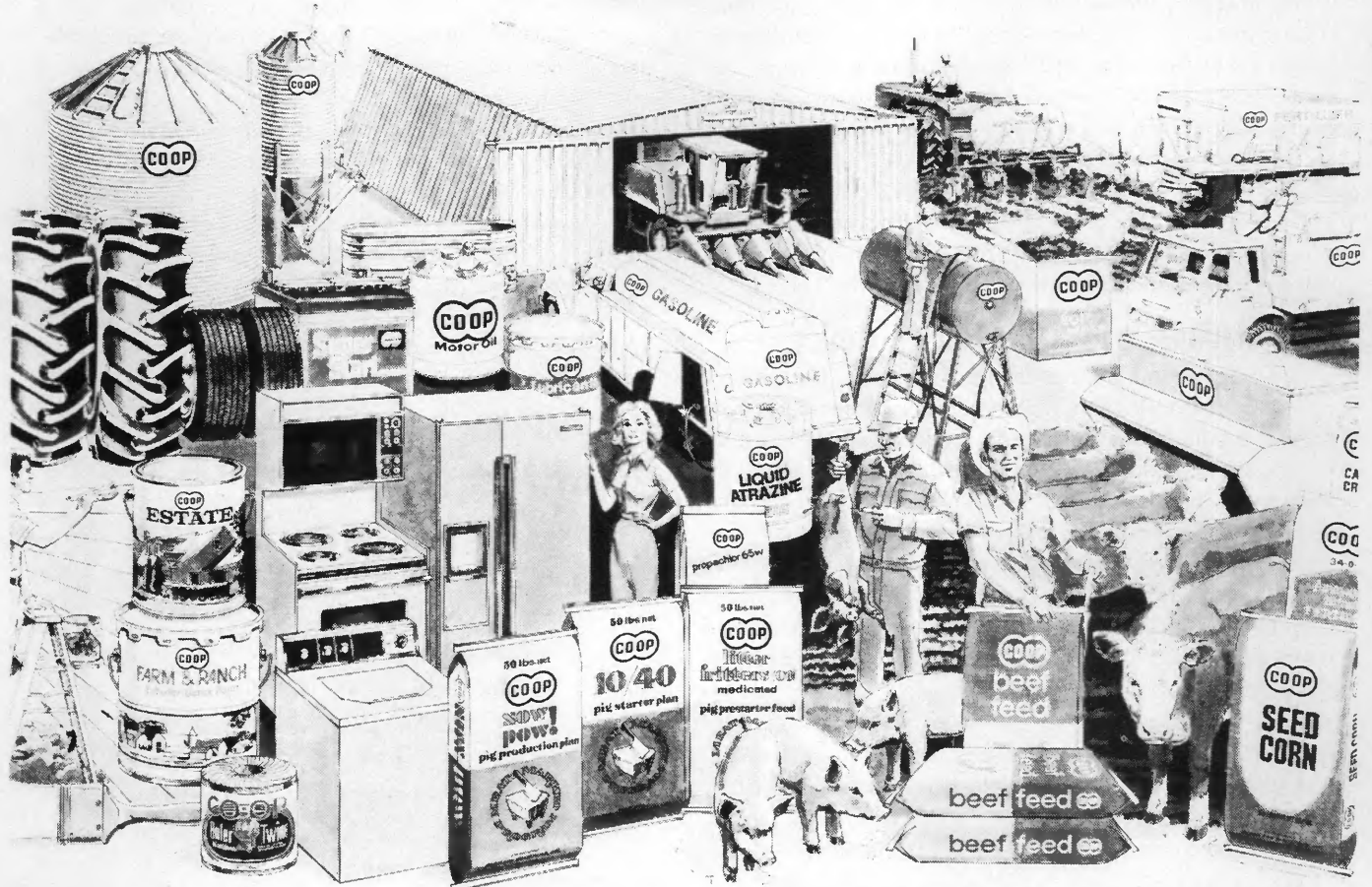
**What do you need to raise your livestock?** Your double-circle Co-op has complete up-to-date life cycle growing programs for hogs and to house what you work with and what you grow.



**BEST DEAL IN THE COUNTRY!**

**What do you need to keep things running?** Your double-circle Co-op has the petroleum products, tires and batteries to keep your machinery, trucks and cars running and producing. You can count on prompt delivery, too. Right down to in-the-field emergency service.

**What do you need for a better life?** Your double-circle Co-op has the extras as well as the necessities. Refrigerators, ranges, barbecue grills, tools, paint—all kinds of appliances and home equipment. And as with everything CO-OP supplies, quality, value and service are part of the purchase.



FARMLAND INDUSTRIES, INC.  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64118



# Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

## *Across the manager's desk*



LeRoy V. Hard  
Manager

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) is a service organization of and for 30 rural electric cooperatives including generation, transmission and distribution cooperatives in the state of Illinois. Monroe County Electric Co-Operative is a sustaining member of AIEC and subscribes to many of the services it offers. One of the more important functions of the AIEC is the monitoring of legislation on both the state and federal level, which affects the rural electrification program and the electric utility industry. We as a local cooperative could not keep abreast of the many bills proposed in our state and federal legislative bodies. The AIEC staff reviews and keeps the cooperatives advised on proposed legislation and their interpretation of how the proposed legislation will affect the electric cooperatives of Illinois. AIEC at its annual meeting in August of this year adopted several resolutions which we would like to share with you. They are indicative of and reflect the "energy crisis" our nation is facing. Below are excerpts from two of the resolutions adopted:

### **National and State Energy Policy**

A national and state energy policy which considers economic reasonableness and technological feasibility with respect to the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in relation to the environment and less time consuming and less costly permit system for generating facility siting will create additional employment for American workers, and is essential to an orderly industrial and commercial recovery of the economy.

