writing, however the damage to the cooperative facilities, as well as any damage experienced to the consumers of your cooperative who suffered during sub-zero weather, will no doubt amount in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. We appreciate very much the understanding and cooperation which was exhibited by all of our members that were affected by the ice storm of December 31.

Although few poles were damaged, many crossarms were torn off our poles, due to the severe weight of the ice and the galloping of the conductor, which caused our electric lines to be down. In addition, our power supplier lost at least 27 crossarms on the transmission line as well as the distribution line of your cooperative was done under the most severe weather conditions. Again, we thank our employees and the employees of other cooperatives and contractors who assisted us in any way.

Your attention is directed to the article relative to increasing the electric rates of your cooperative. This action which was taken reluctantly by your board of directors, is necessary to keep pace with the rising cost of producing electricity. Everything costs more now than it did a year ago; that's the nature of an inflationary economy. Strict environmental regulations and the equipment needed to comply with them add a monumental expense. The increased cost of coal and the transportation related to the delivery of coal also take a toll. The increased cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining generating plants, and the necessary pollution controls also add significantly to consumer electric bills.

We know that your electric bills are higher and want you to know that we are doing everything that we possibly can to hold costs down. We are sure that electric energy costs will continue rising in the face of inflation and increasing fuel costs. As the cost of energy increases, it is more important than ever that we continue our efforts at conserving the use of energy and even more that we consider every possible effort in the weatherization of our homes. In so doing, we can reduce the amount of energy used and help make it more affordable for all of us.



Employees honored for 25 to 35 years of service were, from left, with Davis and Root, Evalena Borchert, Peters-

burg, Office Manager, 35 years; and Carl T. Atterberry, Petersburg, Line Superintendent, 30 years.



Those honored for 10-20 years were, from left with Root and Davis, Phyllis McCoy, Petersburg, Records Clerk, 10 years; Orene Lynn, Tallula, Assistant data Processing Operator, 10 years; James Bearden, Greenview,

Groundman-Truck Driver, 20 years; Dorland Smith, Havana, Staff Assistant, 20 years. Not present, Edward Rogers, Virginia, Lineman, 20 years.



Honored for service of from five to 15 years were, from left, Alvin R. Davis, Beardstown, President of the Board of Directors, 10 years; Meredith Worner, Manito, Secretary of the Board of Directors, five years; David Crosnoe,

Petersburg, System Engineer, five years; Larry Kyes, Petersburg, Lineman, 15 years; and Manager John E. Root. Not present was Robert Zook, Athens, Director, 15 years. Dennis Keiser, AIEC Energy Utilization Specialist, works with electric cooperative personnel in matters relating to energy conservation, insulation and energy efficiency.

Energy conservation policy now an REA loan requirement

Changes in loan-making policies of the Rural Electrification Administration now call for each REA-financed electric cooperative to develop energy conservation policy and to implement it with adequate staff and funding.

"These policies suggest guidelines for rural electric systems to use in developing energy conservation programs," Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland said, "but the basic decisions on how to carry out the programs will be left to the individual cooperatives." REA Administrator Robert W. Feragen added, "Evidence of such activities will be included as part of REA's loan application procedures."

A related REA policy developed in conjunction with energy conservation is one that outlines guidelines for rural electric systems to use in obtaining information for system planning and for forecasting REA loan fund requirements.

"These new policies were developed after extensive review of the energy conservation programs of more than 250 electric utilities," Feragen said, "and incorporate many of the suggestions received by REA from its borrowers."

(REA makes loans to finance electric and telephone facilities in rural areas, enabling more than 1,000 REA-financed systems—including 30 in Illinois—to provide service to over

29 million people in 46 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.)

Alex Mercure, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, said the REA conservation efforts are extensions of those of the Carter Administration and are not aimed at bringing about immediate reductions in the amount of power being provided to electric cooperative members. Instead, he said, the efforts are thought to be means to forestall the construction of major new generating projects through elimination of energy waste.

Delaying through energy conservation the need to add

"... the basic decisions on how to carry out the programs will be left to the individual cooperatives."

additional generating plant capacity can have an impact on slowing the rate of increase of consumer electric rates, since generating plant construction is one of the most significant factors affecting rates.

The heart of the REA policy on energy conservation is the guideline that a cooperative made up of 4,000 or more members should have one



person working full time (or the equivalent time of several persons) to assist members to conserve energy. "If a cooperative has more than 4,000 members, the man-hours devoted to energy conservation should be appropriate to its work plan and objectives and consistent with the greatest number of members. This guideline would not require a cooperative of 16,000 to have four people working full time. It would require, however, an allocation greater than the time of one person," Feragen outlined in a memo. For cooperatives with less than 4,000 members, REA will give consideration to the pooling of resources with other organizations.

Future loan applications must include the following.

- a copy of the board's energy conservation policy,
- a report of borrower's effort to conserve energy in the operation of its headquarters and facilities, and
- a report describing the efforts of the borrower to assist its consumers to use energy most efficiently.

While the REA energy conservation guidelines are new, the emphasis on member awareness of wise, efficient use of electric energy has long been a top priority for electric cooperative staffs. And for many cooperatives, conforming to the new policy may

(Continued on page 24)
ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS



Electric rates to increase with February billing

In March 1977 Menard Electric had an increase in electric rates of approximately 5.8 percent. Since that time costs have been soaring and a struggle has been on to fight inflation of costs in every way we can, except to sacrifice our committment to members for good electric service.

Wholesale power costs have been increasing steadily and these increases are presently being passed on as an adder to electric bills. This method of billing for service we render has made it possible to avoid adjusting the basic rates during the last twenty months.

We have reached a time when more revenue must be received to pay the increases in costs to the cooperative to distribute this power. Some examples of added costs that must be met are materials we use for repair and maintenance, which have increased from five percent to 38 percent since the last electric rate adjustment. Labor has increased at least 16 percent. The 1978 Easter weekend ice storm cost in excess of three million dollars for repair, and at this writing we are recovering from another ice storm which occurred on December 31.

Recognizing these difficulties and the financial burden they cause, the board of directors at its meeting held December 28 acted to adjust the retail base rate to provide sufficient revenue to operate in a fiscally responsible manner. Since an 8.8-percent increase in total income, including Power Cost Adjustment and Utility Tax, was needed to meet expenses an adjustment in the rates to all classes by the same percentage was made to provide these funds.

A 16.5-percent increase will be

applied to the base rate (which accounts for about one-half of each members bill) to which the Power Cost Adjustment and Utility Tax will be added as in the past. This will make the total amount paid by each member for electricity including tax and power cost adjustment, about 8.8 percent higher per kilowatt-hour than it has been during the last year. Bills pre-

pared and mailed to you on February 21, 1979, will reflect this increase.

Our policy of being honest and forthright with our members has been rewarded with understanding in the past. We trust this relationship will continue and all our members will know our objective is to achieve every economy before we consider increasing electric rates.

Co-op comments

The storm which hit the southern half of your cooperative service area on Good Friday cost your cooperative at least three million dollars. As you recall, during the latter part of March and the first part of April, we had as many as 160 men working to repair the damage. We retained Central States Construction Company of Ames, Iowa, until December 8, and wouldn't you know the ice storm which hit the area east of Springfield arrived on December 31. Again, we were most fortunate in having outside crews assist us in restoring service to approximately 800 consumers. Crews and equipment from McDonough Power Cooperative of Macomb, Adams Electrical Co-Operative of Camp Point, Edgar Electric Co-operative of Paris, Tri-County Electric Cooperative of Mt. Vernon, Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative of Fairfield. Illinois Rural Electric Co. of Winchester, and Central States Power of Ames, Iowa, sent crews in to assist us, for which we are extremely thank-

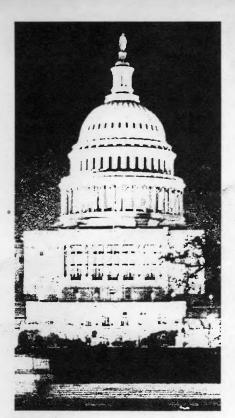
The cost of this New Year's Eve storm has not been assessed at this Charles Crowin, of rural Kilbourne, completed 30 years of employment with your cooperative on January 3. Charlie is the area serviceman in the Havana-Kilbourne-Chandlerville-Easton areas.

Don Riser, of Manito, will complete five years of employment with your cooperative on January 28. Don is the area serviceman in the Forest City-Manito-Topeka areas.

Longevity service awards were recently presented to 13 employees of your cooperative. These awards, given at five-year intervals range from five years to 35 years, averaging approximately 17 years for the employees involved. Our congratulations to each of them for a job well done and for their dedication and sense of responsibility to the members whom we serve. The recipients are listed pictorially elsewhere in this section.

The year 1978 will live in infamy in the minds of all of us and no doubt many will refer to it as the "Ice Age," or at least a reminder of the ice age.

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS



Essay contest

The directors of Menard Electric Cooperative are pleased to sponsor an essay contest, which will permit two high school juniors from the cooperative's service area to win a week's all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., and other points of interest.

Essays will be judged on originality, accuracy of facts, content, and composition. Winners will leave Springfield on June 8 and will return on June 15.

Any high school junior enrolled in the 11th grade and attending a high school serving or substantially serving the same area as Menard Electric Cooperative may enter.

Contestants are to submit an essay consisting of at least 500 words, but not exceeding 1,000 words, on the subject "The Energy Crisis of the 1970s." The exact title may be of the student's own chosing.

Other details on the essay contest are available at the cooperative office and anyone interested in getting an early start in preparing their essay are urged to write Menard Electric Cooperative, P. O. Box 279, Petersburg, Illinois 62675.

Attention all members

If you are going to be on vacation at the time when payment of your power bill is due, please make arrangements to have someone pay the bill, make an advance payment on an estimated bill or at least notify us that you are going to be gone.

Unless you notify our office, we have no way of knowing that you are on vacation and we can only assume that your bill is delinquent.

Use a timer on that engine heater

During the past several winters it has been obvious that temperatures can get down even below the minus 15 degrees to 20 degrees mark. Many of our farm members have tractors which they use one or two hours most every day during the winter.

To help make sure the tractor will start on a cold morning, nearly all of these tractors have engine block heaters installed on them. The heater maintains heat in the engine for better starting.

Engine heaters will range in wattage from 1,000 watts up to 2,500 watts. The manufacturers of engine heaters build thermostats into the units, but it has been proven through test metering that these thermostats seldom turn off on the coldest, windiest winter days.

Depending on the heater's size it is realistic to assume that 700 to 1,800

kilowatt-hours may be utilized during a 30-day period. We suggest and encourage members of the cooperative to use a 24-hour time clock to turn tractor and other vehicle engine heaters on one or two hours before the vehicle is to be used. Experience shows that this is usually sufficient time in which to warm an engine. In addition, energy consumption as well as energy cost will be reduced.

Grain dryer reminder

If you are planning a grain dryer installation during 1979, please contact your cooperative by June 1, 1979, in order that construction may be scheduled in time for the harvest season.

Telephone numbers-

Several times in the past we have made mention of the importance of your telephone number, in this center section of the *Illinois Rural Electric News*. We made the request in an attempt to do a better job of serving you. Many times a telephone number can solve a billing problem, aid in line construction and help in reducing

outage time. If your phone number is in a telephone directory, fine; however, if you should have an unlisted number we would appreciate your advising us of the same. Easy access to your telephone number means we can do our work faster and more efficiently—meaning better service to you.

Willie Sez...

"Read your meter on the same day each month!"



"You can't keep track of your electric power usage unless you read your meter regularly! Suppose you've been reading the meter the day you get your bill every month. Then, you're late by a full week one month. You have 30 days of usage on your current bill, but you'll have 37 days on the next bill and only 23 days on the next!"

