

Robert Wagner, left, and Chris Bowron look over a map of New Zealand, to find Chris's home. Chris is the twelfth guest the Wagners have hosted from that country, and they have visited some of the others who enjoyed their hospitality. Wagner, a director of Western Illinois Electrical Coop., lives near Burnside.

Gasoline, which costs the equivalent of about \$2.20 a gallon in New Zealand, generally goes into smaller vehicles. Four-wheel-drive trucks are popular but about twice as expensive as they are here. Most are from Japan. Tractors and farm implements are smaller, too, mainly because of the limited tillable land. "Ford, Massey-Ferguson and International are all popular, but not the big ones. An 80-100 horsepower tractor is a big one," he says.

The educational system differs, too. Bowron spent his first eight years of school at home — studying by mail. "We only got mail twice a week, and I got two weeks' worth of work at a time. After I got my eight years of schooling in by mail, I went to a boarding school about 100 miles from home," he says.

While there are differences in the way things are done in the two countries, there are also similarities, and one is the growing role the New Zealand government. "The largest segment of the economy seems to be government employees," he says with a laugh, "but a lot of our other employment centers around agriculture and natural resources, such as pulp mills.

"Carpet mills, woolen mills, transport for livestock and fertilizer works all employ a lot of workers, too, and so do the government-owned railroads."

While Bowron notes that there are many differences in the way the countries operate, there are many similarities, and it is interesting to compare. Thanks to hosts like the Wagners, there are such opportunities for visitors to see America.

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FMEC News



Farmers Mutual Electric Co.

Phone 944-4669

Geneseo, Illinois

Manager's Report

by
Edgar
Arnn



The following members of Farmers Mutual Electric Company have been selected to serve as the nominating committee for the annual meeting election: George Larson, Royce VanVooren, Gilbert Larson, Cyriel Lauwagie, Robert Lyons, Vincent Weber, Richard Staiert, Mauritz Hulting and Kenny Atwell.

The nominating committee must meet within a specified time period prior to the annual membership meeting.

Attend the annual meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, 1981, at the J. D. Darnall High School Auditorium in Geneseo.

Bylaws require the above list of names be posted at the cooperative headquarters. The three directors whose three-year terms expire this year are Robert Hannon, Wayne Colter and James V. Holevoet.

Usually electric cooperatives were formed and then applied for and received Rural Electric Administration loan funds for construction and initial start-up expenses. These loans were scheduled for repayment over a 35-year period. This was a "zero equity" beginning. Each year the margins, part of revenue remaining after all expenses of operating had been paid, became the capital supplied by members. The margins were assigned and recorded as the equity supplied by each member receiving electric service during the year. The amount credited to each member was

proportional to the amount of kilowatt-hours purchased during the year. This is called capital credits.

For most electric cooperatives there were no margins to assign for the first few years of operation. However, as the number of members continued to grow and miles and miles of line were built and more and more kilowatt-hours were used, the margins thus generated were assigned and continued to become member equity and recorded as capital credits.

The bylaws adopted at the time of organization provided that member equity should be supplied by those members receiving the electric service.

The board of directors could return member equity as the financial condition permitted. At the annual meeting in 1980, the first capital credit checks were paid to active members attending. The checks returned the capital supplied by the member during the 1950-1954 period. The remaining checks were mailed following the meeting. Some members have not been found. Their checks are being held until proper disposition can be made. While almost \$25,000 has been returned, the balance of \$3,000 must be paid to the State of Illinois if the rightful owners or legal heirs cannot be found.

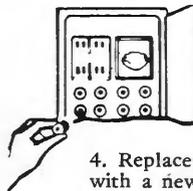
HOW TO CHANGE A FUSE OR RESET A BREAKER



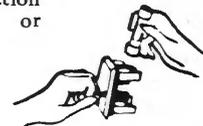
1. First, disconnect lamps and appliances in use when circuit went out.



2. Make sure your hands are dry; stand on a dry board or rubber pad, if possible. Open main switch, or pull-out section of panel labeled "main" in the service entrance, to cut off current while working at the branch circuit box.



3. Identify the blown fuse. When a fuse blows, the transparent section becomes cloudy, or blackened.



4. Replace the blown fuse with a new one of proper size. The smaller sizes screw in and out just like light bulbs. If the blown fuse is a cartridge type, located in the pullout section, it can be removed by hand pressure.

5. Close the main switch, or replace pullout section, to restore service.

6. Throw away the blown fuse.



NEVER, NEVER, NEVER put a penny behind a fuse. There is extreme danger that your house or building will burn down.

HOW TO RESET A CIRCUIT BREAKER

1. Move handle to OFF position
2. Push handle past OFF position
3. Return handle to ON position

Capital credit refunds

The following is a list of individuals who are eligible for capital credit refunds for 1950-1954. Please contact Farmers Mutual Electric Company, P. O. Box 43, Geneseo, Illinois, 61254, Telephone No. (309) 944-4669, if you can provide us with any information that would assist us in distributing these funds:

Dean Anderson	M. C. Eaton	Mrs. Gertrude Lempke	Clifford M. Short
Francis Anderson	William S. Ferguson	Louis Lievens	Raymond Sierens
Robert D. Anderson	Alvin Fitch	Max Lindley	Frank Sinclair
Claude Bailey	Rev. Harold Flessner	Dean Lindquist	William Sleaford
Ray Baker	Guy Forbes	Chaney Litwiller	Joe Sleaford
Earlene Becker	Donald Frere	Henry Lorenz	Fred Sleaford
John S. Beintema	Henry Fretueg	Jack Lund	Edward L. Smith
William Belowski	Rev. Wallace Gabel	James McCool	Herbert H. Smith
Sidney Biersdorf	Ray Garrett	Clarence McCoy	R. T. Smith
K. E. Blunk	Frank Gebhardt	Walter McGee	Joe Smolenski
Keith Boagner	Ernest C. Gilman	H. C. McKenzie	George Sonculis
Ralph Bowker	Everett Goodwin	Lester L. McNaught	Keith Southwick
Norman Bradley, Jr.	Donald Green	Harley Meyer	Arnold Specht
Frank Brooks	Mrs. Dessie Griffith	Arthur Mills	Wade Spencer
Rev. Leo Buechler	Ralph Griffith	Julius Mix	Richard L. Spiegel
Marshall Carpenter	Marion Haley	Isaac Moon	Arnold R. Stahr
Kenneth Chasteen	William L. Hafel	Howard Moore	Fred Starh, Sr.
Civil Aeronautics	John Harris	James and Jenny Nary	Robert Stonefield
Ed Coers	Chris Hartman	Frank Neiswender	Ben Sturm
Merlin J. Cook	D. W. Hathaway	Thomas Nelms	Elon Swanson
W. V. Cordell	Mabel M. Hauschild	Melvin Nelms	Earl Swemline
Roy E. Covell	Lawrence Hawk	Howard Nelms	William Swemline
Clarence Cruse	M. L. Hay	Harold B. Nelson	Dale Taets
Roy Crysel	David Heintzeman	V. A. Nelson	Duane R. Taets
Will Crysel	Forest Heller	Ralph Neuman	T. J. Taylor
Cleve Davis	Roy Henderson	William Nickell	Louis D. Thomas
Howard Davis	Glenn A. Hess	Richard Noon	David Thompson
John T. Day	Alphonse Hicks	Sam Ogden	Ora Turnow
Robert V. Day	Mrs. Euphise Hicks	Emnas Otis	Edmond Uttenhove
Bernard DeCrane	Fred Hixon	Harvey Palmer	John VanDeVoorde
Julius DeCrane	Willian Holden	Harry Pennington	Marvin VanDeWoestyne
Wilmer DeCrane	Elmer Horton	Jesse Phelp	Walter VanOpdorp
Frank DeFauw	E. L. Hulett	John Phillips	John VanOpdorp
Phil DeMoor	Everett Jacques	Martin Renne	Emiel VanHamme
Evo DeMuynck	Johnson Brothers	Mrs. Alta Reschke	William VanDusen
Arthur J. DePaepe	Clarence H. Johnson	William Reynolds	Henry Verdegheem
Joseph DePaepe	Forrest Johnson	Warren Richmond	William Verkruysse
Kenneth DeSmet	Lyle L. Johnson	L. M. Riggs	Albert Warfield
Lawrence DeSmit	Ted Johnson	Julius Ristau	R. W. Wells
Arthur Desrosier	Fred Jordan	Leo L. Rolloff	Charles Wells
Harry Dhamer	Walt Ketchum	Fred Ruby	Clyde Wettstein Jr.
Arthur Dietz	Frank Kroeger	Harry Schaeffer	Robert White
Wilbur H. Dirck	Edward Lanxon	Lester Schnowski	Roger Whitmarsh
Allen Douglas	Edward Laridaen	Roger L. Schufendecker	Jason Willis
William G. Duffield	Willis Lashbrook	Jerry Scott	Donald Wilson
Glenn Duncan	Ernest William Lau	Howard Searle	Willis Woolley
George Z. Dunlap	Jim Leffel	Wallie Sennsemier	Allen Wright
		Fred Shoemaker	Oscar Young

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New and superior varieties...if bought by name they would cost \$2.40. Colors range from white to purple, pink, rose, yellow, lavender, orange.

This year we added **Red Beauty**, one of the brightest glads known. Big bulbs, 1 to 1 1/4 inches across. Glads will bloom for you this summer.

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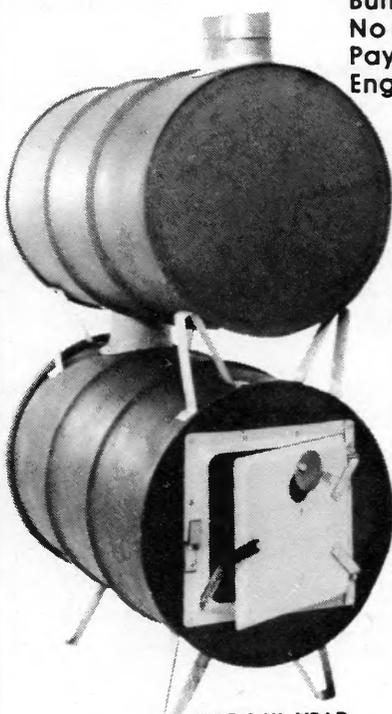
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Pays for itself in weeks
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Before you spend \$500 to \$600 on a wood heater, try the Soltz Heater Kit for under \$60... **at our risk.** If (within one year) you don't agree it out performs any wood heater money can buy, or (within 10 years) if the kit cracks, warps, or burns up, your money will be refunded, including shipping charges.

Kit converts a 55 gallon drum (not supplied) into a high capacity wood burner. Features large 11 1/2" square door opening, cam-lock door catch, and spark-proof design. Patented internal draft channel, draft control, and airtight design allow controlled, efficient heat, while limiting metal temperatures of barrel, to prevent burnup. Use of draft control allows you to heat large or small areas. Basement installation heats your entire home. Great for your garage, workshop, or cabin. Tap drum squeezes 60% more BTU's from heat normally last up the chimney. Heavy steel kit bolts together quick and easy.

Thousands in use by US Army, Navy, Depts. of Nat. Resources, Agriculture, Federal, state and local government agencies. Assembled heater tested to U.L. specs. Member BBB

Price delivered to your door: Bottom Kit **\$38.95**. Top Kit **\$20.95**. Master card - Visa welcomed

Free info about 15-30 gal drum kits, heating water, drying wood, fireplace to wood stove and much, much more.

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Almost Like Growing "INSTANT SHADE"!
Once Established, Amazing
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ZOOMS ROOF-HIGH IN JUST ONE SINGLE YEAR!

—and keeps on skyrocketing 30—40—50—EVEN UP TO 60 FEET HIGH, OR MORE, in less time than most trees nudge themselves a few feet off the ground.

Actually Soars Up To A Tower Of ROOF-HIGH Beauty IN JUST ONE YEAR!

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GROWS MORE IN JUST ONE MONTH THAN MOST TREES GROW IN AN ENTIRE YEAR!

Because according to plant experts, Gov't scientists and Botanical Gardens who researched this wonder-hybrid... once established, you merely water it once-a-week, and be absolutely floored as it **GROWS** up to an average of a **FULL 1/2 FOOT WEEKLY!** during its **SUPER-SOARING** growing season!