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives respectfully urges and requests that a coordinated effort to ensure an adequate, reliable supply of electricity and fuel to generate such electricity at the lowest possible cost, while respecting the integrity of the public health and welfare and environment be undertaken by the executive and legislative branches of the federal and state governments and related agencies and commissions.

### **Need for Nuclear and Coal Energy Base**

The "energy crisis" illustrated the need for a shift in

reliance on the use of energy sources from oil and gas to coal and uranium. Nuclear fuel and coal offer the only reliable means to meet domestic energy needs, while at the same time lessen our dependence on foreign oil imports.

The necessity for future reliance on coal and nuclear energy is evident. Oil and gas resources are being depleted rapidly and their use should be reserved for those economic areas which contribute to the greatest national good. United States coal resources are far greater than our petroleum and natural gas resources. Uranium is used in present day reactors, can produce approximately 48 percent of the energy represented by coal and oil resources. The development of fast breeder reactors will result in a seventy fold increase in nuclear energy reserves. The fast breeder reactor creates more nuclear fuel than it consumes while producing electric power.

In addition nuclear plants are safe. No one has ever been killed or injured by a nuclear accident at a nuclear power plant. The nuclear material in the care of a nuclear power reactor is physically incapable of exploding.

Only coal and nuclear energy can provide sufficient or reasonably priced energy in quantities needed through the end of this century. The nation must proceed now to develop nuclear electric power and the fast breeder reactor technology to ensure that energy to be derived from it will be available when needed.

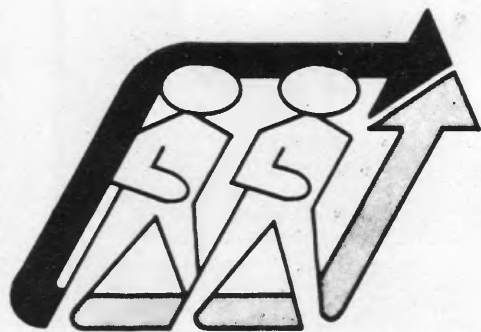
As previously stated, the above are excerpts from two of the resolutions adopted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Monroe County Electric Co-Operative has representation on the AIEC board of directors and has a voice in its activities and policies. The directors and management of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative endorses the actions and the above resolutions adopted by AIEC.

## **Conserve-A-Tip**

Over half the heat that escapes from a house in the winter is lost through windows, cracks and open doors. Take a tip . . . use weatherstripping and caulk those cracks—and keep doors closed.

**It pays to conserve energy**

# COOPERATIVE MONTH: OCTOBER 1976



## COOPERATIVES. PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER

*Statement by Robert D. Partridge,  
Executive Vice President and General  
Manager, National Rural Electric  
Cooperative Association.*

"People Working Together"—the national theme for the Bicentennial year's Cooperative Month observance during October—exemplifies the basic ingredient of the cooperative philosophy. People work together when they want to accomplish a job they cannot do alone and when they have common needs, goals and ideals. During the Bicentennial year, this theme seems particularly meaningful because, surely, the founding fathers of our great nation had to indeed work together to attain an independent country.

Today, because of the cooperative philosophy—because people worked together—some 50 million Americans are member-owners of 40,000 cooperatives which fill a multitude of needs

throughout the nation.

In 1976 in a world where American technology far surpasses that of other countries, we tend to forget the "people-part" of our nation's successes. But when we reflect about it, we can easily see that our successes are based on human skill and ingenuity...human awareness of needs...and compassion for others.

We, the people directly involved in the rural electrification program, do not have to look back far at all—just 40 years—to examine our beginnings. Our rural electric "founding fathers" were determined to bring electricity to their homes and farms to improve their standard of living and raise their level of work efficiency. They were determined to fight for what they wanted; and even though they were ridiculed and told they wouldn't succeed, they did not become discouraged and give up.

Our story is truly one of success. The cooperative way of setting up consumer-owned electric systems caught on...and electricity did, indeed, come to rural America. No longer were farm and household chores back-breaking and time-consuming. Rural America began to produce food and fiber in a way which never before seemed possible.

There is no "happy ending" to our story...because it's far from ended. Although nearly 100 percent of America's countryside is electrified, rural electric cooperatives and their leaders face new challenges. Heading the list is the energy crisis and all its

implications, which include rising costs, fuel supplies, lagging research and development and how to protect the environment while producing adequate power. Rural America is rapidly changing as people come from—in many cases, return from...congested cities to make their homes, work, and raise their families in a quieter, calmer environment.

Rural electric leaders are looked to for their expertise in getting the job done of improving their communities, helping create new jobs, working for adequate housing and health care facilities. Through their local, state and annual meetings, the consumer-members and leaders of America's nearly 1,000 rural electric cooperatives come together to discuss these new challenges and to seek solutions to their problems. Each consumer-member has a voice—that, too, is part of cooperative philosophy—and through the exchange of ideas and information, decisions are reached, goals and objectives are set forth, and policies established.

