New Electronic Pain Killer... relieves backache, headache, even pain of tennis elbow, arthritis & bursitis!

Tested by doctors, INFRALUX™ is handheld and portable. Its infrared heat relieves pain without medication! FDA registered.

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Say goodbye to pain. No matter the type you suffer from—headaches, tennis elbow, arthritis, bursitis, sinusitis, backache, neuralgia, muscular pains, sprains, or any musculoskeletal condition—here is a quick easy answer. Put INFRALUX next to the pain and within minutes, you can get on with work or play.

SOOTHING PAIN RELIEF. BUT WHY INFRARED HEAT?

There is nothing new about infrared heat. Doctors and therapists have used and recommended it for years in pain treatment. But until now, there hasn't been a compact, easy-to-use unit.



Why infrared? With ordinary methods such as heating pads and hot water bottles, much of the heat is dissipated on the skin's surface. There's no lasting effect.

But with infrared heat, the treatment goes down d-e-e-p where you need it. In fact, INFRALUX's shortwave, visible infrared heat will penetrate up to 10mm of skin tissue to reach irritated nerve endings. Your INFRALUX seeks, finds and soothes!

ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY MEDICATION.

In fact, William J. Shriber, MD notes in his respected "Manual of Electro Therapy" THAT MILD INFRARED RADIATION MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY TO RELIEVE PAIN WITHOUT THE USE OF MEDICATION.

Why take medication when it isn't needed? INFRALUX is the most natural route to pain relief.

HOW THE INFRALUX WORKS.

All you do is hold the INFRALUX unit next to where you hurt. It even works thru clothing! Within moments, you'll sense comforting, soothing heat.

INFRALUX heat goes to where the pain is—to blood vessels, nerve endings, and other subcutaneous tissue

USE AS OFTEN AS NEEDED.

Unlike drugs and medication, INFRALUX can be used as often as needed. It's made to help you day or night, at home or at work. And be

RECOMMENDED BY DOCTORS

FROM ACTUAL DOCTORS' REPORTS ON INFRALUX:

"I have used the unit in my practice for six months and I find it relieves pain and muscle spasms, stiff shoulders and elbows from bursitis and tendonitis. Patients suffering from arthritis use the Infralux in the morning and get excellent results."

J.L.G., MD

"On patients with a variety of muscleskeletal painful conditions, Infralux was demonstrated to be effective in relieving pain." V.S., MD sure to pack it for out-of-town trips. You can enjoy soothing relief wherever, and whenever.

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INFRALUX is easy to carry too in its handsome vinyl bag. No bigger than a small flashlight (six inches long). It plugs in any 110V outlet and it is U.L. listed for your safety.

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INFRALUX is only \$39.95 (plus \$2.85 shipping and handling). To order, simply send your check to Baystar at the address below. Credit card holders can speed their delivery by using our toll-free number. (Maryland residents add 5% tax.)

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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

The electric utility business is a difficult one and is becoming more so. With the advent of the New Year, never before have the problems been so many and so formidable, especially in the areas of cost, financing and uncertainty. The public power sector of the industry has special problems and those of the rural electric cooperatives are even more serious than those common to the rest of the industry. The impacts of high interest rates, cost of providing service and load characteristics of rural electric cooperatives tend to intensify an already difficult situation.

Your Cooperative, being a distribution cooperative which purchases its power from an investor-owned generating utility, indirectly feels the impact of problems associated with the industry as a whole. Some of the problems and areas of concern to the industry which relate to higher wholesale power costs are:

- 1. Interest Rates. The cost of money for the utility industry remains near an all-time high. Interest during construction adds to the cost of new facilities as well as to annual costs and has a substantial impact on utility rates.
- 2. Longer Construction Time. Since 1970, the construction schedules for coal-fired plants have increased from four and one-half years to over seven years. A major portion of this delay is a result of increased federal regulations. The added regulatory requirements directly cause extra engineering, permitting and construction costs as well as add to the increasing interest cost during construction.
- 3. Operating Cost Increases. Sharply rising power supply and other operating and maintenance costs also contribute greatly to the need for higher utility rates. Fuel costs for generation of electricity are another major factor. Since 1973, the price of oil has risen from \$5.00 per barrel to \$35.00 per barrel today. In the same period, coal costs have increased 3.6 times.
- 4. Economies of Scale No More. Through the 1960's, growing utility loads combined with improving technology resulted in system efficiencies and lower costs. Even with the moderate inflation of the early 1970's, power costs were stable due to the economies of scale. Economies of scale no longer appear to be available.

All of the above relate to the rising costs of wholesale power to the cooperatives and in return are reflected in our retail rates to member-consumers. Special problems inherent to rural electric cooperatives such as ours include:

- 1. Proportionately higher interest rate increases. Interest rates to your Cooperative have nearly tripled in the past 10 years. Up until 1972, interest rates for borrowed capital from REA was two percent. We now borrow 70 percent of our capital needs from REA at five-percent interest and the remaining 30 percent of needed capital is borrowed from the Cooperative Finance Corporation at an interest rate based on their cost of funds and operating expenses, thus the blended interest rate the Cooperative pays for borrowed money is nearly eight percent.
- 2. Less Assured Sources of Financing. There seems to be little assurance that any of the insured REA loan programs will continue indefinitely. The present administration is looking to either eliminate or greatly reduce the present REA guaranteed loan programs.
- 3. Lower Consumer Density. The electric utility industry's average consumers per mile of line is around 35. Distribution cooperatives however, average less than five consumer-members per mile of line. Monroe County Electric Co-Operative's average is 4.5.
- 4. Predominantly residential and farm loads. The lack of industry, with its favorable loads, in rural areas adds further burdens to electric cooperative member-consumers. With an improved load factor, your Cooperative would be more efficient and would more fully utilize its capacity which must be available for peak demands.

The new and difficult challenges at hand have combined to produce rising electric rates. These factors are probably here to stay. To deal with these problems, we pledge our efforts in effective planning and management of the day to day operation of the Cooperative.

The mission of your electric Cooperative has been and continues to be to provide high quality electric service at the lowest possible cost commensurate with non-profit operation and prudent business practices.

Nominating committee

The nominating committee will meet at 7 p.m. February 21 at the Co-op offices in Waterloo to nominate candidates for three director positions. Districts in which terms expire this year include Districts 3, 7, and 8. Present directors in these areas include Kenneth Stumpf (3), Walter Amann (7), and Preston Mosbacher (8). Elections will take place during Monroe's annual meeting Monday, March 28, at Waterloo Junior High School at 7:30 p.m.

Standby electric generators good insurance

Power outages, for even relatively short periods of time, pose a serious threat to farming operations that rely heavily on consistent power. Hog confinement facilities must maintain both adequate ventilation from electric fans and fresh water from automatic systems, to avoid disease and stress to the animals. Modification to those schedules can destroy production levels. Dairy operations also demand precise scheduling to maintain production, in addition to keeping a proper storage temperature until the milk is picked up. It is unfortunate that financial disaster can occur in such a short period of time, especially to the farmer, who already faces so many odds. A large percentage of such operations have found it essential to invest in their own alternate units, in case of emergency.

Basically there are two types available. The most affordable per kW is the PTO tractor driven alternator. PTO models are available in wattage from 20,000 to 40,000 continuous. PTO models allow you to transport the alternator to different locations. Three phase PTO driven alternators are also available from 20,000 to 75,000 watts.

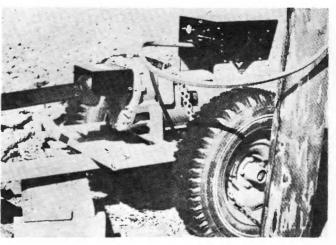
If your needs are more suited for an engine powered alternator, you have a choice between gasoline, natural or LP gas powered units. These self-contained models range from a minimum of 8,000 to 125,000 watts continuous. Automatic switching is available for self-contained units, that will transfer the load even if you're not there.

transfer switches

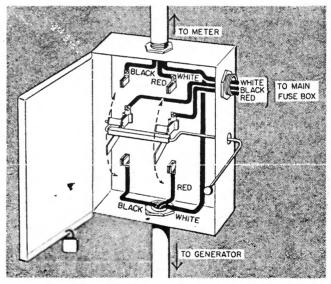
The National Electric Code and Monroe County Electric Co-Operative require that a standby unit be connected so that an accidental connection between the standby electrical supply and normal electrical supply could not occur. The double-throw transfer switch fulfills this requirement. In one position the switch connects the load to the normal power supply. Moving the switch to the opposite position disconnects the power line and energizes the standby current. Another type of transfer switch available is the combination meter-yard switch. This switch uses breaker switches. Essentially one switch is right side up and the other switch is upside down. By pulling the lever down you disengage one switch while engaging the other.

Use of transfer switches prevents power from feeding into the transformer and endangering the lives of linemen who may be repairing the line. They also protect against standby unit burn-out caused by current feeding back into the unit upon restoration of power.

Locate transfer switches on the meter pole, at the service entrance, or inside a building. A double-throw switch would only be used in a building when the building houses the standby unit.



This PTO generator is shown mounted on a trailer for use at different locations. Others might choose to permanently mount the generator near the meter pole, or elsewhere.



The wiring of a typical double-throw transfer switch. Note that the neutral (white) wires are fastened together while the hot (black or red) wires are fastened to the switch terminals. The switch is shown in the neutral or open position.

November power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$164,831.34
Number of kWh's Purchased	4,610,400
Cost per kWh	.03575
Less Amount Covered by Base Rate	.037
Difference	(.00125)
Average Line Loss Factor	x .10
WPCA for kWh's used October 15th	
to November 15th, payable with	
your December 15th bill	(.00138)

Agriculture outlook

Farm problems 'extend beyond the

There will be a lot more food in the world than people will eat this year and, because of that, American farmers are heading into their fourth straight year of depressed income.

The federal government isn't guessing what farmers will earn in 1983, since Agriculture Secretary John Block banned the traditional farm income estimates a year ago. But analysts at the Agriculture Department's annual Outlook Conference in December doubted net farm income would change much from last year's \$19-billion — more than \$13-billion less than just three years earlier.

As a result, rural areas that depend on agriculture will continue their economic suffering, say Department economists.

"Any improvement will come very slowly," said J. Dawson Ahalt, deputy assistant agriculture secretary for economics. He added, "These financial problems extend beyond the farm gate and affect farm suppliers and other farm-related businesses."

Specifically, crop prices have fallen to 1978 levels as the cost of producing

those crops continues to rise. Land, which farmers have traditionally been able to use as equity for loans to get them through hard times, has fallen in value during the last two years. Farmers' net cash flow decreased \$1-billion in 1982 to a five-year low of \$37-billion and the total farm debt jumped 10 percent.

The reasons for such depressing figures are complex as the world economy itself. Simply stated, there's a food glut. Experts expect that world grain reserves will reach a two-month supply this year, "the highest global stocks-to-use ratio in more than a decade," according to Ahalt. Nearly 60 percent of that surplus is in the United States.

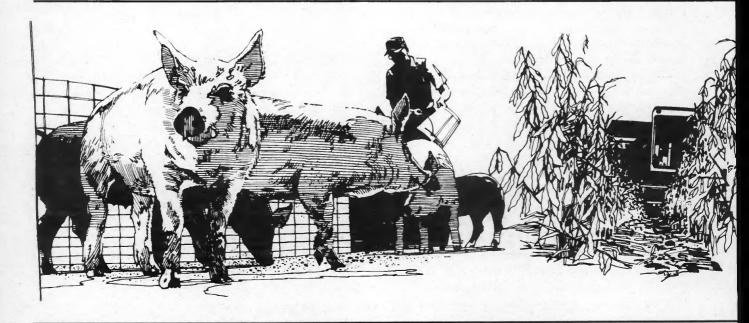
Record production of some crops has come at the same time as a faltering world economy and a stronger dollar have made many countries unable to afford to import as much food, especially from the U.S. The volume of U.S. farm exports dipped two percent last year, but the value of those exports fell 11 percent as the oversupply depressed prices.

"Many of the problems that plagued us in fiscal 1982 unfortunately will not go away in fiscal 1983," said Alan Tracy, deputy under secretary for international affairs. He predicts that while farm exports will rise three percent this year, they will drop in value by four percent.

"The likelihood of a continued strong U.S. dollar, a weak global economic recovery, and smaller Soviet grain imports are likely to restrain the volume and value of U.S. exports," said Tracy.

The Reagan Administration hopes that continuing attempts to develop foreign markets through credit programs and overseas visits by sales teams will combine with a general economic recovery to boost farm exports and prices.

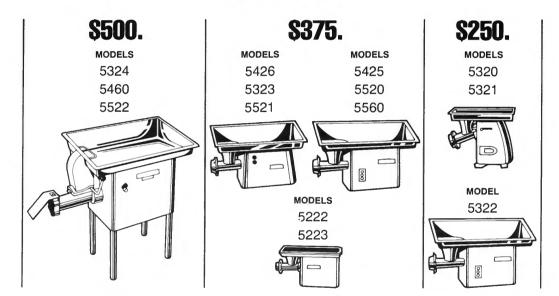
Martin Feldstein, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said at last month's Outlook Conference that federal budget deficits expected to top \$150-billion would hurt U.S. exports. Heavy government borrowing forces more competition for credit, he explained, pushing up



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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

With the advent of the New Year, we wish all members, their families and friends of the cooperative a happy and prosperous 1983.

Your management and staff have been busy closing the books, preparing a budget and work plan for the coming year, and completing reports that are instrumental to making managerial decisions affecting the future of your Cooperative.

One of the reports just completed has to do with outages during the past year. Your Cooperative has always taken pride in its average outage time per member. Historically, our average outage time has been lower than the national average for all utilities. We feel this reflects on the priority we place on maintenance and system improvement.

During 1982, you, as a Cooperative member, experienced an average outage time of 2.56 hours during the year. This is an improvement of almost three hours over 1981, when we experienced a severe storm that caused hundreds of members to be without power for several hours.

The causes and the average lengths of outages per member for 1982 are listed below:

Cause	Number	Average Hours
Power Supply	6	.468
Planned	6	.011
Equipment	86	.238
Pole Failure	6	.082
Weather	64	.644
Animals	30	.011
Overload	18	.006
Trees	36	1.061
Other	9	.039
Total	261	2.56

As you may have noticed, trees were the cause of the most outage hours per member. An intense wind storm on June 15, 1982, that blew a tree on to a transmission line, was the primary reason for this figure being high. It affected members served by the Waterloo, Poe, and Fults substations.