That's right! Grows higher than even a full grown Flowering Dogwood **IN JUST ONE SINGLE SEASON!** Grows higher than even a full-grown Star Magnolia **IN JUST ONE SINGLE YEAR!** Yes, thrusts itself so high, so fast that it actually towers over even a Japanese Red Maple, Cherry Tree or even the most graceful silky Willow, in such a ridiculously short time you will simply refuse to believe your eyes!

PLANT NOW—REACH OUT AND TOUCH ITS LUSH, THICK BRANCHES FROM YOUR SECOND STORY BEDROOM WINDOW BY NEXT SUMMER!

Think of it—just 12 months or less! No doubt about it. There's just not another "Instant" Shade Tree like it on this planet! Because—this year, thanks to this miracle of plant science, instead of spending a small fortune on a tree and then waiting half a lifetime for it to grow... get set for the garden-wonder of your life as this super-soaring hybrid rockets forth from a tiny sapling to a tower of roof-high beauty **IN JUST ONE SINGLE YEAR!**

GROWS IN VIRTUALLY ANY SOIL—REQUIRES NO SPECIAL CARE—SOARS INTO A MASTERPIECE OF BEAUTY IN JUST A MATTER OF MONTHS!

Best of all, unlike most trees that demand constant care, constant pampering... about the only thing you do when you plant this super-growing wonder-hybrid is water it and enjoy it! That's why leading botanical gardens... landscape artists... garden editors... can't stop raving about its indescribable beauty... Its trouble-free care... its surging, towering growth... Small wonder that leading experts hail it in the most glowing terms... recommended it again and again for homeowners who want a stunning display of beauty, both a wind and privacy screen, and deep, cool shade... and with practically no more work than a thorough watering each week!

JUST MINUTES TO PLANT — SOARS UP TO ROOF-HIGH IN A SINGLE YEAR!



Here's a luxury sight you don't have to wait half a life-time growing — a matched pair of these towering show-pieces.

Picture your patio bathed in the cool, fragrant beauty of this show-stopping miracle tree from early spring to the first snows of winter.

Just a few minutes planting time, a few season's growing time, rewards you with twin towers of beauty.

VITAL STATISTICS FROM LEADING EXPERTS MATURE GROWTH SIZE:

as much as 50 to 70 feet. **MATURE GROWTH SPREAD:** as much as 30 to 35 feet.

ZONE OF HARDINESS: Hardy from deepest South to as far North as Vermont, Minn., Quebec, British Columbia, Winter hardy in areas where temp. drops as low as 50 degrees below zero!

LIGHT NEEDS: Grows best in sunny location. **DECORATIVE MERITS:** Highly recommended by landscape architects as beautiful, decorative specimens for homes, parks, highways etc., where exceptional fast growth and beauty are required. Perfect for fast screening and privacy.

RAPID RATE OF GROWTH: Experts report growth rates of up to 9 FEET THE VERY FIRST YEAR ALONE on specimen trees. That's more than most shade trees grow in 3... 4... 5... even 7 years. Once established, will grow ranch-house-roof high **IN JUST ONE SINGLE YEAR.**

CARE: No special care required, just normal garden care. Water Fully once weekly. No spraying, no dusting, no special feeding. Naturally resistant to most diseases, pest or insects.

WE HAVE AT THIS MOMENT ONLY A LIMITED SUPPLY AVAILABLE FOR RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC—FULL SUPPLY WON'T BE READY UNTIL 1982. SO ACT NOW!

Now the price of this super growing shade tree is not \$20 or \$30 you might expect, but a mere \$3.95.

That's right, only \$3.95 for this magnificent Beauty that rewards you with such a glorious display of growth **IN JUST ONE SINGLE YEAR.** However our supply is limited! Full supplies from the growing fields will not be ready mid to late 1981 or early 1982. Therefore, all orders must be shipped on a first-come, first shipped basis. To make sure you don't miss out... **ACT NOW!**

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY BACK!

Remember: Satisfaction is fully guaranteed. You must be thrilled in every way with this spectacular fast growing shade tree or **RETURN AT ANYTIME** within 90 days for a full refund of purchase price... **ANYTIME** within 1 year for free replacement. Could anything be fairer? Now is the time to order and plant—so send the no-risk coupon today!

FROM MAN HIGH First Year



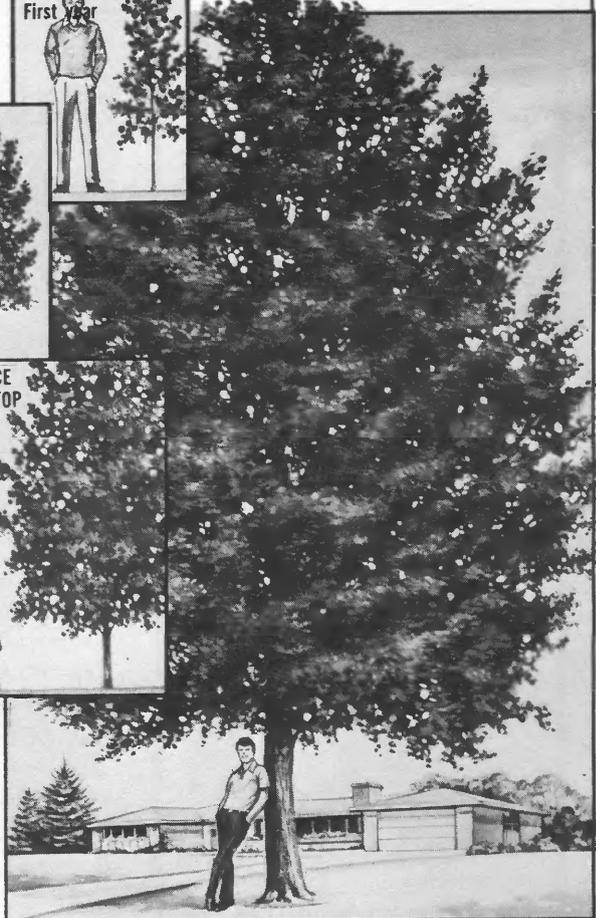
TO RANCH-HOUSE ROOF HIGH by next year



TO TWICE HOUSETOP TALL in just a few short years!



NOTHING ELSE CAN MATCH IT IN ALL OF NATURE!



Grows More In One Month Than Most Other Shade Trees Grow In AN ENTIRE YEAR—More In One Season Than Ordinary Shade Trees Grow In 2 Years, 3 Years or Even 5 Years! (Illustration shows magnificent size, spread and beauty of mature Populus Canadensis Eugenei.)

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Yes, please rush me the SUPER GROWING SHADE TREE(S) indicated below:

- (#001) 1 for only \$3.95 plus 75¢ post. & hand.
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- (#004) 4 for only \$10.00 (SAVE over \$7.00) plus \$1.50 post. & hand.
- (#010) 10 for only \$20.00 (SAVE over \$20.00) plus \$3.00 post. and hand.
- (#020) 20 for only \$30.00 (SAVE over \$55.00) plus \$5.00 post. & hand.

If after receiving my order I am not fully delighted, I may return anytime within 90 days and you will refund my purchase price in full (less only postage and handling costs).

Total amount enclosed \$ _____ (N.Y. Residents add sales tax). No COD's please.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Weather conditions will determine date of shipment. Your trees will be shipped in early spring for proper planting time in your area.

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FMEC News



Farmers Mutual Electric Co.

Phone 944-4669

Geneseo, Illinois

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Small Power Production and Cogeneration

Farmers Mutual Electric Company hereby gives public notice, pursuant to the provision of the federal Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 and rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto (18 CFR Part 292, Subpart D, Section 292.401) of a public hearing concerning small power production and cogeneration to be held at 8 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 1981, in the auditorium at J.D. Darnall High School in Geneseo, Illinois.

The public hearing will be held to discuss the rights and duties of the electric cooperative and small power producers and cogenerators which have the status of qualifying facilities. Small power producers include solar, wind-turbine generators, waste, biomass, etc. and cogenerators include qualifying facilities which produce waste heat or steam and electric energy.

The hearing will discuss the circumstances under which the electric cooperative is obligated: to purchase electric energy from and sell electric energy to such qualifying facilities, provide avoided cost data, establish rates for purchases and sales which are just and reasonable, in the public interest and nondiscriminatory, provide back-up power and other services and establish standards for operating safety and reliability.



The Geneseo High School Swing Choir has been in existence just six years, and in that time has brought home several awards. It has won superior ratings at state contests for six years, and has consistently won high ratings at the Western Illinois University contest. In 1979 and 1980, the group took second place at the Midwest Show Choir Festival in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The choir performs jazz and popular music from all eras, noted Director Jim Rimington, J. D. Darnall High School choir director. A seven-piece combo backs up the group and lighting and special solo numbers also add variety and spice to the show. Greg Day, Millikin Elementary School director is the assistant director. The choir will be performing at the 45th Annual Meeting of Members of the Farmers Mutual Electric Company. Be sure to attend.

Farmers Mutual Electric Company 45th Annual Members Meeting

Business meeting - Reports

Election of three directors

Cogeneration and small power production

Prizes - Gifts - Awards

Coffee and donuts

Tuesday, March 3, 1981 7:30 p.m.

Geneseo High School Geneseo, Illinois

Save energy while you are on vacation

Vacation. . .business trip. . .hospitalization. . . There are several reasons you could be away from your home for a few weeks or even months. If you're planning to be gone for quite a while, here are some tips to follow to be sure you won't use any more energy than is absolutely necessary while away.

Turn off an electric water heater. Turn a gas water heater to "pilot" position.

Clean out your refrigerator; turn it off or unplug it and prop the doors open.

Turn your thermostat to the lowest possible setting, no

more than 50 degrees if possible. Be sure the filter is clean.

Check that all storm windows are installed and closed.

Close the curtains, drapes and shades on windows that aren't exposed to direct sunlight. Adjust window coverings on other windows to let the warm sunshine in.

Be sure all electric space heaters are off and unplugged.

Unplug instant-on televisions and power humidifiers.

Don't Take a Vacation from Conservation.

While you're away, if your refrigerator, water heater, and other electrical appliances are running, and your furnace thermostat is set at the normal temperature, your energy usage will be about the same as when you're home. This means your electric bill will be about the same too! By doing the things we've listed here, you'll be saving energy and dollars.

Control creosote for safer woodburning

New scientific research shows that much of what we 'knew' is wrong—and even dangerous.

Heating with wood is satisfying in a lot of ways. But it has dangers, too. The main one is creosote buildup. If this buildup becomes severe, it can ignite and burn fiercely. A creosote chimney fire can burn at temperatures approaching 2000 degrees F--600 degrees hotter than a blazing torch. While a fireplace can generate some creosote, the problem is far more serious with wood stoves, especially air starvation types.

What can you do to prevent creosote buildup and its attendant hazards? A lot has been written on this subject, but now there's important new information that changes many of the principles we've been taking for granted.

1. The amount of creosote buildup from a wood stove is not dependent on the type or dryness of wood.

2. Secondary air input (introducing room air to the volatile gases just above the flame in an "airtight" wood heater) doesn't reduce creosote buildup; it may even hurt.

3. Proper sizing of stove pipes and chimney materials may be more important than the types that are used.

You'll never entirely prevent creosote, but you can reduce dangerous buildups. The following practices will virtually guarantee you'll never have a chimney fire. These rules apply to both existing and new installations.

1. Use U.L.-listed wood-burning equipment and chimney material, and be sure that the unit is installed to the manufacturer's instructions.