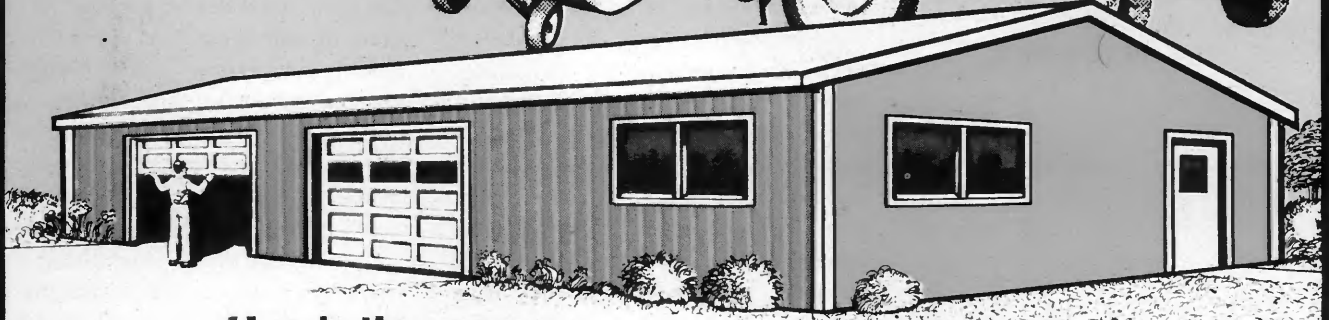
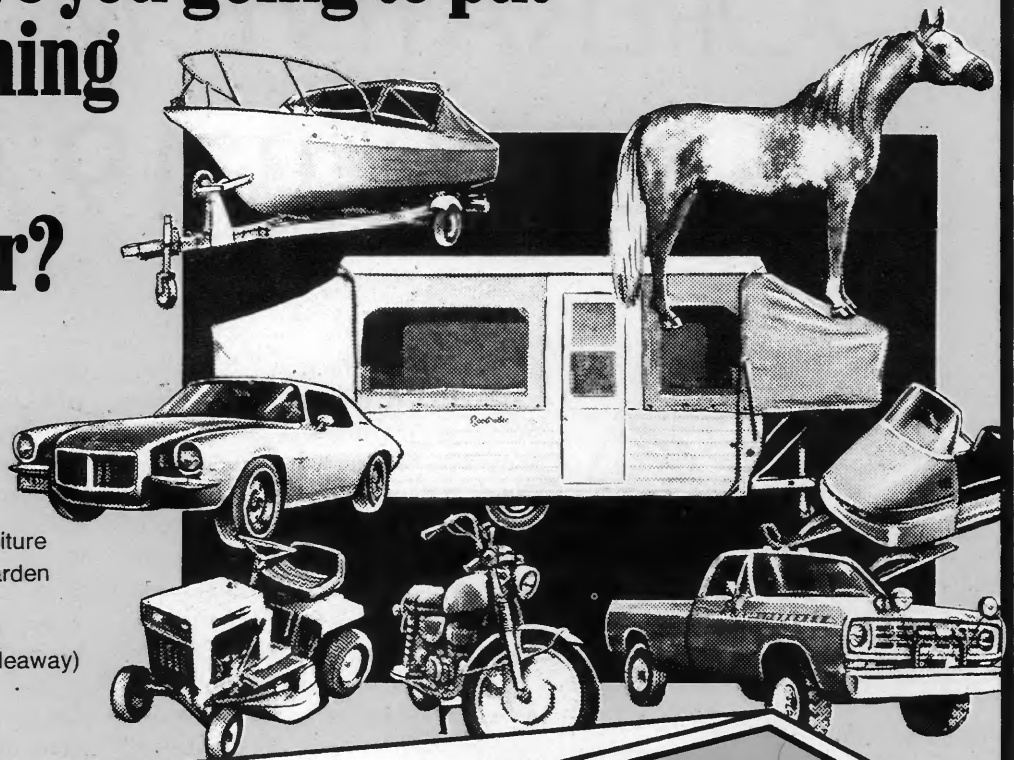
The procedures are not much different than they were 40 years ago. But the numbers have changed for a very small group of people working together to nearly 25-million consumers in 46 states.

The people of the rural electrification program are a prime example of "people working together"—they've accomplished quite a lot in just 40 short years; and they will continue work for the good of rural America and for the good of the nation.



# Where are you going to put everything this Winter?

- Trucks
- Cars
- Boats
- Bikes
- Campers
- Trailers
- Outdoor Furniture
- Lawn and Garden Equipment
- Snowmobiles
- (A Handy Hideaway)

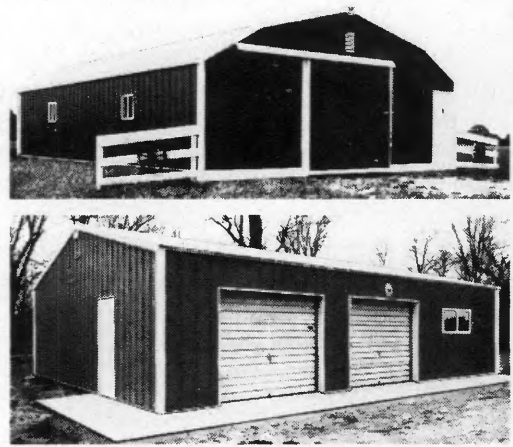


**Here's the answer:**

## A beautiful, low-cost Wickes utility building, garage or workshop.

Rugged, professionally-engineered poleframe structures with maintenance-free exteriors of textured color aluminum or color steel—your choice. Plenty of storage space for equipment and vehicles, plus extra room for a workshop too. Sizes and plans for every need. Erected on your land by skilled crews.

Protect your investments. Get 'em out of the weather and into a Wickes building.