As we have said many times, trees and power lines don't mix. Trees growing under and into lines can cause blinking

lights, outages and can be dangerous under certain conditions. We at the Cooperative attempt to keep our lines clear of trees, but in many cases, members will not permit us to cut or trim trees on their property. By not allowing us to perform necessary right of way maintenance, these members are not only creating potential outages for themselves, but also to their friends and neighbors.

We do not like to cut trees, either, but sometimes it is necessary to prevent outages and to maintain reliability of service. We plan to continue our right of way maintenance and clearance program during 1983.

You can help. If you know of trees growing into Cooperative lines, that may cause future outages, please contact the Cooperative office, phone 939-7171. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

ANNUAL MEETING

We also want to remind you that the cooperative's Annual Meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. March 28, 1983, at the Waterloo Junior High School gymnasium. All cooperative members are urged to attend and exercise their right to participate in the affairs of the cooperative.

How to check wiring

Occasionally we have a member who finds he has a ground in his electric system and has probably wasted a considerable number of kWh before making the discovery. By using the following procedure, you can check your farm wiring system for grounds:

Turn off all appliances, equipment and lights. Be sure to disconnect everything — even the electric clocks.

Check the revolving disc in the electric meter. It may move slowly either forward or backward, but will stop before it makes a full turn. This is normal.

If the disc continues to rotate, electric current is being used. Disconnect at the fuse box, one circuit at a time. If the meter stops, this indicates that the trouble is in the circuit that was last disconnected. Meters do not run unless electricity is being used.

If the disc still continues to rotate after all circuits have been disconnected, this indicates that the trouble is between the meter and the fuse box. The service entrance cable, trees, windmill frames, or ground wires may be the cause of trouble.

Electricity leaks are more common during wet weather. The trouble can often be located around the water pumps, shop equipment or entrances to buildings.

If you are unable to locate the ground, call your electrician.



Four employees and three directors were recognized and presented service awards for length of service to the Cooperative at its annual Christmas Party and Recognition Dinner. Left to right — employees: Peggy Davis,5 years; Judith Scowden, 15 years; Patsy Hoffmann, 25 years; and Daryl

Donjon, 5 years; Directors: Kenneth Stumpf, 5 years; Gilbert Fischer, 25 years; and Clarence Metter, 15 years. We extend congratulations and our appreciation to these employees and directors for the years of dedicated service to the Cooperative.

Take a good look for electrical problems

Now is a good time to carry out a farmstead wiring maintenance program. Too often farmstead wiring is overlooked and neglected as though wiring and electric services should last forever. This just isn't so. Without a sensible maintenance program, expensive service calls may result for the owner and sometimes for the cooperative.

Most of a maintenance program is visual, such as: checking the condition of poles, the safety of overhead wires, the security of wire connection points, the condition of insulation on the wires, and the rubbing of wires on buildings, tree limbs or other objects.

Also, seasonally or infrequently used equipment presents special problems due to the long idle periods between use. The grease in electric motors and equipment bearings dries out and collects dirt and moisture. Rats and mice often build nests that block air flow necessary for cooling. Crop drying and grain handling motors are very susceptible to this kind of problem.

Before starting up grain dryers or other motors that have been idle it would be a good idea to check for any nests or foreign objects. Also, check bearing lubrication and tighten all electrical connections in all electrical boxes. You may

December power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$197,189
Number of kWh's Purchased	5,371,800
Cost per kWh	.03671
Less Amount covered by Base Rate	.037
Difference	(.00029)
Average Line Loss Factor	x .10
WPCA for kWh's used November 15	
to December 15, payable with	
January 15 bill	(.00032)

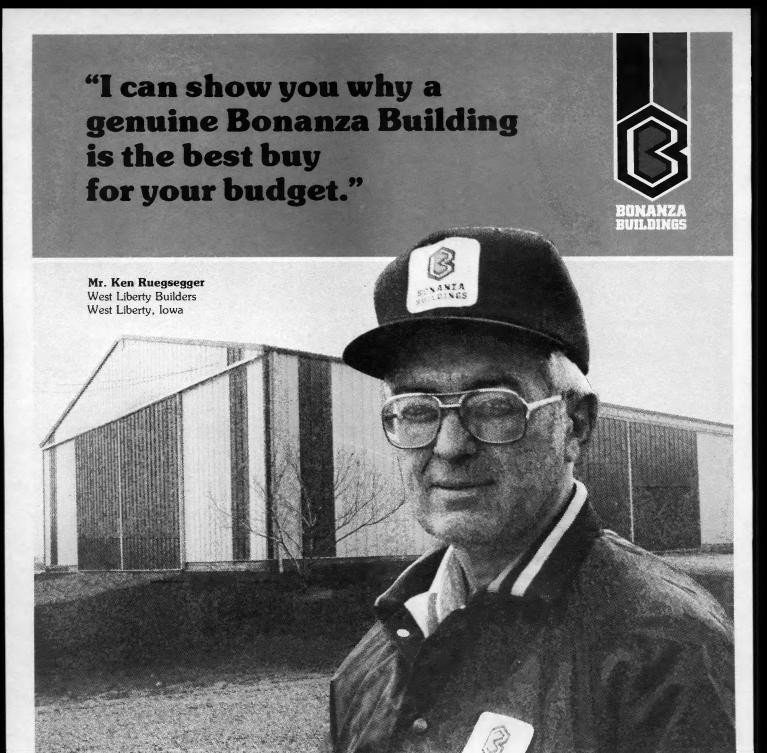
Now is a good time to carry out a farmstead wiring obtain confidence through the services of a competent elecnintenance program. Too often farmstead wiring is over-trician in making electrical repairs.

> Wire connections on motors or other equipment may become loose. When electric loads are applied, the loose connections begin heating, causing eventual failure or fuse blowing.

> > 1983 Southern Illinois

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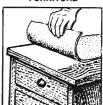
STEP 3: Right before your eyes paint turns to "paper" . . . lif peels, strips away IN A FLASH!

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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

So far we have been blessed with a rather mild winter, a far cry from the sub-zero temperatures and knee-deep snow of last winter. This has been good for the homeowner in terms of heating bills. However, during the winter months most members use more electricity whether they heat with electric heat or not. The colder the weather, the more kilowatt-hours consumed.

During the winter months, we get more than the average number of high bill complaints. Of course, everyone feels there is something wrong with their meter. In most cases, this is not the case. Your meter is one of the most accurate measuring devices of modern times. (In the majority of tests, the meter is found to be running slow instead of fast. However, they are usually still within the plus or minus two percent accuracy allowed for meters).

There are various reasons for high bill complaints. One of the most common is transposing of numbers in the meter reading. For example, if a member's reading is 6930, they may write down 9630. Another reason is the variation in the number of days between readings. We advise reading your meter on the same day each month.

Other reasons for high kilowatt-hour consumption usually found within the home include: bad thermostat on water heater, a burned-out water heater element; leaking hot water line or faucet; bad seal on freezer or refrigerator door; water logged pump (can cause pump to turn off and

Attend your Annual Meeting

March 28,1983

7.30 p.m.

Waterloo Jr. High School
Auditorium

on more frequently); problem with your heating or cooling system; and possibly shorts or defective grounding in electric appliances — most commonly dryer, dishwasher, washing machine, electric range, etc.

Don't blame your electric meter if your energy bill is high. It is only doing its job. Your job is to use electricity as efficiently as possible. That's the common sense way to keep energy costs down.

Apparently the American people are practicing energy conservation. A recent Department of Energy (DOE) report shows a 17 percent drop in energy consumption per household in the United States over a three-year period from 1978 to 1980. The DOE report showed that costs rose, the use of fuel oil declined while wood use more than doubled.

The number of households using wood as the main heating fuel increased from 1.9 million households in 1978 to 4.7 million in 1980. From 1978 to 1980, the average price paid by consumers for electricity rose an estimated 35 percent, while fuel oil prices increased 105 percent. The price of natural gas rose 42 percent and LP gas increased by 56 percent in that three-year period.

Although the DOE report is relatively recent, the data is almost two years old. We see a slight reversal of the trend toward conservation. During 1979, Cooperative members' average kilowatt-hour usage per member declined from the previous year's average usage for the first time in Cooperative history. During 1980, there was a slight increase in members' usage and another sharp decline in 1981. However, we saw another increase in member consumption in 1982.

There is concern in the industry about energy conservation. Most utilities have capacity available to handle peak loads. They have certain fixed costs. If kilowatt-hour sales are not sufficient to cover the cost involved in providing service, rates must be increased. When rates increase, member usage decreases, thus we have the vicious cycle.

We urge members to use electricity, but use it wisely.

January power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$202,770.09
Number of kWh's Purchased	6,125,400
Cost per kWh	.033
Less Amount Covered by Base Rate	.037
Difference	(.0039)
Average Line Loss Factor	x.10
WPCA for kWh's used December 15	
to January 15, payable with	
February 15 bill.	(.00429)

You got to remember...

by Tom Graves

I was sitting near the back row of an REC annual meeting the other day, dressed in my "speaking-at-an-annual meeting" suit and I gathered that the old farmer sitting next to me could tell I was no local boy.

He was dressed in a pair of bib overalls, he held a cornseed cap on his lap and you could see the strain and labor of 60 years of farming on his wrinkled face.

I guess he was getting a little bored with the entertainment because he turned to me and asked where I was from. I told him I lived in Des Moines, introduced myself and asked his name.

He didn't respond though. Instead he took one long, bony finger and proceeded with it down the annual meeting program until he reached my name. "That you?"

"Yes."

"What you gonna tell us about today?" he asked.

"About rural electric cooperatives and the reasons we have to hold on to our REC program." I answered.

"Sounds okay, I guess," he told me, "except for one thing. You're talking to the wrong group."

"Why's that?" I asked.

"Well, I figure the ones who came here to this meeting, who sit through the speeches and reports, and vote for directors, they already believe in the REC's.

"You ought to be talking to the ones who didn't show up."

"I suppose you're right," I said. "But I don't know how to reach those people."

"Yup," he said, "I can see you got a problem in that area. Most people today, they don't care who supplies them with electricity. They don't care whether it's a co-op or some other company, so long as the electricity stays on."

"You may be right," I told him,



"but I think they're making a mistake."

"Darn tootin," he answered. "How old do you think I am?"

I guessed 70.

"Nope," he said, giving me a big toothy grin. "79, I'm one of the old folks who show up at this meeting. Ever notice how many old people turn up at this REC meeting?"

I confessed that I had and told him our "mature" members showed up in similar numbers throughout Iowa.

"Ever wonder why?" he asked me.

I didn't hazard a guess."Why?"

"Because when you're 79 years old you remember when you didn't have electricity on the farm. You remember when the water was pumped by hand and didn't run inside, when the privy was outside — and darned cold during the winter!"

I smiled, "I'm sure you do remember those things."

"Darn tootin', I do," he said. "There was a day when I believed elec-

tricity would never come to the farms. You couldn't of convinced me otherwise. But it did come.

"I want to tell you something. My father cried the night we got electric power on the home place. Tears fell down his cheeks. He didn't want to go to bed that night. He got out a book and sat by the kitchen table with the bulb burning and read. We thought that light bulb was a miracle.

"That's why I go to the REC meeting. Because I remember what a great day that was. 'Course my son wasn't there. He don't remember."

He paused a moment. "Ain't it something," he continued, "how the people who really appreciate a thing are the people who don't have it?"

Ain't it though.

Tom Graves is formerly communications director for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and editor of IOWA REC News.

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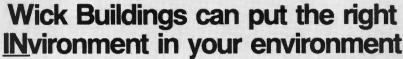


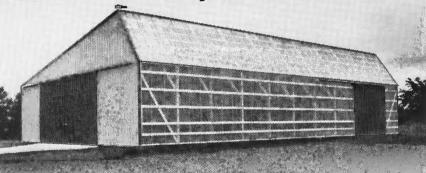
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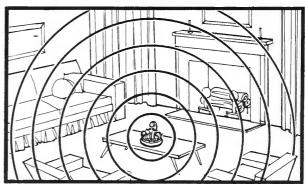
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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

Back in 1975, Monroe County Electric Co-Operative joined 15 other Illinois electric cooperatives in the foundation of Soyland Power Cooperative. This action was taken at the time to assure adequate power supply for the future and to stabilize wholesale power cost. Since that time, Soyland has purchased 10.5 percent of Illinois Power Company's Clinton Nuclear Power Plant. It also had plans to construct a new coal-fired generation plant in Pike County, Illinois.

Due to a change in current energy situations in our nation, there is now excess electric energy capacity available that was not available in the mid 70's. Because of the availability of excess generating capacity, Soyland has elected to defer the construction of its Pike County Plant and look at other options for long term power supply at a lower cost.

Below is a copy of the news release from Soyland Power Cooperative concerning the deferred construction of the Pike Plant.

The Soyland Power Cooperative Board of Directors voted to defer construction of a coal-fired generating station in Pike County. Instead of constructing that plant the board has voted to follow up on offers from neighboring utilities for purchase of capacity or energy under favorable long-term contracts. The decisions were made at a special meeting of the board February 24, 1983 in Decatur.

"We know this decision will come as a disappointment to community leaders and residents of Pike County," a Soyland official said after the meeting. "We hope they will understand that the Soyland Board of Directors has to pursue the power supply option that will provide the lowest cost energy for the 300,000 consumers that own the 15 member-cooperatives that make up the Soyland federation. We hope also that Pike residents will keep in mind that Soyland will retain ownership of its site near Florence – keeping it available for use when circumstances dictate," Ed Ferguson of Mattoon said. He is manager of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative and chairman of Soyland's Power Supply Study Committee, as well as a member of Soyland's

30-man board of directors.

The recent course of the American economy has dictated Soyland's decision, Ferguson went on. "When we launched the studies that led to our decision to build Pike, rural electric cooperative loads were growing at 10 to 12 percent per year," he said. During the last few years of economic stagnation and recession we have had one year of negative growth and several years of two and three percent growth. During this same time frame, we have seen rapid inflation and increased regulatory requirements that have driven up the cost of generating plant construction . . . construction that has had to be financed at record high interest rates." He said it is important to remember that when the decision was made to develop the Pike station plans, other utilities were only willing to sell bulk power to Soyland's members under short-term contracts that were subject to annual escalation as well as month to month wholesale fuel cost adjustments.

As a result of the economic forces at work in the economy, many utility systems have surplus generating capacity, some with additional capacity under construction. Because of the existence of that surplus capacity, the Soyland board decided some months back to make one last review of its bulk power supply options before undertaking full-scale construction at the Pike site. "We could do no less for our members," Ferguson said.