2. Inspect the flue and chimney regularly to check for a tarry buildup of creosote.

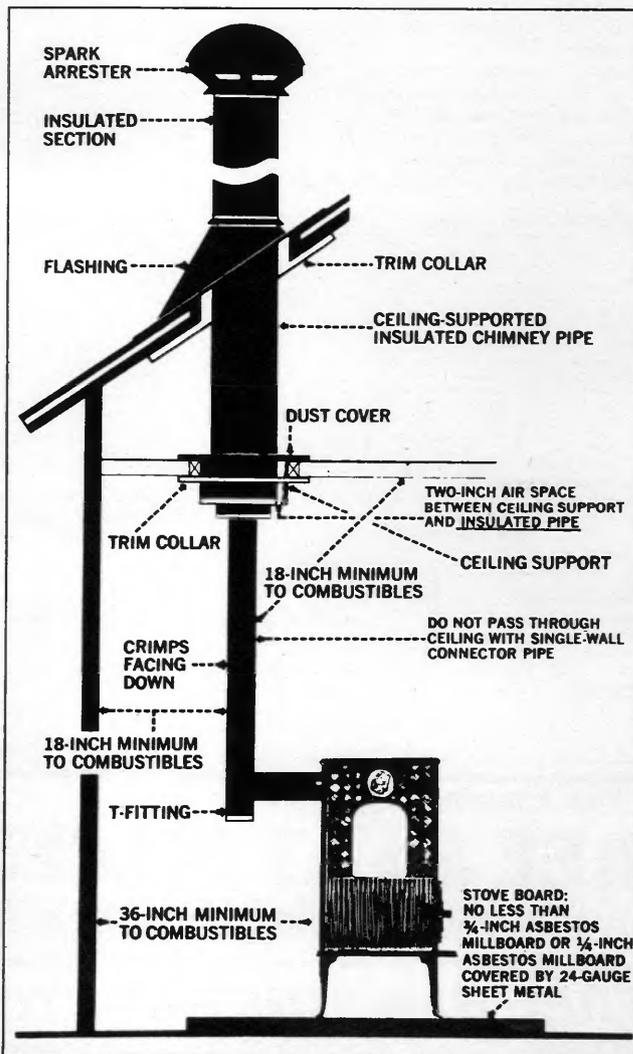
3. Know the proper clearances for stoves installed near combustibles, such as furniture.

4. Starting with a clean chimney, at least once a day and always before adding fresh fuel to the fire, open the damper and let the stove burn hot for 15 minutes or so.

5. Do not use chemical cleaners. Since metal chimneys are typically designed for a lifetime of 35 to 40 years,

there's no way of knowing how much damage such chemicals cause.

Learning to harness the energy potential of wood is much like working with electricity--it's respect, not fear, that allows us to make full and safe use of it.



Recommended installation for Jotul stove shows clearances and components to minimize hazards. Note the cleanout T-fitting in smoke pipe near stove. Chimneys should be kept indoors. Use insulated pipe outside heated areas. (Courtesy Kristia Assoc.)

If Ruptured TRY THIS OUT

Modern Protection Provides Great
Comfort and Holding Security

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Warm Home SAVE MONEY!

THE FREE HEAT MACHINE® can be used independent of, or in conjunction with, your existing heating system and can substantially reduce your heating bill.

For instance, if you build a typical fire with three logs, your FREE HEAT MACHINE® will produce 38,000 BTU's of usable heat. That's enough to heat 1,800 to 2,000 square feet of living area.

Any solid fuel (wood, coal, paper logs, etc.) can be used. Since the machine is so efficient, you will use less fuel than you use now.

The only other cost to operate the unit is for electrical power to run the two blowers. That's less than 150 watts, or the same as one light bulb!



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- Two 2-speed air blowers of efficiency and quiet operation.
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- Quality construction, built to last.
- Easy to install without any alterations to existing masonry fireplaces.
- Just six models fit 95% of all home fireplaces.

We know of no other unit that puts out as much heat as the FREE HEAT MACHINE®!

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Size of Home _____ Sq. Ft. Central Duct work _____ Yes _____ No
Clean Out Trap _____ Yes _____ No

Approximate winter utility bill:
Electric: \$ _____ per mo. LP Gas: \$ _____ per mo.
Fuel Oil: \$ _____ per mo. Natural Gas: \$ _____ per mo.
Wood Use Per Year _____ Cord _____ Rick

Fireplace:
Rock: _____ Brick: _____
Other: _____

Fireplace Dimensions:
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Depth _____ inches
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New Adams Manager Roger Mohrman, left, with Dean Searls

Mohrman new Adams manager

Roger C. Mohrman, an employee of Adams Electrical Co-Operative for 27 years, is the new manager of the Camp Point-based electric cooperative, replacing Dean L. Searls, who retired March 1 after almost 40 years as manager.

Mohrman, an Adams County native who grew up on a farm near Quincy, is a graduate of Quincy High School and the University of Illinois (1951) with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture. Following service in the Air Force during the Korean War,

Mohrman returned to Adams County and began work for the cooperative as power use advisor. He was named member services manager in 1962.

Mohrman and wife Margie live near Camp Point, where he is active in a number of community, church and school activities. He served two terms as president of the Adams County Community School District 3, is a former president of the Camp Point Lions Club, is president and coordinator of the Adams-Brown-Schuyler Water Cooperative, has

served on the boards of the Adams County Heart Association, Cancer Society and United Fund, is active in the Camp Point United Methodist Church, the Illinois Farm Electrification Council and the Power Use-Member Service Section of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Margie is also busy in the electric cooperative program as a Regional Committeewoman for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The Mohrmans have four children: Dennis Mohrman of Keokuk, Iowa, a YMCA director; Deborah Henry of Riverton, a first-grade teacher; DiAnn Hughes of Quincy, employed in the advertising department of Moorman Manufacturing Company, and Denise, a sixth grader at Camp Point Elementary School. They have two grandchildren.

Searls' retirement marked the end of a distinguished career in rural electrification. In addition to his work in Illinois, Searls served on three different occasions in overseas assignments to assist other countries with rural electrification.

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Chicago, Ill.—A free offer of special interest to those who have trouble hearing has been announced by Beltone. A non-operating model of one of the smallest Beltone aids of its kind will be given absolutely free to anyone requesting it.

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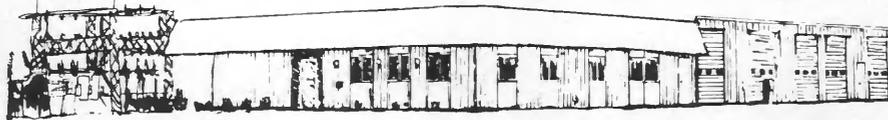
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FMEC News



Farmers Mutual Electric Co.

Phone 944-4669

Geneseo, Illinois

During annual meeting

Holevoet, Hannon and Colter reelected to board

Three area men were reelected to the board of directors of Farmers Mutual Electric Company at the organization's annual members' meeting Tuesday (March 3) at the J. D. Darnall Auditorium in Geneseo. Reelected were: James V. Holevoet of Atkinson and Robert Hannon and Wayne Colter, both of Geneseo. Some 130 members and guests attended.

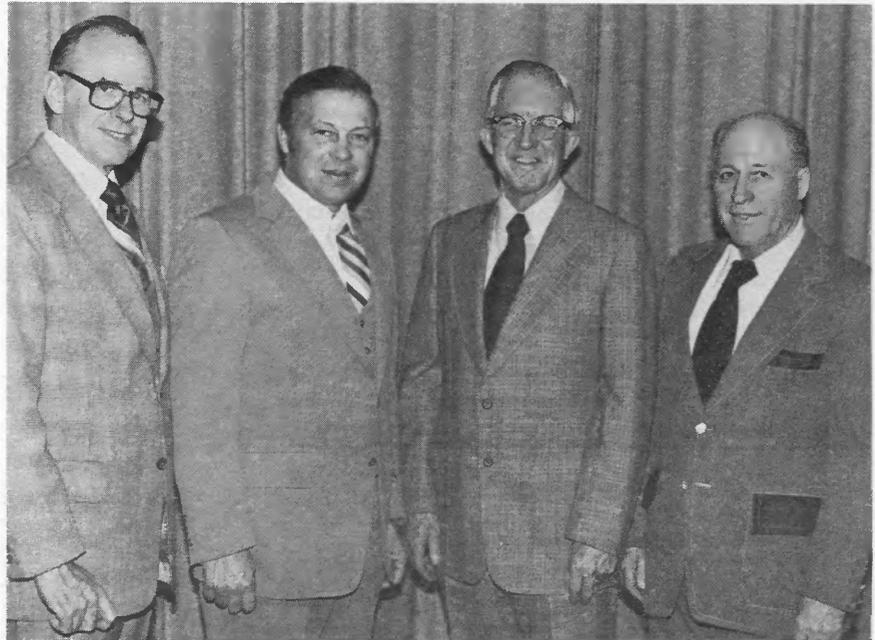
Darwin Knudtson of Geneseo, vice president speaking on behalf of president Eldon Larson of Geneseo, who was ill, noted that the cooperative's growth is still continuing. "Our energy sales this year exceeded those of any prior year," he said. "This has been the exception in Illinois, since conservation efforts, weather conditions and improved efficiency have enabled many of us to use fewer kilowatt-hours (kWh).

"The number of members connected has also increased," Knudtson said, adding, "much of the growth has occurred on farms this year."

Knudtson told his audience that the average kWh usage 10 years ago amounted to 822 per member, at a cost of 2.58 cents per kWh. The 1980 usage came to 1,050 kWh per member, and the cost had risen to 5.42 cents.

"In comparison, the part of your electric bill used to buy wholesale power increased from 37 percent in 1970 to 64 percent in 1980," he said.

"While trying to economize," Knudtson continued, "we must assure you an ample power supply. We're watching construction of the nuclear Clinton Power Station, and the 15 cooperatives in Soyland — including Farmers Mutual — have a 10.5 percent interest in it. We are also studying other methods to assure ourselves adequate power in the future. A

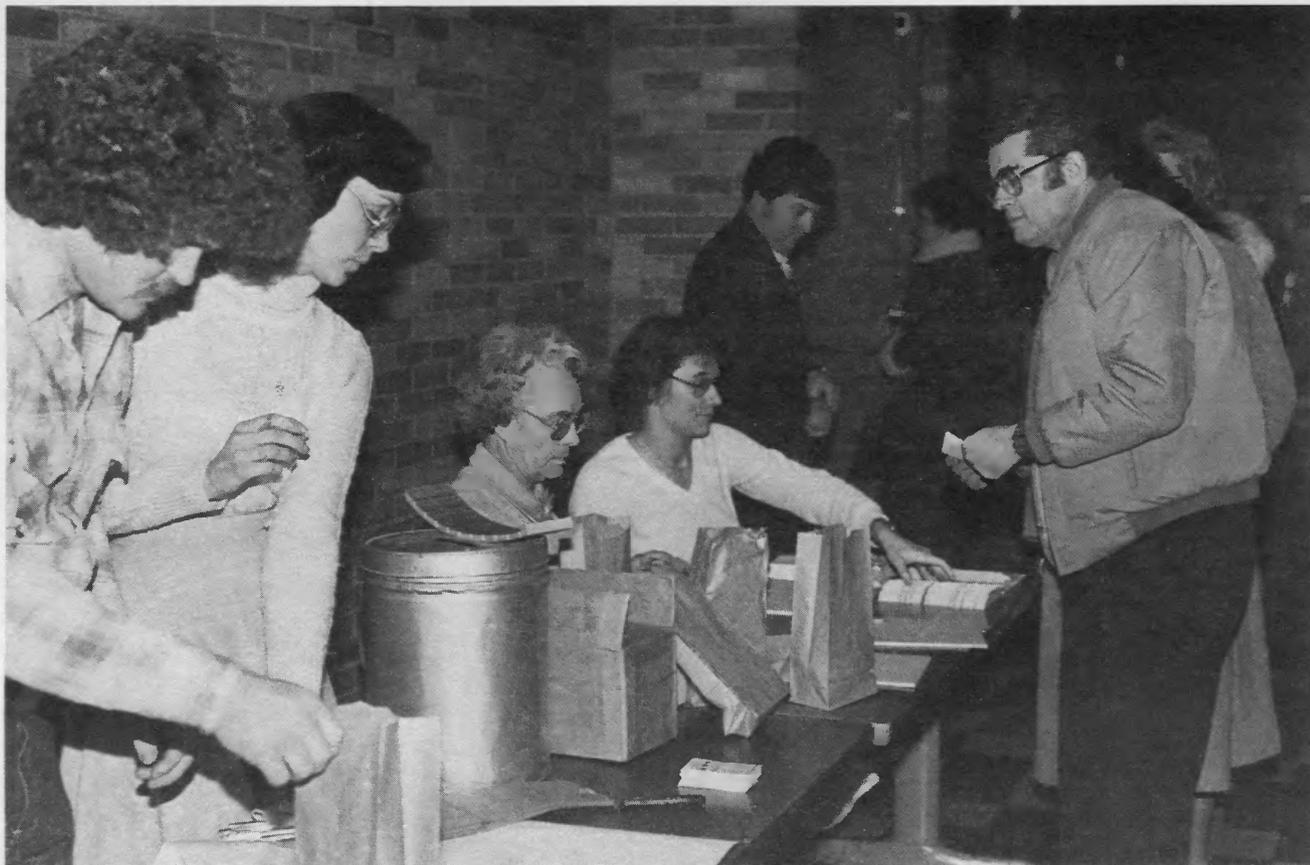


Above: Manager Edgar Arnn (left) with reelected directors, from left, James Holevoet, Wayne Colter and Robert Hannon. Below: Vice President Knudtson conducted the meeting. Top right: Employees assist members with registration. Center right: The Geneseo High School Swing Choir entertained during the meeting.

coal-fired plant is planned for operation in 1987, and a peaking plant is under study."