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 Box 117, Taylorville (217) 824-9851

**Call Collect or Mail Coupon Today**

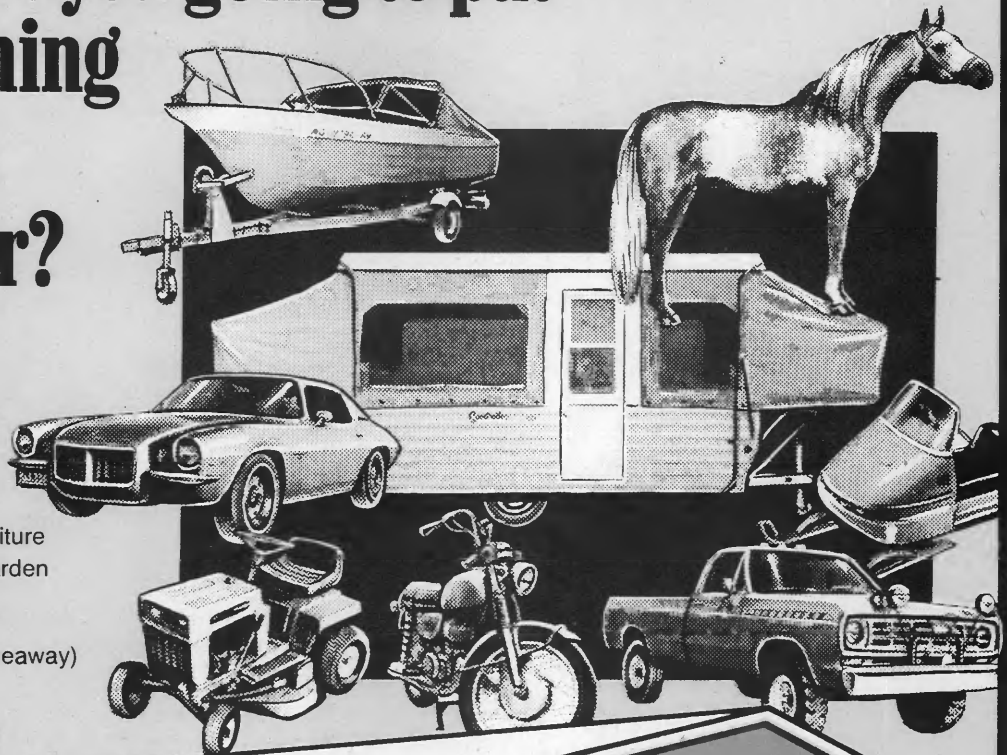
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IR1060



# Where are you going to put everything this Winter?

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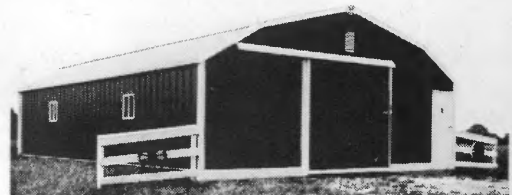


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State \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

TR 1160

# Norris Electric News

NOVEMBER 1976

## Manager's Comments

by Damon Williams

Want to make your life happy and carefree, have cheaper electricity, make sure you have the cheapest and most economical way of heating? Buy a heat pump. Right?

Double wrong, wrong! Right now we are bomblasted and landblasted with a lot of advertising that would lead one to believe that the purchasing and installing of a heat pump is the answer to all of the problems that beset worried mankind. We all are getting tired of the ever increasing, higher and higher prices of EVERYTHING. The heat pump does a pretty good job if it is installed right, made right and you buy from a reliable dealer who lays it on the line and tells you what you can expect.

First of all, a heat pump is merely an air conditioner turned backwards. Instead of cooling your house it takes

the heat which always exists in the outside air and converts it by compressor and blows it back into your house by a duct work or grill and allegedly does a pretty fair job. But there is a fly in the ointment and I will tell you what it is. In all the heat pumps that I have ever seen they are backed up with resistance heating which is nothing more or less than regular old heat coil the same as you purchase to plug in your bathroom and, brother, nothing in the world gobbles up electricity any faster than resistance type heating. Now these will work fine and do a pretty good job if the following criteria are met:

1. Buy from a dealer who knows what he is doing and is honest.
2. Contact Norris Electric for any advice we can give you.
3. Make sure your house is double insulated, top, sides and bottom. If you don't the heat is going to go out of it like water through a sieve and your electric bills are going to climb sky high. Not only that but the resistance type heating will cause a huge transformer to be

installed and this must be paid for winter and summer because believe me the big transformers don't come free in this business. No-more, No-way.

So, again, although I'm not going to knock a heat pump and try to keep you from buying one, we will tell you what kind of insulation you should have, what type of heat pump will work, and we will find out whether the resistance heating in the heat pump is going to eat you up and other pertinent information that we might have. So don't be led down the glory road by someone that doesn't know what they are talking about. And, brother, I already know about resistance heating because I bought one a couple years ago when my oil furnace went on the blink and I'm telling you the thing liked to chewed me to death.

Now in closing this little filler for publication I will tell you my one joke of the month. I'm not much for one to tell risque stories. They never seem funny to me even if I always act like they do, but this is the kind I like:

*"It seems to me that every four years there are three great parties that emerge—one, Republican, one, Democrat and the other is cocktail parties—and they are all loud, raucous, and make a lot of noise."*

## Women Want Quality, Price

Phillips Fibers Corporation recently made a survey of consumer buying habits. Their questionnaire went to 1,000 women's clubs across the United States and represents a good cross-section of the buying public. The survey showed, according to the Textile Marketing letter, the following:

Women who work: 35 percent of the women work full time; 25 percent work part time; many are the sole support of their families.

Prices: These women don't like today's prices—55 percent of them said they had to revise family budgets to accommodate the higher textile and apparel prices; 94 percent feel they are spending more money and getting inferior quality in return.

Buying Influences: What makes these women buy what they do when they do? Many wait for sales; 80

percent shop "once in a while," but the sales appeal of nice looking merchandise is still very high; 44 percent say they buy clothes "on impulse."