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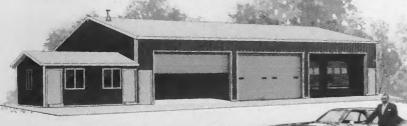
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Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 217-632-7746 PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op comments

Personnel changes and double-throw switches

James F. Jacobs of Petersburg completed five years of employment with the cooperative on February 1. Jim is a journeyman lineman working out of the Petersburg warehouse.

Terry L. Cutright of Petersburg was promoted to crew leader on January 16. Terry also works out of the Petersburg warehouse.

Kenneth M. Pfingsten of R. R. 1, Petersburg, resigned his position as accountant with your cooperative on January 31. Kenny had recently completed 13 years of employment with your cooperative and has done an outstanding job for you as accountant. He and his family have been quite active in their church and community and I am sure all of you join us in wishing the Pfingsten family success and best wishes as he assumes new responsibilities as office manager for the Concho Electric Cooperative at San Angelo, Texas. He assumed his new position on February 1.

Charles A. Meyer of Petersburg, formerly of Ashland, has been promoted to accountant for your cooperative, as of February 1. Charlie will be filling this position due to the Pfingsten resignation.

After the winters of 1977 and 1978 we were optimistic and hopeful that 1979 would be something different—sure enough it is! Recent newspaper articles indicate that January was the second coldest month on record and along with the cold came snow and ice storms, which were a primary concern to our linemen as well as to our members who lived in the areas affected. As this article is being written February seems to be

following in the same path, as February 5 has established a new record at 12 degrees below zero, or lower in some cases. At times like this standby equipment becomes even more meaningful. At various times in the past through this medium we have attempted to advise you on standby equipment and its proper installation, however, we find from time to time standby equipment which is not properly installed.

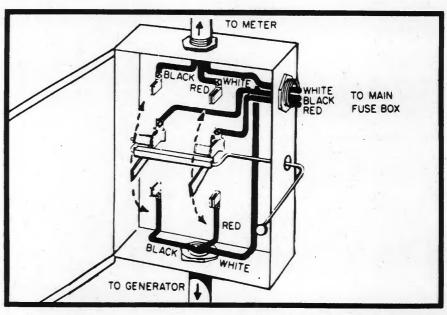
The National Electrical Code requires that a double-throw safety switch be installed on the member's system to provide a permanent positive safety needed when standby equipment is being used. Should you be in the process of installing a double-throw safety switch on your system, we suggest you contact a qualified electrician. This double-throw switch can mean protection for our linemen and for your equipment also. The following pictorial diagram shows the proper

installation of a double-throw switch. You will note that the neutral (white wires) are fastened together while the hot (red or black) wires are fastened to the switch terminals. The switch is shown in the neutral or open position.

New substation under construction

Members of the cooperative living in the areas of Andrew, Cantrall, Salisbury and south of Athens will soon be served from a new substation presently under construction. A new transmission line is being constructed from the east side of Andrew in a westerly direction by Western Illinois Power Cooperative to serve the new substation. Members living in the above area will experience improved continuity of service and voltage when the new substation is on line.

We appreciate the cooperation of our members during this construction period.



It's time to face facts

It's time to face facts. Most of our cooperative members are outraged at the high electric bills these days. So are we.

In 1973, it cost \$150 per kw to build a coal-fired generating plant. Six years later, we find that it costs \$900 to do the same job. Who pays? Obviously, you and I, the consumers.

This enormous jump in power cost in a relatively short time is caused, in part, by inflation, of course. But a big ball of red tape called the regulatory process is also rolling generating plant construction costs skyward.

Ten years ago, two or three government permits were needed to build a generating station. Today, 60 or more permits are required.

It takes a lot of time to secure the necessary permits, especially when the process is deliberately used as a weapon in efforts to block construction. Planners must now allow eight to 10 years for construction of a coal-fired generating station, that 10 years ago could be completed in four years.

Somebody has to pay the bill. Guess who gets it—right in the wallet? While regulation is no doubt required when building a new generating plant, let's be sensible about the regulation and also be aware that regulations, like everything else, bear a price tag. Common sense regulation is in the public interest. Over-regulation is not.

Attention high school juniors



It is not too late to submit an essay on "The Energy Crisis of the '70's," the exact title to be of your own choosing. The winners will receive a week's trip to Washington, D.C. Essays are to be submitted by April 1 and other details of the contest are available at the cooperative office or from your English instructor at your local high school.

Standby generatorsgood insurance

Have you considered the installation of a stand-by generator? We believe that a stand-by generator is a good investment, particularly if you are a large user of electricity, have a livestock operation, or find that should an outage occur, you would suffer severe inconvenience.

Stand-by generators should be selected based on the amount of watts needed to operate the necessary equipment for you. In addition the National Electrical Code and your cooperative requires that a double-throw safety switch be installed on the member's system to provide a permanent positive safety needed when stand-by equipment is being used.

There are numerous competent suppliers and manufacturers of standby equipment. We caution you, however, to be selective in your buying and to purchase AC equipment. Don't get caught in panic buying as many people did in March of 1978, only to find that they had DC generators.

The cooperative office will be closed on Good Friday, April 13, 1979.

Energy comment

The unlikely duo of Mother Nature and the United Mine Workers Union got together during the last two winters to establish nuclear power as our most reliable source of energy.

The Atomic Industrial Forum estimated that nuclear facilities produced almost 12 percent of the nation's electricity during the latest coal strike. "Nuclear power eased the impact of the coal strike to a remarkable degree in some of the nation's hardest hit areas," wrote Business Week. U.S. News & World Report called the atom "the big winner to emerge from the (coal) strike."

Is your home wiring adequate?

How adequate is your home wiring system? Many installations have become obsolete as more and more electric appliances were added to the modern home. The average family today uses four times as much electricity as they used 20 years ago. Here are some situations that signal home wiring problems: blowing fuses when certain appliances are used simultaneously, lights dimming when appliances are turned on, flickering or withdrawn television picture when large appliances are working, electric motors slowing down or running hot, overheating appliance cords, switches or outlets with insufficient number of electric outlets.

An overloaded wiring system could cause electric appliances to operate inefficiently and wires to become hot, creating a fire hazard.

Upgrading an outdated electrical system usually means increasing the size of the service entrance or meter loop and fuse box, plus adding circuits to various parts of the house. Your system should have the capacity to permit economical expansion for future loads.

Unless you are qualified, and have a great deal of experience in electrical work, we would suggest that you contact a qualified electrician who has the technical knowledge and know-how to assist you in up-grading your electrical service.

Conservation anybody?

This story is about four men named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, and Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody blamed Anybody.

He has worked with solar for 15 years

(Continued from page 9)

ice fall on it, just like it does on the glass ones. We're researching it out carefully, just like we do everything. You have to research carefully, because the manufacturers give you the top side. They don't lie to you, but they tend to give you facts based on optimum conditions.

"It's not good for the consumer if something goes wrong," he says, "and it wouldn't be good for us to have to go back and make the job good, which is exactly what we'd do. That's why we want to do it as well as possible. To protect us and the consumer."

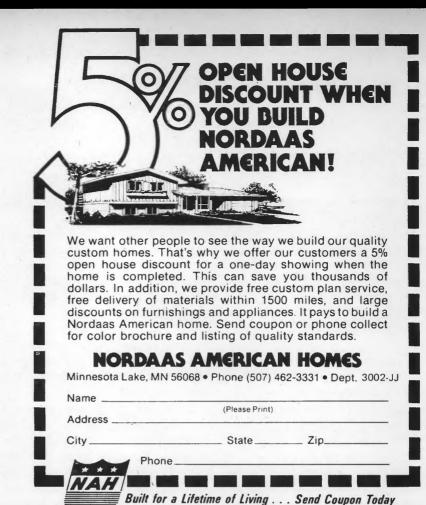
The plastic is being used on one Solar 'Search product, though, he notes, and that is a portable, multi-use collector, which is to be mounted on a

"It's not good for the consumer if something goes wrong. That's why we want to do it as well as possible."

trailer, for farm applications. The idea is to use it for low-temperature grain drying in the fall, then possibly to heat a machine shed during the winter, and possibly for livestock buildings, too.

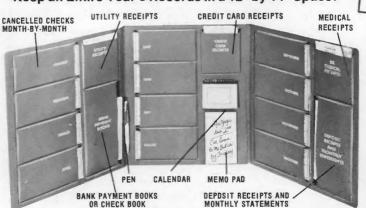
"It will be a simple, ready-to-use system," Warnock says, "just a big collector mounted on a trailer and with a flexible hose that will need to be plugged into whatever needs to be heated, and an electrical connection for the blower motor. We're all ready to go with the setup," he laughs, "but we don't have the trailer yet. snowbound trailer that's going to hold our dryer. We'll get it out as soon as need to claim your deductions. the weather permits."

build collectors and to research even better materials and methods, and to finally perfect the install-it-yourself system, including water heater, for under \$3,000.



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Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 217-632-7746 PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Double Savings on Hot Water

Here's a checklist of things you can do to conserve hot water and thus save money on both your water and utility bills each month:

Insulate your water heater with an insulation kit. Adding insulation to the outside of the tank will keep the water inside hotter, longer. You can find kits at most hardware stores for about \$20.

The closer the water heater is to the outlets where the hot water is used the most (usually the kitchen), the less hot water will be wasted by letting it run until hot. This is an especially important consideration if you are planning to build a new home or replace your water heater.

To minimize heat loss, insulate hot water lines for a length of at least three feet from the tank, and, if possible, all the way to the outlets.

Set the water heater thermostat down to 140 degrees if you have a dishwasher, or lower if you don't.

Replace washers on all leaky faucets. A leak of one drop per second amounts to 2,500 gallons in one year. If the water is heated, you're also wasting a considerable amount of energy.

Showers require less water than baths. A shower will take only about 10 gallons of water, while a bath will use nearly twice as much.

The 42nd Annual Meeting of your cooperative will be held on Saturday, June 9, at the Porta High School. Mark your calendar now, and plan on attending your annual meeting.

Co-op comments

Everyone agrees that this has been a very severe winter. In fact, it is the third such winter in a row. The energy bills rendered on February 21, reflecting usage during the month of January, may well have been the highest you have ever received.

According to the U.S. weather bureau, January was the second coldest month on record, exceeded only by January of 1977. Degree-days through December of 1978 were slightly below the norm, however, the 1,627 degree-days in January boosted this area well above the normal degree days and the degree-days during February only added fuel to the fire. The normal degree-days for February is 969, while February of 1979 actually had 1,336 degree days. Obviously, when you received your bill on or about March 21, this severe month and the usage associated therewith will be reflected in your energy bill.

As the ides of March are upon us, let's hope that the temperature moderates and that the normal degree-days for this month will not be exceeded.

The rate chart enclosed with your February 21 billing reflects the base rate and utility tax thereon, in increments of kilowatt-hours from 0 to 9,000. In order to compute your own energy bill, you must multiply the power cost adjustment factor which appears in the lower left hand corner of your bill, times the kilowatt-hours which you used, and add utility tax in the amount of five percent, to the amount shown on your rate chart. We realize this is cumbersome, however, we are required to send a rate chart showing the base rate and the tax thereon, whenever our

base rate is altered.

The power cost adjustment factor for the March 21 billing was received on or about March 12 and consequently we are unable to provide you with a similar chart showing the power cost adjustment factor and the tax thereon, since the power cost adjustment factor fluctuates from month to month.

The February 21 energy bills reflected the increase in the base rate and for those members who used 500 kilowatt-hours paid \$1.15 more than they paid for the same amount of kilowatt-hours in February of 1978; those who used 1,000 kilowatt-hours paid 66 cents more for the same consumption in February of 1978; those members using 1,500 kilowatt-hours paid one cent less than for the same consumption in February of 1978.