Edgar Arnn, manager of the Geneseo-based cooperative, noted that construction of new three-phase feeders to replace lines built in the late 1930's and early 1940's was a primary activity in 1980.

"After a system evaluation, feasibility studies and loan applications, the Rural Electrification Administration approved our loan in late 1979, and we went right to work," he said. "We purchased a mini-computer to replace a mechanical billing machine, and it's working beautifully," he added.



Arnn told his listeners that two of the cooperatives' bucket trucks had been fitted with dual-fuel adapter kits to enable them to use lower-cost propane.

"We're working to keep costs down," he concluded, "but wholesale power and transportation costs have both increased dramatically in the

last 10 years." Arnn also outlined the cooperative's and members' mutual responsibilities in regard to co-generation.

Treasurer Darwin Mann reported that the cooperative's total revenues for 1980 were \$861,168, up about \$55,000 from last year's \$805,929. Farmers Mutual paid \$62,235 in taxes

last year, he added.

The Geneseo High School Swing Choir provided entertainment at the meeting.

After the business meeting, the board met to reorganize and reelected Larson president, Knudtson vice president and Mann secretary-treasurer.

Farmers Union members told

Thompson pledges working farmer as Ag head

“**T**he next Illinois Director of Agriculture will be a working farmer,” Governor James Thompson told those attending the Illinois Farmers Union annual meeting during February in Springfield. “I’m going to find the best person I can in the state,” Thompson added, “and I guarantee you he’ll be a working

farmer.” The Governor added that the departure of John Block, former Director of Agriculture, has made the choice a difficult one, and that some of the staffers Block took with him to Washington might have merited consideration.

Block’s quick selection to the

national post, heartily endorsed by the Farmers Union, boosted the state’s prestige and given Illinois more influence, the Governor added.

“We’ve been leaders in the Illinois Agriculture Department — to the point where, in the decision of U. S. Agriculture Secretary, Block was by far the clear choice,” he said.

While the governor’s quest for a working farmer was good news for his audience, he also brought less happy tidings to the meeting.

“I’d like your support for increases in the gas, liquor and cigarette taxes and license plate fees,” he told them. The gas tax hasn’t been raised in ten years, and I don’t know anything that hasn’t gone up in ten years except the price of corn,” he said.

“I’ve had calls for better roads and transportation in Illinois, and everybody knows they’re going to have to be paid for, so I assume they’re willing to go along with higher taxes. If you don’t think we need a better system — or if you’re not willing to pay for it — write me a letter. If you do, write your congressman.”

Harold Dodd, a Loami farmer and president of the IFU, told his audience that the organization was proud of its successful efforts to have sales taxes removed from any farm equipment costing more than \$1,000. “This climaxes a four-year effort, he said, “and we were able to get an eight-percent upper limit freeze on farmland assessments.

“We are still very concerned with the exodus from the farm,” he said, “and statistics show that nearly 2,200 farmers leave the land every week of the year.”

Senator Alan Dixon addressed the meeting, congratulating the members on a legislative job well done. He warned of cuts in the federal budget, but added that they would be fair cuts, with every sector of the economy taking its share of the bitter medicine.

(Editor’s note: Governor Thompson fulfilled the pledge made to Farmers Union, naming Morgan County farmer Larry Werries as Illinois Director of Agriculture on March 3.)

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Size of Home _____ Sq. Ft. Central Duct work _____ Yes _____ No _____
Clean Out Trap _____ Yes _____ No _____

Approximate winter utility bill:

Electric: \$ _____ per mo. LP Gas: \$ _____ per mo.
Fuel Oil: \$ _____ per mo. Natural Gas: \$ _____ per mo.
Wood Use Per Year _____ Cord _____ Rick _____

Fireplace:
Rock: _____ Brick: _____
Other: _____

Fireplace Dimensions:

Height _____ inches
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Depth _____ inches
(From front of opening to back of fire box.)

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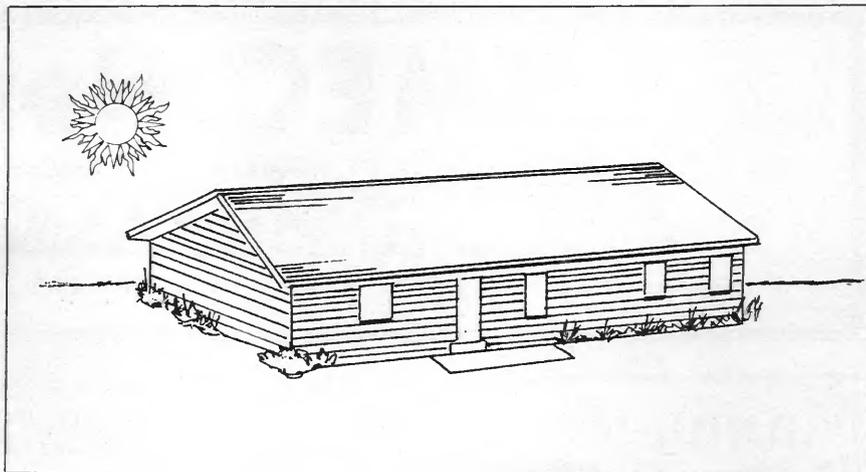


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**energy
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Building a new home? Take advantage of the sun and both winter and summer

Persons planning to build a new home can build in energy savings in a number of ways, including orientation of the structure in order to take advantage of the sun in both winter and summer.

Test and studies by builders, utilities, government agencies and colleges and universities have demonstrated that how you place your home will have a marked impact on the maximum heat gain from the sun in the winter and the minimum heat gain in the summer.

House orientation related to potential energy savings is primarily concerned with the mid-summer or mid-winter path of the sun across the house. It will also help you take advantage of or counter prevailing winds. Heat gain from solar radiation can enter the house by conduction through the walls and roof and/or by radiation through the windows. A high level of solar radiation can be converted into heat when it strikes absorbant material in the household through the windows. Therefore, in those areas where summer cooling is a problem the building should be oriented to keep the sun off the largest window area for the maximum of the summer season. For winter heating, certain areas of the house should be oriented to keep the sun on the largest window area for the maximum part of the winter season.

During the summer, the sun rises north of east and sets north of west

and at noon is at a high altitude. By contrast, in the winter the sun rises south of east and sets south of west and is at a relatively low altitude at noon. Therefore, a house oriented with its long axis running east and west will position the smallest wall area towards the rising and setting sun. In the winter, the sun altitude is much lower so the sun's rays pass under the roof overhang and through the windows to deliver radiant heat to the house. Ideal house orientation is where the long axis of the house runs due east and west and the wall having the maximum window area faces due south.

Building design factors which optimize energy efficiency are: (1) reduce summer wall exposure to the sun by minimizing the east or west wall area, (2) minimize the number of windows on the east and west walls and provide shading for the morning and/or afternoon summer sun, (3) roof overhand on the south wall should be

sufficient to shade the south-wall windows during the summer but not shade them to prevent winter-time radiation from entering, (4) windows should be eliminated from the north wall and only considered for light or cross ventilation for summer cooling, and (5) the roof should be slanted on the south side for proper placement of solar collecting equipment.

Of course, the location of a house cannot always be arranged to achieve optimum orientation as related to sun exposure and/or wind direction. Fortunately, existing homes that have a less than ideal house orientation can even achieve energy savings by carefully using landscaping methods or techniques. Maximum use of landscaping designs can produce energy saving on your heating and cooling load as much as 25 to 30 percent over an unshaded house. Next month we will discuss how landscaping your existing home may help you save energy.

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FMEC News



Farmers Mutual Electric Co.

Phone 944-4669

Geneseo, Illinois

Manager's Report

by
Edgar
Arnn



We have heard comments that members attending the annual meeting liked the facilities offered at the high school site. A large percentage attending stayed for refreshments.

Attendance prizes were selected with a member in mind — shop tools, kitchen conveniences, recreation, travel and energy certificates. If you were not there, plan now to attend next year.

The three directors whose terms expired were reelected for additional three-year terms. Following the annual meeting, the directors held an organizational meeting and the officers were also reelected.

We are extending the offer to install a new mercury vapor security light for \$50 on an existing pole where power is available. We are also extending the offer to provide and set a pole and install a light for \$80 plus cost of required wire for a limited time. When our present stock is exhausted, the offer will be withdrawn. Need a light? or an anniversary gift? Just call the office.

We have seen the yellow lights at highway and interstate interchanges for years, but only now are prices becoming low enough for the new low voltage high-pressure lights to be cost effective.

One 100 watt sodium security light was placed in service with a meter to determine how much energy is required. We found that the new bulb gives more light and requires much

less energy — 1.3 kWh per night at this time of year. The manufacturer claims bulb life of over six years. Call and tell us we may install one for you.

We have included pictures of employees. Each brings attention to a different problem. Foreman Dick Kincaid is shown with two transmission line insulators broken by gun shot. Lineman Roy Smothermon is shown holding a security light bulb which was destroyed by gun shot.

Vandalism is a problem most segments of our society must deal with — and pay for. In many instances the member pays — first the replacement costs, then in lower quality service resulting from power interruptions.

Sanford Billings is shown with his meter testing equipment. Sandy has been under contract for almost one year since he retired from the Arsenal. Sandy also reads meters and tests meters in the field. Much of his time has been spent testing three phase meters this winter.

Retiring staff assistant Gail Williams is shown with our newest employee, Cathy Wright. Gail's help will continue

to be invaluable in training Mrs. Wright. Of course we will all miss Gail when her long vacation begins in July.

Also in this issue we have included more than one hundred names of former members who we have been unable to locate. We must have their addresses in order to mail their capital credit check. Look the list over carefully and please call or write the office giving any information which will help these people receive their check.

We all look forward to a new springtime. Farmers are known to be optimists. Their attitudes affect us all, and we are grateful.

If your power is off, check fuses and breakers. Call your neighbor — he may be out of power if the line is de-energized. Then call the emergency number. A lineman or his wife will take your report and proceed to take the necessary action to restore service. If you tell him your location number, which is printed on your billing booklet, it will make his job easier.

On behalf of the employees, we enjoy serving you!

Capital credits information sought

The following is a list of individuals who are eligible for Capital Credit refunds for 1950 - 1954. Please contact Farmers Mutual Electric Company, P. O. Box 43, Geneseo,

Illinois, 61254, Telephone (309) 944-4669, if you can provide us with any information that would assist us in distributing these funds:

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Will Crysel
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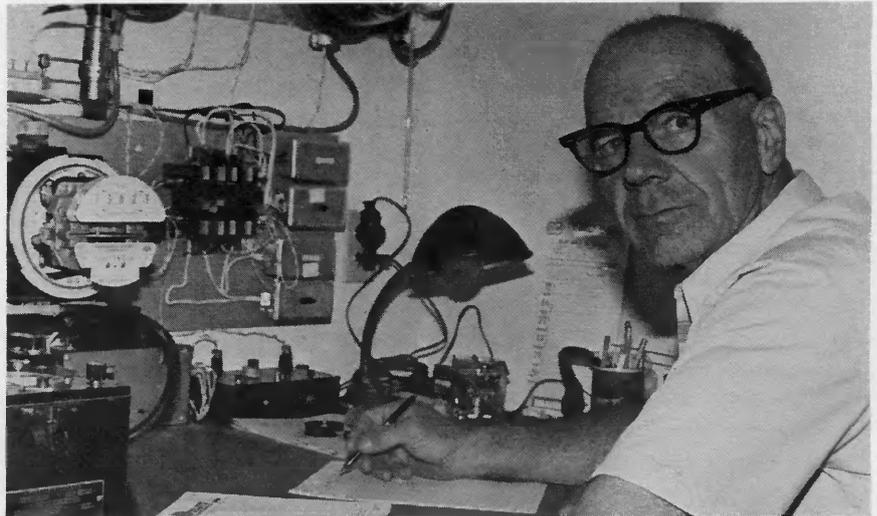
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Phil DeMoor Estate
Evo DeMuyneck
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 R. W. Wells
 Clyde Wettstein Jr.
 Robert White
 Rober Thitmarsh
 Jason Willis
 Donald Wilson
 Willis Woolley
 Allen Wright
 Oscar Young



Clockwise from above: Roy Smotherman with bulb broken by gunshot. Sandy Billings testing meters. Gail Williams, left, and Cathy Wright. Dick Kincaid with shot-out insulators.