"We have reviewed the possibility of continuing to purchase bulk power supplies under long-term contracts with Central Illinois Public Service Company, Central Illinois Light Company and Illinois Power Company," he explained. Those are the investor-owned utilities currently supplying bulk power to the electric cooperatives under short-term contracts with Soyland. "We have also investigated the possibility of purchasing an ownership interest in one or more of several existing coal-fired plants... as an alternative to constructing our own unit... or in combination with our Pike project."

"In short, the Soyland staff... assisted by specialists from Burns & McDonnell Engineering... has conducted an exhaustive study of power supply options open to Soyland," Ferguson explained. "We wanted to ensure that the power supply plan approved earlier by the board of directors... the plan that included the Pike County project... remained valid today as the lowest cost, long-term source of power for our members and their 300,000 local owners."

At this time the Soyland Board of Directors has decided to pursue negotiations with a number of utilities in the region for arrangements under which Soyland might be able to purchase a block of power on a long-term basis. There are offers of blocks of power or ownership that could

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

be pursued that appear to be more economical than constructing the Pike station at this time.

"The decision made by the Soyland Board of Directors is prudent in terms of the long-term interest of the consumers that own the Soyland-federation members," Ferguson said. "This action should also be in the long-term interests of the utilities with which we will pursue negotiations and the customers who receive electric energy supplies from those utilities. While the decision may appear harmful

to the short-term economic interest of Pike County, over the long-term, we still expect to become a good neighbor to Pike County."

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative is one of 15 electric distribution cooperatives that own Soyland. Joe Fellin, manager and Preston A. Mosbacher, director of Monroe County Electric, are your Cooperative's representatives on the Soyland Board of Directors, Director Thomas W. Rosenberg is the alternate director to Sovland.

Report all hazards—for safety's sake

Your Cooperative has nearly one thousand miles of overhead lines and thousands of poles, insulators, transformers, and other related equipment necessary to supply electricity to our 4,500 consumers. Through systematic inspection and maintenance, we try to keep everything in good repair.

Sometimes, however, the unexpected occurs along our lines and creates safety hazards we can't possibly know about unless someone tells us. We hope that, should such a situation arise that comes to your attention, YOU will be the someone who reports the problem to us.

Here are some of the kinds of hazards you should be on the lookout for:

- Damaged or Fallen Utility Poles When a pole has fallen, because of an accident or other reason, or when it is about to fall, don't get near it. Call our office at once. Then, if possible, stay on the scene to warn others away from the hazardous area. We will send out a repair crew as soon as possible to correct the situation.
- Damaged Lines or Insulators Storms, accidents, or

Insulation should be installed properly

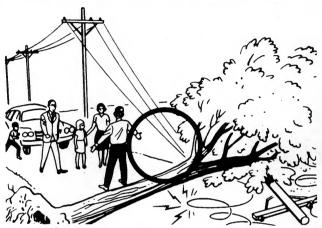
Adding insulation to household electric water heaters has been recommended as one method of increasing energy efficiency. However, according to NRECA Safety Reporting Service, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) recently has warned that insulation must be installed with great caution.

NRECA Safety Reporting Service is published by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national service organization of the country's 1,000 rural electric systems serving more than 25 million people in 46 states.

Incorrectly installed insulation might produce damage in the heater's wiring system and increase fire and electrical risks, according to a UL senior staff engineer. Electric water heaters usually have their own manufacturer-installed thermal insulation between the water tank and the outer shell. If additional insulation is added incorrectly, temperatures of the heater's electrical components could become excessive, increasing the risk of damage to the electrical wiring system.

If consumers wish to add extra insulation, UL recommends that the insulation be kept away from: (1) heater controls, (2) access covers over the controls, and (3) the connection box where the heater is hooked up to the house wiring.

vandals may inflict damage to electric lines or insulators. Sagging or broken lines can be acute safety hazards. Should you happen on such a scene, call us at once.



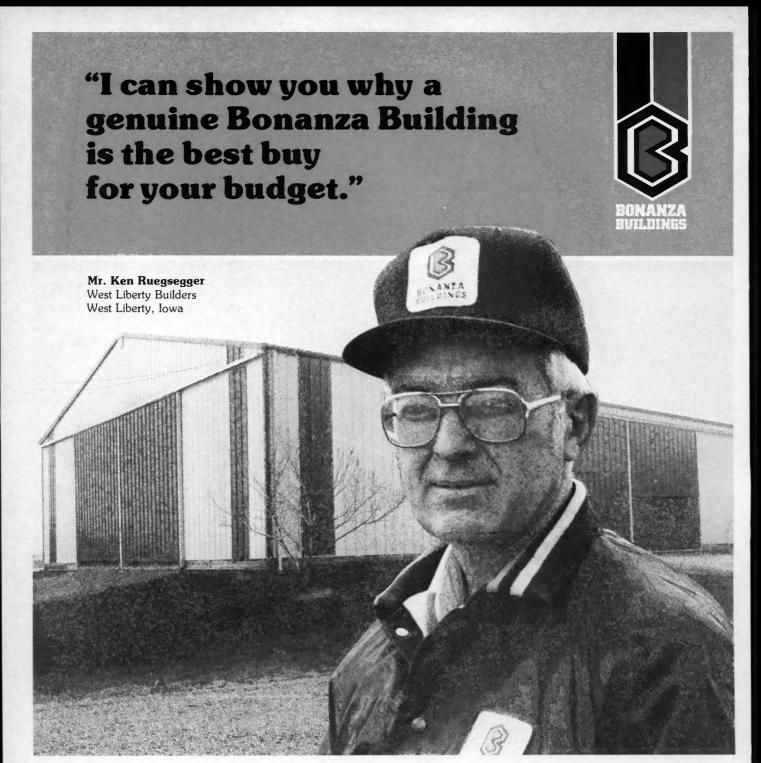
• Trees on Lines - Electric Power lines are more-or-less fixed, but nature (and man) seems to find ways for trees and lines to come together. When this happens, the tree can become a conductor of electricity and cause a dangerous shock to anyone touching it. If you see that a tree or a broken limb has fallen across power lines, call us at once. We have crews who are trained to eliminate such hazards quickly and safely.

In summary, we are asking that you share the responsibility of spotting safety hazards along the electric lines that serve you. It is simply not possible for our personnel to inspect every foot of power line every day. We must rely on you to help by calling 939-7171 and telling us when and where safety hazards exist.

Never, never try to do anything about the safety hazard yourself.

February power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$185,621.95
Number of kWh's Purchased	5,634,600
Cost Per kWh	.03294
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too, but it will not do as good a job as groundwater, because the temperature fluctuates. Still, using an existing pond may be a better bet than drilling a new well or two.

For those not fortunate enough to have a good water supply, there is yet another alternative, but its attractiveness is somewhat dampened by its fairly stiff initial cost. It is called a "closed loop earth-coupled system," and it involves laying a large grid of plastic piping about six feet underground, where the temperature remains fairly constant all year long.

After filling the loop with water, vou connect vour water-to-air heat pump in the usual way. The earth's insulating properties take over from there, providing a home-grown source of even-temperature "groundwater," even when the winter winds are howling outside.

About 20,000 of the systems are perking away, mostly in Canada, Sweden and Germany, and there is no great hurdle to making them work here, too, except the initial cost. You will need to buy about 400-500 feet of pipe for each ton of air-conditioning capacity on the cooling side of your heat pump. The average 1,500-squarefoot home, incidentally will have about a two-ton unit.

After swallowing the initial cost, you have a system capable of providing years of relatively low-cost heating and cooling.

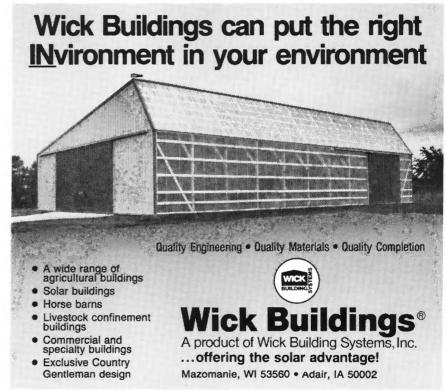
To summarize, a heat pump is a good way to heat and cool your home with one unit, and a water-to-air heat pump is better yet, because of increased efficiency.

A study performed in early 1982 showed that for a home requiring 100-million British thermal units (Btu's), a groundwater heat pump cost only \$3.59 more to heat for a winter than a well-maintained natural gas furnace with spark ignition and an automatic flue damper. To heat the same home with a propane furnace

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giving 7.5 percent efficiency would would have burned \$573 more of cost \$477 more than the water-to-air your dollars than a groundwater heat



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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

Several months ago we expressed our concern about energy conservation and the loss of kilowatt-hour sales and revenue. To augment our concern is the fact that during the first three months of 1983, Cooperative members have consumed 2,143,000 less kWh's than for the corresponding period in 1982. This is a 12.7 percent decrease in sales, and amounts to approximately \$117,000 in lost revenue to the Cooperative. Yes, we are concerned, not only for the decrease in kilowatt-hour consumption for the current year, but for what lies ahead.

We have noticed a slowdown in the number of new members moving onto the Cooperative system for the past several years. The economy and its impact on farmers are resulting in less individual farmsteads, with more land per farmer and more idle services. With the government's new Payment in Kind Program (PIK), we are going to see less grain planted and harvested, thus less grain drying and a further reduction in kWh sales. Although some costs have moderated the general trend in the cost of providing service is increasing.

For the past decade, the emphasis has been on energy conservation. We are not saying that each of us should blatantly misuse or waste energy, but that we as an electric utility should advise our members of wise and efficient use of electricity in ways that are beneficial to both the members and the Cooperative.

We have the capacity to meet and serve our peak demands. This capacity must be available as you need it. We as Cooperative members need to work toward building loads during non-peak periods while at the same time shaving the costly peak demands.

PLANNING NEW ADDITIONS? - LET US KNOW!

With the advent of Spring and warm, dry weather, our line crews are busy building new services and performing necessary maintenance to our system. We ask that you keep us informed of your plans to add to your present electric system or if you plan any new construction. We need at least two weeks lead time to build new services. We know most of you know ahead of time that you are going to need electric services, so let us know and we can schedule the

work needed. Don't expect us to be able to come the next day. In some instances, we will not have the necessary material on hand to complete a job. We want to be cooperative, however, it is necessary that we establish construction schedules. Please understand that if we drop one job to squeeze you in, that means we have aggravated some other member by not completing his job on schedule.

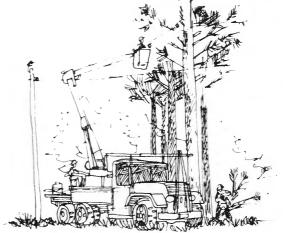
TREE TRIMMING

We will soon have a line crew working on right-of-way maintenance, trimming and cutting trees and brush under Cooperative lines. We will appreciate your cooperation when this crew is in your area. The Cooperative has right-of-way easements where we have electric lines and have the right to trim and/or cut trees where necessary to prevent outages and maintain a continuity of service. We will first work on the backlog of trees that we have to be trimmed. You can help! If you know of a tree or trees growing into Cooperative lines, please contact the Cooperative office, phone 939-7171 and report the location. We will attempt to get to them this Summer and Fall.

Remember, the Cooperative's responsibility for trimming trees is up to the metering point. From the meter to any other service point is on the member's side and his responsibility to keep trimmed.

The Cooperative crew has enough work keeping the Cooperative's lines cleared. Please do not ask the tree trimming crew to cut or trim trees on your side of the meter. We thank you for your cooperation.

Trees in electric wires?



Let us know! Call 939-7171

Personnel changes

Since the first of the year, two long-time employees have left the Cooperative. Superintendent Wylie Jones and Journeyman-Lineman Edward Esker are no longer employed by the Cooperative. Mr. Jones, who is on disability, moved to Florida. Mr. Esker and his wife have entered into private business.

A Journeyman-Lineman, Arlin Stechmesser of Waterloo, has been hired to fill the lineman vacancy (see related story). Present Cooperative employees have accepted and taken on added duties in the Engineering Department. Line Foreman Ermin Brinkmann has assumed some of the duties of Operations Superintendent and will be responsible for day-to-day operations, maintenance and construction activities. Mr. Brinkmann will supervise the outside line crew.

Daryl Donjon will be taking on some of the duties in the Engineering Department. Ermin and Daryl will work jointly with members on new services and line extension, and handling member's questions on outside construction.

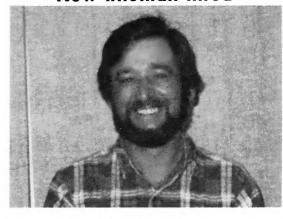
We expect the same quality of service offered to the membership with these personnel changes. Please feel free to call Daryl or Ermin to discuss your construction needs.

Planting or playing...



Your consumer-owned electric cooperative does everything possible to place power lines in a safe location, but it needs your help. Electricity is our invaluable servant ... but it can be deadly. Look up and live ... to enjoy another spring.

New lineman hired



Arlin L. Stechmesser, 35, was employed by your Cooperative as a Journeyman Lineman effective March 28, 1983. A native of the area, Stechmesser is a graduate of Valmeyer High School where he played on the varsity baseball team. He is the son of long-time Cooperative member Edwin J. Stechmesser, who recently moved into Waterloo.

Prior to his employment with your Cooperative, Stechmesser was a member of the U.S. Air Force, an employee of Harrisonville Telephone Company, and a Journeyman Lineman for the City of Waterloo. He is a member of Local 309 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Stechmesser, his wife Diane, and three children reside in Waterloo. The Stechmessers are members of St. Paul United Church of Christ. Arlin is active as a member of the Waterloo VFW Post, presently serving as Chaplain and Assistant Quartermaster.

Cooperative Manager Joe Fellin said he is pleased to announce Stechmesser's employment. "With Arlin's background and training as a Journeyman Lineman, he will be a valuable asset to the Cooperative," Fellin said. He added, "We are fortunate that we were able to hire an experienced Journeyman Lineman. It normally takes three to four years to train an employee to that level."

Stechmesser said he is happy to be working for the Cooperative. He said, "There are excellent working conditions at Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, and the employees have been friendly and a great bunch to work with. I hope to be around a long time."

Arlin claims to be an avid sportsman and likes to hunt, fish, and is active in Waterloo Softball League.

Welcome to the Cooperative family, Arlin.