The year 1978 was one to remember-not only did energy costs escalate, but your cooperative service area was hit by numerous storms. The granddaddy of storms which hit on Good Friday, nearly a year ago, was extremely costly to your cooperative. To date, 1979 seems to be no different. While your cooperative had several severe outages in the eastern portion of its service area, we were most fortunate to have missed the storm which hit southern Illinois on February 25. Several cooperatives in that area suffered severe damage similar to what we experienced last year. On February 25, six of the cooperative employees were dispatched to Clay Electric Cooperative at Flora to assist in restoring service to their members. Linemen Mark Bradley, James Jacobs, Marcel Verreault and Terry Cutright and apprentice lineman Randy Avery and Dan Patrick, returned on March 7 from Clay Electric.



How are home builders meeting the tough new insulation standards that are now required by Farmers Home

Administration?

FmHA now specified insulation levels of R-30 in ceilings, R-19 in walls and R-19 under floors (over unheated crawl spaces). These standards, which were unsuccessfully challenged by builders earlier this year, apply to all new construction that is financed either directly or indirectly by FmHA. New standards are also in effect for older homes but they are not as strict.

Builders encounter few problems in attaining the R-30 level in ceilings: All they have to do is install two six-inch fiber or 12 inches of rock wool and the job is done. (This much insulation is, however, thick enough to obstruct attic ventilation and the builder must take certain precautions to insure a free flow of air over the insulation).

Attaining R-19 levels in walls, though, requires a little ingenuity.

Meeting new FmHA insulation standards

For many decades, the common 2 x 4 wall stud has set the standard for wall thickness throughout the United States. The four-inch dimension (actually only 3½ inches nowadays) is only deep enough to attain R-12 with glass fiber and about R-13 with cellulose.

The famed Arkansas House, with its 2 x 6 (actually 5½ inches) walls, can reach R-19 easily, but most builders don't want to go to all the extra trouble of switching to walls that are a full two inches thicker.

The National Association of Home Builders recommended early-on that its members add one inch of Styrofoam to the outside stud surface instead of the traditional one-half inch of fiber board sheathing they used to use. An inch of tongue-and-groove Styrofoam can add nearly R-6 to the wall's insulation value.

One Illinois manufacturer of modular homes adds rigid sheets of

aluminum-clad R-6 insulation board to the insides of their exterior walls in order to achieve a total insulation rating of R-19. Joints in the board are sealed with a water-resistant tape so that the interior insulation layer doubles as an efficient vapor barrier

The Small Homes Council of the University of Illinois designed its "Lo-Cal Home" in 1974, long before the new FmHA standards, but its wall R-values can easily satisfy the new standards-with room to spare. This plan uses two separate 2 x 4 exterior walls separated by a 11/2 inch space. This allows installation of one six-inch and one 31/2 inch batt for a total R-value of about 31.

Attend your cooperative's 42nd Annual Meeting Saturday, June 9, at the Porta High School.

Mistakes generator owners make

An investment in standby power equipment is wasted if you don't wire the generator to your electric service facilities correctly and practice using it so you can effectively switch it on without fumbling when the power goes off and your lights go out.

It's just a plain fact that some standby generator owners aren't getting the protection they paid for. In recent winter storm conditions many farmers and residential homeowners were unable to use their standby facilities simply because they were not prepared.

A standby generator is only as good as the care and maintenance given it. Keep the unit clean and in good running order at all times. Dust and dirt accumulations will cause the unit to overheat when operating. Locate unit in a well ventilated area if stored indoors. Don't cover with a plastic tarp as this allows condensation to form inside the unit and cause rust. Tarps also provide a good place for

rodents to nest. Place galvanized wire mesh in the unit's small openings to prevent damage from rodents and birds. Operate the unit at least once every three months to be sure it functions properly.

Mislaying the PTO shaft has been a common cause of standby generator failure. Allowing snow to plug the air filter of the tractor that powers the generator can cause serious engine damage. During an electrical outage, a tractor with no fuel in it cannot run the generator. Rodents can build nests in the generator and eat the insulation off of the wiring, or a generator too small for the load hooked up to it can cause generator failure.

Standby generators may be engine or PTO-driven. Either unit may be portable or stationary. PTO-driven units are most commonly used on the farm as tractors are available to operate them. These units may be bolted to a stationary base or mounted on a two-wheel trailer. Units mounted

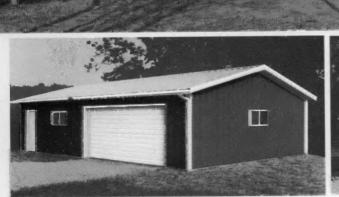
on a trailer are most versatile and can be used for field repairs, to run grain augers, potato conveying equipment, electric branding irons and electric post hole diggers as well as provide emergency power in case of an electrical outage.

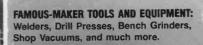
Urban dwellers can install portable engine-criven units to supply the small amounts of electricity they need during power outages.

The size of a standby unit will depend upon whether the unit will operate part or all of the electrical equipment on your farm. Make a list of all necessary equipment to be used, such as water pumps, heaters, refrigerators and ventilation fans. The use of heavy load equipment such as electric ranges, water heaters and milk coolers can be staggered or rationed during a power outage. Consider motor starting requirements as the motor requires more power to start than to run and consider future additions of electrical equipment.

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Legislator urges ndustry groups

Agriculture, Conservation and Energy Committee, added that agriculture had "not suffered at the hands of the Illinois General Assembly, nor will you suffer." On farm problems, Knuppel said they "rest in Washington," and emphasized the importance of looking toward Washington for help with problems facing agriculture.

Representative Gale Schisler of London Mills, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, said the Illinois General Assembly was in Springfield to do the people's business. He added that he considered the House Agriculture Committee to be the most important in the General Assembly and urged agriculture groups to come forward with their ideas.

Illinois Agriculture Director John Block, the main speaker at the breakfast, called on the Legislature to help get agriculture's story across to the general population.

"We have plenty to be proud of. Look at ever-increasing productivity of the American farmer, who now feeds 56 of his fellow men across the state, the nation and the world," Block told the more than 600 attending.

Sid Hutchcraft, Executive Vice President of the Illinois Pork Producers Association and master of ceremonies, termed the breakfast "an opportunity for those of us in agriculture to better know the people who represent us and to help them understand the workings of Illinois largest industry."

Thirty-nine state agriculture commodity and industry groups, including the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, sponsored the breakfast.

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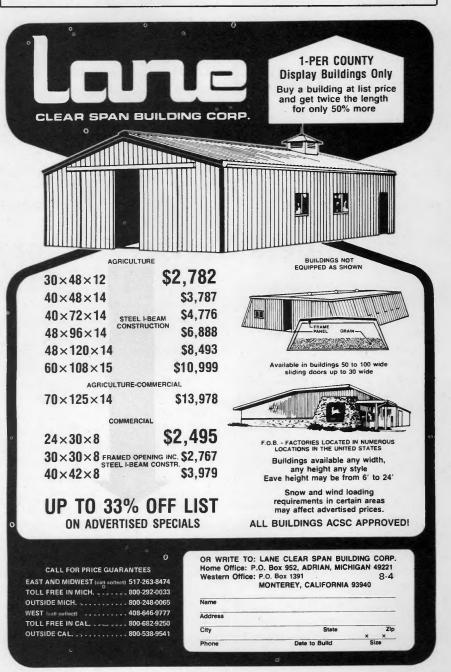
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Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 217-632-7746 PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Annual Meeting set for June 9



Join the crowd, and attend your cooperative's 42nd annual meeting.

The 42nd Annual Meeting of your cooperative will be held on Saturday, June 9, at the Porta High School, located at the west edge of Petersburg.

Featured speaker at the annual meeting will be Dr. Thomas

Holzberlein of Dow, Illinois. Dr. Holzberlein has a doctorate degree in physics and is head of the Physics Department of Principia College, located in Elsah, Illinois. He is most knowledgeable on energy conservation

and he has become a real crusader in the energy field.

Why not mark your calendar now and plan on attending the 42nd Annual Meeting of your Cooperative? Hope we will see you there!

Members Services Committee meets

The second meeting of the Members Services Committee was held on March 22 and John Root, cooperative manager, addressed the group on continuity of service. He stressed the importance of maintaining adequate facilities to provide the members of your cooperative with sufficient electric energy. He also pointed out the locations of new substations presently under construction and those that are in the long-range forecast during the next few years. His presentation precipitated a great deal of interest and numerous questions dealing with cooperative facilities, long-range power supply, projection of energy costs, and what individual members might do with individual load management.

On January 18 a similar meeting of the Members Services Committee was held and the topic for discussion on that occasion was the rate adjustment which became effective on the February 21 billing.

The Members Services Committee is composed of 18 husband-wife teams. two teams from each district, which provides a cross section of membership of your cooperative. Current members are as follows: District 1 - Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Cline, Pleasant Plains and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nichols, Tallula; District 2 - Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jurgens, Ashland, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pfeffer, New Berlin; District 3 - Mr. and Mrs. Richard Handy, Virginia, and Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Glossop, Ashland; District 4 - Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boesdorfer, Petersburg, Mr. and Mrs. George Brauer, Oakford; District 5 - Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith, Bath, and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Fornoff, Kilbourne; District 6 - Mr. and Mrs. Dick Horner, Topeka, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Nehmelman, San Jose; District 7 - Mr. and Mrs. Earl

Thies, New Holland, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Knoles, Mason City; District 8 — Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jablonka, Sherman, and Mr. and Mrs. James Sampson, Petersburg; and District 9 — Mr. and Mrs. Cleatus Damery, Decatur, and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry McCullough, Riverton.

The next scheduled meeting of this committee will be on May 31.

Hot tip

Use 88 Degrees As Your Cue for Action — Listen to the weather forecast and watch the outside temperature. When it's 88 degrees, or higher, it's more important than ever for you to spread your use of electricity throughout the day.

What's Missing from This Meter?

The Seal Is Gone

The seal on your meter is a lock and even though you may not have regarded it as such, it is a utility lock which is placed on each meter by your cooperative. It operates the same as the lock on your door and is placed there as a protection both to you as a member-owner and to the cooperative. Breaking the seal is the same as breaking a door lock and in addition, is extremely dangerous—serious injury or electrocution could result if contact is made with the wiring at the meter.

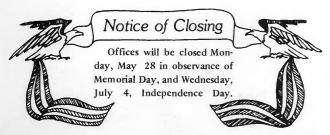
If you need to break a meter seal, whatever the type, or whatever the purpose may be, don't do it yourself. Meter seals are not to be removed by anyone other than authorized cooperative personnel. Call the cooperative office and explain the situation to us. We will make the necessary arrangement to remove the meter so that the needed work can be done. No one has the authority to break a meter seal other than cooperative personnel.

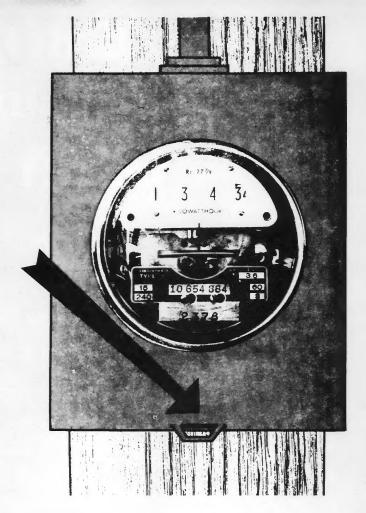
Should you need a meter removed to install siding, redo wiring, or for any other purpose, please contact the cooperative office and allow us ample time to schedule the necessary work and to get there when you need us.

All electric meters of your cooperative, irregardless of its location, must have a meter seal. Should the seal be broken on your meter installation, please contact the cooperative at your early convenience. A meter seal is a lock and must not be tampered with, broken, or destroyed.