POLE BARN SPECIALS!

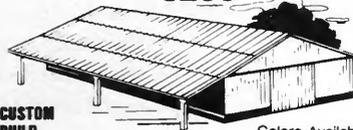
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When a disabling illness, injury or cancer strikes, physical pain is only part of the problem. Meeting your regular monthly bills sometimes hurts just as much.

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Besides providing members with important protection, these plans can now be purchased at ASSOCIATION GROUP RATES.

Disability Income Protection — Helps make up for lost income when a covered illness or injury keeps you from working.

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Cancer Cost Supplement — Supplies extra coverage to help you afford the expensive cost of cancer treatment.

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Permanent Life Insurance — Ultra-Life 80, a new concept of whole life insurance with low initial premiums and subsequent premiums that may vary but will never exceed a specified maximum. Guaranteed cash values for emergencies or retirement. Even lower rates for non-smokers.

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How to write to your elected officials

When you write to an elected official, there are several generally accepted guidelines to ensure that your message is properly expressed. Keep your letter as brief and to the point as possible. If you are expressing your individual position, use your own stationery and your own words. Form letters and postcards have little impact. Type, if possible, or write legibly. Identify the subject clearly; if there is a House or Senate bill number, use it. Give your reason for writing, explaining how the issue will affect you, your family, your business or your community. If you have special credentials or knowledge, point it out. Be courteous, and remember that you are trying to

convince, not argue. Avoid name calling. If you have met the official, draw attention to that fact. Ask

the official to state his or her position on the issue; as a constituent, you are entitled to know.

Addressing your letter to U.S. and Illinois officials

President of the United States
President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

To write your Congressman:
The Hon. _____
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman _____:

United States Senators
The Hon. Charles H. Percy
Room 4321
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Percy:

The Hon. Alan J. Dixon
Room 456
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Dixon:

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Egyptian Messenger

The Egyptian Messenger, published by the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, with offices in Steeleville and Murphysboro, providing electric service to Southern Illinois.

From the Pen of Your Manager Jim Holloway

For those of you who did not attend this year's annual meeting, we have reprinted the annual report to the members as delivered by the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Harold Dycus, and myself, as General Manager. After having read the report, we would be most happy to have your comments and/or suggestions.

Report to the members

On behalf of the board of directors and management, we are pleased to present this annual report to the membership. We also extend to you our personal invitation to participate in this 43rd annual meeting. The annual meeting of members is your opportunity to take part in conducting the business affairs of your member-owned electric cooperative.

POWER SUPPLY

Wholesale power supply is probably the most significant item in the cooperative budget. Southern Illinois Power Co-operative, on Lake Egypt south of Marion, is our wholesale power supplier. Egyptian Electric, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative at Dongola, and Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc., at Eldorado jointly own and operate the 272-megawatt coal-fired generating facility. During 1980, 66.2 cents of every dollar received in revenue went for the purchase of wholesale power. Power supply is an element of concern for your cooperative as well as the entire electric utility industry. Our major concern is the enormous amount of capital required in the construction and operation of the power plant itself. As an example, the original land acquisition, the construction of Lake Egypt, the three generating units with a capacity of 100-megawatts, and the transmission grid necessary to supply the three distribution cooperatives were financed in total from an original loan of \$25.8-million.

Our latest addition, unit No. 4, with its air pollution control equipment, became commercial in October 1978. This unit supplied an additional capacity of 172-megawatts and cost in excess of \$83.3-million. Compared to the original cost of the power plant, Lake Egypt and the transmission grid, you can readily see that the debt assumed by Southern Illinois Power Co-operative in providing this additional capacity has been enormous.

The interest cost alone last year on SIPC's indebtedness

amounted to \$9,732,761. Any change in the REA or CFC loan program, in addition to continued escalation in interest rates, will further increase this figure in the years to come.

Although, at this time, our power supplier has sufficient capacity to serve the member distribution cooperatives, we have reason to be concerned about the future financing of additional capacity, which our revised studies show will be needed in the late 80's or early 90's.

Rest assured that we are doing everything possible to ensure for the membership an adequate power supply, while at the same time recognizing the need to stabilize cost.

COAL SUPPLY

An adequate coal supply is essential in the operation of a steam generating plant. I would call your attention to the graph in the program booklet showing the average cost per ton of coal and carbon consumed.

When the first units went on the line in October 1963, our fuel cost, based on the local spot market price of coal, was approximately \$3.60 per ton delivered for 11,200-BTU coal. This past year, our fuel cost averaged more than \$28 per ton delivered for 10,800-BTU coal, considerably higher in price and lower in BTU quality.

Southern Illinois Power Co-operative burns a mix of refuse carbon (40 percent) and raw coal (60 percent), which considerably reduces the total burn cost. Refuse carbon is received from various local reclaiming operations, while the bulk of our coal has been supplied by the Williamson Coal Company and several small local operators. Due to an increased demand for fuel (unit 4) and lower than anticipated production coming from Williamson Coal, SIPC has been acquiring additional coal from several major suppliers. As interest cost is in direct proportion to our capital investment, the cost of coal is in direct proportion to our generating cost. An adequate coal supply at affordable prices is a must in the stabilization of our wholesale power cost.

RATES

As we all recognize, the days of cheap and plentiful electric energy are probably over. We call your attention to graphs in your program booklet which show you how the average monthly bill per residential customer and the average cost per kilowatt-hour have increased. The real question today is not whether electric rates will continue to increase but, moreover, how much? Although rate increases are unwanted, they are not necessarily unwarranted in view of the economic trends. Under the present economic circumstances, further rate increases should come as no surprise to any of us.

Our current retail rates, effective last October, is one of the lowest, if not the lowest, among the 27 rural electric cooperatives operating in the state of Illinois and compares favorably to the investor-owned public utilities. Future retail rates will, of course, be predicated on our wholesale power cost received from Southern Illinois Power Co-operative. Although your directors on the SIPC board have only limited jurisdiction over our wholesale power cost, you have their pledge that we are determined to provide you the best adequate power supply at the lowest possible price. It is our obligation to provide good service as close to cost as possible. We are neither in business to operate at a loss nor to pile up profits.

POWER SALES AND COST OF SERVICE

In many respects, 1980 was somewhat reminiscent of 1979. In place of the two ice storms we had during 1979, we had two wind storms that severely damaged the system and caused a considerable amount of suffering and inconvenience throughout Southern Illinois.

Total kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales grew to 158,439,401, an increase of 3,838,411, for a 2.5-percent increase over 1979. The average residential usage per member increased slightly from 1,083 kWh in 1979 to 1,095 kWh in 1980, a difference of 12 kWh per member per month.

As you can ascertain, conservation was prevalent again this year, along with the continuing economic trends, and produced another year of flat growth, heretofore uncommon in the electric utility business.

Wholesale cost of power purchased from Southern Illinois Power Co-operative and Citizens Electric Corporation increased by \$701,969 over 1979. This is a 16.5-percent increase in wholesale power cost over last year. All other costs of providing electric service to the members increased by \$156,231, an increase of 6.7 percent over last year.

Consistent with sound management and good business practices, we pledge to you, the membership, to continue to hold controllable cost to a minimum.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Due to the economy and, particularly, high interest rates, home construction and new services installed in 1980 were down from the previous year. During the year, 280 new services were built and energized with 57 idle services being retired, for a net gain of 223. During the past year, our construction crews built 30.4 miles of new line and retired 22.4 miles of obsolete line, for a net gain of eight miles, making a total of 1,925.3 miles of distribution line in the system. There were 10,315 services connected in place, for a net gain at year-end of 109 over year-end last year. We are witnessing this trend continuing into 1981.

MARGINS

We are pleased that we were able to end this year with revenues, in excess of costs, of \$186,268. Of this amount, \$62,862 operating margins directly attributed to the electric business and \$123,406 were from non-operating margins which consisted primarily of interest generated from cash flow management.

PERSONNEL

Employees are our most valuable asset. It is essential that our employees take pride in their skills and be

responsive to the needs of the membership. Training and development is of prime importance. We will continue to encourage employee participation in cooperative-sponsored training programs, as well as their own union- or trade-affiliated training programs to further their skills and keep abreast of changing technology.

During the past year, we had four retirements:

Virginia Frazier, General Office
Jay Hiner, Sales & Service
Elmer A. Joost, Purchasing Agent
Charlie Rowden, Staking Engineer

Darwin Dailey, previously in Sales and Service, succeeded Elmer Joost as purchasing agent.

Mr. Tim Reeves, assistant to the manager, also left us to succeed his father as general manager of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative at Dongola. Mr. Bryce Cramer of Murphysboro we employed as staff assistant to replace Tim Reeves at the Murphysboro office.

On par, we lost five employees and added one, for a total employee roster of 45 as of Dec. 31, 1980.

We would call to your attention that during the July 2 wind storm, we had a maintenance lineman fall from a pole while working and fracture his back. We are happy to report that, although he has not returned to work, Mr. Lewis (Buggs) Minton is doing very well.

APPRECIATION

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all the employees and board members for their efforts this past year. We would also recognize the assistance of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) and Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). Last, but not least, we would commend our attorneys, Paul Nehrt and Bill Ridgeway, for their advice and counsel, and Jack Heller, our auditor, for his guidance and management assistance.

On behalf of the board of directors and management, we wish to thank each member for your past cooperation and ask for your continued support.

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Steeleville and Murphysboro
offices of Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association
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Monday, May 25,
in observance
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Send for this non-operating model, put it on and wear it in the privacy of your own home. It is not a real hearing aid, but will show you how tiny hearing help can be, and it's yours to keep free. The actual aid weighs less than a fourth of an ounce, and it's all at ear level, in one unit.

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Most families in need of credit to build a home can still get it, says an official of Curtis Homes, a builder of complete-it-yourself custom homes in this area.

Curtis, according to Ted Sterling, representative, has access to millions of dollars to finance its homes. The Curtis Homes Assistance Money Plan (CHAMP) was created to enable home buyers willing to contribute their own labor to obtain easy credit terms with below market interest rates, no big down payment and low monthly payments during the construction period. Since Curtis is not a bank, the company sets its own liberal credit standards.

Curtis also provides assistance in obtaining long-term financing for its customers.



THOUSANDS CAN BE SAVED

The official outlined other features of the Curtis program for helping people low on cash and high in ambition to get a much-needed home:

- Curtis carpenters do the heavy framing on the purchaser's lot and foundation. The lot may not have to be fully paid for.

- Purchasers may choose from one of 17 basic plans or build a custom home from their own plans.
- Finishing materials and supplies are furnished by Curtis.
- The purchaser is responsible for completing the home and thus can save thousands of dollars in professional labor and middleman profits. Detailed step-by-step instructions are supplied by Curtis. If desired, some or all of the finishing work may be sub-contracted.
- Monthly installment payments are delayed six months after construction starts to help the owner avoid two shelter payments.

"Our entire approach has been to help solve the high cost of housing problems for families with the energy and ambition to make a work investment. We have the financial resources to assist many more families to achieve their dream home now," the representative added.

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for the project. "Louisan was very forceful and determined and we found out later that she put a lot of her own money into the show."

"Our approach was one of conservation," says Mamer. "it was no gingerbread, high-power promotion deal, because in the 30s nobody had any money and during the war there were no materials for appliances. We had to show people how to save energy, money and time."

So for a year-and-a-half, Mamer lived and worked out of the trailer.

Mamer and Teare would arrive in town a few days early to meet with the co-op board members and get them to support the show with money and labor. Ten to 12 hours would be spent setting up huge circus-style canvas tents, often in the middle of a farmer's pasture. In the evening, Mamer would demonstrate lighting equipment, telling her audience which

lamps were best for cooking or reading. She had written a brochure, "Good Lighting at Low Cost," to distribute among the co-op members and their neighbors. Similar demonstrations would be held the next day for laundry equipment, kitchen appliances and farm equipment. As many as 500 to 800 people came to these early shows, under tents, or in community halls in the winter, to see how these gadgets might "relieve them of the drudgery of farm work and lengthen their lives."