Quality and fashion outrank all other considerations: 73 percent place "fashion" as the No. 1 buying influence; 62 percent rate "quality" as No. 1; 84 percent say they think in terms of their total wardrobe when making a new purchase.

Fibers and Fabrics: "Easy care" was a controlling consideration with almost all of the women. Seventy-one percent said they wanted to be assured of "easy care" before they purchased a garment; 82 percent said they send less than 10 percent of their clothes to the drycleaner; 90 percent like the knits "easy care" and 51 percent like knits because of their comfort.

## The Spirit of Liberty

Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women. When it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it. No constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it. . . .

The spirit of liberty is the spirit which seeks to understand the minds of other men and women. The spirit of liberty is the spirit which weighs their interests alongside its own without bias. The spirit of liberty is the spirit of Him who, near two thousand years ago, taught mankind that lesson it has never learned, but has never quite forgotten; that there will be a kingdom where the least shall be heard and considered side by side with the greatest.

—Judge Learned Hand

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

# Modern Day Fish Farming

By LEROY WAKEFIELD

Ingenuity and new ways of making a living are dead in the United States. Right? Wrong! Mr. and Mrs. George Buening, R. R. 1, Mason, Illinois, 1½ miles east and 1½ miles south of Mason, purchased some property a year ago and started in the exciting business of catfish farming.

In the last year he has stocked his man-made lakes with catfish from six inches to eight inches long and they have grown from that length up to two pounds and are now open to fishing to the public. He doesn't charge for the fishing but charges for the fish that you catch and believe me, they are there. All you have to do is to watch them feed them as they are doing in some of the following pictures and they make the water boil. To the ones that don't fish they always have the clean, well dressed fish to sell by the pound at his residence.

He has three ponds of one acre each in which he has catfish stocked and in



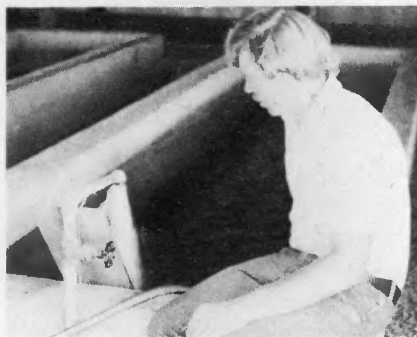
*Mr. George Buening pointing to fish in his lake.*



*Mr. and Mrs. George Buening and son feeding catfish.*

one pond he has bluegill and crappie, in case you care for these instead of the delectable catfish. In the future he plans on raising minnows and selling them commercially to the many bass fisherman that live in our area. In his setup he has approximately eight acres of water for raising and fishing and the lakes are all well shaded and developed with low banks and plenty of grassy waterway. This is all in the summer months because he teaches school in Montrose and in any spare time left over in his busy life, he takes care of ten beehives and retails honey.

This is an interesting family and certainly they deserve credit for their efforts in their work. In case you are interested you might check them out.



*Mr. George Buening filling the holding tank containing the fish for stocking the lake.*

## Outage Calls

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed Saturday and Sunday. Phone: Area code 618 783-2358

To report an outage after office hours or on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays call—783-2358 first

If no answer, dial	783-3221
	783-2059
or Lawrenceville area	943-4373
or Claremont area	869-2338

Please—When reporting an outage have your line and account number ready. You will find it in the lower left hand corner of your meter reading card.

## Smoking Again?

Great gains have been made in the fight against illness and death from cigarette smoking:

Public consciousness about the dangers of cigarette smoking has risen remarkably. During the past 10 years, four out of five smokers have tried to quit.

Thirty million Americans have quit smoking.

The constant dramatic rise in cigarette smoking has been stopped. Per person, cigarette smoking in the U.S. more than doubled from the 1930's to the 1950's. Then it leveled off and even declined a bit until about 1970. (It may be starting to rise again.)

The same cigarette manufacturers who claim that cigarettes are safe are working to produce a less dangerous cigarette. The average cigarette now contains half the amount of tar and nicotine as in 1950.

But there's still a long fight ahead for the American Lung Association and for many other agencies that share its concern about the ravages of smoking.

Too many smokers can't or won't quit. In 1974, the 50 million American smokers consumed a record 30 billion packs of cigarettes. That's almost half-a-pack-a day for every American: man, woman, child, and newborn baby.

Too many young people are starting to smoke. One million teenagers begin each year.

"Tobacco drieth the brain, dimmeth the sight, viateth the smell, hurteth the stomach, destroyeth the concoction, disturbeth the humors and spirits, correpteth the breath, induceth a trembling of the limbs, exsiccateh the windpipe, lungs and liver, annotety the milt, scorceth the heart and causeth the blood to be adjusted.

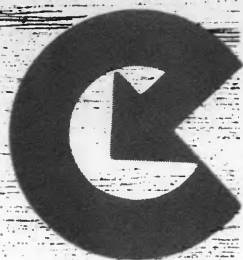
—Tobias Venner, 1620.

## Got a Weird Weed?

If you have a weed or wild grass you're not sure how to control, or that resists control, it can be dealt with. Simply wrap it in aluminum foil without adding moisture and mail it to Scotts Weed-Ident, Marysville, Ohio 43040.

The weed will then be identified and you will be advised that to do. No charge!





# Energy Conservation Now

## Caulking and weather stripping

By Lyle E. Dunham  
Director, Member Services  
Association of Illinois  
Electric Cooperatives

Energy-saving applications made to your present home will provide more comfort for your everyday living and, at the same time, save heating and cooling dollars.