March power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$177,103.18
Number of kWh's Purchased	5,146,200
Cost per kWh	.03441
Less Amount Covered by Base Rate	.037
Difference	.00259
Average Line Loss Factor	X.10
WPCA for kWh's used February 15	
to March 15, payable with April 15 bill	(.00285)

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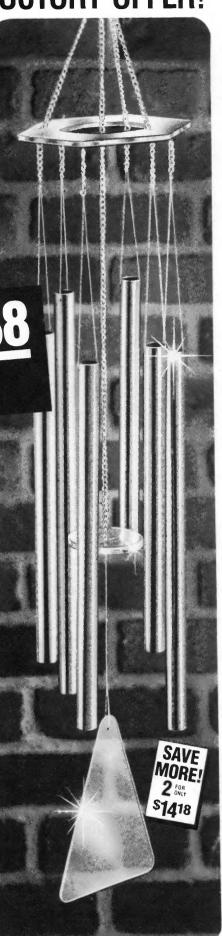
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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

The board of directors, management and employees of the Cooperative were all saddened at the unexpected death of Journeyman-Lineman Calvin Vogt. Calvin had worked at the Cooperative for 34 years before his untimely death. He was a dedicated, experienced employee and his absence will be greatly felt by all of his fellow employees, especially the linemen who worked with him daily. We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Calvin Vogt.

SUMMER RATE SCHEDULE

We want to remind you that the summer rate schedule went into effect as of June 15. If you have not already sent in your June payment, please remember to use the Summer Schedule in your rate chart. This is the section with the green printing. The Summer Schedule is to be used for the four summer months of June, July, August and September.

If you do forget and use the Winter Schedule, the difference will show up on your next month's billing as a balance due which should be added to that month's bill. We urge you to remember to use the Summer Rate Schedule for the months of June, July, August and September.

MEMBER HANDBOOK

All Cooperative members recently were sent a Member Handbook that was designed to explain the operation of the Cooperative. It contains useful information about your rural electric system as well as the rural electrification program in general.

What we are trying to achieve through this handbook is a personal relationship between you the members and the board, management and employees of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative. We have tried to make this handbook as informative and functional as possible. Many of the Cooperative's programs and policies have been incorporated into the handbook to better acquaint you with the Cooperative's operation.

We hope you make use of this handbook. It can answer many questions you may have concerning the Cooperative. However, if you do have a problem or question concerning your electric service, your electric bill, or any operation of the Cooperative please write or call our office. We promise to do our very best to help answer your question or solve

your problem.

We encourage you to put your map location number on the front and rear cover of this handbook. Place it near your telephone. You then will have your location number and our telephone number readily accessible in case of power outages.

In addition to mailing the member handbook to present members, all new Cooperative members will be given a handbook with their application for membership to the Cooperative. It will enable them to become better acquainted with our operation and what electric cooperatives are all about.

ADDING LOAD

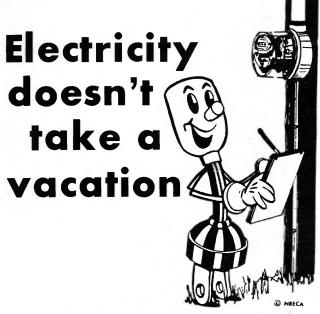
With the advent of summer, many members will be purchasing new electric appliances, particularly air conditioners, adding to the load on your Cooperative's electric system. (See related story on peak demand.) We request that you advise us of any new electric appliance that you may install in your home. By doing this, we can determine if your present electric service is adequate or if changes need to be made. Making the necessary equipment changes now can eliminate unwanted outages at inopportune times, such as in the middle of the night or during a hot summer afternoon when your air conditioning is most needed.

We encourage you to call us at 939-7171 and report any electric load you plan or may have added.

April power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$188,369.00
Number of kWh's Purchased	5,288,400
Cost Per kWh	.03562
Less Amount Covered by Base Rate	.037
Difference	.001381
Average Line Loss Factor	(x.10)
WPCA for kWh's used March 15 to	
April 15, payable with May 15th bill	(.00152)





Many of our members assume when they leave on vacation their service meter stops until they return home from vacation. If they are on vacation for two weeks, they expect their electric bill to reduce to about one-half the normal usage.

Let's ask ourselves a few questions before we assume our electric bill should decrease by any considerable amount during vacation time.

1. Was the water heater turned off during the vacation time? Remember, if the electric water heater is left ener-

gized during vacation, it will continue to operate and maintain the tank temperature even if you are not using any hot water.

- 2. Was the electric refrigerator disconnected? If the refrigerator is left on, it will continue to operate to maintain set temperature.
- 3. Was the frost-free freezer turned off? Frost-free freezers and refrigerators will continue to cycle daily even if you are not at home. Many frost-free refrigerators are on a six-hour cycle, defrosting the frost on the coils and then cooling again within a very few minutes.
- 4. Other appliances that are normally left on are dehumidifiers, clocks, pumps, sump pumps and automatic lighting. Of course, in the winter, heat is generally left on a lower setting to keep the plumbing from freezing.

If you are determined that no electricity is to be used during your vacation, you can accomplish this by disconnecting the main fuse or breaker at the main entrance box. Remember in so doing those automatic appliances will stop. Your refrigerator and freezer will be defrosted and the dehumidifier will not keep the basement free of moisture.

We suggest that you read your meter when you leave for vacation and read it again when you return. By getting these readings, you can determine the kilowatt-hour usage during your vacation.

Another reminder is that many vacationers bring home one or two weeks supply of dirty laundry. Of course, this gets the electric water heater, washer and dryer off to a heavy work-out on the first day or two home.

Remember, even though you are away from home, the electrical requirement for power in the home still exists.

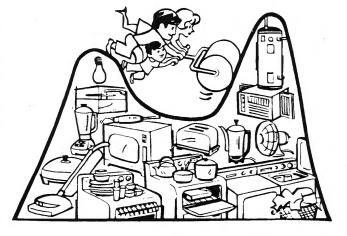
Help level the peak

With the coming of the hot summer months, we feel we should remind you that you can help hold down the cost of electricity by reducing peak demand on the Cooperative system. To reduce peak demand does not necessarily mean using less electricity, it merely means shifting or staggering the use of your major appliances.

Peak demand usually occurs on the hottest days of summer between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. This is the time of day when people come home from work, turn on the air conditioner, do laundry, cook dinner and perform other chores. The farmer is also starting his daily chores about this time, using electric milkers, machines, refrigeration to cool milk, electric motors to operate automatic feeders and waterers. Multiplying this usage by the 4,000 Monroe County Electric Cooperative Members is what creates peak demand — everyone using electricity at one time.

Our wholesale power contract states that we must pay in off peak months for no less than 75 percent of the highest demand that the Cooperative system requires between the period June 15 to September 15 of each year. The Cooperative's summer peak was established last July. Since that time, your Cooperative has paid for demand of electricity not needed in seven of the eight succeeding months.

That is why we ask for your cooperation. If we as a



3 AM 6-8 AM

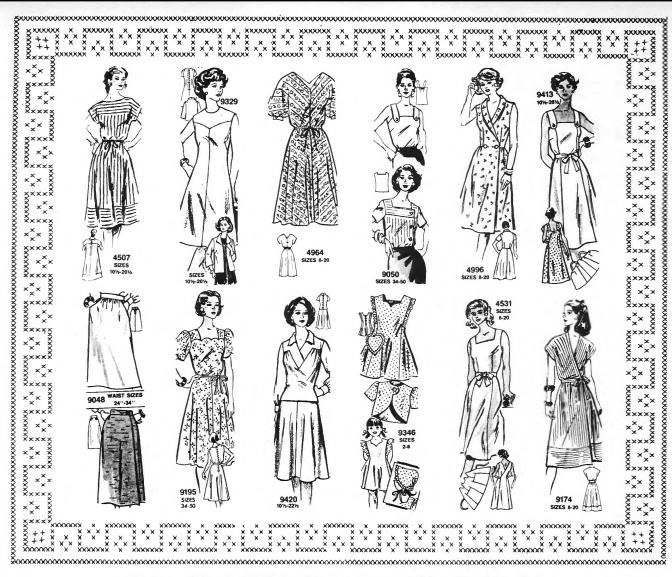
12-1 PM

4-9 PM

3 AM

Cooperative can reduce or level out our peak demand this summer, we will not be penalized as heavily during off peak months, thus reducing the cost of electricity to the Cooperative, which will be reflected in our W.P.C.A. adjustment.

So we ask that you not use all of your major appliances — electric range, clothes dryer, water heater, and air conditioner — at the same time. If we all practice peak awareness, it will help keep the cost of electricity down.





- No. 4507 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½. Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 1-7/8 yards 60-inch fabric.
- No. 9329 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½. Size 14½ (bust 37) dress takes 1-5/8 yards 60-inch.
- No. 4964 is cut in Multi-size pattern. Sizes (6, 8, 10, 12), (14, 16, 18, 20). Order your regular size.
- No. 9050 is cut in Women's Sizes (34, 36, 38), (40, 42, 44), (46, 48, 50). Order your regular size.
- No. 4996 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 3¼ yards 45-inch fabric.
- No. 9413 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, 24½, 26½. Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 2½ yards 60-inch.
- No. 9048 is cut in Waist Sizes 24, 25, 26½, 28, 30, 32, 34. Size 26½ wrap 2 yards 45-inch; other 1-7/8.
- No. 9195 is cut in Women's Sizes 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50.
 Yardages given in pattern.
- No. 9420 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½. Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 4½ yards 45-inch.
- No. 9346 is cut in sizes 2, 4, 6, 8. See patterns for yardages.
- No. 4531 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 2-5/8 yards 45-inch fabric.
- No. 9174 is cut in sizes (6, 8, 10, 12) (14, 16, 18, 20). Order your regular size.

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Highlights

(Continued from page 5)

Among the many notable experiences for Illinois youth participating in the 1983 Tour were visits to Gettysburg National Military Park, new National Aquarium at Baltimore, Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institution, Library of Congress, Mt. Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial and National Zoo.

A large number of the students on the tour were winners of all-expensepaid trips as winners of their local cooperatives' essay contests. Others participated as "Willie Wiredhand" tourists, including students who did not win their cooperatives' contest and children and grandchildren of cooperative directors and employees, who are not eligible for the essay competion. "Willie" participants pay all their own expenses.

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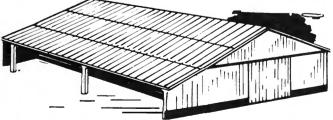
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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

Now that summer has arrived, all of us will be using a lot of air conditioning. The members who do not have electric heated homes but have air conditioning can expect their electric bills to increase. The Cooperative can expect its peak demand some time during the months of July or August. Air conditioning loads result in our system's peak KW demand. You can help yourself and the Cooperative save money by practicing load management. You can save yourself money by cutting back on air conditioning usage and you can help the Cooperative reduce its peak demand by shifting your air conditioning load and other large applicance loads from our peak period (usually 4 to 9) to another time of day. Reduction of KW demand on the Cooperative's system this summer will help reduce next winter's power bill.

Our line crew has been performing line maintenance and working on system improvements as set out in our work plan. We have been busy getting ready for the summer peak. We are presently adding new voltage regulators and oil circuit reclosers (breakers) to the system. Just recently we have completed balancing the phases out of our substations. What this means is that we have changed some members from one phase to another to balance the load on the feeder lines out of a substation.

By doing all the above, we have increased the system capacity and reduced the possibility of low voltage situations when increased summer loads occur. System improvement and line maintenance enhances continuity and reliability of service to the members.

Right of way maintenance and clearing is a necessity for all utilities. The past several years we have been contracting a large part of our tree trimming and right of way maintenance. This summer we have hired two part time employees who will be working with one of our Journeyman-Lineman, Maurice Kleyer, to perform this chore. They will attempt to clear and trim trees that are growing into the Cooperative lines. We hope to keep this crew on until the backlog of tree trimming is caught up. If you have called in or have written us about tree trimming, your request has been recorded. As stated we hope to get all of these completed

this summer and fall. Please call the Cooperative if you have trees on your property growing under Cooperative lines that need trimming.

Next month we will start testing meters on the system (see related story) and later this fall we will again be using the services of Osmose Wood Preserving Company to test and treat poles on the Cooperative distrubition system. The pole treatment program is expected to extend pole life by 50 percent. In addition to economics, other related benefits include safety for the linemen and improved continuity of service to the members.

Please note

Although we don't have too many, fences with locked gates are a concern to the cooperative. It is necessary that we have access to our meters at all times - day or night. We realize your reason for the locked gate but we should be notified where we could secure a key or be furnished one in case it is necessary to be in that area. Vicious dogs are another problem. We don't want to hurt anyone's pets but our linemen don't want to be bitten either. Therefore, we suggest you call the office to notify us if you have one that might attack our service men so that necessary precautions can be taken.

May power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$171,163.21
Number of kWh's Purchased	4,562,400
Cost per kWh	.03752
Less Amount Covered by Base Rate	.037
Difference	.00052
Average Line Loss Factor	x .10
WPCA for kWh's used April 15 to	
May 15th, payable with June 15th bill	.00057

Savings suggestions

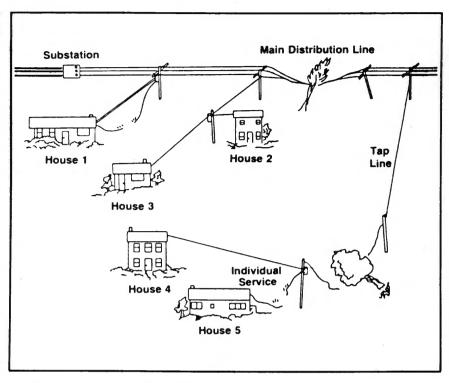
Don't pour money down the drain! Avoid unnecessary running of water and give leaking faucets prompt attention. Locate your water heater near the place of greatest use. Set the thermostat

> at 120 degrees and insulate the pipes to prevent heat loss.

Priorities in restoring electric service

Occasionally, we are asked how we would choose which house gets electric service restored during a major wind or ice storm. The chart below depicts a simplified version of how we would go about restoring service to each house. Specifically, we would start at the source of the power, namely the substation. Then similar to spokes on a wheel we would work out on the main distribution line, repairing and restoring service to the main feeder lines. It would do no good to repair a small wire attached to your house if the main line was dead, plus the time spent at this house would mean that many other people are off even longer.

In our diagram, the men would first work to restore the main distribution line. Since there is nothing wrong with the lines leading to House 2 and House 3, the repair to the main line would automatically bring them on. Next we would clear up any problems with the tap lines leading off the main line. In our example the tap line would restore service to House 4. Only after all the high voltage lines are repaired would we repair problems at individual



homes. In our example, individual House 1 and 5 would then be restored.

Occasionally, we have people call and say our men drove by but did not stop to repair a problem at their particular house. We hope this explanation will help you understand our priorities. Although at times it may not seem like it, there is a predetermined plan to restore service to the largest number of people in the quickest time possible.



Lowell Kerans stands beside his van that he will use to test meters on the Cooperative system. Please note that there will be Monroe County Electric Co-Operative identification on the van.