Your cooperative is a nonprofit organization owned and controlled by you, its members. Your cooperative purchases its electricity from a power supplier and passes it on to members through its distribution system and you pay the real cost of providing electric service. When your cooperative's personnel observes a meter without a seal or with a broken seal, corrective action must be taken. We need your help. Again, if the seal under your meter is missing or broken, please notify your cooperative office. Should you observe other meters that appear to have been tampered with, please contact the cooperative immediately.

Think about it—a meter seal is a lock and must not be tampered with. Your cooperation in this regard will be appreciated.





When reporting an outage

When reporting an electric service outage, be sure to give your account number and the name in which the account is billed, along with your telephone number. This will expedite dispatching of servicemen in restoring your service.

Planning a new service?

Please remember that if you are planning the addition of a crop dryer which will require a new service installation or revamping of your existing service, please notify your Cooperative prior to June 1, so that proper scheduling of the necessary construction can be accomplished. Applications for crop drying service received after June 1, may not be completed by harvest time.

When applying for any new service, you can help us to help you by giving us approximately a 60 day notice. We need to do the necessary engineering, ordering of material, and scheduling of the work in order to have the service available when you need it. Without sufficient lead time this cannot be accomplished. We solicit your cooperation in this regard.

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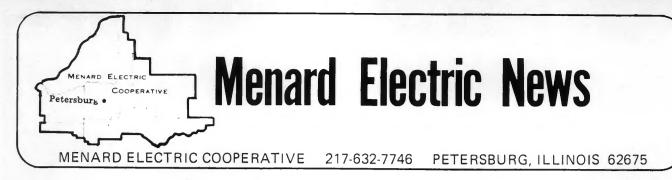


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Menard 42nd Annual Meeting set for June 9

The 42nd Annual Meeting of your cooperative will be held at the PORTA High School, located at the west edge of Petersburg, on Saturday, June 9. The Directors have planned an informative program with a free pork barbeque dinner, numerous prizes, and an informative program. In addition, we are fortunate to have Dr. Thomas Holzberlein, Professor of Physics at Principia College, located at Elsah, Illinois, as our featured speaker. Dr. Holzberlein will present "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To Tomorrow," which I am sure you will find very informative.

Use cooling wisely for greater savings

Air conditioning costs can be reduced if you operate your air conditioning unit as efficiently as you can. In addition, we would suggest that you set the thermostat on your air conditioning not lower than 80 degrees.

If you are in the market for a new air conditioning unit, we would suggest that you pay particular attention to the energy efficiency ratio (EER). The EER rating should be 7.5 or higher.

If your residence is not properly insulated, we would certainly suggest that adequate insulation be installed prior to the cooling season. In addition, shade trees on the sunny side of the house are an ideal way to cut your air conditioning load. If trees are not available, awnings should be placed over windows which receive a great amount of sunshine, in addition to having the drapes closed on the side of the house exposed to the sun.

The cooling system should not be



Thomas Holzberlein

An early bird prize will be awarded at 6:30 p.m. and we encourage you to



undersized or oversized to be efficient. A fan for attic ventilation can assist greatly in reducing the cooling load on your air conditioning unit.

Each of you can also make a contribution in an attempt to hold power costs down during the summer of 1979. Whenever the outside temperature reaches 88 degrees or higher, limit your use of hot water, clothes dryer, and other large use appliances between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. This individual load management concept will help us in reducing the demand on our substations.

Your cooperation in using electricity wisely, in the amounts which you need, will help to hold operating costs down at no sacrifice to your individual comfort.

come early so that you will be eligible for this drawing.

If, for some reason, you will be unable to attend the Annual Meeting we encourage you to submit your proxy vote which will be attached as a part of the Official Notice of the 42nd Annual Meeting. Five prizes will be given away during the meeting which will be drawn from the proxy votes submitted. These prizes will be awarded after the business session at the same time as attendance awards are drawn.

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on June 9.

In Memoriam

Cleatus A. Wilkinson, of Petersburg, died on March 26, 1979 at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, at the age of 77.

Cleatus retired as an employee of your cooperative on December 31, 1967 after nearly 20 years of employment. He was first employed by your cooperative on March 5, 1948, and worked on the right-of-way crew and in 1951 was promoted groundman-truck During the last few years of his employment, he worked in the cooperative warehouse. He was a faithful and dedicated employee during his working years and served an an outage reporter for your cooperative after his retire-

He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, and is survived by several nieces and nephews. drawbacks. The cost of transporting oil and gas is much cheaper than transporting coal. The major factor which keeps coal from becoming more widely used is its effect on the environment. The government has many regulations concerning the burning of coal and its waste materials. The fumes from burning coal are harmful to our air so the government makes controls about it.

A very strong possibility toward less consumption of oil and natural gas is nuclear power. Our nation has already begun to use nuclear power to fill the gap between declining supplies of oil and the increasing demand for energy.

The cost of electricity produced by nuclear plants is 50% cheaper than electricity by fossil-fuel plants. Another advantage of nuclear power is that the uranium used in these plants could be made to last indefinitely.

Some problems which we face include the high-cost of building the nuclear plants and the concern about radioactive wastes.

Solar energy is a real possibility, but not in the near future. If harnessed, solar energy could someday provide energy for much of our nation. The sun will continue to supply energy to us in unlimited amounts. The chief drawback of solar power is the high cost of installing the necessary equipment to capture the sun's rays.

Tidal power and wind power are two endless sources of energy. As with solar power, we should begin to harness these natural forces because they could supply vast amounts of energy.

A possible solution to our energy

troubles would be to develop each of these alternatives sources (coal, nuclear power, solar, tidal, and wind) to oil in its particular region. Wherever the supplies of these sources are natural forces and abundant, that is where they could be used. Illinois would use coal, while, for example, Florida could harness tidal power and solar energy. States with large supplies of uranium could use nuclear energy.

To better develop these fuels and natural forces, we must find better ways for transportation, safer use for the environment, and assure that the wastes of these fuels returned to the environment will do no harm. By having a multi-source energy policy, we will be less likely to face an overall national crises than if we put all our technology and development with only one of the sources of electricity.



The American, the Future

by John Hettinger

The American recognizes that since the Arab Oil Embargo of the early 1970's fuel prices have done nothing but rise. The cost of heating his home, driving his car and cooking his meals have skyrocketed. In retaliation, the American has insulated his home, sold his cadillac in favor of the economy car, and has replaced his oven with the more efficient microwave oven. But what good have all of these steps done him?

The energy consumption of the American is down. The bill that comes monthly, however, seems to remain the same, due to the ever increasing costs of fuel. Seeing this, he realizes that he cannot whip the energy crisis alone. He looks to industry for encouragement, only to find them battling the government in million dollar court cases concerning new economic guidelines governmental regulations. The American wonders if those millions couldn't be better spent. He looks next to science for the development of new energy sources, and finds them also in the courts. They must battle those pessimists who see only the ill effects of scientific development. It seems to be, though, that those people who are battling science are the ones who complain the loudest about the rising costs of conventional energy sources and are the same ones who do the least in the area of conservation.

It would seem that the optimistic American has done just about everything he can do. He realizes that no matter what steps he may take to conserve, energy must be and will be consumed. The optimist looks positively towards industry and science, for he knows that they are the keys to solving the energy problem. He also realizes that one (industry) without the cooperation of the other (science), can make no significant progress.

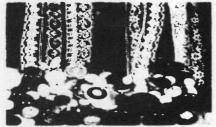
Modern science is continually developing new ways to conserve and produce energy. They depend on industry to incorporate these developments. In addition, they need public support and encouragement to help remove any ill effects of progress. The public must realize that development takes time, and that new inventions do not come off the drawing board perfectly. When it becomes time for these new ideas to be put off to practical use, the American must be prepared to help diffuse some of the enormous cost. The American is willing to route some of his earnings toward the installation of energy conserving and new energy producing systems. With this contribution he will have made yet another substantial effort toward making his country energy self-sufficient.

There is a third area, in addition to the American's personal efforts and his support of science and industry, which the American's personal efforts and his support of science and industry, which the American must learn to use wisely. This area is the voting poll. He must take an active role in the governing of his own country. He must be aware that it is necessary not only to choose

those candidates who are of good moral standing, but who are also conscious of our energy situation. In order for our political leaders to add to the American's efforts of conservation, they must pass practical legislation to guide us. This, in the past, has included guidelines for automobile manufacturers concerning miles per gallon which cars must achieve, as well as safety and pollution regulations. Legislation has opened more areas for energy development, including both inland and offshore drilling sights. Congress has helped with the transportation of energy, specifically, the transportation of natural gas, by reducing tariffs on interstate movements of the products. Taxes and tax rebates have been considered for those who either conserve or guzzle fuel. Our legislators can do more. They can provide monies for scientific research and development in the area of energy production. At the state and local levels, effective systems of mass transit can be established. The most important thing of all is that the government be willing and determined to enforce any acts that they may pass. Enforcement which is lax will only draw out our energy problem.

The energy crisis of the '70's is very real and continuing. If we are to have energy solutions in the '80's, industry, science, government, and the American must work with renewed effort and persistence. Through persistence we may reach a future that is filled with optimism and promise.

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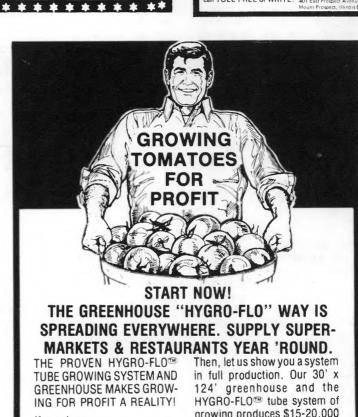
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elaborate displays, and after the manned moon landings, he added a rocket ship to his program. The rocket ship, outfitted with a suitable array of fireworks, actually appears to lift off as it rises through the air on a series of ropes and pulleys.

"The crowds like Ol' Smokey more than just about any of the other displays, I think," Baker says. Ol' Smokey is a replica of a steam locomotive, complete with cowcatcher, rolling wheels and smokestack.

Clark launces 10- and 12-inch aerial bombs from half-buried mortar tubes to capture and hold the crowd's attention with deafening roars, and intersperses Roman candles, fire-crackers, whistles and jumping jacks throughout the program. The Liberty Bell, American Eagle, devil's wheel, a smiling face and several other displays round out the spectacular.

Clark builds all the displays at his rural home southwest of Lovington, and Mrs. Clark puts on a potluck meal for all those who help with the displays. When the food is gone, everybody helps load the assemblies on pickup trucks for the drive to the Lovington High School for final assembly.

For safety reasons, Clark does all the firing himself. "Things get a little hectic during the firing and I wouldn't want anyone to get hurt," he says.

Lovington did not have a fireworks program before the Clarks got into the act. Former Lovington Mayor Wendell Dahm and area minister Larry Beebe cooked up the idea of a Fourth of July celebration with the support of other community leaders and various civic groups, and Clark was "drafted" to develop the actual fireworks exhibition.

He relishes his role as pyrotechnist, Clark says, but the real joy comes from seeing his family and friends working together on a community project and from the happiness the displays bring to children and adults who view the traditional Lovington celebration of America's independence.

Clark devotes his time throughout the year to other community affairs too, as a member of the Lovington School Board and Lovington Ambulance Service Board.

Cost of increasing regulation

(Continued from page 7)

before the electric cooperative conference.

"They are not swayed by those who turned out for the rally," the aide said, adding that many of those at the rally came out to see the celebrities. He went on to note that Congressmen have witnessed 20 years of demonstrations and such activities do not have much influence in Washington.

During the session with Senator Stevenson's assistants, Walter R. Smith, President of Soyland Power Cooperative of Decatur, urged Congress and others in leadership positions in the federal government to develop higher public profiles on

matters relating to energy development, including nuclear, as he stressed the impact of media coverage in other parts of the country among persons who are not aware that elected officials put much more stock in the opinions of constituents than that of the demonstrators.