Always busy, Mamer during her working years thrived on only four or five hours sleep a day. Her interests range from rural sociology to electrical engineering to lapidary, the art of cutting gems which she shares with her husband, who is also retired. On the farm tour she lectured on electric conservation and she still practices it in her home, preferring small table top

appliances — a roaster, a toaster oven, well cookers and electric frying pans — to a full-size stove and oven.

Mamer's home is packed with other reminders of her REA days. Bookshelves are crowded with well-thumbed volumes and vases and tiny wooden boxes — gifts from foreign officials she visited, exchanging ideas about electricity in remote areas. The large, hand-cut gems recall her demonstrations of gem cutting as a way for farmers to earn additional income.

Mamer went back to her office after retiring to delegate handling of several history-packed file folders to member of the staff, files which she hadn't had the time to organize until now. "Twice my job was abolished by Republican administrations, in 1953 and '72. I didn't have time to clean out my desk before they moved us utilization people, so I just kept collecting," she said.

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FMEC News



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Geneseo, Illinois

Family raises 'cats' to stock ponds

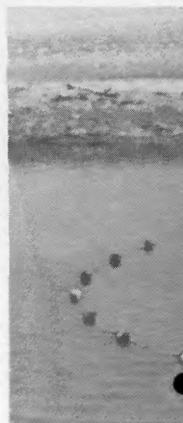
Sanford Billings, Jr. and his wife, Cathie, live with their four young children on the Francis Goemmel farm near Shadow Lake, north of Geneseo. Each spring 3,000 channel catfish "fry" are added to a .6 acre pond on the Billings' farm. A year later these fat 12-inch fish are moved by pickup truck to different ponds in Henry County for real fishing enjoyment.

The Billings family has chosen a part of the fish life which requires a little work but gives a lot of enjoyment during the evening feeding as the small six-inch "fry" grow and play. 4-28-5

Harvest time seems best in the spring since fewer fish succumb to weather conditions in this warmer season when placed in their very own ponds. They grow best when water temperature varies from 65 to 85 degrees F. During this season 1.5 pounds of floating pellets become a pound of choice catfish.

Billings made a special 300 gallon tank which fits the bed of his pickup truck. This tank is divided into compartments. A manifold of plastic tubing supplies necessary oxygen from a welding tank while the fish are being transported. While loading the fish, a small air compressor supplies bubbles of air to the compartments. On one trip he can haul about a thousand 12-inch fish, which weigh about 250 pounds. The fish are counted as the compartments are filled.

Billings says catfish rarely spawn in small ponds, so the supply must be replenished regularly for real fishing enjoyment. He is studying ways to modify the pond environment to encourage spawning since a source of "fry" is often uncertain. 40-33-75



CONDITION 90

is here

Clockwise from immediately below: Cathie and Julie hold the net while Sanford scoops fish; Sanford Sr. is in the background. The pond level is lowered to ease harvest. The net is drawn to the edge. Fish are transferred to a pail. The very last fish go into the tank. The fish are frisky during the transfer.



CONDITION 90... a critical period on weekdays when you should limit the use of your heavy electric appliances to the coolest parts of the day, before 10 a.m. and after 10 p.m. CONDITION 90 occurs during those summer days when the temperature soars to 90 degrees or more. The period between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. is when consumers demand the greatest amount of electricity. Your electric cooperative asks that on CONDITION 90 days you help lower our expensive peak demand by using your major appliances during the

cooler hours, early morning and late evening.

YOU CAN HELP LOWER COSTS ... During periods of peak electricity demand, the warmest part of CONDITION 90 weekdays, our power supplier must operate expensive "peaking" generators. These are less-efficient coal-fired units held in reserve to meet peak demands. By timing your use of heavy appliances to before 10 a.m. and after 10 p.m. on weekdays when the temperature is predicted to rise to 90 degrees and above, you will help lower your electric cooperative's cost of power.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP... Be alert for CONDITION 90 days this summer! Any weekday the temperature is predicted to rise to 90 degrees or above, limit your use of heavy, heat-producing appliances during the hottest hours of the day, between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. Do your cooking, clothes washing, clothes drying and dishwashing in the early morning and late evening hours.

Old-time ceiling fans offer nostalgic charm, practicality

A touch of nostalgia may do more than create the mood of a long-past, unhurried era. The slowly revolving blades of an electric ceiling fan are practical as well as pretty. 7-5-3

A fan may not drastically lower your power bill, but it will raise the comfort level of a room. In the winter, the turning blades force the rising warm air back down into the living area of a room. For an example: In houses with vaulted ceilings or houses with wood burning heaters — these fans do a good job of moving the heat from the ceiling area to where it is needed. In the summertime, the constant motion helps circulate conditioned air or offers slight breezes as a much less expensive alternative to air conditioning.

Ceiling fans can be attractive and useful in almost any room in the house. Fans are available in a wide range of styles from rustic to contemporary to ornate. Some may have lights attached as an added feature. Usually, when a lamp is included, they may be operated together or independently.

You may discover extra advantages of a ceiling fan. If a fan is located above an open porch, screened porch or sun room, the air movement will discourage biting insects. In a home that is disturbed by outside noises, the faint motor sound of some models provides a soft background hum that may help drown out other offensive noises. 41-31-23

When purchasing a ceiling fan, you will need to consider the style, the diameter of the fan blades, the ceiling height (fans usually hang down about 12 inches and those with lights will reduce head clearance by another eight inches), the blade construction (high quality wood or metal is important) and the efficiency of the fan.

To compare the efficiency of various ceiling fans, note the amount of air that each is rated to move.

Also, compare the electricity consumed by the fan at each setting. The lower the wattage required to move the air, the more efficient the ceiling fan.

3-17-10



James Walsh, second from left, discusses his farm operation with the visitors.

Foreign visitors tour Wayne-White area

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative was host during the last week of May to four officials representing rural electrification programs in Bangladesh and Egypt. During their visit in Illinois, they studied the organization and operation of the Fairfield-based electric cooperative, toured farming operations in the cooperative's service area, examined cooperative substation and transmission equipment and construction, visited the Mapco Coal Company construction site, toured the Dowzer Transformer plant in Mt. Vernon and spent a day in Springfield.

The visitors were Fanzi H. El Alfi and Mohamed Shams El Din Abo Shady of Egypt and Mohammad Abdul Wadud and A. S. F. R. Khan of

Bangladesh. A former employee of Wayne-White, Ivan Holler, is on overseas assignment assisting in Bangladesh with rural electrification.

Their visit to the United States was coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Wayne-White Manager Bill Endicott was host for the foreign visitors during their five-day stay.

Included among their visits to area farms were trips to the grain and cattle operation of James T. Walsh

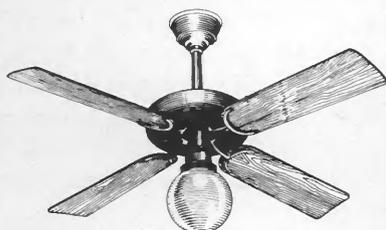
of Carmi, and to the fertilizer business and farm of Robert D. Glover of Mt. Erie. Walsh and Glover are directors of Wayne-White. Of extreme importance to the foreign visitors was the extent of farm electrification in this country. While at the Glover farm they saw a silo-to-feed-bunker cattle feeding operation which featured a fully mechanized mixing and feed distribution system.

One full day was spent with Bill Bennett, system engineer, examining



Manager Bill Endicott, left, helps demonstrate equipment.

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an operator, no electric shock would have occurred. Usually, onlookers want to see the whole thing again. Lindsey obliges, after resetting the GFI.

The National Electrical Code (NEC) calls for GFI installation in a number of instances, including bathrooms, garages, outside outlets and around swimming pools.

The reasons for such NEC requirements are obvious. Many small electrical appliances — hair dryers, razors, tooth brushes, etc. — are used in the bathroom. While users are cautioned against operation of such devices near or over a sink or tub of water, it is essential that the GFI be used to prevent any accidental entry of a connected appliance into water.

The requirements for garages and outdoor outlets apply mainly for use of tools and lawn care equipment.

NEC provisions apply to conventional and mobile homes. Local codes may vary, so persons building a new home should be sure they use a qualified electrician. Your electric cooperative can assist you with information about the GFI. The GFI can be added to existing homes, too. Again, consult qualified people.

Lindsey points out a number of tips for those interested in installing and using the GFI. They must be installed properly, he says. The GFI which is to replace a conventional breaker requires special connection to the neutral conductor, to provide for sensing of the neutral amperage. The unit should be tested periodically, about every 30 days. Be sure the GFI matches your breaker equipment, and have a qualified electrician do the work.

In the event a home is equipped with a fuse panel, a subfeed can be built off the fuse panel to a new breaker panel for the circuit you wish to place on a GFI.

In addition to the breaker-type GFI, there are two other types. One is the outlet type, which fits into a regular receptable outlet box, replacing the regular duplex receptacle. The other is the portable type, which can be moved from place to place and plugs into any existing 110-120-volt receptable outlet.

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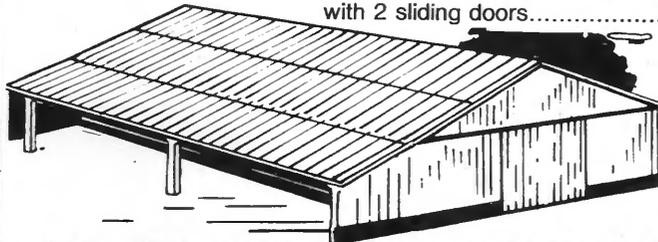
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FMEC News



Farmers Mutual Electric Co.

Phone 944-4669

Geneseo, Illinois



Builders study energy- efficient housing

"We looked at active solar and several other ways to build energy saving homes, and we decided that a combination of passive solar and earth shelter was the way to go." Those were the words of Frank Tower of Tower Homes, a Janesville, Wisconsin firm that designs energy-efficient homes.

Tower was one of several speakers addressing a seminar on energy-efficient housing sponsored by Farmers Mutual at the Central Trust

and Savings Bank room last month.

Some 35 building contractors from throughout the area attended and heard speakers discuss housing, energy and financing problems and possible solutions.

Tower noted that after studying several designs and looking at a highly-efficient house in Lake Tahoe, California, he decided that the "envelope home" would be the best.

"An envelope home," Tower explains, "is essentially a house within a house, with warmed air from a south-facing solarium circulating between the shells, through an attic plenum and through a basement or crawl space. Wood grates built into the solarium floor permit circulation."

One of the big advantages of the envelope concept is that the exterior wall reduces air infiltration to easily manageable proportions, reducing the need for insulation, Tower adds.

Panel discussion covering energy-efficient houses included, from left: Duward Inch of Central Trust Savings Bank, Frank Tower of Tower Homes, moderator Robert Pettit, Paul Hunt of Sterling Homes and James Wirt, Geneseo Hills developer.

Paul Hunt of Fond duLac, Wisconsin, a representative of Sterling Homes, discussed how the company's panel homes could be adapted to the envelope concept which, he said, has proved to be a viable concept both from a standpoint of initial cost and energy-saving.

Duward Inch, of Central Bank, discussed different ways to finance housing, and James Wirt, Geneseo Hills developer, talked about the local housing market. The panel was moderated by Robert Pettit, who also outlined the need for lower-cost "starter homes."

Window air conditioners

Window air conditioners are becoming popular as electric rates escalate. Window air conditioners are your best buy for older homes or if your cooling budget is limited.

Many older and some newer homes are not equipped with duct work which will accommodate central air conditioning systems. In this case, a properly sized window A/C unit is your best buy and the electrical wiring required to operate it will be less difficult.

Proper location of a window air conditioner is very important. Locate it in such a way as to move the cooled air toward the living, dining and kitchen areas. If additional cooling is needed in bedrooms, a smaller unit can be placed in those rooms. Even a floor fan to move the cooled air in that direction may be satisfactory.

It is a fact that it is more costly to cool all of a house with a central air conditioner than to cool part of it with a window unit. Spot cooling or individual room cooling is the most economical.

Selecting the correct size air conditioning system for your home is very important. "Bigger is not always better." For example, oversizing your air conditioner costs you money in two ways. They are more expensive to purchase and they cost more to operate.

Think of an air conditioner in this manner. If your unit is large enough to cool your home on the hottest day of the year, it's already oversized on days which are milder.

Another thing to remember about oversizing is humidity. A cooling unit which is oversized will have shorter running cycles. So you say this will save me money and my home will be cooler. Wrong! Oversized units use more power and give less humidity control, not to mention the temperature swing you will notice between on and off cycles. Humidity is being removed only when the compressor is running. High humidity makes the temperature seem higher.

