

consideration a fuel adder of .38 cents per kilowatt-hour. This is the information that was given to us by our power supplier—the Central Illinois Public Service Company. In the month of May, the fuel adjustment from our power supplier was .955 cents per kwh. incidentally, this is the approximate total cost power kwh from our power supplier six years ago. That particular month, we lost \$53,981.63 just on the fuel adjustment. By the end of the year, the difference between the fuel adjustment included in the rate and what we actually paid was \$223,312.50.

The President reported to you that because of the tremendous difference, it was decided to pass on to you members the difference between the .38 cents and whatever the power supplier charged us. It was also decided at that time that if it was less than .38 cents it would be only fair and honest that you should be given a credit. We know the formula at the office for figuring the fuel adjustment, but please don't ask me why it fell to less than the .38 cents the first month. That month you were given a credit of approximately \$6,000. In February it was again a credit in the amount of \$3,000.00. In March, you owed us \$3,200.00. This was quite confusing to us at the office as I know it was to you members as well.

The operating margins during the past year showed a loss of \$88,389. However, the non-operating margins (interest from our investments) were \$121,953 for a total margin of only \$24,000. You recall that your rate increase effective January 26, 1978, was approximately 11 percent; however, our cost per kilowatt-hour from our power supplier increased by 29 percent.

Now, let us move on to Good Friday of last year. March 24th to be exact. Little did any of us think when we got up on that Friday morning that nearly one-half million dollars in damages would be inflicted to the Shelby Electric lines and that some of you would be without power for nearly two weeks. I am very happy to report to you the damage has been completely paid for out of reserves and in no way did it, or will it, have any effect on your rates in the future

and that is something that 99 percent of the cooperative could not say. Some of the outages that we have had in the past winter could be attributed to that ice storm in the way of damaged conductor, guy wires, etc. In fact, I suspect we will be finding some damage in years to come.

Due to the storm that we encountered, we have not been able to complete some of the construction that we had planned such as the final phase of the Dunkel Substation lines.

All of this coupled with the construction of new homes, upgrading services, etc., did make for a busy year in 1978.

Mr. Kensil reported to you that your cooperative is still in excellent financial condition despite the one-half million dollar expenditure due to the sleet storm and the one-quarter million dollar loss in the fuel adjustment charges.

Now, let us turn to the current year as we see it now. The primary question we are all interested in is "When are we going to have another rate increase?" Remember, I stated that we had a deficit in 1978 of \$88,379 from the sale of power to our members. Our bond interest gave us margins of \$24,000. If we were to stay on the same rate through 1979 with no additional cost per kwh from our power supplier, our deficit would then be \$183,225. However, we would reduce that deficit to \$77,253 with the interest from our investments. Our computer tells us if we were to maintain a 6 percent rate of return on the total plant it would be necessary to increase our rates by 7.85 percent. If we were to expect the same rate of return of most utilities in the State of Illinois, our rate of increase would then be in excess of 10 percent.

Now if you don't take anything home with you from this meeting, please remember this.

At the meeting in February, the Board of Directors was in unanimous agreement not to raise rates at this time. However, an increase will probably be necessary before the end of the year, perhaps as early as June 26th, and we know it will be necessary when our power supplier raises its rate to the cooperative. And I want to hasten to add, we have

just received notification from CIPS, but it is too soon to tell exactly how much it will affect us. However, the rates from CIPS will not become effective until six months from the date of notification. I am sure that you can expect a rate increase of some percent before the end of the year and it will depend entirely on your power supply cost.

We can see a busy construction season ahead of us in the completion of the Dunkel Substation that has been delayed a year already; by the road widening jobs, particularly Route 16 to the East, which should be a happy thought for those of you that must travel it; the new homes, recreational areas plus all the maintenance that is necessary to do.

The average cost per kwh purchased in 1973 was less than one penny a kwh. Five years later in 1978, the average cost per kwh purchased was just over three cents for a 217 percent increase. The average cost per kwh sold increased from about 2½ cents a kwh to approximately 4½ cents per kwh—an increase of 81 percent.

We realize eighty-one percent is a hefty increase in energy costs over a six-year period, but through the cooperative way of doing business, we are thankful our membership has not had to bear the full burden of the 217 percent increase in wholesale power costs.

The rapid rise in energy costs was triggered by events beyond our control in the middle east back in 1973. I am sure all of you are aware of events in Iran the past few months. Let us all hope that this new turmoil will quickly stabilize before it has a severe impact on our energy supplies and costs.

The year ahead is full of unknowns...but it is one of promise, too, for our cooperative and our membership and that is this—we will give the best possible service at the lowest cost possible. In closing, I would like to quote one of the great leaders of our time, "I do the very best I know how, the very best I can, and I mean to keep doing so until the end."