As they talked with Congressmen, the Illinoisans noted that both the Rural Electrification Administration insured and guaranteed loan programs have no impact on the federal budget and that recent studies by the Office of Management and Budget and the General Accounting Office supported the cooperatives' position.





Caldwell, Hettinger win trip to Washington, D.C.

Finalists in the "Youth to Washington" essay contest from left: James Caldwell, Franklin; John Hettinger, Petersburg; Ruth Ann Hubbard, Jacksonville, and Kevin Seitzer, Middletown. Back row, from left: Bill Armbruster, Hartsburg; Jack Zumwalt, New Holland; Tracey Funderberg, New Holland; Melissa Breene, Middletown, and John Gehrke, New Holland. The winning essays are printed on these pages.





Energy Conservation and Development

by James Caldwell

Through its two-hundred year history, America has been faced with some difficult problems. Our ancestors and we have been asked to face problems such as wars, labor, strikes, political scandals, and economic recessions. Our country has always pulled together and met the challenge.

Today, we are faced with an energy crisis. This crisis has resulted in part from our dependence on electricity and the difficulty in obtaining fuels to produce it. In our country, electricity meets 25% of our total energy requirement. By the year 2000, it will supply about 50% of our energy. Our standard of living at present and an inproved standard in the future depend upon electricity.

America uses electricity for heat, water, lights, to power the machines of industry, and for many uses on the farm. Farmers use electricity to dry wet grain quickly, to pump water, and to grind grain to feed livestock.

spring, Central Last Illinois experienced an ice storm. It caused for everyone. businesses, banks, schools, and homes were without electricity for days. This crisis proved how valuable electricity was and convinced many people that they had taken electricity for granted!

Today, 78% of our total fuel requirement is met by oil and natural gas. Most of the oil we import comes from the Middle-East-Persian Gulf area. If there is any disturbance in these Middle East countries, a crisis errupts. The current situation echoes this.

In order to keep the situation from getting worse, we must conserve the energy we use, and develop new sources of energy to produce

electricity.

Our efforts of conservation must be improved. In order for people to begin conserving, they must believe there is a shortage. In a recent poll conducted by the Associated Press, 68% of the people interviewed considered the energy crisis a hoax. One fifth of the people said they haven't even tried to cut energy use.

People all over our country complain about prices of food, clothing, housing, and utilities. The rocketing prices of fuel only serve to aggravate inflation. Part of the solution for Americans lies in their own lives. The conservation of electricity and natural gas products would help cut-down the rate of inflation.

Electrical companies have done all

they could to control rates, but the price of obtaining oil grew 125% in just one year. Consumers also continue to demand more electricity each year, so companies must expand with new and better equipment. The new materials may boost the electric rates, but our outages can then be completely avoided or repaired faster. At the time of the 1978 ice storm disaster, our local companies responded very well, and power was flowing faster than anyone could have expected.

Conservation is only part of the solution to the problem. We must find substitutes for petroleum and develop these for our use at a faster rate. The long-range solution to the energy crisis of the 1970's lies in the use of different sources of energy. We must begin to expand the use of coal, nuclear power, solar energy, wind power, and the increase of our own ability to produce oil.

In the United States, we have an abundance of coal. Our supplies of coal will last for centuries. Today, we use it to produce much of our electricity. Last years labor disputes in the coal mining industry proved how dependent we are upon it.

For all its benefits, coal has many ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS







Clockwise from immediate left: Dr. Thomas Holzberlein, professor of physics at Principia College, Elsah, Illinois, presented an illustrated talk on energy conservation and energy alternatives open to the U.S. With him is his wife, Deanne. Alvin R. Davis of Beardstown, president, noted that environmental costs are high, and are paid by the consumer. John Root, manager of Menard Electric Cooperative spoke along the same lines. The attendance awards were a popular attraction, and some of the members in the photo seem to be glad they attended. Three incumbent directors were reelected to three-year terms. They are, from left, Charles B. McMillan of Williamsville, Dale R. Lepper of Ashland and Morris L. Bell of Chandlerville.

o regulatory binge

member equity in prior years along with a low interest loan, we were able to bear this without an absolute catastrophe."

Hurie described the changing cost of electricity Menard members have witnessed since 1943 when the average cost per kilowatt-hour was around five cents. He said rates declined to 2.5 cents by 1968 and then started rising until last year the average cost per kwh was approximately six cents.

Davis concluded his report by reminding Menard members of the importance of practicing energy conservation, both to lessen the impact of increasing rates and to conserve resources. "We too want clean air and

clean water, and will do our part in protecting them," he said, "but as you know everything you accumulated or achieved in this life has come at some sacrifice and through balanced judgment." He pledged the cooperative's best efforts to continuing dependable low-cost power

At the conclusion of the annual Menard business meeting, members voted unanimously to reelect three directors to three-year terms on the cooperative's governing board. They are Morris L. Bell of Chandlerville, Dale R. Lepper of Ashland and Charles B. McMillan of Williamsville.

Following the members' meeting, the board met to reorganize and

reelect Davis president, Howard W. Montgomery of Petersburg, vice president; Meredith L. Worner of Manito, secretary; and Hurie, treasurer.

Guest speaker on the program was Dr. Thomas Holzberlein, professor of physics at Principia College, Elsah, Illinois. His illustrated talk was entitled, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Tomorrow." he described the energy problems facing the United States and the limitations of alternative energy sources. Dr. Holzberlein illustrated the many energy saving techniques individuals can adopt to stretch our available energy supplies.

At right, the focus is on the best in Illinois agriculture as several breeds of cattle are judged at the fair. Other animals, such as poultry, swine, mules and sheep, are judged as well during the largest agricultural exposition of its kind in the U.S. At lower left is the arch to the popular midway, near the main gate. At lower right, while most of the fairgoers walk, others take to the air to get across the fairgrounds and see the sights. The area is filled with entertainment, exhibitions, special tents and contests that all Illinoisans can enjoy.



State Fair offers something for all Illi

The Illinois State Fair is set for August 9-19, and all the old standby features are still planned; some new attractions are in the works, too.

Illinois Talent on Parade, a daily variety show, will present the best talent from throughout the state. It will feature Illinoisans of all ages in every kind of act, and will be held

in the Illinois Building Theater.

Racing buffs will be able to "Get the Feel of the Wheel," as cars of every description, displays and wellknown drivers fill this huge exhibition. Fans will be able to talk to drivers and crew members, and climb into a car to catch the flavor of the track.

A Water Follies show is new this year, too, and the world's largest

pools and stage are used to present the show. Champion stunt divers, water ballet scenes and lavish stage production numbers will make this two-hour show an attraction for many.

For alternative energy enthusiasts, there will be a Solar Hot Water Design Competition. The Institute of Natural Resources and the Illinois Office of Education have joined forces to





At the right, Len Koch of Illinois Power Company was one of the speakers during the twoday session. Below, power use and member services representatives gather pamphlets and brochures on energy conservaion and efficiency available during the meeting.

> Member Services Director of Jackson Purchase Electric Cooperative, Paducah, and Krista Kennedy of Western Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative and a Residential Energy Advisor for the Tennessee Valley Authority. Norris focused on his cooperative's energy conservation and management plan and the various forms and worksheets used to complete home energy audits. Kennedy outlined how TVA personnel work with consumers for on-site inspections and audits.

Bill Simpson of Country Mutual Insurance Company, Bloomington, used a slide presentation to illustrate wiring problems facing both farmers and insurers. He showed several instances of inadequately wired hog confinement buildings, many of which had a high potential for fire loss unless changes were made.



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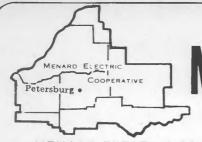
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MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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At 42nd annual meeting—

Speakers urge conservation, seek en

The consuming public should begin questioning the costs and benfits of environmental regulations which now add an estimated 30 percent to the cost of electricity, according to Alvin R. Davis of Beardstown, president of the Petersburg-based Menard Electric Cooperative. Davis made his remarks during the cooperative's 42nd annual members' meeting June 9, at Porta High School in Petersburg.

In the early 1960's pressure was put on state and federal legislators to enact laws designed to purify air and water "to near the same purity it must have had in caveman days," Davis said. "Regulatory agencies were formed with broad powers to exact requirements on industry that in some cases cannot be met and if they are it will be at exorbitant costs."

Davis reminded his audience that all costs must be paid by the consumer. "We have reached a point now in 1979 that 30 percent of the cost of your electricity is due to government regulations, most of which are unnecessary."

Menard Manager John sounded the same theme in his report to an estimated 700 members and guests attending the consumer-owned electric cooperative's annual meeting. "These energy problems that we grope with are not only our problems but your problems and without your informed understanding and support, our task becomes very difficult, if not impossible," he said.

Root said many well-known individuals challenge utility motives, claiming electric suppliers have an axe to grind. "We do have an axe to grind," Root said, "but it is simply to provide you with your needed service as cheaply as possible."

Treasurer Hickory H. Hurie of Tallula reported that during 1978 the cooperative suffered an operating loss of \$544,787 due to the Easter weekend ice storm. "This was not only the worst storm ever endured but also the highest loss ever sustained the cooperative. By building

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

Cooling without air conditioning

It is possible to maintain a comfortable home during summer without relying on a mechanical cooling system. As a matter of fact, many families do. Proper insulation and house design are as beneficial to cooling in summer as they are to heating in winter.

Take advantage of the daily temperature cycle-take night's cool air into your home and close up in the morning. Lowest air temperatures usually occur from midnight to just before dawn.

A new home can be orientated to take advantage of solar and climatic conditions. Rooms can be orientated accordingly-bedrooms, for example, might be located facing east so they will not receive the rays of the late afternoon sun.

When ventilating, draw in the air from the coolest

side of the house, expel warm air from the upper parts of the house, either into the attic or through windows near their top. A ventilator fan can be effectively installed into the upper ceiling to pull air through and push it into the attic. Also, consider installing an attic fan to exhaust heat which often reaches 140 degrees to 160 degrees, thus preventing the heat from radiating area to your living.

Take advantage of all possible ways of reducing solar heat gain. Remember to close the blinds and draperies of windows exposed to direct sunlight. Awnings can be a more permanent method.

Plant deciduous trees on the sunny sides of the home to aid in cooling.

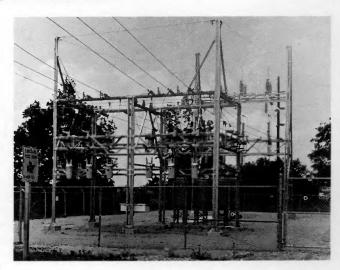
On cooler days and during cooler hours, open the window-a cool breeze is very enjoyable.

New Substation

The Salisbury substation, located south of Athens and west of the intersection of State Routes 29 and 124 (west of Green Acres) was energized on July 31. This substation will be serving the areas south of Athens, south and north of Salisbury, and members residing in that general area no doubt will experience an improved continuity and/or improved voltage.

We appreciate the cooperation of all concerned as the transmission line was built from Andrew and westwardly as well as the necessary tie lines were constructed so that this station could be placed in service.

As soon as the necessary rights-of-way have been secured, construction will commence on the new substations for the Oakford and Middletown areas. It is anticipated that these substations will be constructed during 1980.



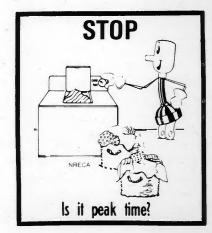
Money-saving tips for home weatherization

Your house may be ancient, but it is all paid for and all yours. Unfortunately, it probably has loss of leaks that can waste energy. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, leaks can account for up to one-third of your energy losses.

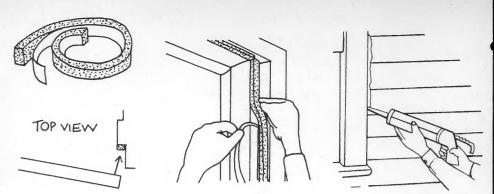
Where do you look for leaks? Windows and doors are a good starting point. Most windows and doors do not fit tightly in their frames since they need some tolerance to operate. Weather stripping can seal these cracks without binding. Look for existing weather stripping. It may be missing or worn and ineffective.