Many people consider that insulation should be added or installed to cut down on the cold winter chills that seep through the structure or home during the winter heating months. This same leakage of outside air goes on during the summer months but the cost of these leaks is paid for through your cooling charges rather than your heating bill.

Over half the heat that escapes from a house in the winter is lost through windows, cracks and open doors, and simple remedies can be made to existing homes with energy leaks without a great outlay of cash. Some of these energy leaks can be handled on a piecemeal and spare time basis, and in the end will save energy dollars and provide more comfort.

Let's start with caulking (preferably latex, butyl or polyvinyl type). Caulking should be applied wherever two different materials or parts of the house meet. Seal cracks around doors, windows and foundation. Dig out old, cracked caulking and add new filler. Don't forget to caulk where chimney or masonry meets the siding.

As a starter, estimate the number of cartridges to purchase in the following manner: one-half cartridge per window or door, four cartridges for the foundation sill and two cartridges for a two-story chimney. One caulking gun will do the job unless you enlist help. Take your time: all windows and doors do not need to be done today. What you do get done today will save you dollars and cents in comfort

conditioning costs tomorrow.

While working with windows and doors, why not go a step further for energy conservation? Check the existing weather stripping. Is it worn and ill fitting? Damaged? Missing?

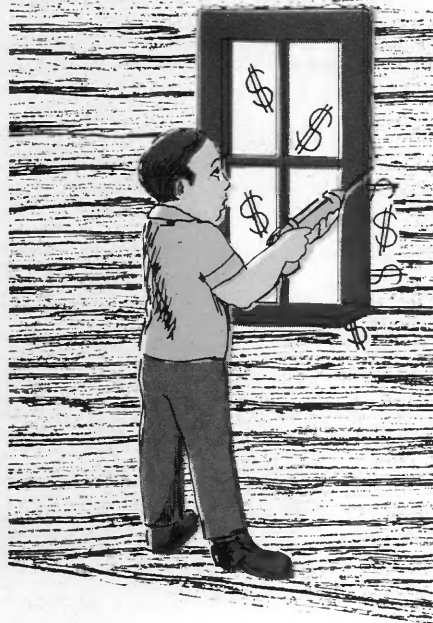
As with caulking, it can be repaired or replaced very economically. Generally, complete replacement will be the most efficient repair.

Visit your hardware or lumber dealer. He has several types of weather stripping for doors and windows, each with its own level of effectiveness and durability. Some are easier to install than others. Select the one that seems best for you. Instructions for installation of each are generally included with the package you purchase. Normal household tools are all that's needed to close these drafty crevices.

The threshold of each door needs to be handled separately. Heavily used doors need a more durable threshold seal than those seldom used. A variety of types is available for your choice of use, all reasonably priced and economical for the use intended.

While shopping for these energy conservation items, look at the installation instructions. If they seem too complicated for you to install, ask to see other types that you can handle. Don't purchase something you can't install. The whole purpose of these suggestions is to provide you with ideas for energy conservation and comfort that you can accomplish in your spare time with minimal cash expenditures.

*For a complete book on energy saving techniques for your home, send \$2.00 to the AIEC Member Services Department, P. O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708.*



*This is the first in a series of articles designed to help you save money on your energy bill through the wise and careful use of electricity. The articles will outline procedures from simple caulking and weather stripping to appliance selection to installation or addition of insulation and to new heating and cooling systems designed to save energy. The pros and cons of shade trees, windbreaks, solar and wind power, and the new super-insulated homes will be discussed. In short, the series will deal with anything that will help you save dollars and conserve energy. If you have questions or comments regarding energy conservation, we'd like to hear from you. The symbol used on this page is made up of three fundamental elements: "c" for conservation, "e" for energy and the inward-pointing arrow representing the need for energy conservation and energy independence.*



# The Christmas flower-

Mason County family produces thousands

(continued from page 9)  
month to six weeks later the second  
flushing is taken. Although the second

flushing produces up to 2,000  
cuttings, three to four cuttings are  
placed in each pot, primarily because

of the late start for this particular  
batch. Each cutting is three to four  
inches long.

From there, proper temperature,  
watering, feeding, lighting and  
darkening lead to plants 12 to 18  
inches high which are ablaze with the  
vivid red colors in December.

It really isn't correct, however, to  
say all the plants will be red. Knoles  
produces two other varieties. One is  
white and the other pink. Both these  
colors are grown in much smaller  
number than the bright red.

Each of the pots atop the long  
benches has its own watering tube  
which is connected to a main watering  
hose running the length of the bench.

Knoles repeated what many  
authorities say about plants: don't  
water them too much. The correct  
amount depends on several factors,  
Knoles said. For poinsettias, watering  
every other day during bright, sunny  
weather is necessary. Cloudy, overcast  
conditions reduce the plants' water  
needs.

Preservation of a poinsettia after its  
Christmas coloring is not easy, Knoles  
said. "They are difficult to re-bloom,"  
he explained. A lot of the difficulty is  
because of the plant's long-night  
needs. Because of the decreasing night  
that follows the Christmas season, the  
plants simply do not receive the  
proper balance of night and day, he  
said.

To create a new branching, it is  
necessary to pinch the stem just below  
the colored leaves. Then, proper  
watering, feeding, temperature and  
light are needed to insure bright red  
bracts for Christmas. Knoles explained  
that a night-time temperature of 65 is  
optimum to induce the bracts to  
change colors. Then, a night tem-  
perature of 60 is best to hold the  
coloring. During the daytime, tem-  
perature was 72 in the greenhouse.

(continued on page 14)

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# Norris Electric News

DECEMBER, 1976

## Manager's Comments

by Damon Williams

"10-4" "10-20" "Hi-good buddy" "Mercy sakes." All that means is you have a fine new CB radio, doesn't it? Lots of fun, right? Well, I'll tell you, good buddy, it could mean your death. Listen carefully.