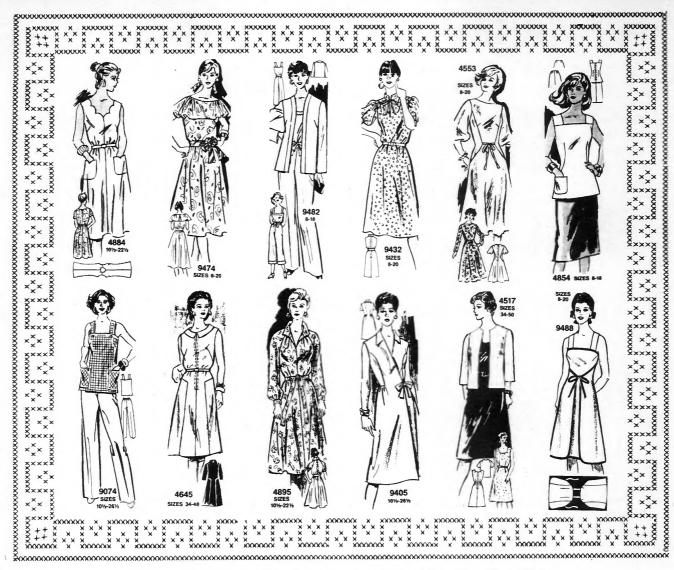
Meter testing to begin

It's meter testing time. Your Cooperative has contracted Lowell Kerans Meter Testing Service of Wayne City, Illinois, to test meters on the member's premise. This meter testing program is scheduled for early August and will continue until approximately mid-September.

Meter testing is a continuing maintenance program where we test all meters on our system every seven years. This program is for the member's protection as well as the Cooperative's.

The Illinois Commerce Commission requires all public utilities to test meters on a periodic basis. Although your Cooperative does not come under the ICC jurisdiction we still adhere to their ruling.

Lowell Kerans has been providing this service to the Cooperative for several years. Lowell will be driving a van that will have Monroe County Electric Co-Operative identification, as shown at the left. If any one other than Lowell or a Cooperative employee tries to test your meter or any other of your electric equipment, call the Cooperative or the Police.





- No. 4884 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½.
 Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 2-3/8 yards 60-inch.
- No. 9474 is cut in sizes (6, 8, 10, 12), (14, 16, 18, 20). Order your regular size.
- No. 9482 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. Size 12 (bust 34) ensemble takes 3-3/8 yards 60-inch fabric.
- No. 9432 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 3-1/8 yards 45-inch fabric.
- No. 4553 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 4-1/8 yards 45-inch fabric.
- No. 4854 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 1¼ yards 45-inch; shirt 1-3/8.
- No. 9074 is cut in sizes (10½, 12½, 14½), (16½, 18½, 20½), (22½, 24½, 26½). Order your regular size.
- No. 4645 is cut in Women's Sizes 34, 35, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46,
- 48. Yardages given in pattern.

 No. 4895 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½.
- Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 2-5/8 yards 60-inch.

 No. 9405 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½,
- 24½, 26½. Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 2-7/8 yards 45-inch.
 No. 4517 is cut in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50. See pattern for yardages.
- No. 9488 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 3-1/8 yards 45-inch fabric.

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Pattern No. Size Pattern No. Size

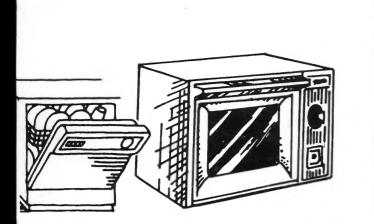
Print Name

Address

City

State

Zip



energy efficiency

ot summer months

- · Check the temperature in your refrigerator, too. Place an outdoor thermometer in the fresh food section and leave it there for about 15 minutes. The temperature should be about 38-42 degrees F. If it is not, adjust the temperature control. Check the freezing compartment's temperature, too. It should be around 5 degrees F.
- · Colder-than-necessary temperatures waste energy.
- · Check the frost buildup on the freezer compartment. It should not exceed one-fourth of an inch. As a general rule, manual defrost refrigerators take less energy to operate than automatic defrost units, but not if frost is allowed to build up excessively.

Your refrigerator should be located away from sources of heat, such as ranges. The motor housing and condenser coil should be kept clean, and unless your refrigerator is designed to be built in, it should be away from the wall an inch or two to allow air to circulate around the compressor.

Once those things are taken care of, instruct your family on good habits in using the refrigerator. Let hot foods cool a bit before placing them in the refrigerator. Reduce the number of times the refrigerator is opened and never leave the door open longer than a few seconds. To thaw frozen foods, first place them in the fresh food section so that, as they thaw, they can help cool the refrigerator.

If you are planning to buy a new refrigerator, it is energy economical to buy one with a power-saver switch. Some refrigerators have heating elements in their walls or doors to prevent "sweating" on the outside. In most climates, the heating element does not need to be working all the time. The power-saver switch turns off the heating element, saving up to 16 percent on refrigerator operating costs.

Weigh the benefits of a frost-free refrigerator against those requiring manual defrosting. Although you will need to defrost them regularly, the manual-defrost models will cost less to buy and operate than automatic defrost units.

If you choose the manual-defrost model, remember that frost buildup increases the amount of energy needed to keep your food cold.

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The Eisenhower -1 of 63 basic models in '83 catalog.)

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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

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WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

Peak Demand. We are all familiar with the term and have some general idea that peak demand affects the cost of our electric service. Just what is peak demand and how does it work to drive up the cost of providing our electric service today?

Peak demand is, very simply, the greatest use of electricity in any given period. Every day has a peak demand, every month, every year. In some cases, the peak demand doesn't get very high at all; demand for electric power stays fairly constant.

But sometimes, especially during hot summer afternoons and evenings, peak demand skyrockets. That's when it becomes a concern.

The concern isn't in whether the demand can be supplied; usually a utility has enough generating capacity to meet the demands of its consumers. The real concern is in the cost of supplying peak demands. Because different kinds of generating plants, using different kinds of fuel, are used for different needs.

For instance, there are some large generating plants which produce great quantities of electricity almost all the time. These are termed "base-load" plants. They are capable of operating on a 24-hour-per-day, seven-day-per-week basis, and can satisfy the typical demands for electricity. Because of the size of these plants, they are more expensive to construct. But they also use the lowest-cost fuels, such as coal and nuclear fuel, and thus are less expensive to operate on a day-to-day basis. These plants are also the most reliable, efficient generating stations on a system.

During times when base-load generation isn't quite enough to satisfy electric demand, "intermediate" plants are put into service. These are often older generating plants which once served as base-load capacity, but through age and technological advancements are now less efficient than newer generating facilities. These intermediate plants often use fuels such as coal, oil, and gas. They are often run at half-capacity, rather than at full production capability, just to make up the difference between demand and base-load production.

When demand becomes very high, "peaking plants" are

put into service. These units usually operate on expensive oil or diesel fuel. They rarely generate large quantities of power, but they have one great advantage over intermediate and base-load plants: due to the fuels used, they can go "on line," or begin generating, almost at a moment's notice.

Getting on line quickly is a very important factor in meeting peak demand. Demand sometimes increases very rapidly, and failing to meet it could cause an entire system to fail and go into blackout. But it can also be a very expensive element in the cost of producing electricity, especially operating oil or diesel units.

These peaking plants are only used during times of excessive demand, or when another major unit fails. But, much like an automobile which is only driven on Sundays, that unit still has to be paid for, in full. And those fuels — oil and diesel fuel — which allow quick start-up at critical times are also the most expensive fuels to use in generating electricity.

Peak demand also makes it necessary for transmission lines and substations to be able to deliver enormous amounts of electricity when necessary, although that ability isn't always needed. Allowing for that added capacity makes the planning, design and construction of these facilities more expensive.

It's all reflected in power costs. Until the past decade, the cost of meeting peak demand was not as high because the fuels used were much less expensive, and the demand itself was not as great.

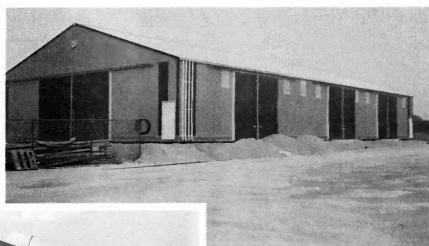
But every year demand, and costs, increase. These costs will continue to grow as oil-based fuels become less available and more expensive. Fuel costs make up as much as 50 percent of a utility's operating expense; when those fuels include natural gas and oil, that percentage can increase drastically.

We ask your help to avoid contributing to peak demand, and help your cooperative control costs, by distributing electric use throughout the day. What happens between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on hot days this summer could greatly affect your electric rates next year. Controlling your own use of electricity by using only one major appliance at a time during those hours is one contribution you can make.

A little effort now during warm weather can make a big difference in your future power costs. Please, time your use of electricity.

Office closing

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day.



The completed 60-by-120-foot storage building will store equipment and material.



Workmen, with the aid of a tractor and hydraulic lift, raise trusses on the new storage building.

New building

Inside storage for Cooperative equipment

We have just completed construction of, and are in the process of applying the finishing touches to, a new storage building at the Cooperative.

The 60-by-120-foot pole-type building with steel siding and roofing will be used to store material and equipment that had previously been stored outside in the weather. It was necessary that some of our equipment such as the chipper and a pick-up truck, along with transformers, regulators, wire and other material be stored in the outside fenced area. We now will be able to store this material and equipment inside.

The Growmark building has four sliding doors large enough to enter with trucks and other equipment, and two small entrance doors. A sister cooperative, Monroe Service Company, supplied the building and was the prime contrac-

June power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$151,592.00
Number of kwh's Purchased	3,798,000
Cost per kwh	.03991
Less Amount Covered by Base Rate	.037
Difference	.00291
Average Line Loss Factor	x.10
WPCA for kwh's used May 15th	
to June 15th, payable with your	

.00320

tor for construction.

The building structure is complete, but we still have to install electric wiring and service, and prepare the interior for its intended use.

Clearing and trimming permission

Please send in with your next electric bill. Because trees are growing up into power lines the following clearing or trimming is needed:

Trees and brush may be removed □

Trees need trimming □

Describe the location

Land is owned by_____

Can be contacted at _____

(phone number)

This information furnished by



Looking over examples of proper wiring techniques for farm buildings are Doug Carolus, left, and Dick Hiatt. Carolus, an employee of Illinois Power Company, is chairman of the IFEC environmental control committee. Hiatt is on the staff of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Proper wiring a key to efficient electricity use in farm buildings

Each American farmer produces enough food for himself and about 80 other people, thanks in no small way to the efficient use of electricity. That efficiency includes proper wiring.

"Back before they had electricity on farms," said Roland Espenscheid, a University of Illinois agriculture engineering professor, "farmers tipped a bushel basket of corn over the fence to feed their hogs and carried feed to cattle in buckets. Operating that way, each farmer could produce enough to feed himself and about 10 other people." Espenscheid was speaking in June to those attending a special seminar on agriculture building wiring at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.

While electricity has brought increased productivity to agriculture, farm wiring presents many problems that are alien to residential or light commercial structures, Espenscheid added. The workshop, sponsored by

the Illinois Farm Electrification Council, was designed to acquaint power use-member service advisers with the problem and possible solutions.

The main thrust of the seminar dealt with wiring in "hostile environments," especially in the ammonialaden and highly corrosive atmosphere in livestock confinement buildings.

"A carefully installed system of metal conduits and junction boxes that might well last the life of a farm shop or equipment shed would do well to last five years in a hog confinement building," noted Duane Crisp, manager of engineering for Chore-Time Equipment Company, a manufacturer of livestock feeding machinery and life-support equipment for confinement buildings. "We favor plastic in the livestock environment," he continued, "while metal may be just fine for shops or grain handling equipment."

Speakers generally noted that a lack of awareness has been a big part of the

problem. Since confinement livestock production grew so quickly, many buildings are relatively new. Corrosion is just now reaching really serious proportions.

Manufacturers have been quick to respond to the need for corrosion-resistant hardware, and part of the seminar was given over to demonstrations and exhibits of plastic fixtures and heavily plated metal hardware, much of which have come on the market recently, while some have been "borrowed" from marine or other heavy-duty product lines.

Don Davis, personal line loss control coordinator for Country Mutual Insurance Companies, discussed wiring from an insuror's viewpoint.

"There are some really bad wiring situations on Illinois farms," he said, "and many of them are because farmers did their own wiring and either didn't know how to do it right or cut corners here and there. Many dangerous situations have cropped up

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

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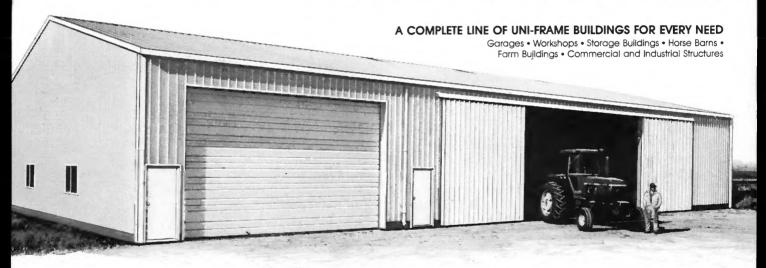




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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

Monroe County Electric Cooperative takes pride in bringing you reliable electric power. Occasionally your power may be interrupted by circumstances over which we have no control, such as storms, automobile accidents, trees cut and fallen into cooperative lines, or it may even be a problem on the members side of the meter.

If your lights go out, first check to see if you have electricity in other parts of your home or in the buildings outside. If you have power elsewhere, chances are that you have blown a fuse or a tripped circuit breaker — a warning of over loaded wiring or other electrical trouble within your electric system. If this is the case, the problem is your responsibility.

Whenever there is an outage, crews are dispatched as quickly as possible to restore service and correct the cause of the outage. But what we want to emphasize, is for you to determine if the outage is on your load side of the metering equipment or the Cooperative side of the meter before you call the Cooperative to dispatch a repairman. This is particularly important after normal working hours, on weekends and holidays.

If a repairman is dispatched after normal weekday working hours and on Saturdays a minimum service charge of \$63 will be billed to the member if the problem is found to be on the member's side of the meter. On Sundays and holidays the minimum service charge will be \$84. These charges cover labor, transportation, and overhead. This is why we emphasize the importance of determining if the problem is on your equipment and the load side of the meter before calling the cooperative to send a repairman.

It shall be the Cooperative's responsibility to maintain only those lines and equipment owned by the Cooperative necessary to provide service to the membership. Any service required by a member on equipment owned by the member or on the load side of the metering equipment shall be paid for by the member.