Check the putty or caulking around glass and around the outside of the frames. It may be old and dry, cracked or falling out. If so, the frame needs resealing. Poke around at the bottom of the siding where it laps over the foundation. Is there a big opening there? Stuff it with foam-rubber or insulation. Look at intersections of exterior walls or where a wall butts against a chimney. Do these points need recaulking? Also check for leaks around pipes, conduits or vents through outside walls. Do not overlook hatches or doorways into your attic or crawl space. Use weather stripping around all edges, the same as with windows and doors. Check around the chimney in the attic. If there is a big space that lets heat

escape into a cold attic, stuff it with a fireproof material like mineral wool. Check also radiator pipes, passing through floors or walls and electric fixtures in the ceiling. Patching plaster makes a good sealer for these spots.







Simple home weatherization steps can cut your costs

Homes, both old and new, often have many cracks and openings, especially around windows and doors. Such cracks are heavy heat losers during the winter months, and are costly during the air conditioning season, too. Annoying drafts are present near windows or doors which need weather stripping. For example, most doors are fitted loosely so they will open and close smoothly. A crack of only one-eighth inch around a standard front door lets out as much heat as a 28-square-inch hole in the wall.

In a properly insulated home, air leakage can account for up to onethird of the heating costs; a good reason to weather strip and caulk to cut down on this energy waste.

One good thing about caulking is that it is an effective way to increase the comfort level and save money, and requires only a small investment. Another is that it is a fairly simple project for the average person.

Caulking should be done wherever two different parts of a house meet at a stationary joint, such as around windows, doors, foundation sills, chimneys, water faucets, vents, electrical outlets and pipes.

There are several kinds of caulking compounds available, and the prices vary widely. Generally, the long suit of the more expensive caulks is that they last longer, so you do not have to do the job very often.

Caulking compounds are available in standardized 11-ounce cartridges, each of which will draw a one-quarter-inch bead 25 feet long.

While shopping for caulking, keep in mind the following characteristics about various compounds:

Elastomeric caulks—includes silicones, polysulfides and polyurethanes. They are relatively easy to apply, give a neat bead, stick to most building surfaces, are long lasting and do not harden, so they will expand and contract slightly with the building. They are in the higher-cost range. Some require primers on porous surfaces, and some will accept paint while others will not. You will need to read the instructions on the label to be sure.

Latex, butyl or polyvinyl base caulks—easy to apply, bond to most surfaces, are moderately durable, in medium price range. Acrylic latex in premium grade is recommended for most applications.

Oil and resin-base caulks—readily available; bond to wood, masonry and metal. Their short (2-3 year) lifespan makes them less desirable than others, but they are the lowest in cost.

Lead-base caulk is not recommended.

If you need to fill a large gap, you may need to stuff in filler before applying the caulking compound. Oakum rope, caulking cotton, sponge rubber, fiberglass or self-sticking caulking cord should be used to fill extra wide cracks. Insulation scraps may also be used for this purpose.

To install caulking, clean the area of chipping or flaking paint, dirt and deteriorated caulk before applying the new caulk. Stuff filler in extra wide cracks as needed. Lay a firm bead which overlaps both sides of the crack for a tight seal and firm adherence to the substrate. Rough beads can be smoothed out or squeegeed off with a moistened finger tip.

There are several methods of weather stripping doors, ranging from applying adhesive-backed foam rubber to removing the door and cutting off part of it to install sophisticated devices. While the more complex methods offer advantages of more effectiveness or very long life, they may require installation by a carpenter.

Adhesive-backed foam is very ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

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Tucker's Corners

(Continued from page 9)

looks much the same as it did back when Tucker opened it as a Cities Service dealer back during World War II. The front porch has been enclosed and a lean-to added to one side, but nothing else has changed much. The Cities Service clover gave way to the Humble sign, which was replaced by Enco. "We're Exxon now," Tucker notes.

After three decades of aging, the little crossroads community now seems to enjoy the peaceful sedateness of being firmly in the back-water of things. Tucker notes that one old custom went by the boards years ago. No longer does the mail carrier stop by in his Model A Ford every day for his customary fifty cents worth of gasoline, nor do the big oil rigs stop in, bringing in their hungry workers.

Looking back on his three decades in the little crossroads town, Tucker says, "I had a little store, just 18 by 24 feet, but it did a pretty good business for its size. Tucker's Corners is a nice little place."



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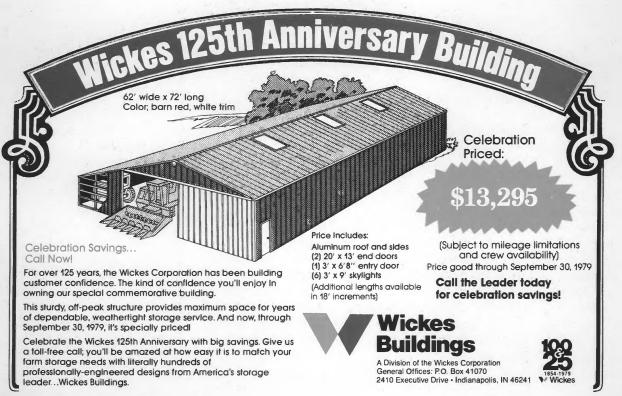
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Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 217-632-7746 PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

Randy Avery, R. R. 2, Petersburg, completed five years of employment with your cooperative on August 19. Randy is an apprentice lineman with your cooperative.

Mr. and Mrs. Hickory H. Hurie, of R. R. 1, Tallula, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on August 12th. Mr. Hurie is a director of your cooperative.

Mr. and Mrs. Elwin DeLong, of Petersburg, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary August 18th. Ed is a retired employee of your cooperative and served for many years as the area serviceman in the Buffalo area. His latter years was spent as a staking engineer for your cooperative.

Mr. and Mrs. David Atterberry of Buffalo celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on August 8th. Dave is the area serviceman in the eastern portion of your cooperative service area.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pillsbury, Petersburg, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on June 13th. Earl is the special services coordinator for your cooperative.

During the history of your cooperative 32 members have served as directors.

Susan Shepphard, an Iowa native, with extensive experience in utility law, has become the first woman to be selected Deputy Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration. She is the 13th deputy administrator in the 44 year history of REA. Administrator Robert W. Feragen, said Mrs. Shepphard's duties will

include "major shared responsibilities for administration and policy up-dating at REA." We welcome Mrs. Shepphard into the Rural Electrification Program.

"Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic, but destroy our farms and grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country."—Wm. J. Bryan, 1896.

"Wishful thinking generates more energy right now than we can get out of solar power facilities, and that's not much. We can work on solar, and we can work on all of the other possibilities, but we cannot power our motors and light our buildings with dreams." —J. D. Selby, Consumer Power Company.

Notice of Closing

Your cooperative office will be closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of Labor Day.

White House:

E Pluribus Unum

The White House at Washington, D.C., the home of our Presidents since the days of George Washington, was designed by an Irishman, James Hoban of Dublin; built on land purchased from a Scotsman, Farmer Davy Burns; in a location chosen by a Frenchman, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant. Its architecture includes elements of Greece and Roman. Thus, the White House typifies America, one nation with many origins — E pluribus unum.

IN MEMORIAM

Herbert D. Shellhammer

Herbert D. Shellhammer, age 83, of Mount Pulaski, died at 3:50 A.M. Tuesday, July 17, in Vonderleith Living Center, Mount Pulaski.

Mr. Shellhammer was born in Mt. Pulaski, a son of James and Bertha Shellhammer. He was a retired farmer. He was a member of the Illiopolis Christian Church, Sons of the American Revolution and a charter member of the Illinois Laryngectomy Club.

Mr. Shellhammer was a 50 year member of Illiopolis Lodge 521 AF&AM and the Mount Pulaski Masonic Lodge. He was a 25-year member of Menard Electric Cooperative.

He married Mary Keck in Springfield in 1917. She preceded him in death.

Surviving are a son, J. Dalen Shellhammer of Illiopolis; a sister, Mrs. Irene Hild of Mount Pulaski, three grandchildren.

Services were held at 10 A. M. Friday in Fricke Funeral Home, Mount Pulaski. Visitation was from 5 to 8 P.M. Thursday, and burial in Mount Pulaski Cemetery.

Mr. Shellhammer was elected to the Board of Directors of your cooperative on December 20, 1939 and served in this capacity until February 25, 1950.

Co op comments

The author of the advice that follows is unknown to us and was unknown to the friend who called the list to our attention. 1. Keep skids chains on your tongue.

Always say less than you think.

2. Make promises sparingly, and keep

them faithfully, no matter what it costs you.

- 3. Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word to or about somebody. Praise good work, regardless of who did it.
- 4. Be interested in others, in their pursuits, their welfare, their homes and families. Let everyone you meet, however humble, feel that you regard him as one of importance.
- 5. Keep the corners of your mouth turned up.
- 6. Keep an open mind on all debatable

questions. Discuss, but don't argue.

- If you have virtues, let them speak for themselves. Refuse to talk of another's vices.
- 8. Be careful of another's feelings,
- Pay no attention to ill-natured remarks about yourself. So live that nobody will believe them.
- Do your work, be patient, keep your disposition even, forget self, and you will be rewarded.

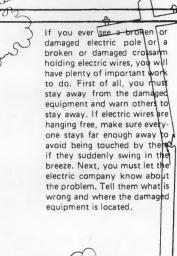
The thermostats in the cooperative office are set at 78 degrees during the cooling season. During the heating season, thermostats in the Cooperative office will be set at 65 degrees.

Returning to his seat in the movie theater, popcorn in hand, the young man leaned over and asked the woman seated on the aisle, "Did I step on your feet when I went out?"

"Well," smiled the woman, ready to accept his apology, "As a matter of fact, you did."

"Good," explained the man, squeezing past her. "This is the right row, then."

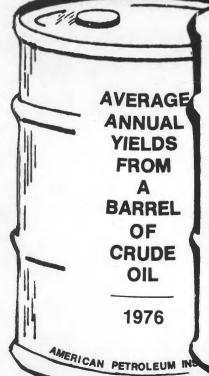
Teach Safety Facts To Your Children





Large-scale synthetic fuel burn underway

The Nation's first large scale combustion demonstration with a synthetic liquid fuel made from coal began recently at a generating station of Consolidated Edison Company of New York City. Researchers planned to burn about 4,000 barrels of synthetic coal liquid during the first several days of testing. . . Public Service Company of New Hampshire will begin experimenting early next year with an energy source of a far different nature-old tires. The utility plans to begin burning rubber pellets blended with coal at its Merrimack Station power plant, using as much as 500,000 tons over the next five years. One old tire contains the equivalent of two gallons of gasoline and generally is much cheaper to buy and process according to a utility spokesman-oil prices will continue to rise through 1980, commensurate with world inflation rates, according to an executive with the Swiss National Bank, He added that OPEC nations have achieved their current economic strength only because of western deficit policies.



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A romantic illusion

Our privileged society seems to have spawned a generation that includes a substantial number of people who take prosperity for granted. They despise the system provided their privileged positions. Many of them were the hippies of a few years ago who became so disillusioned with society they decided to drop out of it. They include the anti-establishment movement that set out to destroy the system, to pull down the house. Some of them have grown up and joined our society. Some, like the Ralph Naders and the Jane Fondas who are now in their forties, are still at it.