So don't "10-7" it but stay "10-8"—

We, an electric power cooperative, are aware of the potentially serious accidents that can occur when antennas come into contact with overhead power lines. This has been a problem for many years, especially with the do-it-yourself installers who are not always aware of the hazards. The rapid growth of citizens band radio popularity is increasing the problem.

Twenty-six accidents involving antennas coming into contact with power lines were reported to Nationwide Insurance Company from April, 1975, through August, 1976. We studied 19 of the most serious of these accidents. The results of our study showed that the frequency of these accidents increased significantly since January, 1976, and the majority of accidents since then (11 of 13) involved CB antennas. These increases clearly correspond to the rise in CB enthusiasm throughout the country.

Our study also revealed that the antennas involved in all 19 cases were mounted atop long metal masts which rested on the ground at their base and were supported above by guy wires or the eaves of a house. Since most base station CB antennas are lightweight and measure 17 to 18 feet high before being mounted on a mast, it is obviously quite easy to erect a very tall (35 to 40 feet) antenna/mast

combination by assembling it on the ground and then "walking" it into an upright position. The majority of victims in our study were simply walking the CB antennas up into place when the mast or antenna tip contacted a 7,200-volt power line. Almost half of the victims (16 out of 33) died of electrocution, and all but one of those killed were standing on the ground holding the mast.

These accidents cause needless human suffering or death. It is, therefore, morally and economically desirable for Norris Electric Cooperative to do all it can to prevent these accidents by telling you of the problem. We need help from all CB enthusiasts and request their aid in "spreading the word" to be careful.

Norris Electric Cooperative volunteers our men and equipment to anyone in our service area who wishes to remove old antennas near our power lines.

## An Office Manager Looks at the High Cost of Electricity

By ROWENA HUTSON  
Office Manager

Increased power cost, which resulted in higher rates and adding wholesale power cost adjustment to members' monthly electric bills, has been the most disturbing event in the history of this electric cooperative. Higher power cost has affected every department of this cooperative. Increased bills cause more high bill complaints, more requests for meters to be tested, more explanations and checking on meter readings, more delinquent bills, increase in amount of uncollectible accounts, etc., etc.

Each month when the power bill is received from Central Illinois Public Service Company (CIPS), from whom we purchase power, it is with trepidation that I check the fuel cost adjustment rate and the increase in power cost for the month. Month after month, the cost of purchased power has increased, which CIPS advises is

primarily due to cost of coal.

What effect does this have on our operations?

First, will there be enough money in the bank accounts to pay the power bill when it is due? Cash flow must be watched carefully to have funds available when needed. The monthly power bill is almost a half million dollars and must be paid on time.

Second, the wholesale power cost rate must be calculated to use for next month's billing. Month after month the wholesale power cost rate has increased, and we know higher monthly electric bills create a problem for many of our members.

The 1977 budget is being prepared. CIPS notified this office on June 25, 1976, that they proposed to petition the Federal Power Commission to change the wholesale power rate for 1977. This without a doubt will mean a rate increase.

What will purchased power cost in 1977?

Will revenue under present rates be sufficient to pay power bill and operating costs?

Should we print the information sheets and rate schedules and hope that rates will not have to be changed?

How should we estimate KWH sales? Are members going to cut back on use of electricity?

All these are perplexing problems for the person working on the 1977 budget and forecast and planning and scheduling for the months ahead.

We appreciate the concern of many when they receive their monthly electric bills. The office personnel are always willing to help you check on your bill when you call or write. There could be an incorrect reading or a wiring problem that is causing the high bill.

Let's hope a solution can be found to hold the cost of purchased power to a reasonable cost. But remember, every kilowatt you use must be paid by Norris Electric to CIPS.

# It's Christmas Time Again

By DAMON WILLIAMS

Each year I am expected to write a message about Christmas. Frankly, I'm about all "writ" out. Still, Christmas is as fresh as it was nearly 2,000 years ago, for joy is ever new in the hearts of the people throughout the world and kindness and forgiveness light up the eternal presence of something more powerful than human beings.

What is the true meaning of Christmas? It is warmth and sunshine, and logs crackling on the fireplace, and even though it is that way you always want the snow to fall gentle and white and coat the trees with an icy coating the way it used to. It is Yorkshire

pudding and steaming, wonderful smells coming from the kitchen of roast turkey, oysters, and biscuits. It can also mean hard-country ham, black-eyed peas with bright golden corn bread and milk and apple pie with cinnamon dusted on it. And sometimes little red hearts make tangy spots of color. It's all the good things you had as a kid and hope to have when you get old, and after you got old knew you hadn't appreciated it when you were a kid.

Christmas is the crack of an axe to fell a tree that will light up the hearts of families everywhere. It's tears, and laughter, and sweet memories of years gone by that you wish you could live

over. You remember mistletoe and greeting cards, candy canes and tinsel and young voices singing carols. It is the memory of me and Ace hunting broom-branch hollers, and two of the best setters I've ever seen, the thrill of a brand new double-barrel 20, and hazy, smoky snow-covered hillsides with more quail in a day than you'll see now in a season. And this is the meaning of Christmas.

It also means that a man may rise in the pulpit of a church and pray before the entire world that there will always be a Christmas to bring peace and happiness and hope for all people everywhere. May you have a lot of each.

## To Claus Because...

Dear Santa,

Have to be careful with my Christmas "gifting" list this year because, as you probably know, times are still rough; and that means money is scarce. With that in mind, Santa, let's think in terms of precious things to give that need only be gift wrapped with love.