The member purchases and pays for installation of all meter loops on the meter pole or metering equipment on the side of the house, except the meter base and the meter which is supplied by the Cooperative. The Cooperative's

responsibility for maintenance and repair stops where the Cooperative's service wires are connected to the meter loop or mast on the house. (see diagram)

Our linemen are electric linemen, not electricians. Their union, IBEW Local 309, does not permit them to perform electricians work. So most likely, if called out and the problem is on member's equipment on the load side of the meter, they will not be able to make repairs.

We do not want to seem indifferent to your electrical problems. We do, however, want you to become acquainted with the electric system in your home and be able to determine if the problem is on your system or the Cooperative's. We also want you to be aware that you will be charged for labor, transportation, overhead, and material for service calls on member owned equipment.

After determining that the problem is not within your home or on your side of the meter call 939-7171 day, night, weekends, and holidays to report the outage.

It will be helpful if you give the following information:

- 1. Name
- 2. Map location number
- 3. Advise if neighbors are without power
- 4. How long you have been without power
- 5. Any other pertinent information relating to the outage

Remember: to report an outage call - 939-7171.

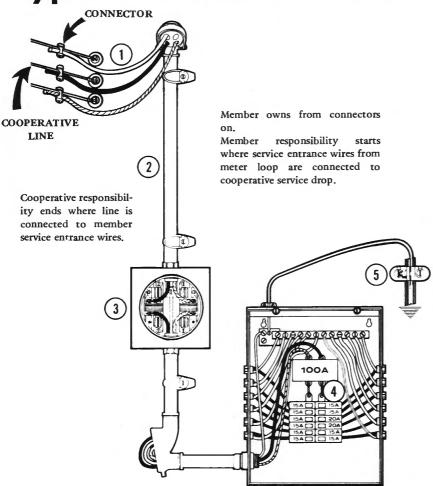
July power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$226,427.00
Number of kwh's Purchased	6,001,200
Cost Per kwh	.03773
Less Amount covered by Base Rate	.037
Difference	.00073
Average Line Loss Factor	x.10
WPCA for kwh's used June 15	
to July 15, payable with your	
August 15 bill.	.0008
-	

Power outage

During any power outage — regardless of the cause or duration — immediately turn off all major electrical equipment, especially electric heat or air conditioners. This will reduce the initial demand for electricity when the power is reconnected and may keep the power from going off again.

Typical conduit installation



Electrical power supplied to a modern home is a three-wire, 240-volt service. Generally the two hot wires are black and red, with the ground wire white or uninsulated. The five main components in new service to a

home include (1) service cable from pole to the house, (2) service entrance cable from service head, (3) the meter socket, (4) switch or main circuit breaker, and (5) a ground.

How to test cartridge fuses





Insert cartridge fuse. Replace cap. If the bulb lights, the fuse is good. Glow will be dimmer since your have only one battery in the flashlight.

How to reset a circuit breaker

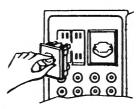


- 1. Move handle to OFF position
- 2. Push handle past OFF position
- 3. Return handle to ON position

How to change a fuse



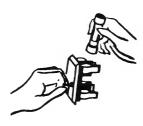
1. Disconnect lamps and appliances in use when circuit went out.



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 pull-out section, it can be removed and replaced by hand pressure.
- 5. Close the main switch, or replace pull-out section, to restore service.
- 6. Throw away the blown fuse.

Tasty fare for a crisp autumn day

PORK CHOPS WITH MUSHROOM GRAVY 1/2 cup chicken broth
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
or 1 tablespoon corn starch
1/4 teaspoon salt

pork chops, 1-inch thick tablespoons cooking oil cup sliced fresh mushrooms

(or drained canned ones)
cup chopped onion
teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

spoon dried tarragon, crushed Salt and peppe

In 12-inch skillet, brown chops on one side in hot oil. Turn; add mushrooms, and onion and brown on other side. Season with salt and pepper. Add chicken broth, Worcestershire sauce, tarragon, and the $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt. Cover and simmer 35 to 40 minutes. Remove chops to serving platter. Keep warm. Spoon fat from juices. Measure vegetable juice mixture, reserving 1½ cups. Combine cold water and flour. Stir into juices in skillet; add chives. Cook and stir until thick and bubbly. Cook 2 minutes more. Spoon over chops. Garnish platter with cherry tomatoes. Makes 4 servings.

CHICKEN RAVIOLI

1 pkg. noodles
3 cans cream of mushroom soup
1 hen or 2 fryers
1 green pepper, chopped
Cook hen, remove meat from bone and cut into bite size pieces.
Saute opion and pimenta in chicken fat. Cook proodles in this Saute onion and pimento in chicken fat. Cook noodles in chicken broth, add a little water if needed. Combine all ingredients, place in large casserole and cover with grated cheese. Bake at 400 degrees until mixture is hot through and cheese is melted.

to 8 medium yellow squash, sliced large onion, chopped

teaspoon salt teaspoon sugar Paprika

RED HOT SQUASH CASSEROLE

1/4 cup cold water 1 tablespoon snipped chives

1/4 lb. Velveeta cheese
2 tablespoons milk
1 or 2 Jalapeno peppers, seeded and minced

Boil squash and onion in water with salt and sugar until done. Drain well in a colander and pour into a 1-quart casserole dish. Make a sauce of cheese and milk; pour over squash; add peppers; mix well. Garnish with paprika. Heat in 350-degree oven uncovered for 20 to 30 minutes, or until thoroughly hot.

CHEESE-STUFFED PEPPERS

pkg. (3 oz.) cream cheese (softened) tablespoons oleo (softened) cup shredded cheddar cheese cup diced celery

1/4 cup shredded carrot
1 medium green pepper
4 large slices rye bread, halved

In small bowl, cream cheese with oleo until blended. Stir in cheddar, celery and carrots; mix well. Cut stem end from pepper; remove seeds. Pack with cheese mixture. Chill overnight. Slice thin and arrange on bread halves. Cut each half in two. Makes

TOMATO RELISH

20 cups ripe tomatoes, peeled and cored 1/2 cup hot peppers chopped 3 cups sugar 8 bell peppers chopped 3 cups vinegar 6 tablespoons salt 1/2 box pickling spices

Chop, mix and cook slow after reaching boiling point, for two hours. Stir often, place in jars and seal.

CHICKEN LIVERS PEKING

lb. chicken livers, cut up tablespoons oleo tablespoons chopped onion

(3 oz.) can sliced mushrooms (10 oz.) pkgs. frozen Chinese vegetables with seasoned sauce

1/2 cup chicken broth
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon cornstarch

1/4 teaspoon ground ginger (optional)

In large skillet, cook livers in oleo till just brown; remove from pan. In same skillet, cook onions until tender. Add Chinese vegetables with sauce, undrained mushrooms, and 1/4 cup of broth. Cover and simmer until vegetables are thawed, about 3 minutes. Stir to break up sauce cubes. Simmer, covered about 5 minutes or till tender. Stir together remaining broth, soy, cornstarch and ginger. Add to vegetables, cook and stir until bubbly. Add livers; heat through. Serve over hot cooked rice. Makes 6 servings.

SWEET POTATO PIE

2½ cups cooked mashed sweet potatoes 4 eggs slightly beaten

1 teaspoon vanilla Dash of salt 1 can Dime Brand milk cups sugar

2½ cups sugar

1 teaspoon nutmeg (optional or other spices if you wish)

Mix and pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees until filling sets. Chill and serve. May be frozen for later use if only baked half brown.

ORANGE SHERBET

2 cans Eagle Brand milk 1/4 cup sugar

1 small can (81½ oz.) crushed pineapple (drained)

Mix all the above ingredients together and pour into freezer and freeze.

COCONUT MOUNDS

3/4 cup mashed potatoes, prepared from instant potatoes lb. confectioners sugar lb. pkg. unsweetened coconut teaspoon almond extract

1 (12 oz.) pkg. semi-sweet chocolate pieces
2 (1 oz.) squares semi-sweet choco'ate
1 oz. square paraffin wax

Combine potatoes, sugar, coconut, almond extract in a large bowl. Mixture will be stiff and needs to be worked with hands. Form mixture into 3/4-inch balls and place on cookie sheet. Chill about 6 hours. Place chocolate pieces and squares and paraffin in top of double boiler over hot (not boiling) water stirring until melted. Remove from heat and with toothpick dip each ball in chocolate until coated. Place on cookie sheet and chill again until hard. Place or pack on or between wax paper and store in cool dry place. Makes 3 pounds.

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1.5 years.
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your own.
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ob site

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electrics borrow most of their funds for construction from a revolving fund in the federal Rural Electrification Administration. Legislation establishing this fund in 1973 fixes the interest rate for most loans at 5 percent, and permits 2 percent in some hardship cases. When the fund was created, its assets were commitments of rural electric and telephone co-ops to repay previous REA loans, and the agency's cash on hand.

Dollars to lend were obtained by pledging the fund's assets and borrowing from the U.S. Treasury at going market interest rates. As the cost of money escalated in recent years, while the agency's lending rates remained fixed, the dollars of interest income at 5 percent were significantly short of the interest expense, which sometimes climbed as high as 15 percent. The excess of outgo over income promised that in time the body of the fund would have been eaten away in payments to make up the difference.

After a two-year study, the rural electric cooperatives decided they would need to face up to higher interest payments in order to preserve their principal borrowing source, the revolving fund. They took the lead in developing legislation which authorizes the REA Administrator to adjust the interest on revolving fund loans whenever necessary to keep the fund stable.

Companion measures were introduced in both houses of Congress: S.

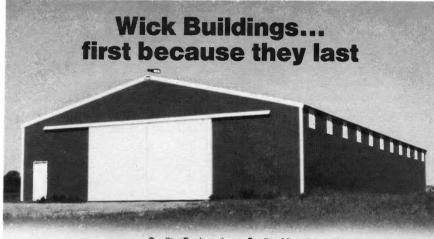


1300 by Kentucky Sen. Walter Huddleston, and H.R. 3050 by Tennessee Rep. Ed Jones. At last count, several weeks ago, they had been joined in sponsorship by 37 senators and 145 representatives.

"It is a tribute to the rural electric systems of the country that we have this proposal before us now," Senator Zorinsky said. "We have a well-thought-out plan that has been studied for almost two years. It asks for no quick-fixes or crash programs, but a simple, sensible solution to maintaining one of the most successful programs this government ever created."

The legislation also provides that the Treasury obligations now comprising the assets of the fund will be converted to permanent capital. This still requires that all rural electric loans must be fully repaid, plus interest, but calls for such dollars to be held in the revolving fund rather than the Treasury and keeps them available for further lending.

The bills also would authorize future refinancing of revolving fund borrowings from the Treasury, and of a different type of loan used chiefly by the cooperative producing electricity for wholesaling to the distribution organizations. This would permit substantial interest savings at times when rates drop.



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Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

The price of electricity has been acting like the price of everything else in recent years — it has been going up. The prospect for tomorrow offers little comfort. Rates will continue to increase.

Your Cooperative has not had an increase in its base retail rate since March 15, 1982. We are now looking to implement a new rate structure for early 1984. We pledge this will be no more than necessary to meet the financial obligations of the cooperative in accordance with sound business principles and management.

Back in the early 70s, the economy was booming and growth in electric usgage was 7 to 8 percent per year. The cost of energy was relatively cheap. By 1973 the cost of fuels used to generate electricity began to jump and the demand for electricity was still increasing. Suppliers of wholesale power to Illinois cooperatives (including Monroe County Electric Co-Operative) told us that they could not guarantee us long-term contracts for wholesale power to the cooperative. In other words, if we've got it, we will sell it to you; but if we don't, we won't. Our wholesale power contract with Illinois Power Co. expired December 31, 1982.

The above uncertainites led MCEC and several other electric cooperatives to join together and to become part of Soyland Power Cooperative. Soyland is a generation and transmission cooperative owned by 15 local electric cooperatives, of which each has two representatives on the Soyland board. The purpose of forming Soyland was to secure an adequate and dependable source of power to serve the needs of the 15 member electric cooperatives. That still is the goal even today.

Although there has been a slowdown in the demand of electric usage during the past several years, should there be a turn around in our economy, our nation could still be short of available "ready to go" generating capacity. Should that happen, the Soyland cooperatives will be in much better shape due to some of the long term committments already made. Soyland will own 10.5 percent share of the Illinois Power Company's nuclear plant when it is completed. The cost of purchasing this plant is high, but the cost of generating energy with nuclear fuel will be less

costly than other fuels, and in the long run off set the initial high capital cost.

Soyland has progressed to where it is now a functional operating organization. Prior to this, all costs of operating Soyland have been accruing and capitalized. Now these operational costs will be a part of our wholesale power costs.

The above, along with increasing wholesale energy costs, and inflation which affects the cost of material, labor, equipment, and supplies, will make it necessary to implement a new rate structure early next year.

We will keep you informed as the development of the new rate progresses.

August power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$265,270.00
Number of kwh's Purchased	6,295,800
Cost per kwh	.04213
Less Amount Covered by Base Rate	.03700
Difference	.00513
Average Line Loss Factor	x.10
WPCA for kwh's used July 15th	
to August 15th, payable with your	
Sept. 15th bill	.00565

COOPERATIVES



October Is Co-op Month.



Electric insulators are poor targets

This is the time of the year – Hunting Season – when insulators become the casualty of many a hunter's careless or malicious aim.

Insulators aren't shot by true sportsmen. Insulators are shot by people who are totally unconcerned about the lives and properties of others.

There is no "Open Season" on insulators; however, the number shot increases about this time of year. There isn't much sport in shooting insulators. They don't taste good, regardless of how they are cooked.

Now that hunting season is here, it's time to take a hard look at what

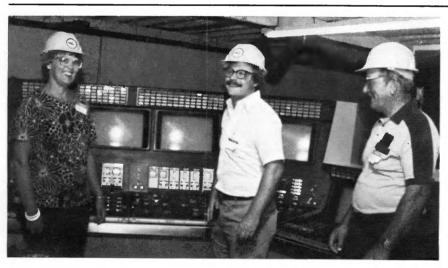
careless or malicious shooting of insulators could result in.

Result 1 — Electrocution. Energized lines are fastened to insulators. If an insulator is shattered, the line could drop within four or five feet of the ground. A person crossing the area, whether another hunter or an exploring child, is in danger of walking into a live wire.

Result 2 — Outages. If his marksmanship is bad (and it certainly must be, or why else would he be practicing on such "slow-moving" targets) the insulator will only be cracked. Later the crack will fill with moisture and short out the electric line, inconveniencing many people.

A cracked insulator can't be seen from the ground, so your REC servicemen must drive the line, climb the pole and check for breaks in the insulator. A family without heat or lights during severe weather has little respect for careless hunters.

Shooting insulators is illegal and expensive. It's your money that pays the damages when an insulator is shot. Destroyed insulators are part of the cost of doing business and the cost comes out of your pockets.