If your air conditioner compressor is operating almost continuously on a very hot day and your home is comfortable, it is sized properly.

You Can Do Something About Rising Power Costs

PRACTICE 'PEAK AWARENESS'

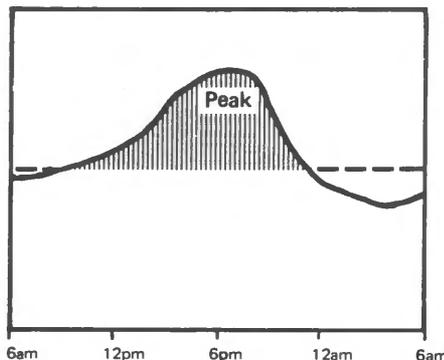
The most expensive electricity that you use is produced between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on hot summer days when higher cost fuels are burned to meet consumers' surging electrical demands. You can reduce your Electric Cooperative's rising power costs by limiting your electrical consumption during this critical daily peak period, particularly during the hot summer months.

As summer temperatures rise, the daily peak demand climbs higher and the cost of producing your electricity climbs, too. The peak demand usually occurs between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. when many members and their families return home from work and other activities and wash, cook and become active around the home or farm.

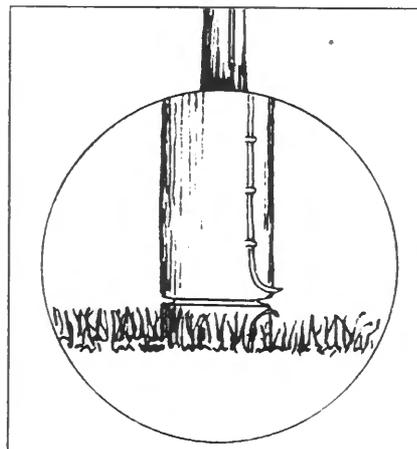
Be aware of these expensive peak demand periods. Wash clothes in mid-morning, delay showers and dish washing until late evening hours and use no more than one major appliance at a time. You can help balance your Electric Cooperative's overall system load and can reduce the need for more expensive wholesale power to meet high peak demands.

Effective energy management in your home or at work makes the most of available energy resources and can delay future rate increases by postponing the need for costly new power plants.

Practice "peak awareness" and help us keep your electricity costs down.



Peak demand occurs during one critical period each day when consumers use the maximum amount of electricity.



Keep clear of poles when mowing weeds

When you are mowing weeds around distribution-line poles, be sure to avoid contacting the poles with the mower. When the mower rides against

the pole, the base becomes scored, exposing the inner pole to decaying insects and weather conditions.

Often the copper groundwire running down the side of the pole is cut by the mower also. When a groundwire is cut, the effectiveness of lightning protection equipment is reduced and the susceptibility of other electrical equipment (transformers, regulators, etc.) to lightning damage increases.

By increasing the potential for lightning damage to equipment on the distribution system, a cut groundwire may expose a member's service to damage from a voltage surge.

So please, when mowing weeds around distribution-line poles, don't let the mower ride against the pole. This will prevent premature decay of the poles and help maintain proper operation of lightning protection devices.

Water-to-air heat pumps Innovative systems use ground water and reservoir

Improved efficiency in heating and cooling was of primary interest for Illinois electric cooperative power use/member service representatives during a June conference in Quincy, and innovative heat pump systems in two

western Illinois homes provided on-site examination opportunities for the group.

Some 30 participants in the conference visited the homes of Donald I. Kerr, Jr., of Warsaw and

Eugene Rabe of Mendon to see installed water-to-air heat pumps in operation.

Both systems represent an effort by the homeowner to take advantage of their particular situation to save energy and money.

"We decided to go with the water-to-air heat pump when we built our new house," Rabe told the group, "because we had to build a fairly large reservoir anyway. We needed it for our livestock and, since we live in the country, we needed it for fire protection, too. I talked to Marvin Hall, our area agriculture advisor, and he said it just made sense to use it for our heat pump, since it was there."

Rabe's reservoir holds about 28,000 gallons of water, and the heat pump uses and returns 4.5 gallons a minute. Water goes into the pump at 56 degrees F, and comes out at 42 degrees, Rabe says. The heat pump used 5,050 kilowatt-hours from January through May this year, and until he shut it down to clean the reservoir. The Rabes heat about 3,700 square feet in their three-year-old home.

Kerr also talked to Hall before choosing a heating system, and he talked to others, too. He visited with Ken Kober, staff assistant at Western Illinois Electrical Coop., Carthage, and visited an energy fair in Quincy.

"We're down in the Mississippi River bottoms," Kerr says, "and we get water at 14 feet with a sand point and the supply is steady, so we decided to use a water-to-air heat pump for that reason. It's worked well for us."

In addition to the heat pump, Kerr took some additional steps to save energy by building an extraordinarily well insulated home. After studying construction techniques of the "Arkansas Home," which features two-by-six studs on 24-inch centers, and the University of Illinois' "Lo-Cal

Protecting a valuable asset

You've insured your house, your car . . . probably even your stereo and television set. But, did you ever stop to think about your most valuable asset? You depend on good health in order to work and bring home your family's income. Isn't that an asset also worth protecting?

The financial security and all the things you've worked so hard for can be lost when an unexpected sickness or injury strikes. Think about it. If you were struck by a heart attack (or some other serious illness or accident), could you pay your medical bills and still manage to make ends meet without your income?

That's why most **Illinois Rural Electric Co-operatives and Telephone Co-operatives** participate in Mutual of Omaha Association Group plans.

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Mutual Care — "Easy-to-read" coverage that works with Medicare to provide security to those 65 and over.

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Life Insurance is also available, both as term and permanent insurance (cash value) from our affiliate, United of Omaha.

So, if you and your co-operative are not enrolled in these plans, let one of our representatives fill you in on the details.

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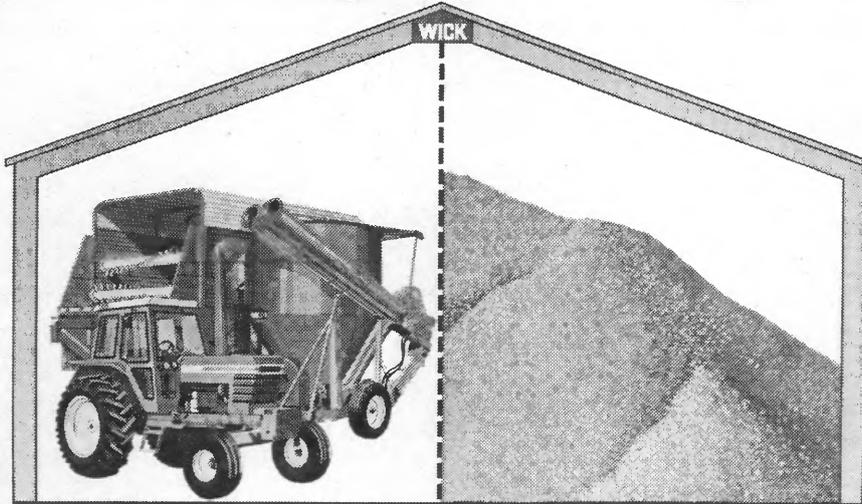
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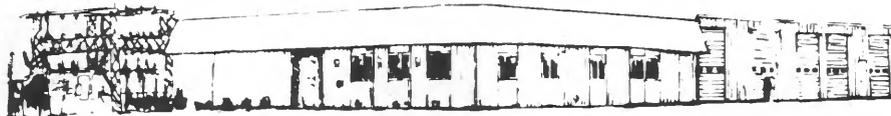
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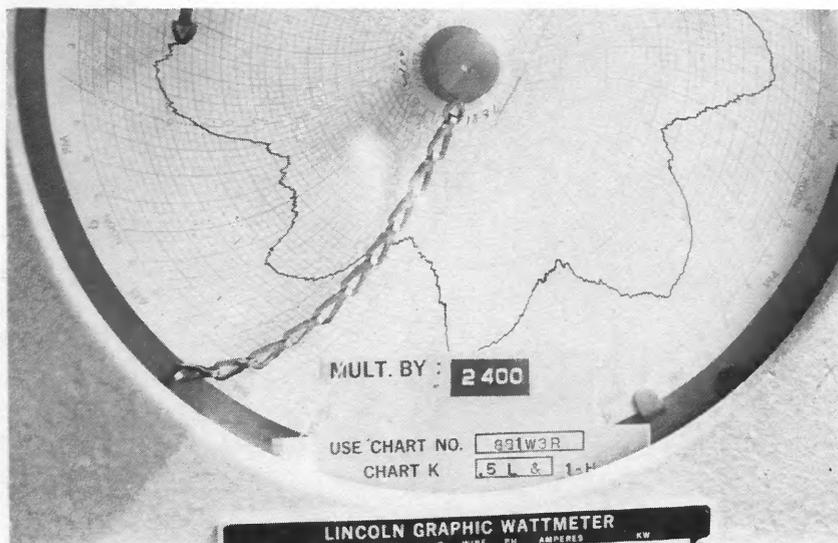
FMEC News



Farmers Mutual Electric Co.

Phone 944-4669

Geneseo, Illinois



This substation chart recorder presents an eight-day record of instantaneous power requirement at our substation.

During hot weather — Peak awareness can cut energy costs

Peak load periods are always times of stress and anxiety. In this locality the air conditioning load continues to increase until after three consecutive over-90 degrees afternoons when the power requirements reach a maximum in late afternoon. This is important to you and your board of directors because the peak load sets the floor for power costs for the coming year.

Summer heat brings growing crops and whirring air conditioners. After only three hot days the meters at the substations record the high peak consumption. It is a peak load condition and the minimum monthly wholesale power bill gets a big higher — for the next twelve months.

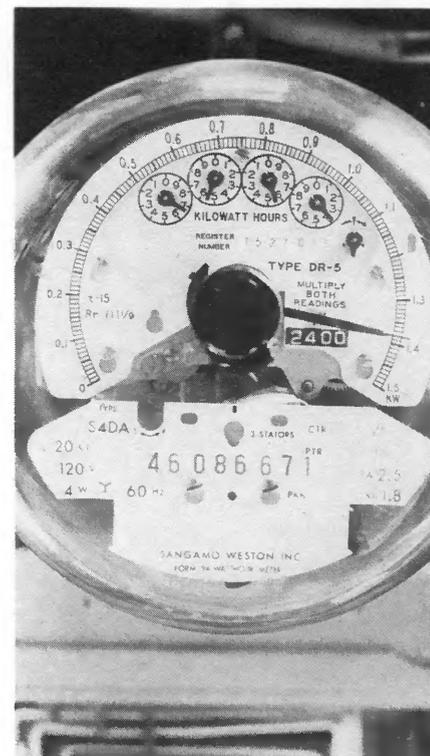
Since a hundred-watt light bulb can add over \$6.00 to the annual power bill if it is energized during a peak load condition, think how much a clothes dryer or a water heater can affect annual billing! 44-30-37

Wholesale power billing is complicated. It is similar to paying for a large tractor which you need only a

relatively few days each year, but you still have to pay.

There are four elements to the monthly billing. There is the basic charge for energy, the demand and the ratchet. The demand charge is based on the highest fifteen minute rate of consumption. This is the "peak." This is important because this peak determines the minimum billing, the ratchet, each month until a higher peak is established the next time. The fourth element is power cost adjustment which is determined by the required additional costs incurred during the month. This element has caused energy costs to increase by more than 12 percent since last fall. This power cost adjustment has never been passed on to you since your rate booklet contains the cost used each month to compute your bill. 1-33-13

You can help control energy costs. From 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., avoid using large appliances on really hot days, if at all possible.



This meter indicates energy usage and peak power requirement. Substation meters are read each week.

FMEC group tours nuclear power plant



HE

This group of members and employees of Farmers Mutual Electric Company left Geneseo early one Saturday in July for a tour of one of the seven nuclear generating plants nearing completion in the U. S. This Clinton nuclear station is located in DeWitt County. A 5000-acre lake has been formed by placing a 2,900-foot earthen dam across a small river. It provides recreation areas plus required cooling for the plant. The dam is 390 feet wide at its base and rises 60 feet above the creek bed. 11-6-1

Twenty-two electric cooperatives share ownership of this \$1.7 billion station with Illinois Power Company. It is scheduled for fuel loading in early 1983 and commercial operation sometime later that year.