I thank you!

William E. LeCrone
General Manager

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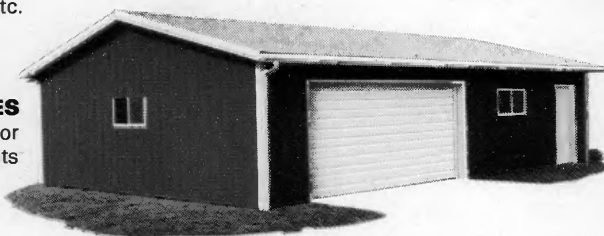
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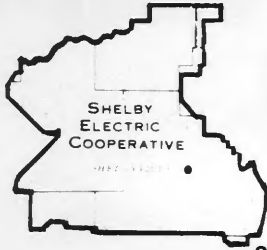
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Shelby Electric News

SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

William E. LeCrone, Manager of Shelby Electric Cooperative, standing in the photo at right, visits with two of the three reelected directors at the organization's April 3 annual meeting. Pictured with him are, from left: Neil Pistorius of Blue Mound and Lawrence D. Oller of Taylorville. Gerald White of Macon, who was also reelected, was unable to attend the meeting. The text of LeCrone's address to the members is printed below.

LeCrone tells of cooperative's past, future plans



As I was preparing some notes for this evening's meeting, I asked myself, "How many Shelby Annual Meetings does this make for me?" Thirty-five, seven as your manager.

With your permission this evening, I would like to reflect a few moments on the past — a short time on the year 1978 — and then take a look into the future — as I see it.

Who would have thought in the late 30's and early 40's that a small consumer-owned business such as the Shelby Electric Cooperative would grow into the multi-million dollar business it is today.

During those early days, a mile of line cost \$750 compared with over \$4,000 a mile today.

Those early lines were designed for a usage of 100 kwh per month for those three members on that mile. Members during that time wired their homes with 30-amp fuse boxes and if they thought they would be a big user, they would increase that fuse box to 60 amp. Back then, it was difficult to interest all people in becoming members because not only did they

not have the money to wire their farmsteads but they did not want to gamble \$5.00 for the membership fee, thinking there was little chance of rural electrification becoming a reality.

During World War II years, obstruction came to a halt but shortly thereafter hundreds of potential members became quite anxious for service.

In the years following, we could see the cost per mile increasing continually— the 60-amp fuse box becoming obsolete— but many 800 amp boxes were installed— and the kilowatt-hours were on the increase from the expected 100 to an average 1,400.

Your cooperative's electric load has continued to grow steadily throughout the 60's and 70's. During this period, your cooperative more than doubled its total kilowatt-hour load. This growth has been due to a combination of increased agricultural use of electricity, commercial and industrial developments in the area, greater use of residential electric space heating and cooling and expanded electric services for area recreational centers.

Due to this increase in load, it has been necessary to change out the \$750 a mile line to \$4,000 a mile line and in some cases upwards of \$10,000 a mile. It has been necessary to build 12 substations that cost in excess of \$150,000 each. This is the type of construction that led us into the year 1978.

During this past year, I have talked to all electric cooperative managers in the state of Illinois plus many managers throughout the United States and they were in unanimous agreement that 1978 was the most difficult and frustrating year in the history of rural electrification.

Let me cite a couple of examples:

The number one problem on every one's mind is rates — the high cost of doing business — plus trying to be prepared for the unexpected.

I have tried to keep you informed in regard to rates, and the unknown part of the rates, namely the fuel adjustment, which varies from month to month. Last year's rate, adopted by your board of directors in November of 1977, did take into

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

away by a "dragline," whose five cubic yard bucket bites out about seven tons at a time. Large drills then bore holes in the stone for the placement of explosive charges to break up the rock so the front loaders can lift it out and dump it into trucks.

One of the front loaders is nearly new, and is the biggest of the bunch. A Caterpillar, it weighs more than 46 tons empty, and a bucket of rocks adds another ten tons to its heft. It takes the front loader about three or four bucketfuls to fill the Euclid R-35 truck, a 40-ton monster that carries some 35 tons.

The trucks then carry the stone to the crusher. The chunks, some of them

as big as a cubic yard or more, are fed into the crusher, which has a 450-horsepower electric motor. It breaks the rock into pieces that are eight inches or less across the largest dimension, and from there, it goes into other crushers that break it down to the desired sizes.

"That process will be changed soon," says Ron Koehler, manager of the quarry. "We're going to move the crusher down into the hole, and we'll crush the stone there and bring it up here on a 2,200-foot conveyor for the final crushing.