Ermin Brinkmann enjoying a laugh at a comment made by the tour director at the Clinton Power Plant. Portions of the control panels and system monitors are in the background.

Patsy Hoffmann, Daryl Donjon and

Employees visit Soyland, tour Clinton plant

Four Cooperative employees — Patsy Hoffmann, office manager; Ermin Brinkmann, superintendent of operations and line foreman; Daryl Donjon, engineering technician; and Willard Wiggers, director of member services — recently had the opportun-

ity to meet with the staff of Soyland Power Cooperative at their headquarters in Decatur.

Each department head at Soyland explained the functions of their respective departments and encouraged the group to ask questions, share

ideas, and let Soyland personnel know how it could fulfill their needs. Soyland is a power cooperative partly owned by Monroe County Electric Co-Operative. A large segment of the presentation was devoted to member relations and how Soyland and Monroe could better serve the member owners.

We then toured the Clinton Power Plant. The Clinton Visitor Center was the first stop where, after viewing a film on the project, we toured the construction site. The tour included stops on the turbine floor, control room, rad waste building and the reactor area.

ENCHILADA CASSEROLE

1½ lbs. ground beef 1 onion (I use dried onion) 1 can mushroom soup 1 can cream of chicken soup

9 oz. taco sauce (mild)
12 soft corn tortillas
1 lb. grated Cheddar cheese
Salt and pepper to taste

Brown meat and onions. Drain off excess fat and add soups and taco sauce. Simmer a few minutes. Grease large pan and line with half of the tortillas. Layer cheese and meat and tortillas. Top with cheese and bake at 350 degrees. Serves 6-8. PATIO FREEZE

cup sugar No. 2 can crushed pineapple and ivice

2 tablespoons lemon juice Dash salt 2 cups orange juice

2 cups mashed bananas Combine all ingredients in blender and freeze in oblong pan, muffin cups or trays.

TOUCHDOWN CHILI DIP

onion, chopped green pepper, chopped tablespoons butter, melted 1 can chili without beans

1 can cream of mushroom soup 3/4 lb. cubed sharp Cheddar cheese Corn chips

Saute onion and green pepper in butter until onion is clear. Stir in chili and soup. Blend well. Add cheese, heat until partially melted. Pour into chafing dish; serve with corn chips. 12 servings.

COCKTAIL MEATBALLS

3 lbs. hamburger 3 eggs

NEADALLS

1/2 cup Worcestershire

1 long, narrow pkg. soda crackers

1 bottle Kraft hot barbeque sauce

1 bottle Kraft hickory smoke sauce

3 lbs. hamburger
3 eggs
1½ teaspoons red pepper
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 bottle Kraft hickory smoke sauce
2 crush crackers with rolling pin
3 lbs. hamburger
1 long, narrow pkg. soda crackers
1 bottle Kraft hickory smoke sauce
2 crush crackers with rolling pin
3 lbs. hamburger
3 long, narrow pkg. soda crackers
1 bottle Kraft hickory smoke sauce
2 crush crackers with rolling pin
3 lbs. hamburger
3 long, narrow pkg. soda crackers
1 bottle Kraft hickory smoke sauce
2 crush crackers
1 bottle Kraft hickory smoke sauce
3 long, narrow pkg. soda crackers
1 bottle Kraft hickory smoke sauce
1 bottle Kraft hicko both bottles of sauce over and heat in oven. Can be used immediately instead of freezing.

CHICKEN SAUSAGE GUMBO

2 chickens, skinned, cut-up 2 or 3 lbs. sausage 1 whole stalk celery

1 bell pepper 1 cup flour

Make a roux of flour and oil by putting in microwave 3 minutes or until it turns brown. Saute vegetables in roux 15 minutes. Put into pot with chicken and sausage. Add 1 quart water or more. Cook 1½ to 2 hours, skimming off excess grease. Season with salt, pepper, red pepper and garlic before putting in pot. When chicken falls off bone, it's done. Serve over rice with garlic bread to 8. LASAGNA

1 pkg. lasagna noodles Cheeses: mild Cheddar, sharp Cheddar, Parmesan, Mozzarella (½ to ¾ lb. each) 2 jars Italian Ragu (mild) cooking

1 large jar Italian sauce flavored with meat

1 chopped onion 1 lb. ground beef

Brown meat with chopped onion. Put garlic powder, salt and pepper on this while browning. Add sauces to mixture. Cook noodles. In large pan put a layer of sauce on bottom. Then layer with noodles and cheese, add ½ sauce and then repeat. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 45 minutes.

BUTTERMILK PECAN CHICKEN

2 fryers, cut up ½ cup margarine 1 cup buttermilk 1 egg, beaten 1 cup flour 1 tablespoon paprika 1 tablespoon salt 1/8 teaspoon pepper 1/4 cup sesame seeds 1/4 cup pecan halves (optional)

cup ground pecans Melt margarine in large shallow pan. Mix buttermilk with egg in small bowl. Mix together flour, pecans, paprika, salt, pepper and sesame seeds in another. Dip chicken in buttermilk mixture, then in flour mixture. Place skin side down in melted margarine in pan; then turn to coat with margarine and leave skin side up. Place pecan halves on each piece if desired. Bake at 350 degrees for 11/4 hours, or until done and golden brown. Serves 8.

SPANISH CHICKEN

1 can mushroom soup 1 can cream of akish large pkg. taco-flavor Doritos large boned chicken (chopped) small onion can cream of chicken soup can chicken broth 1 small can chopped chilies (opt.) 1 pkg. Cheddar cheese 1 can Rotel tomatoes

Bring to a boil: soups, broth and tomatoes. Add onion, chicken and crumbled Doritos. Cover dish and bake 30 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove cover and top with grated sharp Cheddar cheese. Return to oven until cheese melts

TUNA CASSEROLE

1 small pkg. shortcut elbow macaroni Garlic powder, if desired 1/2 bell pepper, grated 3 or 4 green onions, chopped fine Grated cheese (quite a bit) (8 oz.), cooked small can tuna l can cream of mushroom soup 1/2 can milk (use soup can) 1/2 med. onion (grated) Salt to taste

Pepper to taste (you may use red) Cook macaroni as directed on package. Toss together all other ingredients while macaroni is cooking. (Leave cheese until last.) Add macaroni to mixture and top with grated cheese. Bake in oven at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

STEAK MARINATE

tablespoon garlic salt tablespoons celery salt tablespoon dry mustard dehydrated horse radish tablespoon onion salt Combine ingredients.

2 tablespoons Accent or M.S.G. 1 tablespoon black pepper 1/2 cup vinegar 1 cup salad oil

CABBAGE CASSEROLE

1 10½-oz. can mushroom soup 1 cup boiled rice ¼ cup bread crumbs ½ stick butter or margarine med. cabbage lb. ground lean meat cup green onions (chopped) med. onion (chopped)

2 cloves garlic (minced)

Salt and pepper to taste

Cut cabbage as you would to smother and boil in salted water until tender, but still green. Drain and reserve the liquid. Melt the butter in a deep skillet and fry meat with onion, garlic and seasonings until brown. Mix cabbage with meat. Add green onion, mushroom soup and boiled rice. Pour into greased flat pyrex dish. Top with bread crumbs and bake 20 to 30 minutes at 300 degrees. (Before baking if mixture appears dry add some of the water reserved from boiled cabbage.) Yield: 6-8 servings.

PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH PIE CRUST

5 tablespoons water 1 egg 1 teaspoon vinegar 3 cups flour teaspoon salt 11/4 cups shortening

Sift flour and salt; cut in shortening until mixture resembles coarse cornmeal. Beat water, egg and vinegar together; stir in flour mix-ture. Shape into ball. Chill. Turn out on floured board, roll to fit pie pan. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in 425 degree oven. Yield: pastry for two 2-crust pies.

DIXIE FUDGE CHESS PIE

4 tablespoons cocoa 1½ cups sugar 1 stick butter 1 teaspoon vanilla pinch of salt 3 eggs (slightly beaten)

Mix sugar and butter. Add other ingredients. Pour in uncooked pie shell. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes. Turn down to 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

VEGETABLE PIE

1 pie shell 2-3 small squash 1 bell pepper 1 med. onion fresh mushrooms—as desired sliced tomato cup mayonnaise 1 cup mozzarella cheese

Chop or slice squash, pepper, onion and mushrooms. Saute in butter and drain. Set mixture aside. Combine mayonnaise and mozzarella cheese together. Line pie shell with tomatoes; top with vegetables; then top with mayonnaise and cheese mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour or until brown.

STIR-'N-DROP OATMEAL COOKIES

1 cup rolled oats
1/2 cup vegetable oil
2 tablespoons milk
1 egg
3/4 cup chopped walnuts 1 cup flour 1 teaspoon baking powder 1/2 teaspoon salt 1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1 cup brown sugar, packed
Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease baking sheet. Mix

first 5 ingredients together. Add brown sugar and oats. Mix well. Combine vegetable oil, milk and egg together and add to mixture. Stir in walnuts and drop dough by rounded teaspoons about 2 inches apart on baking sheet. Bake about 10 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Yield: 3 dozen.

GRAHAM CRACKER COOKIES

FILLING-2 sticks oleo 1¼ cups sugar 1 egg ½ cup Carnation milk 1 cup nuts 1½ cups coconut
2 cups crushed graham crackers

ICING:

1½ sticks oleo 1 box powdered sugar 4 tablespoons Carnation milk 1 teaspoon vanilla

Take a large cookie sheet and place graham crackers on it all going same way. Then prepare filling. Melt oleo and add sugar, egg and milk. Bring to a boil, take off heat and add coconut, nuts and crushed graham cracker crumbs. Mix all together and spread on crackers on cookie sheet, then add another layer of graham crackers (same way as first). For icing, mix together ingredients and spread on top of crackers, cover and refrigerate for several hours. Then cut into squares.

YUMMY CHOCOLATE SHEET CAKE

1 stick margarine
1/2 cup oil
1 cup water
2 cups flour (self-rising)
2 cups sugar 1 teaspoon cinnamon 4 tablespoons cocoa 2 eggs 1/2 cup butter 1 teaspoon vanilla

Melt margarine, oil and water. Bring to a boil. Add flour, sugar, cinnamon and cocoa. Mix well then add remaining ingredients. Stir and pour into pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes.

ICING tablespoons cocoa 1/2 stick margarine

1 cup nuts
1 lb. box powdered sugar
Melt margarine and water. Bring to a boil and add remaining ingredients. Spread on top of hot cake.

OATMEAL CAKE

2 eggs 1½3 cups flour 1 teaspoon soda 1 teaspoon cinnamon 1½ cups hot water 1 cup minute oats 1 cup white sugar cup brown sugar 1/2 teaspoon salt

Pour hot water over oats. Let stand. Cream sugar, brown sugar, shortening. Beat eggs into mixture. Sift flour with soda, cinnamon and salt. Add to cream mixture. Then add oats. Beat well. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

Hot Line School

(Continued from page 5.)
Distance is safety."

Safety is always in mind at the school, and one man's hard hat sported a sticker proclaiming, "If you love life, live safety." and Dave Deiderich and Jim Nevel of the AIEC Job Training and Safety Department made the rounds of the various work groups several times, making sure the

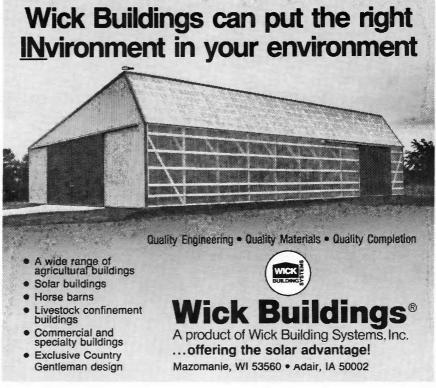
trainees did not pick up any unsafe habits.

While Diederich and Nevel were in overall charge of the school, several instructors from different cooperatives helped with hands-on work sessions, and Don Greene, job training and safety instructor from the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, lent his expertise, too.

Cooperative instructors were: Al Becker and Delbert Boston, Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., Auburn; Fred Boston, Western Illinois Power Cooperative, Jacksonville; Larry Carter, Illini Electric Cooperative, Champaign; Meredith Chrisman and Wendell Lettner, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon; George Claus and Don Long, Illinois Rural Winchester; Daryl Electric Co., Douglas, Adams Electircal Co-Operative, Camp Point; Bruce Hill and Chuck West, Corn Belt Electric Coop-Bloomington; Richard Hilligoss, Lyle Kofoot and Larry Niccum, Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative, Paxton; and Gary Hissong, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Greenville.







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Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

We have scheduled a series of area member meetings to be held at the Cooperative office on Monday, November 28; Tuesday, November 29; and Monday, December 5. You will receive a letter indicating the meeting to which members from within your area are invited. You are welcome to attend any of the other meetings if you cannot attend the one scheduled for your area.

Among topics to be discussed at these meetings are wholesale power costs and retail rates. Of course, we will be happy to discuss any other matter concerning the Cooperative that you wish.

We have also announced in our Newsletter the "Monroe Co-op Echoes" the establishment of a Member Advisory Committee. We have asked for volunteers from the membership who are interested in learning more about their Cooperative.

The purpose of a Member Advisory Committee is to provide a liaison and a channel of communication between the membership, board of directors and management; to provide a means for the Cooperative to gain a better understanding of the concerns of the membership; to encourage member involvement; and to foster a close member-cooperative relationship.

We asked for volunteers, and frankly we have not been overrun with applicants. If interested please contact the Cooperative office. An organizational meeting will be held sometime during the first quarter of 1984.

We urge all members to take advantage of these two membership opportunities. Attend the member meetings and become a part of the Member Advisory Committee. This is your chance to speak out and voice your opinion on matters concerning the Cooperative.

WPCA

After having several months of a credit or a low "Whole-sale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA), the past two months WPCA rate has been relatively high. Couple this with the high kilowatt-hour consumption during the hot summer months, and some members have several dollars to add to their electric bill.

There are two main reasons for the increase in WPCA.

Part of the reason for the higher cost was due to the fact that our power supplier, Illinois Power Company, had to use less efficient plants to generate electricity during the hot weather. These older plants are more costly to operate and therefore the cost of power from Illinois Power was greater.

Also, Soyland Power Cooperative, of which we are part owner, has now become a functional organization. Prior to this, all of our costs involved with operating Soyland have been accruing and capitalized. Now that Soyland has become operational, these costs are starting to be repaid, and will be a part of our wholesale power costs.

Until we establish a new retail rate, sometime in the Spring of 1984, these costs will be a part of our Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment. At that time, the new rate will include the above costs and our WPCA will be reduced.