This 950,000 kilowatt generating plant will convert energy from the uranium dioxide pellets to electricity which will provide the base load for the cooperatives.

After arrival at the visitor center,

FMEC members and guests who toured the nuclear Clinton Power Station are pictured above. They are, left to right: Robert Egert, Mrs. Robert Egert, Bill DeBoever, Linda DeVoever, Dale McGinnis, Gail Williams, Melvin Williams, Hartwell Goodrich, and Alfred Godke.

the group donned hard hats and safety glasses. A short movie explained the overall construction program and provided an explanation of the function of the various types of equipment they would see. Scale models used initially in construction were viewed before entering a bus for the trip inside the plant.

The group noted the massive strength of the structure and the safety provisions built into the containment vessel. They walked up a 75 foot stairway to view the generator and turbine room while workmen were away for lunch. 1--10-10

After a visit to the picnic areas, marina, and campgrounds and watching the fishermen they returned to the visitor center to transfer from

the yellow tour bus to their own van for the return trip to Geneseo.

It was a very nice day to visit a nuclear plant! The opportunity to participate in the tour came as a result of winning one of the attendance awards at Farmers Mutual's recent annual meeting. Since some of the tour winners were unable to attend, some of the company's employees and their spouses were given the opportunity to substitute.

Farmers Mutual Electric Company is one of the distribution cooperatives which comprise the Soyland Power Cooperative. Western Illinois Power Cooperative is the other generation and transmission cooperative. The two G and T's jointly own 20 percent of the plant.



Gail Williams retired in July after 33 years of service to FMEC. She has served as bookkeeper, accountant and office manager. For the last five years, she has worked part time as staff assistant. We wish her a happy retirement.

The EPA wants us to know

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requiring that we find out whether or not our distribution transformers are located in positions that would allow dripping oil to contaminate animal or human foodstuffs in the event of a leak.

Our property records show the approximate location of transformers but we have no way of knowing if feed storage bins, etc., have been built that might be susceptible to contamination by transformer oil, should a leak occur. We ask that you notify us if, in your judgment, such a condition exists on your premises. 45-31-67

FMEC has never purchased transformers with cooling and insulating oil

that was known to contain Polychlorinated Biphenyls, referred to as PCBs. The special oil containing PCBs was more expensive. Nevertheless, in those instances where you notify us that leaking transformer oils could drip or run into livestock or human foodstuff, we will take the necessary steps to comply with EPA regulations. You may contact your cooperative at: P. O. Box 43, Geneseo, IL 61254 (309) 944-4669.

Look carefully for your location number in this FMEC center section. If you find it, you will receive a \$5 credit on your energy bill. Call us at 944-4669.

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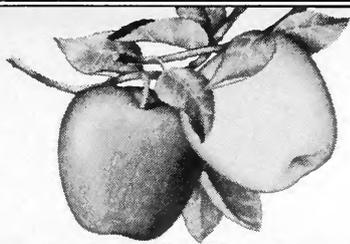
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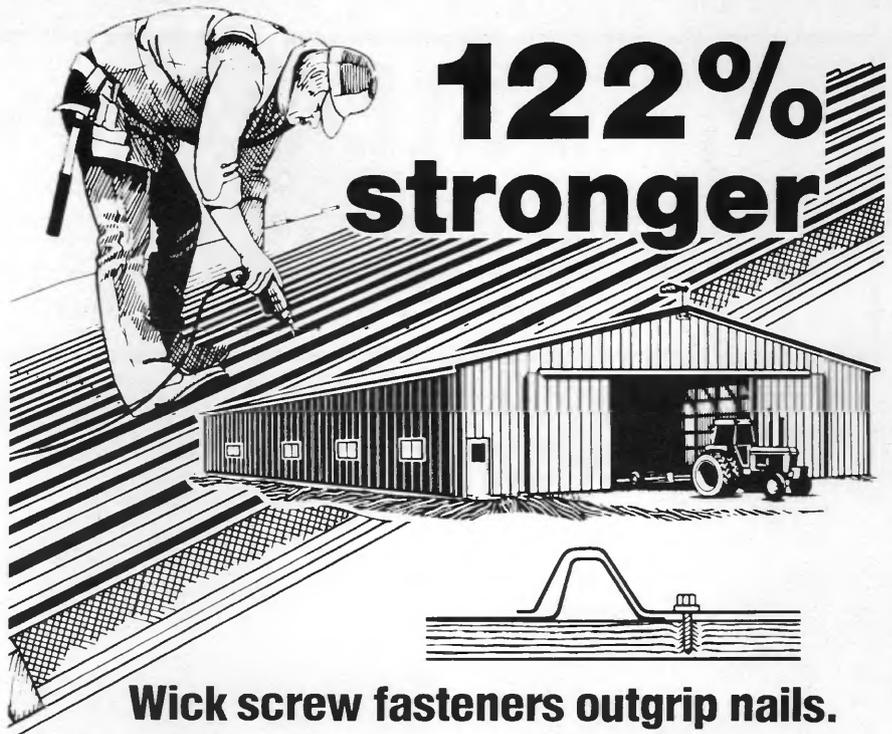
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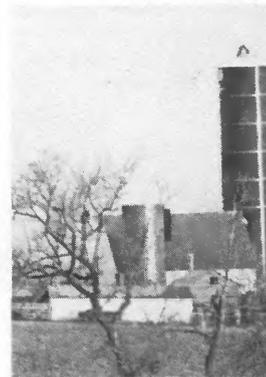
Geneseo, Illinois

Board adopts deposit policy

Members with poor payment records will be required to make deposits of \$125.00 or one-sixth of annual billing. New members have been required to make \$125.00 deposits. These \$125.00 deposits will be refunded when capital credit assignments reach one-sixth of annual billing. \$125.00 deposits earn 7 percent interest.

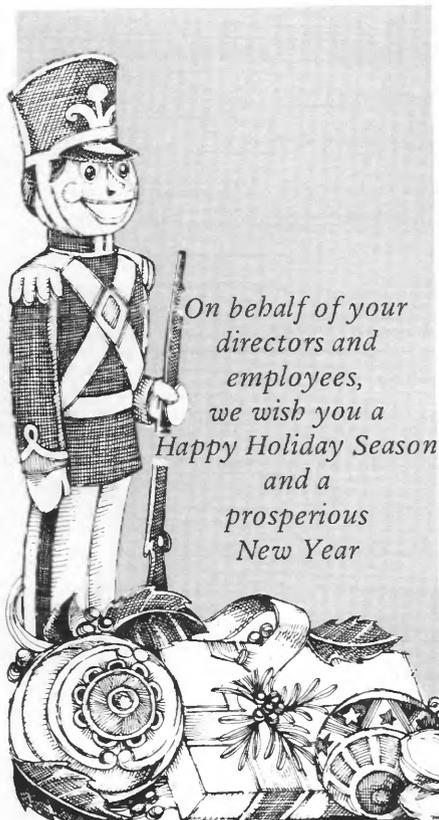
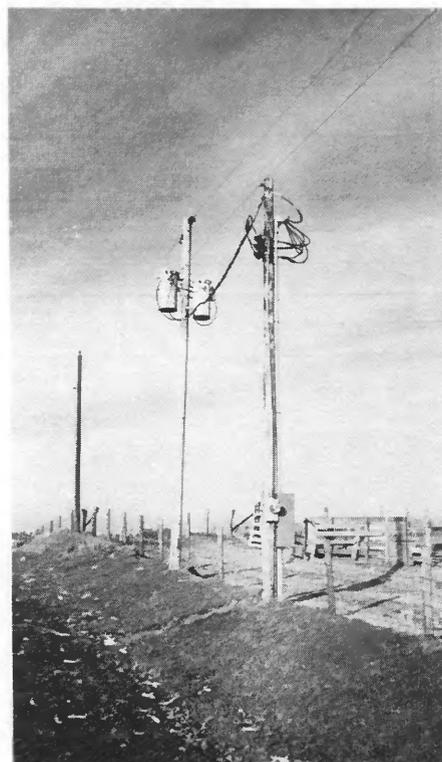
From the records

Electric energy purchases for 1981 through November 1 were one-third percent less than that of the previous year. This means that consumption for the past three years has been the same. This is better than records for many Illinois cooperatives.

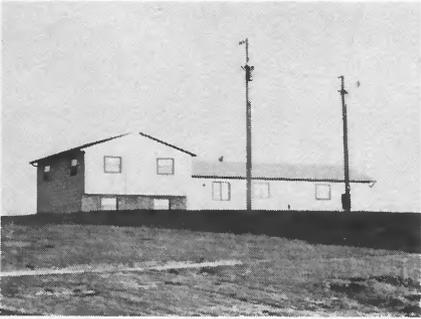
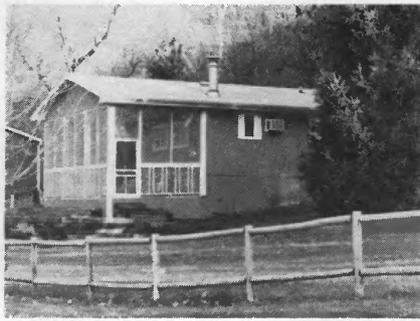
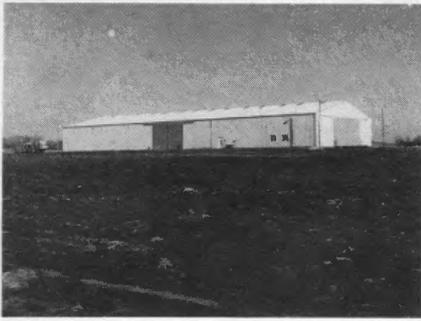


1981- A year of progress

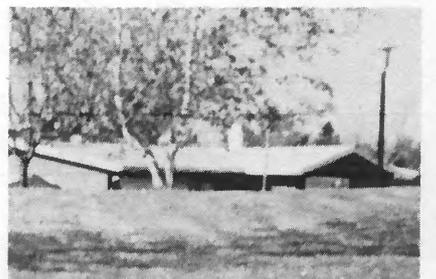
Things seem to be looking up a little in the FMEC service area, as evidenced by the construction during the past year. Some of the work is pictured here. Clockwise from left: A new three-phase metering installation serves the Jack Wirth farm. He has leased a converter for several years. Bringing in the harvest on Highway 82. FMEC board president Eldon Larson added more grain storage. The Norman Carbieners started a new home on a hill in Rolling Meadows. Jim Wirth added a Harvestore unit to his dairy operation.



On behalf of your directors and employees, we wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year



Above: A new electrically-heated summer cottage was completed in Shady Beach for George Knaack. Clockwise from upper right: The new Francis Smith residence nears completion. More grain storage was added on the George Larson farm. Two new Harvestore units went up at the Roger Hulting farm. Pine Ridge members requested post lights for street lighting. More grain storage was added on the Lauren Young farm. Paul Fassett enlarged his electric service equipment and added grain handling equipment. Stacks of roughage for winter bedding. Riley Smith added an irrigation well and improved drainage. Loraine Church was improved. Norm Hutchinson completed an all-electric home. DeCap Realty built a new auction house on Springhill Road, with a security light at each corner of the building. Two more cottages went up in Shady Beach.





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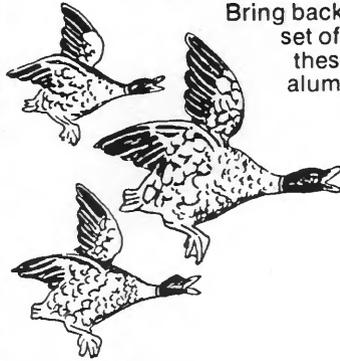
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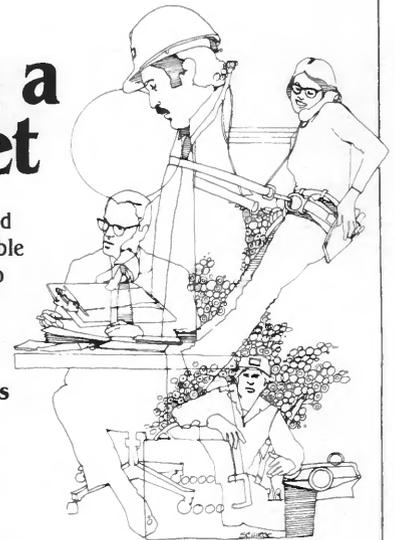
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