"As it is now," Koehler says, "we have the trucks shuttling back and forth constantly from the face of the

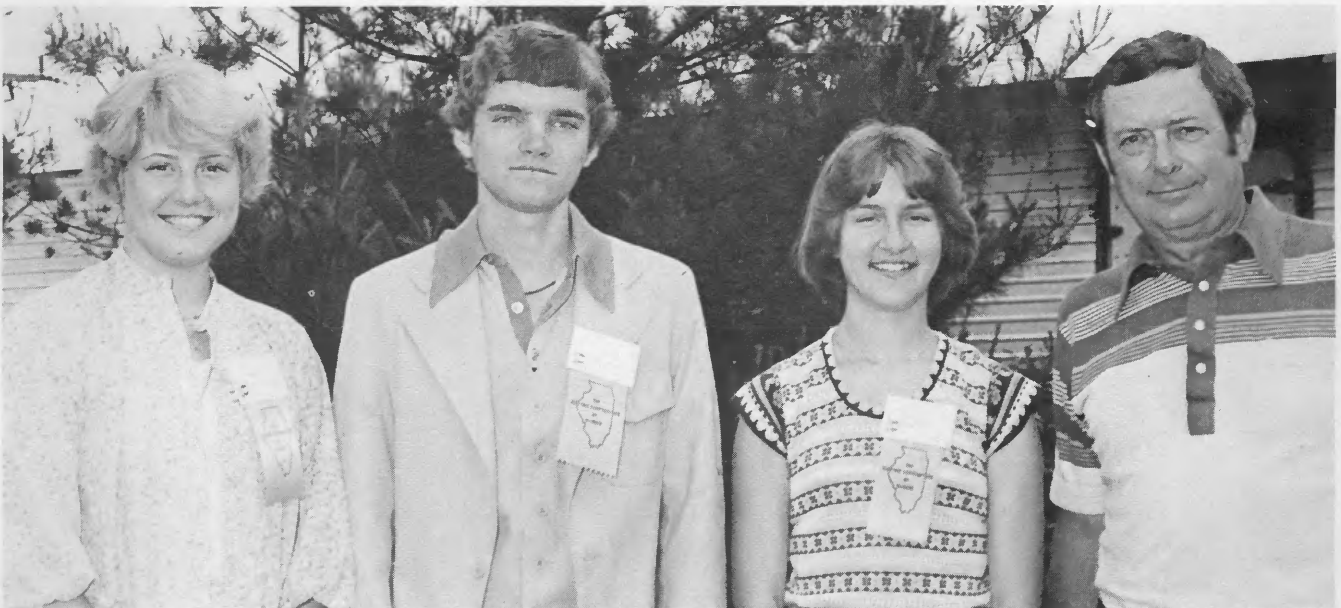
crusher, and that's quite a ways. We'll be able to retire one truck immediately, and maybe another later on. We really need to cut down the hauling distance."

The conveyor setup, he says, will be operated by remote control from a television-equipped control room.

The quarry, which employs 21 persons, operates most of the year. "We get in about ten months of work," Koehler says, "but we're shut down the two coldest months of the year because once the temperature gets much below zero it's rough on the equipment. The snow hampers operations a little, too. We do keep the office open, though."



At far left, a workman prepares to repair a damaged bearing. Ron Koehler, right, points out a location on an aerial map. Koehler on the Quarry's largest front loader. A drill preparing a new "face" for explosive charges.



Michael A. Pfeiffer of Windsor, Trena G. Lenz and Lisa J. Ruff of Strasburg were among the sixty-six outstanding high school students from Illinois who toured Washington, D. C., June 8-15 as part of the annual "Youth to Washington" tour sponsored by the Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The students represented Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelbyville. From left are Trena, Michael, Lisa and Bob Westenhaver, Director of Member Services for the cooperative.