Now, then, let's gift wrap a heaping measure of kindness, understanding, and love for my family, friends, and people I meet. To that, let's add a sense of duty to fulfill my obligations. Can't forget that I'm forever in debt to those who make my life worthwhile.

Next, I'd like to be selfish, in a sense, because I want others to like me, respect me for what I am and what I can be. So, let's gift wrap some personal sensitivity to the needs and wants of those about me as well as equal parts of humility, loyalty, and responsibility.

All these precious things can't be wrapped in fancy paper and ribbons, Santa. Still, they can be given and used—not just at Christmas—but every day in the year. With a little thought and enough personal determination, I can give these precious gifts to everyone close to my life. At least I can try. . . .

And thanks for your help, Santa.



*This picture shows Joe Ware with an insulator we found that caused all the trouble in Moccasin area on H lines. We have had outages in this area for the last month or so. We found this broken insulator that had been shot with a rifle and grounded out when it would rain. Some hunters think they are sportsmen when they can shoot at these still targets.*

### This Is Important In Reporting Outages

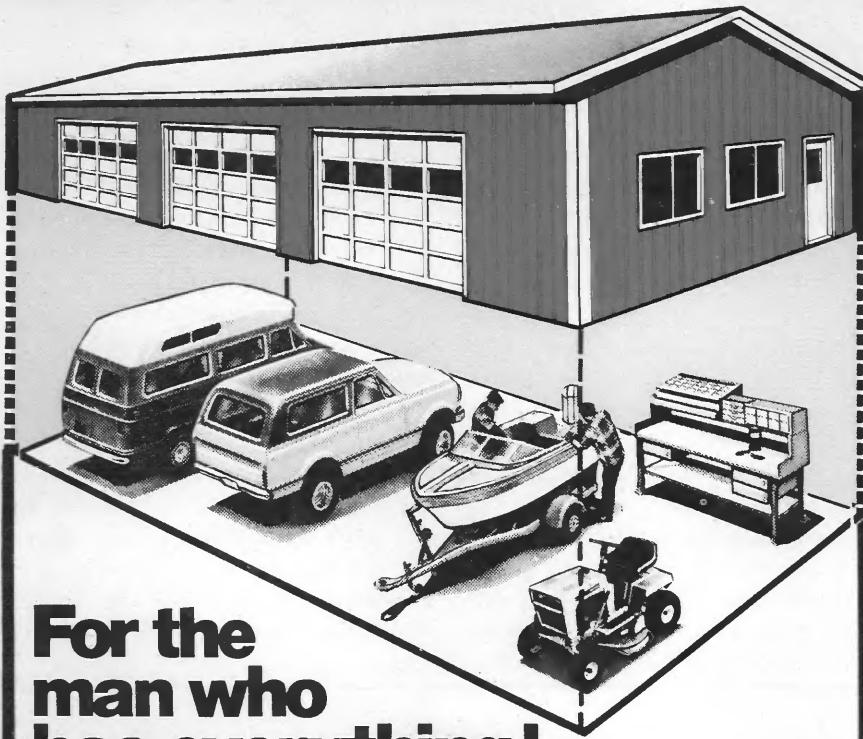
OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m., Monday through Friday. Closed Saturday and Sunday. Phone: Area Code 618/783-2358.

To report an outage after office hours on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays call — 783/2358 first:

If no answer, dial	783-3221
	783-2059
or Lawrenceville area	943-4373
or Claremont area	869-2338

Please — When reporting an outage have your line and account number ready. You will find it in the lower left hand corner of your meter reading card.





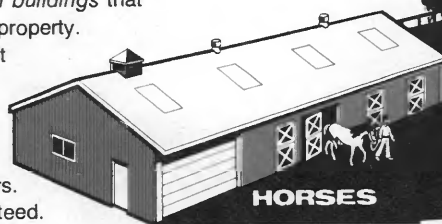
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(except a place to put it)



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**Wickes Buildings**  
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**The Christmas flower-**

Mason County family produces thousands

(continued from page 11)

Back in 1957, when Anna Mae Knoles decided she wanted to grow more petunias, the Knoleses put up a greenhouse measuring 336 square feet. "We outgrew that first greenhouse in a year," Kenneth Knoles said. The elder Knoles said the first flower shop also was opened in 1957. Now, in addition to the facility near Mason City, the Knoles Gardens operation includes shops in Pekin and Havana and an artificial flower shop in Mason City.

The greenhouse operation is designed for year-around production. In the spring, the Knoleses produce bedding vegetable plants by the thousands, maybe even by the millions, as Ken put it. Seventeen people work full-time, with seasonal help hired in the spring, Kenneth Knoles said.

The winter mums bloom by the first of March, usually. The bedding plants follow the winter mums. Summer mums go in about the first of June and are ready about the end of August or the first of September. Throw in the poinsettias and the year is full.

The Knoles greenhouse features an evaporative cooling system for summer. Water, pumped by an electric motor, flows over excelsior pads that cover one wall. At the opposite side of the greenhouse, three exhaust fans are placed to pull outside air in through the watered pads. Knoles said it results in reducing the temperature of outside air by about 15 degrees and provides humidity for the plants, too. In winter, heat is by propane furnaces with electric blower fans pushing the heat through long plastic tubes with holes along the length to even the heat flow.

There are five greenhouse units now, providing approximately 8,300 square feet.

During the spring, the Knoles place is the subject of tours by school children, 4-H groups and garden clubs.

Then, it is the spread of bedding plants and the last of the winter mums that provide the attraction.

In December, it's the sea of bright red—just as long as it's all gone by Christmas.