Again, a reminder to attend the area member meetings and volunteer to be a member of our Member Advisory Committee.

Conservation tip

Here's a conservation tip that can save you money.

On many central air conditioning systems, there is a small resistant-type heater to keep the crank case warm. This heater is always on during the winter and serves no useful purpose. During the summer the heater helps to evaporate the gas from the compressor and keeps the oil warm.

The only way that this heater can be disconnected is by turning off the breaker on the fuse which controls the outside unit. We suggest that you turn the outside unit off and put a tag on this breaker noting that the breaker must be turned on for 24 hours before starting the air conditioner.

September power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$251,676.00
Number of KWH's Purchased	5,961,000
Cost Per KWH	.04222
Less Amount Covered by Base Rate	.037
Difference	.00522
Average Line Loss Factor	X.10
WPCA for KWH's used August 15	
to September 15, payable with	
your October 15 bill	.00574

Extension and power cords

Inadequate extension and power cords are one of the major causes of fires in the home. A 1,400-watt heater connected to an 18-gauge extension cord, for example, would pose a defininte fire hazard because the cord would overheat, but the fuse (or circuit breaker) guarding the circuit would not cut off power (they are designed only to protect the house wiring). The same threat would exist if an inadequate power cord were installed on the heater.

Safe rules to follow are:

- 1. Replace a power cord only with a manufacturer's equivalent.
- 2. Keep the number and lengths of extension cords to a minimum.
- 3. Be sure to use a grounding-type, three wire extension cord if the appliance has a three-prong plug.
- 4. Extension cords should be at least of the same gauge as the power cord. If you are not sure of the gauge, use the following table as a guide:

For 120-volt applian	Use:	
up to 6 amps	(0-720 watts)	18-gauge cord
6-9 amps	(720-1,080 watts)	16-gauge cord
14-18 amps	(1,680-2,160 watts)	14-gauge cord
14-18 amps	(1,680-2,160 watts)	12-gauge cord

- 5. Never run an extension cord under a rug or inside an enclosed space.
- 6. Buy cords with a UL label. Do not rely on manufacturer's phrases such as "Heavy duty extension cord set" or "Recommended for use with power tools."
- 7. Do not use an extension cord unless absolutely necessary. It may cause a voltage drop. An overloaded circuit may cause a fuse to blow or circuit breaker to trip. In any case, it will reduce voltage and cause the appliance to operate longer than normal. A circuit controlled by a 15-ampere fuse or circuit breaker will sustain 1,725 watts without overloading. One with a 20-ampere fuse will support 2,200 watts without overloading.

Repairing extension cords:

Don't repair it, replace it. If the outer jacket is worn, damaged or if there is damage within the outer jacket, it constitutes a danger of both fire and shock. This applies equally to cords on floor or table lamps and appliances.

If the plug is damaged only, and the cord appears sound, then it would be adequate to replace.

Check your waterers

In just a short time, cold weather will be here again. Now's the time to check your electric stock waterers to insure that they are functioning properly.

Taking a few minutes to inspect your stock waterers can save on operating costs, help prevent loss of livestock from electric shock and numbed fingers from repairing your stock waterers in sub-freezing temperatures.

- 1. Thermostat Make sure it's functioning properly.
- 2. Connections Be sure all connections are tight and not corroded.
- 3. Corrosion If electrical and grounding connections are corroded, clean connections.
- 4. Grounding Make sure your waterers are thoroughly grounded; check for corrosion and make sure bonding connections are tight.

Be sure to disconnect power source before inspecting or repairing your waterers



Thanksgiving Is A Special Day

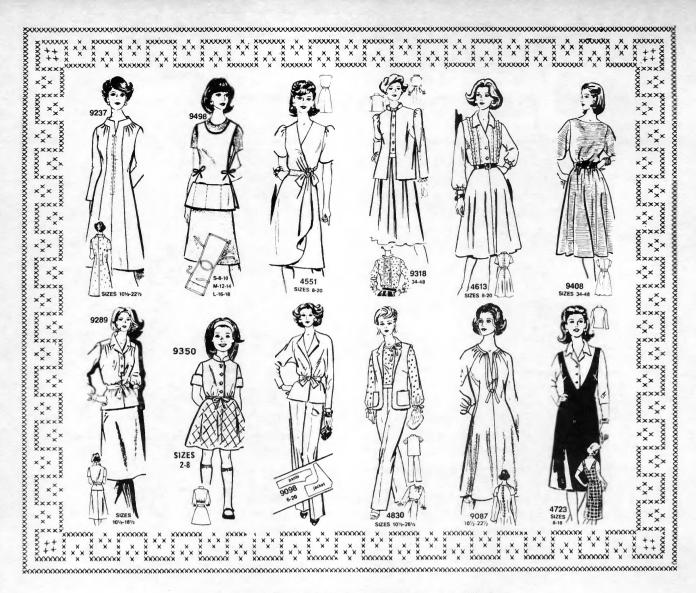
We, the rural electric systems of America, join with each other and with you in counting our blessings.

And, we reaffirm to you our continuing commitment to provide the best possible electric service . . . to stay alert to your needs . . . to work in the best interests of our communities . . . our nation.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Holiday closing

Cooperative office will be closed November 24 and 25 in observance of Thanksgiving.



- No. 9237 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½.
 Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 2-3/8 yards 60-inch.
- No. 9498 is cut in Small (8-10); Medium (12-14); Large (16-18).
 Medium takes 1-1/8 yards 45-inch fabric.
- No. 4551 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. See pattern for yardages.
- No. 9318 is cut in Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48.
 Yardages given in pattern.
- No. 4613 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 3-7/8 yards 45-inch fabric.
- No. 9408 is cut in Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48.
 See pattern for yardages.
- No. 9289 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½. Size 14½
- (bust 37) takes 3-3/4 yards 45-inch fabric.
 No. 9350 is cut in Child's Sizes (2, 4, 6, 8) are all included in
- pattern.
 No. 9098 is cut in sizes (6, 8, 10, 12), (14, 16, 18, 20). Order your regular size.
- No. 4830 is cut in sizes 10%, 12%, 14%, 16%, 18%, 20%, 22%, 24%, 26%. Size 14% (bust 37) vest 1% yards 60-inch; blouse 1%; pants 1-3/8.
- No. 9087 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½. 16½, 18½. 20½. 22½.
 Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 3-3/8 yards 45-inch.
- 4723 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. Size 12 (bust 34) jumper takes 1-7/8 yards 60"; blouse 1-3/8 yards.

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I have enclosed \$ (\$2.25 per pattern - cash, check or money order accepted) for the following patterns:

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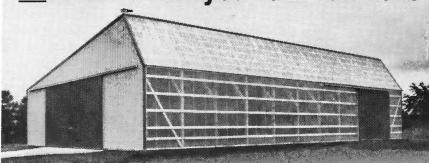
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Monroe Electric News

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

618-939-7171

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin Manager

Sometimes we are asked if the Cooperative is required to reimburse members for property damage caused by an electrical outage. In most cases, the answer is "No."

We make every effort to ensure that your electric power is not off for an extended period of time or that you do not receive less than the proper voltage. We have special equipment installed on our distribution network to aid in preventing this from happening. These include circuit reclosers, lightning arrestors, relay switches, voltage regulators and so on. If a problem does occur, we send a repair crew to determine the problem as soon as possible.

Most of the problems are quickly corrected. A few, however, are harder to find or occur on such a large scale, such as those caused by ice or wind storms, that it takes several hours to get the damage repaired.

If your personal property is damaged from a power outage or voltage reduction due to acts of nature, the Cooperative is not legally responsible to make restitution. In addition, your homeowners insurance may not cover this type of loss unless the problem occurred on your property.

REVIEW YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE

Therefore, we suggest you review your insurance coverage with your agent, to see if losses from power outages caused by trouble off of your property, are covered. If not, you may want to add this protection to your policy.

There are many things you can do to help eliminate potential problems, such as having protection on electric motors, install an alarm system that will notify you of an outage, have a stand-by generator to take care of water, heat, refrigeration or when 24-hour service is required.

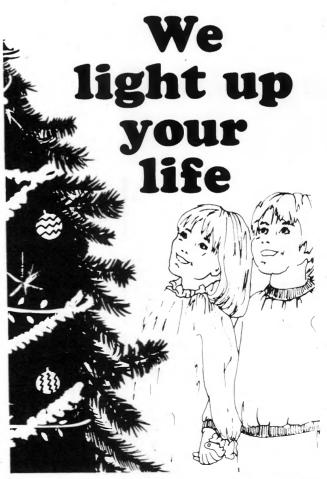
We recommend you pull the plugs on motor-driven appliances when outages occur and then plug them back in one at a time when electricity is restored. If you suspect a low voltage problem, don't continue to operate your appliances — Call the Cooperative at once.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The friendship of those we serve is the foundation of our progress and reputation. Times change, and we with the times, but not in the ways of friendship. So we the board of directors, management and employees of Monroe County Electric Co-operative extend to our friends and members the wish that peace, joy and love be yours during the Christmas and Holiday season and throughout the coming year.

October power bill

Cost of Purchased Power	\$185,101
Number of KWH's Purchased	4,226,502
Cost per KWH	.0438
Less Amount Covered by Base Rate	.037
Difference	.0068
Average Line Loss Factor	x.10
WPCA for KWH's used September 15	
to October 15, payable with your	
November 15 bill	.00748





Capital credit checks mailed

Starting in 1979, your Cooperative has been making a general retirement of capital credits for two years each until we reach a 20-year cycle. Our intent is to continue this practice as long as the Cooperative remains in a sound financial condition.

Again in 1983, the Cooperative will make a general retirement of capital credits assigned to Cooperative members who received service from the Cooperative for the years 1958 and 1959. This will amount to retirement of \$70,944 in capital credits. The checks will be mailed in early December to present and former Cooperative members who were on our lines in 1958 and 1959. (You may have already received the check by the time you read this). During the year, \$11,293 was returned to the estates of deceased members.

Our goal is to pay back capital credits for two years annually through 1987, at which time we will have paid back capital credits through 1967. We then expect to return them annually, staying with the 20-year cycle.

With this mailing, a total of \$695,849 in capital credits has been returned to Cooperative members. This constitutes \$431,476 in general retirements through 1959 and retirement of capital credits to estates of former members in the amount of \$264,373.



Journey-lineman Arlin Stechmesser, positions himself in bucket truck at hotline school in Springfield to learn rubber gloving techniques.



Robert Gross, journey-lineman for the Cooperative, places protective equipment over distribution lines which will enable him to work on the energized line in a safe manner.

Hot Line School

Keeping linemen safe, members happy

For a number of years, your Cooperative has been sending its linemen to the Hot Line Training School at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.

The primary purpose of the annual course, coordinated and directed by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's Job Safety and Training Department, is to instruct linemen in hot line maintenance techniques, which allows them to work on energized lines without cutting off power to customers. Instructors for the school are experienced employees of Illinois electric cooperatives, and representatives of various suppliers

who provide equipment for use at the schools.

The training program covers a three-week period, each week emphasizing a different area of hot line work. This year we sent two new employees, linemen Arlin Stechmesser and Bob Gross, to the third week of the school, which emphasized "rubber gloving" and third-year distribution. In addition to a wide range of field experience and hands-on training, the participants saw presentations on such topics as cover material, reclosers, splices and connectors, and safety methods in hot line maintenance for changing out poles, crossarms and insulators.

Home energy help is available to eligible families through state-administered program

I llinois Home Energy Assistance Program (IHEAP) local administering agencies are now accepting applications for households of income-eligible families who believe they are eligible for assistance.

The Department of Commerce and Community Affairs is the state administering agency of IHEAP.

Illinois received from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services a commitment of \$114 million for this program in fiscal year 1984. IHEAP provides grants to income-eligible renters and homeowners to pay heating and medically necessary cooling costs and to reconnect services lost. In 1982, 457,515 Illinois households received aid. Eligibility is based on the number of family members and their combined annual income.

"This program is not intended to pay all energy costs of the needy, but rather to reduce those costs by providing either a one-time grant to them or paying the utility vendor directly," Michael T. Woelffer, DCCA director, said.

Families who think they may be eligible for IHEAP assistance should

contact their local administering agency or call DCCA's toll-free energy hotline at 800-252-8643.

The following is a listing of agencies and telephone numbers in counties with electric service by electric cooperatives:

Bond, Clinton, Marion and Washington counties: BCMW Community Services, Inc., Centralia 618/532-7388

Knox County: Carver Community Action Agency, Galesburg 309/ 342-0158

Christian, Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Montgomery, Moultrie and Shelby counties: CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp., Effingham 217/347-5018

De Witt, Logan, Menard, Mason and Opportunity, Inc., Greenup 217/ nomic Development Corporation, Lincoln 217/732-2159

Macon County: Decatur/Macon County Opportunities Corporation, Decatur 217/428-2193

Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Jasper, Lawrence and Richland counties: Embarras River Basin Agency for Economic Opportunity, Inc., Greenup, 217/923-5115

Fulton County: Fulton County Health Department, Canton 309/ 647-1173

Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Macoupin counties: Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation, Carlinville 217/854-9677

Madison County: residents should contact DCCA toll-free at 800-252-8643.

Livingston and McLean counties:
Mid Central Economic Opportunity
Corporation, Bloomington 309/
829-0691

Morgan and Scott counties: MSC Community Services, Jacksonville 217/243-4711

Jo Daviess and Stephenson counties: Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency, Freeport 815/232-3141

Peoria County: Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Peoria 309/671-3900

Henry, Mercer and Rock Island counties: Project NOW Community Action Agency, Rock Island 309/ 793-6350

St. Clair County: St. Clair County Community Action Agency, East St. Louis, 618/874-0371

Sangamon and Cass counties: Sangamon County Community Devl., Springfield 217/789-6688

Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski and Union counties: Shawnee Development Council, Inc., Karnak 618/634-2201

Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside counties: Tri-County Opportunities Council, Rock Falls 815/625-7830

Tazewell and Woodford counties: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, East Peoria 309/694-4391

Adams, Brown, Pike and Schuyler counties: Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials, Quincy 217/224-8171

Champaign County: Urban League of Champaign County, Champaign 217/356-1364

Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion counties: Vermilion County Citizens Action Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc., Danville 217/443-2705

Franklin, Jefferson and Williamson counties: Volunteer Services, Marion 618/997-4371 Ext. 239 or 270

Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Saline, Wabash, Wayne and White counties: Wabash Area Development, Inc., Mill Shoals 618/896-5375

Jackson, Monroe, Perry and Randolph counties: Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council, Steeleville 618/965-3458

Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren counties: Western Illinois Regional Council, Macomb 309/ 837-3941