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 Ill

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 well-known 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 two-day session. Below, power use and member services representatives gather pamphlets and brochures on energy conservation 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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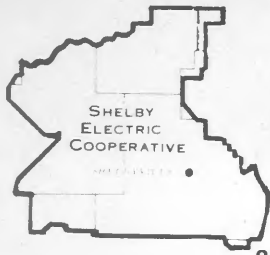
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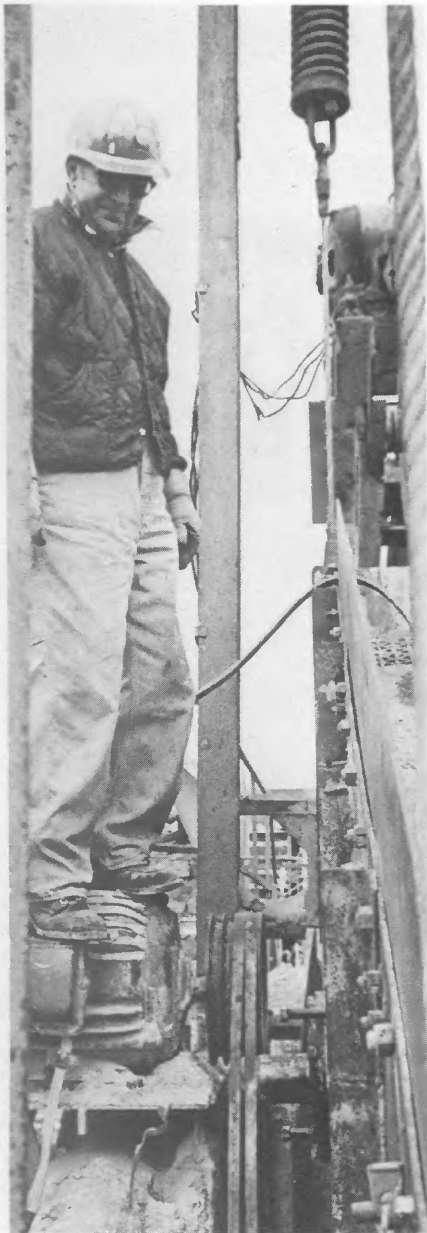
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SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Near Nokomis—

Limestone quarry meets area stone needs



Shelby Electric serves the Nokomis Quarry, a limestone operation three miles north of the town of Nokomis.

The quarry is situated on a 480-acre site and some 135 acres have already been worked to provide road gravel,

stone for concrete, and ag lime for the area. While gravel is the primary product, about 20 percent of the limestone goes for soil conditioning.

The stone in the quarry lies under a soil cover that has to be stripped



Happy holidays--

Your employees at Shelby Electric Cooperative would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy holiday season.



Front row from left: Dianne Peadro, Helen Prosser, Clara Mae Carter, Janet Strohl, Betty Lower, Susie Kircher, Donna Stretch, Suzanne Tate, Carrie Stillwell, Norma Yoder, Alma Bates. Second row, Lewis Houston, Don Pinkston, Jerry Myers, Richard Hanes, Floyd Sphar, Dave White, Hugh Walden, Darrell Roley, Harry Lumpp, Jeff Price, Homer McCabe, Larry Endsley, Leo Banning, Melvin Jones, Mike Macklin, Bill Shoaff, William LeCrone. Back row, Steve Darnell, Roy Childress, Lynn Glick, Bill Martz, Kirk Campbell, Dale Bauer, Van Cruitt, Bob Reedy, Delmar Brunk, Mike Elliott, Larry Stephens, Larry Shuff, Homer Walden, Ervil Milliman, Terry Oldham, Bob Westenhaver, Dick Simmering, Wilbur Kingston. Not shown: Dave Hollett and Bennie Clawson.

From Decatur to Oconee and from Taylorville to Strasburg, these are the men and women who work to bring you dependable, reasonably priced central station electricity over 2,000 miles of line.



McDonald

Former REA official

McDonald selected new IVEC manager

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

McDonald replaces M. M. Jontz of Princeton, who retired effective August 10, after 21 years 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 basis.

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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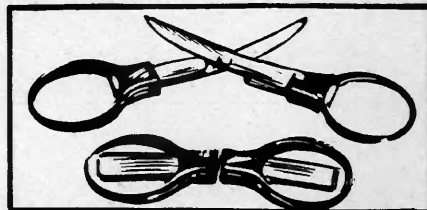


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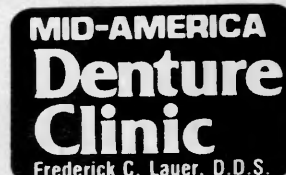
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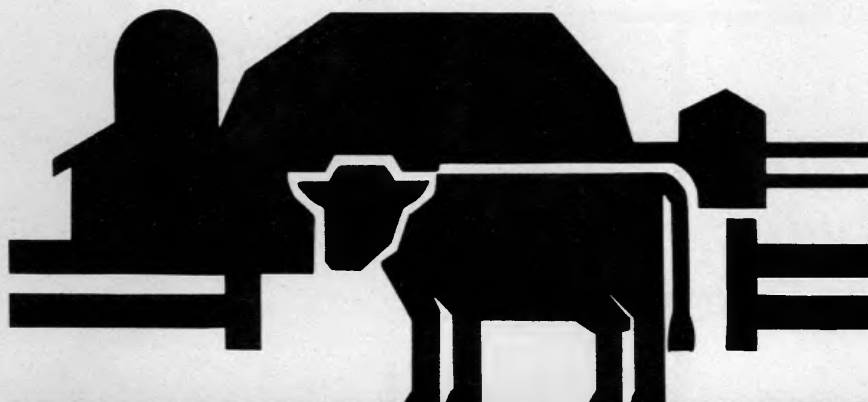
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