

# Despite ups and downs, he

Tom Marckese has one of those hobbies that has its ups and downs. He goes up in airplanes and jumps out of them, for fun and profit, as they say. He has jumped from as high as 13,500 feet.

Marckese, who is a member of the Trackers, Inc., of Annawan, has been in the sport parachuting game since about 1970, or thereabouts. He and his wife Mary Lynne, are members of Farmers Mutual Electric Company, Geneseo.

Actually, his involvement in the sport came about as a combination of business and pleasure. He was in the Marine Corps, a member of an air and

naval liaison gunfire team; members of such teams are required to be qualified parachutists.

"I found that I liked parachuting," Marckese says with a grin, "so I joined the Camp Pendleton Sport Parachute Club. All told, I've made about 1,100 jumps since then," he says. The Marine Corps required qualified parachutists to make two water landings, and a night jump, too, but Marckese's activities are not quite so lively now, even though they certainly cannot be considered mundane.

Sport parachuting today generally centers around two activities—performing acrobatics after the

'chutist jumps and before he opens his parachute, and attempting to hit—or come very close to—a tiny target.

"The target's four inches in diameter," Marckese says, "or perhaps I should say 9.84 centimeters, since sport parachuting is an international activity. Measurements are metric because of that."

The Trackers operate out of the Harold Thompson farm at Annawan, and they occasionally perform exhibitions for shopping center promotions and such activities. "Actually, we could do more jumping just at the farm," Tom says, "but the exhibitions help pay for the airplane and publicize the club."

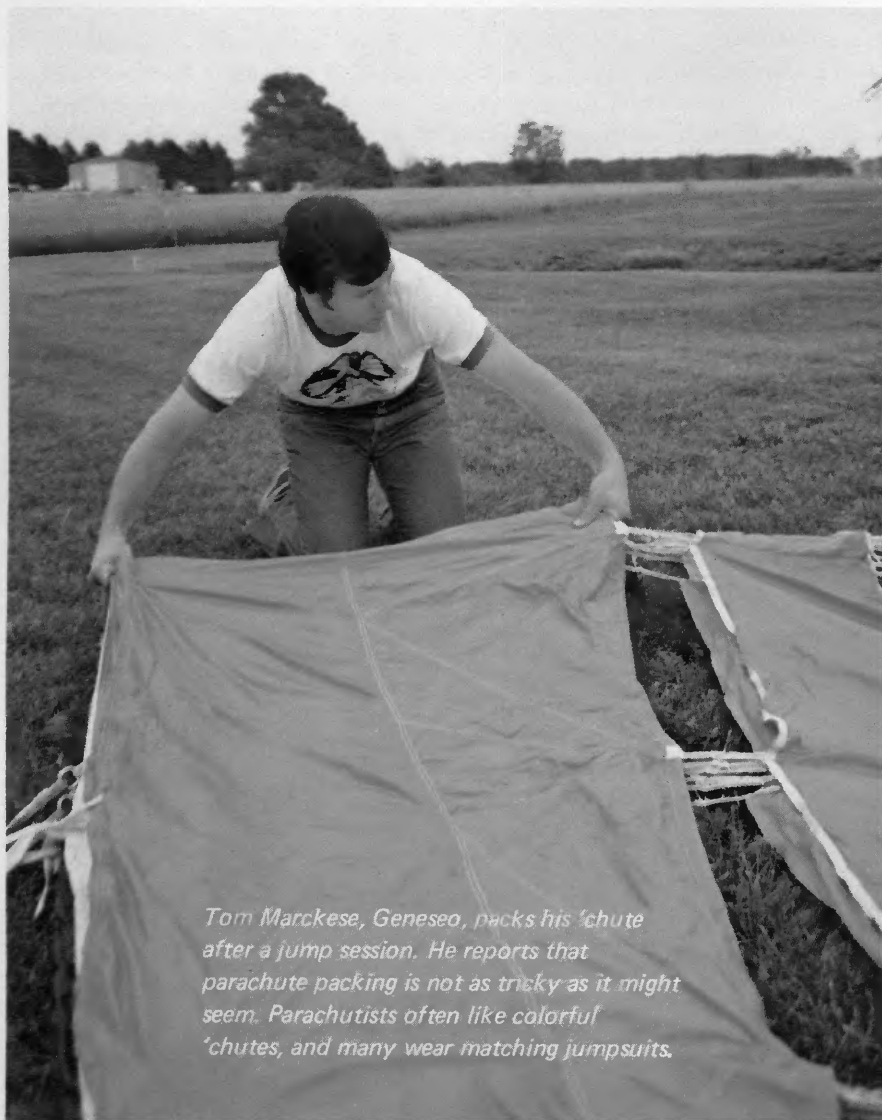
Members, he notes, can join the club by paying a \$1,000 fee and then jump all they want after paying a \$30 monthly fee. Members who choose this plan hold part ownership in the airplane. "I've been a member since September, 1972, and I've gotten my money back several times over," he says.

The club owns a Cessna 205 Skyvan.

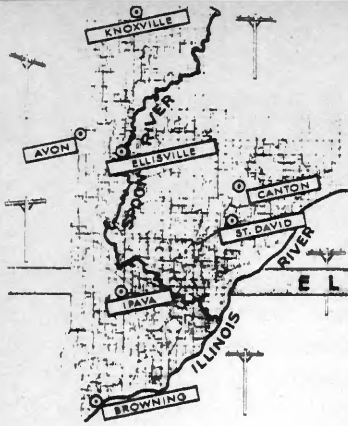
Members with less-expensive tastes can pay \$200 a year and pay the \$30 monthly fee and jump all they want, too, he says, but they hold no ownership interest in the airplane, and have no say in how the club is run.