They form the hard core of the no-growth, anti-nuclear environmental activists. They dislike capitalism but still do not quite embrace socialism. They want to break up all the large corporations. They want labor to control manufacturing and the consumer to control retail establishments,

but they are not quite ready for government ownership of everything. They want to remake America into something they think would represent a much happier and simpler society. They consider anything big as bad-all corporations as evil. They somehow think small is beautiful-that small is pure, noble and moral. They think that if we could split up General Motors and Ford into 100 or so small organizations, that automobiles would suddently, all become safe, cheap and cease to cause pollution. They invision small home generating units that would provide our energy. They oppose electric lines, power plants, pipe lines, refineries, airports, sea port facilities, hydro projects, off shore drilling, etc. I would somehow like for them to show me a demonstration project someplace that would illustrate just how their kind of society would

In climbing a ladder, I was always

taught to be sure I had hold of the next rung before I turned loose of the last one. Before junking our present system, I would like to see a demonstration of what the next one is going to be like. I suppose every one of us spends time in daydreaming. We imagine ourselves doing great things. We engage in highly impossible fantasies. But we make our real choices and decisions on real world facts and situations. This is not to say that we should not be reaching for something higher and better. There is always a real, and ought to be, world. We should never lose our image of what ought to be, but we have to live our lives and make choices and judgments in the world as it is.

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



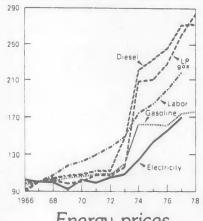
Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 217-632-7746 PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Read your meter on the same day each month

You can't keep track of your electrical power useage unless you read your meter regularly. Suppose you have been reading your meter on the 21st of each month, then you are late and read the meter on the 28th. You have 30 days of useage on your current bill, but you'll have 37 days on the next bill and only 23 days on the following.

We suggest that you consistently read your meter on the same day of each month.



Energy prices paid by farmers

This graph, from USDA's 1978 Handbook of Agricultural Charts, illustrates the dramatic increases in the relative costs of energy inputs in farm production.



Little meter on the pole
Ain't you got no heart or soul?
Through the month out there you squat
Recording every kilowatt.

Sometimes without regard to season Your speed seems to be out of reason But statistics from the past Show that you are rarely fast.

But even if you are not living Accurate answers you keep giving, And what is shown upon our bill Is what we ought to pay electricity occurs as lights go on at work and at home. As evening meals are prepared, it is not uncommon that your cooperative peaks may well occur between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. during the fall and winter. By delaying showers and laundry tasks until 10 p.m. and after, you can assist the cooperative in maintaining the lowest possible demand.

Did you know that 20 ounces of coal will run your television set for seven hours? Not a bad bargain at today's prices.

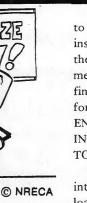
James Schlesinger, former Secretary of the Department of Energy, in describing our situation in the energy area indicated that in our zeal to be sure we protected the consumer, the public interest and the rights of any individual to participate in every decision making process, we have created an atmosphere in which so many can say "no" that we have lost the ability for anyone or any agency in our society to finally say "yes." In such a situation, progress begins

to bog down. It becomes so costly and frustrating to build something, it just isn't built

During a recent Senate hearing at which Mr. Schlesinger was testifying, Hawaiian Senator Matsunaga said "A solar power advocate has assured me that cars will run on electricity produced from solar cells in my lifetime. What is your response?" Schlesinger replied, "Senator, he may have been wishing you a very long life."

WOULD YOU BELIEVE AMERICANS
ARE SPENDING LESS OF THEIR
INCOME ON FOOD TODAY
THAN EVER BEFORE?

In 1960, for example, the Average American family spent 20.2 percent of their income for food. Last year they spent only 16.5 percent. This would indicate that, while the cost of food is going up, it hasn't been going up as fast as family incomes. The 16.5 percent that Americans spent for food compared with 23.6 percent in France, 27 percent in West Germany and 31.6 percent in Britain.



Don't wait until the first snowfall to invest in insulation. Inspect your insulation before it's time to turn on the heat. By insulating to recommended levels, homeowners frequently find that their energy savings soon pay for the total cost of insulation. AS ENERGY COSTS INCREASE, YOUR INSULATION SAVINGS INCREASE, TOO.

For those who qualify and are interested, FmHA weatherization loans are still available.

Late payment of monthly bill costs you and your cooperative

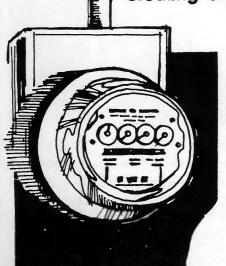
As noticed on your monthly electric energy bill, payments are due in the cooperative office by the first or second day of the month. Be sure to allow ample time if sending the payment by mail.

Electric bills are usually rendered on the 20th or the 21st of the month and all members should receive their energy bills within two or three days. If you don't, notify the cooperative office.

Electric bills are due and payable when presented. If payment is not received within 15 days after date of the original bill, a "last reminder" will be sent, for which 50 cents will be added to the account. If payment is not received by the cooperative before the collection date shown on the "last reminder," the collection policy for overdue accounts will be in effect. When payments are made late, labor, paper additional accounting procedures, postage, etc. means additional costs to provide you with electricity.

Remember, paying your energy bills promptly saves you money and avoids additional costs for your cooperative.





R.D.

Tampering with a meter, unauthorized connection of a service or diverting electric energy for the purpose of reducing kilowatt-hour registration or to avoid payment for energy used is an unlawful act, punishable by up to six months in prison or by a fine up to \$500 or some combination of both. A person guilty of such intent to defraud shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

The following is an excerpt from the Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter III 2/3: "Any person, who with the intent to defraud, tampers with, alters, obstructs or prevents the action of any meter, register or other counting device which is a part of any mechanical or electrical machine, equipment or device which measures service, without the consent of the owner of such machine, equipment or device, shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor."

The few persons guilty of such fraudulent practices are stealing from the cooperative and thus increasing the cost of electric service to all members.

If you know of such a practice, we urge you to contact your cooperative immediately. If you prefer, you need not identify yourself. If you will give us the location, we will conduct an investigation.

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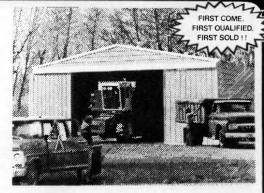
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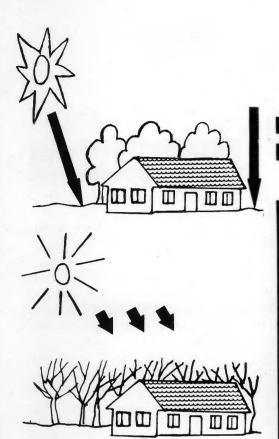
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about 40 percent over the loss with single glass only. Insulating glass (double pane plus one-quarter-inch to one-half inch air space) plus storm windows may reduce the single glass loss rate by 60 percent.

But this still leaves a relatively enormous loss rate when compared to the loss through walls, even uninsulated walls. Put another way, a one-quarter inch thickness of plywood is nine times better an insulator than a one-quarter inch thickness of glass.

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Haves and have-nots for energy tax credits

The incomes tax credit in the 1978 Energy Tax Act is 15 percent of the first \$2,000 of qualifying residential energy conserving expenditures, up to a maximum cumulative credit of \$300. But exactly what constitutes an energy saving expenditure? In its recently released Form 5695, the IRS sets down these credit guidelines.

- 1. insulation-(cellulose, fiberglass, etc.)--for walls, floors, roofs, ceilings, water heaters, etc.;
- 2. caulking or weatherstripping for exterior windows or doors;
- 3. furnace replacement burners which are designed to reduce the amount of fuel consumed;
- 5. electrical or mechanical furnace ignition systems which replace gas pilot lights;
- 6. automatic energy-saving setback thermostats;
- 7. devices which are utilized to make flue openings for heating

systems more efficient;

8. meters which display the cost of energy consumption.

Left out in the cold for the tax credit were fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, carpet, wood paneling, heat pumps, exterior siding and equipment utilizing wind energy for transportation.

Tax Breaks for Homeowners

Under the 1978 Revenue Act, if you and your spouse are age 55 or older when you sell your home, capital gain can be tax free up to \$100,000. While this new allowance is retroactive to July 26, 1978, you must have lived in the house three of the last five years and can have this exemption on only one dwelling in your lifetime. In addition, you can exclude the \$100,000 gain and reinvest any excess tax free when you buy a replacement home within 18 to 24 months after the sale.

Co-op Comments

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Horn of Oakford are the parents of a daughter, Lindsey Brianne, born on September 8. Alan is the staking engineer for your cooperative.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin R. Davis, of Route 1, Beardstown, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on October 20. Mr. Davis is president of your cooperative board of directors.

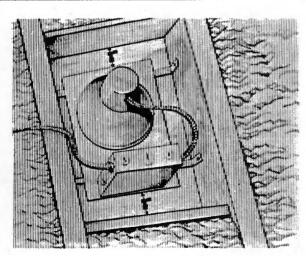
Don A. Harden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Harden, Route 5, Springfield, has been admitted to the University of Illinois Medical Center in the College of Medicine. Don is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, having maintained a grade point average of 4.9, at the University of Illinois. His father is a journeyman-lineman for your cooperative, working out of the Petersburg warehouse.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Your cooperative office will be closed on Monday, November 12, in observance of Veteran's Day. In addition, your cooperative office will be closed on November 22 and November 23, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

Washington The debate in continues over whether the United States should spend 50 to 95 million energy conservation advertising. Recent surveys taken in the states of Ohio and Alabama show that nearly 75 percent or more of consumers are already practicing conservation. Statistics for your cooperative through the first eight months of 1979 also indicate that members of cooperative are, in fact, practicing conservation.

Daylight savings time ends on October 28. Past experience indicates that with the return of standard time, a noticeable rise in demand and use of



For fire safety, keep insulation at least three inches away from the sides of any recessed light fixture or wiring box near such a fixture, by building some sort of barrier.

Co-op comments

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cowin, rural Kilbourne, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on October 28. Charlie is the area serviceman for your cooperative in the Kilbourne, Easton, Chandlerville and Bath area.

Vicki Baxley, of route 3, Petersburg, recently resigned her part-time position in the cooperative office and has accepted full time employment with Menard Service Company in Petersburg. We wish Vicki the best in her new employment.

Darlene McGee, of Petersburg, was employed by your cooperative on a part-time basis effective October 29.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Patrick are the proud parents of a daughter, Heather Colleen, who was born October 18. Heather was welcomed home by her older sister, Shanna. Dan is an apprentice lineman for your cooperative.

Electric fence

We are again in the midst of "the electric fence season." The electric fence is easy to put up and easy to move to a new location. It also is considerably cheaper than a permanent fence of woven wire or barbed wire. The heart of the electric fence is the controller. Controllers are powered either by batteries or a regular 120-volt electric energy.

If you are looking for an electric fence controller, here are some items that you should check: (1) check for the UL lab label, or stamp of approval of the National Bureau of Standards; (2) it should be a pulsating type, giving intermediate shocks and not the continuous current type; (3) double check the so-called "weed burning type" as many of these are not

Your cooperative office will be closed on November 22 and November 23, in observance of Thanksgiving Day. The cooperative office will also be closed on December 24 and 25 in observance of Christmas.

A relatively new type of heating system, known as Alpha I Molecular heat, shows promise of reducing your heating bill if your home is adequately insulated. In addition, it has been recommended to be used as supplemental heat in hard-to-heat areas and/or areas which are heated only occasionally. This unit is manufactured by Olsen Enterprises and compares most favorably with electric forced-air furnaces. In a recent test in central Illinois, the Alpha I system required two kilowatt-hours degree-day; however, the test was conducted in a home that was well insulated.

approved by UL; (4) under no circumstances use a home made fence controller; (5) do not use an indoor type fence controller outdoors unless it has adequate protection from the weather; (6) when the fence controller is located in a building, be sure both fence and ground wires pass through separate porcelain tube insulators where the wires go through the building sidewall; (7) use a good ground rod-an electric service ground rod and clamp is recommended; (8) make sure all connections are tight. If necessary to join copper and aluminum wire, use a special connector for that purpose. Aluminum always goes on top of copper when using a special connector; (9) please do not attach electric fence insulators to your cooperative electric poles.