"We keep track of how many jumps we make," he notes, "and we write each jump down in a log book. Each book has enough spaces for 150 jumps, and I'm working on my seventh book now. Another thing we keep track of is the amount of free-fall time we build up. Free-fall is that time after you leave the aircraft and before you open your parachute, and I have almost four hours of free fall time," Marckese says.

Marckese uses a square parachute as a main chute and has a round reserve chute. "This is my fifth main chute," he says, "and this one and my last one were square. I like them better because you can pack them smaller and



*Tom Marckese, Geneseo, packs his 'chute after a jump session. He reports that parachute packing is not as tricky as it might seem. Parachutists often like colorful 'chutes, and many wear matching jumpsuits.*



# Spoon River Electric Co-operative

INCORPORATED

ELECTRIC SERVICE FOR RURAL AREAS

930 S. FIFTH AVE., CANTON, ILL. 61520

TELEPHONE 647-2700

Dear Members:

Spoon River Electric Cooperative, Inc. will hold its 40th Annual Meeting, Thursday evening, November 3, 1977, at the Canton High School Auditorium, in Canton. You will soon receive your official notice of date and time of meeting and annual report. The registration card will be printed on the back cover. *This card is very important. It will be used for membership registration, for issuing of ballots and gift certificates.* The back page of the report also contains your proxy, which you may assign to another member to vote for you if you are unable to attend.

Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting will be called to order at 7p.m. Immediately following the business meeting, a musical show, featuring the "Looking Glass Players," will be presented. We will again have an "early bird" attendance prize drawn from registration cards at the beginning of the business session. Voting members, *registering in person*, will receive \$5.00 Gift Certificates, which they may apply to either electric or merchandise accounts. Following adjournment, the Homemaker's Extension Association Board will provide refreshments in the cafeteria.

The Nominating Committee has placed the following names in nomination for election to the Board of Directors for three-year terms, one to be elected from each district:

- District No. 5 . . . . . William Pollitt
- District No. 5 . . . . . Floyd Wolf
- District No. 6 . . . . . Floyd Long
- District No. 6 . . . . . Donald Sill
- District No. 9 . . . . . Mark Dohner
- District No. 9 . . . . . C. Lee Duncan

Your annual meeting provides an opportunity to participate in the conduct of the business of your Cooperative, to be informed concerning its operation and progress and to elect directors to represent you. We sincerely urge you to be present on Thursday, November 3, at the Canton High School Auditorium, Canton, Illinois. REMEMBER—REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M., and THE BUSINESS MEETING AT 7 P.M.

Sincerely,

William H. McCamey  
Manager



# Spoon River Electric News

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

## Spoon River Electric Co-operative's 40th Annual Meeting

The Nominating Committee, composed of Sidney Smith, Gordon Turner, Raymond Burkhead, William Shoop, Floyd Hughes, Larry McCormick, Kenneth Easley, William G. Dean and Samuel H. Porter, has made the following nominations for directors for a three-year term, one to be elected from each of the following districts:



### NOMINEES FROM DISTRICT NO. 5

*WILLIAM H. POLLITT*  
*Route 3, Canton, Illinois*

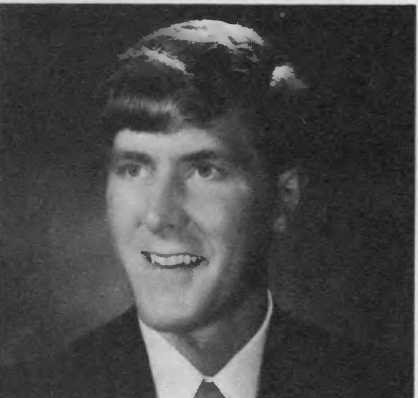
*FLOYD E. WOLF*  
*Route 2, Lewistown, Illinois*



### NOMINEES FROM DISTRICT NO. 6

*FLOYD A. LONG*  
*Route 1, Cuba, Illinois*

*DONALD SILL, SR.*  
*Route 1, Lewistown, Illinois*



### NOMINEES FROM DISTRICT NO. 9

*MARK A. DOHNER*  
*Route 1, Ipava, Illinois*

*C. LEE DUNCAN*  
*Route 3, Lewistown, Illinois*



Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.

**Joint NRECA-CFC  
committee**

*(continued from page 11)*

award for its work with foreign participants during visits to the cooperative. Wayne Laning, Mt. Sterling, Adams president, accepted the award on behalf of the cooperative.

Searls also was a panelist during a general session discussion, "Coping with Conservation." The Illinois NRECA Director, Raymond Rusteberg, Valmeyer, presided during the panel discussion. Robert Wagner, Burnside, District 5 CFC Director, presided during the CFC annual meeting. Wagner is a director of Western Illinois Electrical Coop., Carthage.

Stanley Greathouse, Johnsonville, past president of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and Illinois NRECA Director-elect, was named Region V Executive Committeeman. Greathouse is a director and vice president of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Fairfield.

Three Illinois women were active. Mrs. Iona Greathouse, Johnsonville, was introduced as the Region V Chairwoman. Mrs. Adeline Rusteberg, Valmeyer, was a member of the woman's nominating committee. Mrs. Margie Mohrman, Camp Point, was reelected Region V Committeewoman on the NRECA Women's Action Committee.

The need for developing power supply capability to meet the requirements of electric cooperatives was illustrated by David A. Hamil, Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Hamil said a recent survey indicated that kilowatt-hour sales of electricity by electric cooperatives are rising at rates ranging from eight to 12 percent, compared to six to nine percent for commercial power companies.

While urging electric cooperatives to continue their practice of energy conservation, Hamil went on to say, "Intensified conservation efforts alone are not enough to meet our electric energy needs." He said electric cooperatives should use all possible

*(continued on page 20)*

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