Irrigation

During the past two years, your cooperative has not taken additional irrigation loads on cooperative lines. At the board meeting of the directors held on October 22, action was taken authorizing applications for service for irrigation purposes, effective for the 1980 irrigation season. During the past two years, numerous members of the cooperative have placed their names on a waiting list in anticipation of the action taken at the last board meeting.

The first opportunity for service for irrigation purposes will be afforded those who have been on the waiting list. We realize, however, that not all will be desirous of obtaining electric service for irrigation purposes.

All new services will be subject to a load management program which has been in existence for the last two years, wherein irrigators are encouraged to use the service Saturday, Sunday, and from 10:15 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. daily.

This load management program has proved to be a tool to lower kilowatt demand on our substations during the summer peaking months.

This type of load management program on an individual residential basis, by all of the cooperative members would be of great value in holding our kilowatt demand to an acceptable level. By waiting until 10 p.m. to take showers, to do the laundry, and to utilize the dishwasher would be of great assistance in holding the cost of electricity down.

THINK-- Play it safe with electricity

Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is more than just a tradition. It is a heritage from forefathers who converted a wilderness and founded a nation of free men, under God, with liberty and justice for all.

We Americans argue among ourselves about the equality of races, the theories of economics and about politics, but we grow more resolute in striving for the common goals of peace, prosperity and security.

We work to better ourselves and our lot in life and to make a better future for our children. We want

from the DIRECTORS & EMPLOYEES of MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

them to enjoy a rich heritage, the kind the pilgrims and pioneers left for us.

We are also thankful for those who pioneered our cooperative. It was they who had the wisdom, foresight and courage to move ahead at a time when others were doubtful and some believed it to be a failure before it even had a chance to become organized.

For these and many other blessings, we are truly thankful.



McDonald

Former REA official

McDonald selected new IVEC manager





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Total number sheets ordered

Please add \$1 postage & handling for one sheet \$1.50 for two \$3 for four. I understand that if I m not fully satisfied with my order. I may return it within 14 days for a complete refund of my purchase price (less postage & handling.)

Amount enclosed S $$(NY\ residents\ please\ add\ sales\ tax)\ No\ C\ O\ D\ s\ please$ CHARGE IT! ☐ VISA ☐ Master Charge Date

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homas R. McDonald, interim general manager of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative since August 6, has been named general manager of Princeton-based distribution cooperative.

McDonald replaces M. M. Jontz of Princeton, who retired effective 10. after 21 August service as manager of Illinois Valley. Prior to his appointment in 1958, the Princeton native was general foreman for the cooperative.

McDonald retired on October 6, 1978, after a 28-year career with the Rural Electrification Administration. At the time of his retirement, he was the assistant administrator for the electric program, assisting the REA administrator in conducting the rural electric loan program on a national

A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, McDonald graduated from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1949 with a degree in electrical engineering. In 1955 he received a law degree from Blackstone College of Law in Chicago. He is a registered professional engineer. He joined the REA staff as an engineering trainee in January 1950, and served in various capacities throughout the nation, including 10 years in field positions. He was an assistant power supply officer for six years and in 1970 was appointed chief of the Engineering Branch, North Central Area-Electric. The North Central Area includes Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio and Iowa.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative provides electric service to more than 5,500 member-owners residing in Knox, Bureau, Putnam, Stark, Lasalle, Marshall and Kendall counties.

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Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2

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Welcome

Wayne E. Jones, of Route 3, Petersburg, joined the staff of the cooperative on November 12, 1979.

Jones, a native of Menard County, graduated from Porta High School, has earned an A.S. degree from Lincoln Land Community College, and a B.A. degree from Sangamon State University, and at the present time is pursuing a master's degree in business administration at Sangamon State.

For the past seven years, Wayne has been employed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as an accountant and as an executive for the Division of Air Pollution Control. In addition, he is a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Jones, his wife, Mary Susan, and their four children live in the Curtin community, northeast of Petersburg, and are members of the cooperative. The Joneses have been active in many church and civic activities since his discharge from the Air Force.



John E. Root, Manager of the cooperative, said, "Wayne brings an outstanding background in accounting and business administration to the cooperative and we look forward to his joining the cooperative team. We are certain that he will make an outstanding contribution to all of the members of the cooperative and invite you to meet Wayne and allow him to be of service to all within the cooperative family."

Undersized Wiring Wastes Electricity

Under sized wiring over-heats. When wires over-heat, electricity is wasted.

Not only do over-loaded circuits waste electricity, they also create safety hazards.

Inadequate wiring could be to blame if lights flicker and dim, if appliances don't operate properly or if there's a voltage drop.

Wiring needs should be determined by a qualified electrician.

Don't let undersized wiring waste electricity in your home.

Failure to insulate ductwork could result in higher heating bills

One of the first questions that should be asked of any member who has a ducted electric heating system and is inquiring about a higher than expected bill is: Are the hot and cold air ducts in your home insulated?

There now is wide acceptance of electric furnaces and heat pumps which utilize duct systems the same as oil, gas and coal furnaces. However, we have frequently found insufficient follow-through for proper insulation of the ducts. Over the years, masters of the old school of installing heating ducts gave little concern to wrapping ducts with insulation. This idea has been carried over into many electric heat installations and we are sure it

One of the first questions that causes several problems and higher

We urge that installers insulate all ducts in crawl spaces, unheated basements and other exposed areas with at least two inches of insulating materials designed for such a purpose. When ducts are in the attic they should be insulated to at least the same depth as is installed over the entire attic. Also, it is important to protect the cold air return ducts as well as the hot air ducts.

When a basement is heated fulltime, there are some who believe insulation of the ducts is not important. This has merit if the exposed areas of the basement have insulation equal to that in the upper living areas. If this is the case, the planned cost of heating must be based on the total area of the home rather than the upper living area only.

But, there are instances where insulating should be done even though the basement is heated. An electric furnace is designed with a lower bonnet temperature than other furnaces, so it is possible to experience enough heat loss in a long duct that a room at the far end will be uncomfortable. Adding duct insulation often solves this problem.

In this day of energy shortages and much higher fuel costs, insulation properly installed will save and save. This is true for other fuels as well as for electricity. If you have questions about duct insulation, give the member services department a call.

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

Co-op Comments

Mr. and Mrs. Melford McCoy of R. R. 1, Petersburg, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on December 24. Phyllis is a records clerk for your cooperative.

Elsewhere on this page you will note that your cooperative has installed a new computer. You will note the difference in the size, color, and makeup of your monthly energy bill.

Before taking your morning wake-up shower, drink a six-ounce glass of cool, unsweetened grapefruit juice. You will then need less time in the shower to wake up, you will save water and energy—and have your breakfast partly over.

A dog is man's best friend because he wags his tail, not his tongue.

If you have a home with an older type fireplace, remember that it's going to cost you money to use it, so use it wisely.

Woodburning stoves are becoming popular. A testing center for stoves has found that heating efficiency ranges from 40 to 60 percent, more than twice as high as even the most efficient fireplace. The most efficient woodburning stoves are almost airtight and offer lots of surface area.

Unlike gasoline stations where customers pay for a product at the time of purchase, members of your cooperative use the product for a month before the meter is read and the reading submitted to the cooperative. It is nearly two months from the time the member begins using electricity until he receives an energy

bill.

Reading of your meter daily, will give you a gauge to monitor the accumulation of kilowatt-hours used during a given month.

When it's time to pay your electric bill, recall the many uses of electricity as well as the comfort and convenience which you enjoyed during its use. Remember that you have used a product on credit, which should make the payment of your electric bill easier.

Your refrigerator is worth it's weight in COLD. You can help your refrigerator keep it's cool by cutting down the number of times you open its door. Of course, no one in your family would ever stand in front of the open refrigerator, pondering the goodies within, would they?

It takes energy to cool the air inside the refrigerator—and energy costs money. You pay the bill for the chill—wasting it doesn't make sense.

New look!

Your cooperative has recently installed a new digital computer and the first new look will be your monthly energy bill.

You will note that the size of the bill has been reduced, the color changed, and additional information will appear thereon. Please continue to read your meter and record the reading on the stub of the bill and return the same with your payment.

In addition, we will have the ability to presort the energy bills by zip code number, thus saving on postage. The computer will give us many advantages which we presently do not have, as well as improving the overall efficiency and, hopefully, the cost of operation.

More information on the digital computer will be in the center section of the REN next month. We invite you to stop in and observe its operation at any time,.

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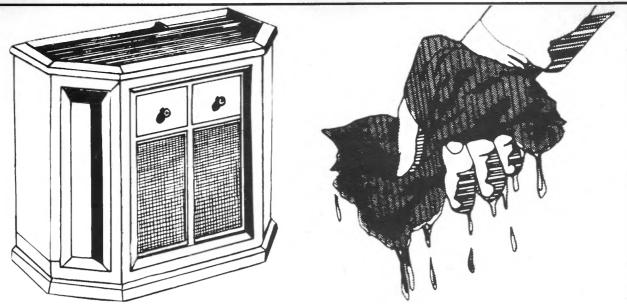
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Portable humidifiers are becoming an increasingly popular appliance in the home. Proper humidification during the heating season can make for more comfortable surroundings, but it is possible to over-humidify a dwelling. Among the problems which can occur because of over-humidification is too much moisture in the insulation material, which can cause a reduction in the insulation value.

and similar water-consuming activities. Water vapor from these activities will increase the indoor relative humidity.

High levels of humidity during winter can cause condensation on inside colder surfaces such as window glass, inside surface of metal grills of exhaust, inside surfaces of exterior walls, ceilings, reduce insulation effectiveness and possibly cause water vapor to consense and accumulate in the framing and building materials. As a result, the ultimate cause can be deterioration of structural members if such moisture condensation is quite frequent or continuous.

Usually, such high moisture production is related to excessive use of humidifiers, water seepage in the basements, no vapor barrier over damp ground and crawl spaces, water seepage into heating ducts located under a slab, unvented clothes dryers, improperly vented gas hot water heaters, unvented gas space heaters or similar items. Homes that usually have good vapor barriers in the walls and ceilings, but no vapor barrier above ground crawl spaces and inadequate exhaust fans in the kitchen, bathroom and laundry room, will have sufficient moisture accumulation. electrically heated homes (no combustion air needed) with low air infiltration rates, normal rates of household water vapor production and a vapor barrier in the ceiling may have considerable moisture buildup.

Some methods of decreasing the humidity levels in the home involve 1) installation of a dehumidifier, 2) installation of adequate exhaust fans for the kitchen, bath and laundry areas, 3) installation of humidistats to control bath and laundry exhaust fans, and 4) proper ventilation of clothes dryers. The exhaust air from these ventilation fans should be vented to the outside air. All exhaust fans should also be equipped with an back-damper which automatic prohibits the reverse flow of undesirable air.

Table I, based on date published by the National Association of Home Builders, can serve as a guide for attaining a proper humidity level in the home. It shows the indoor relative humidity at a point of which condensation will occur, assuming the inside air temperature is 70 degrees F., for both single and double glass windows

at various outdoor temperatures.

In conclusion, there are many situations which would tend to cause low humidity and high humidity levels in the home. The activities within a home greatly affect the house's atmosphere. Therefore, try to achieve desirable "mid-range" relative humidity level of approximately 35-40 percent in the home and on extremely cold days, when the outside temperature is below average, approximately -10 degrees F., adjust the humidistat to a lower setting in order to avoid or reduce moisture accumulation or condensation in the home. A precise formula for attaining a proper humidity level cannot be simply stated due to the many variables which affect humidity levels. Contact your local cooperative if you need more specific information in attaining the proper humidity level based on the activities within your home.

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