

Southeastern III. Electric Co-op

Eldorado, Ill.



High bill checklist

Today's energy costs cause everyone to become very conscious of utility bills. The following checklist was designed to give you the opportunity to investigate your electric bill. Put a check (✓) beside the item that pertains to you. Should you have any further questions, please contact the Member Services Department.

1. Does your bill represent *high usage* or a *high dollar amount*? Check to see if your bill is read or estimated.

- A. Is the estimated bill too high or too low? The next bill will require an adjustment.
- B. Did your last payment reach our office before new bills were printed? If not, that amount will be shown and added to your new bill.
- C. If the usage appears normal and you have no indication why the bill is too high, call the office for explanation.
- D. If the *usage* is higher than usual, go on to Step 2.

2. Is the hot water system malfunctioning?

A. Is the temperature too high (check with candy thermometer)?

- a. If you have a dishwasher, are the thermostats set at 140 degrees F?
- b. If you don't have a dishwasher; are the thermostats set at 120 degrees F or lower? (Adjust to suit the needs of your family.)
- c. If the thermostats are set to desired temperature, but water is much hotter, it indicates a bad thermostat and a dangerous condition.

B. Look for leaks in the system.

- a. Check for leaks in the tank. A small leak in the tank can wet the insulation, causing heat loss to increase significantly as well as losing the hot water itself.
- b. Look for small leaks in plumbing in walls, etc. These can go unnoticed for long periods of time, causing high electrical

usage and structural damage to the home.

C. Check for bad elements; they can cause high usage. The electricity can flow through the water without heating it and can shock you via the plumbing. You may find the bad element by running out of hot water. The element just wastes electricity and doesn't heat.

Note: The active electrical troubleshooting of elements and thermostats should be left to your electrician or appliance center representative.

3. Electric Heat

- A. Do you use a portable heater occasionally; 1500W used for two hours per day adds up to 90 kilowatt-hours per month. If they are forgotten and run for 10 hours a day, they use 450 kilowatt-hours per month.
- B. Do you have built-in baseboard not used because of other (wood or ?) heat being used? Is it turned off at the circuit breaker? Some thermostat do not turn off, only down.

The following are common culprits of electric usage. Do any one or more of these pertain to you?

- 4. Water pump — the submersibles are more efficient but have been found running continually with no one knowing it! Make sure the tank is not waterlogged; it's hard on the pump physically and consumes more electricity due to starting torque.
- 5. Refrigerator — does it need defrosted? Can the seal hold a piece of paper snugly all the way around? If it has an energy-saver switch, is it in the saving position except when humidity forms around the door?
- 6. A typical dehumidifier running 24 hours per day would use about 400 kilowatt-hours per month.
- 7. Are any appliances, pipes or other devices in your home shocking you? This could indicate a short circuit causing a dangerous condition as well as wasted electricity.



Annual inventory not just a counting game

Every once in a while people need to sit back and take stock — to catalog their belongings and see where they stand. Here at Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, we do it annually, and it's known as an inventory.

We take inventory for several reasons. For one thing, it's required. For another, we want to keep track of our equipment; what we own and where it is. That way, when we need something, we'll have it for use. After all, it makes no sense to buy an item if you don't have it available for use when you need it.

"Inventory time is hectic around here," notes Ted Wolfe, engineering superintendent, "but we do the job thoroughly and quickly. We just finished inventorying every warehouse, pole yard and branch headquarters in the system. It's time consuming," he continues, "but we're not counting penny-ante stuff here. We're counting everything from square washers to poles and transformers."

SEIEC employees spent nearly a full week weighing spools of conductor, dumping bins, counting bolts and

washers, tagging the bins and saving copies of the tags. Besides conductor, bolts and washers, they counted and tagged about 400 other categories of equipment — and we know better than ever just what we have.

"It's difficult to decide just how much to keep in inventory," Wolfe says, "because we don't want to tie up too much money in equipment we're not using. Then again, we want to have enough set aside that we can handle quite a bit of storm damage to the system without having to buy from outside suppliers on an emergency basis."

With more than 3,000 miles of line out in the elements, and 17,500 members on those lines, it is important to be able to get them back in service quickly, if it becomes necessary.

SEIEC had enough inventory on hand to deal with the last major storm about five years ago, but there wasn't much left in the bins and pole yards when we finished reconnecting the last of those members whose service had been knocked out. "We really had to draw down our inventory then," Ted says, "but we didn't have to order any

emergency shipments of poles or anything like that."

Naturally, we rebuilt our stocks since that storm. The tornado that devastated the Marion area a couple of years ago did a lot of local damage, but it was not a big one in the sense that it did not require a lot of replacement material. We used what we needed and built up the inventory again.

Years ago, it was not uncommon for utilities — both investor-owned and cooperatives — to keep what would be thought of today as fairly lavish inventories. Electricity loads were growing, new members and customers were signing up for service on a regular basis, and energy was cheap. So was hardware. Interest rates were low, so inventory bought on the cuff was cheap insurance, and there was always the probability that it would be needed to extend the lines somewhere anyway.

Things have changed since then. Energy prices have risen and load growth has leveled off. As interest rates and costs escalated, the practice of keeping an inventory big enough to



at SEIEC

cover any eventuality became a luxury that was no longer affordable. And there is no guarantee that we will continually need large quantities of material for system expansion.

Another reason for smaller inventories, Ted says, is that equipment is far more expensive than it was ten or 20 years ago. "A 5,000 kva transformer that cost \$20,000 several years ago would cost about \$70,000 now," he says, "and other prices have risen accordingly."

Regulations have brought about increased costs too, Wolfe notes. "Since the construction codes changed in 1977," he says, "we now have to use bigger poles and heavier insulators. Our basic single-phase line used to be built on slim 30-foot poles. Now we have 35-foot poles, and they're bigger in diameter, and more expensive. That additional expense is on top of hikes caused by inflation."

Our inventory is done for the year and Ted's comment, "Thank goodness it only comes once a year" still rings true, but it's good to know exactly where we stand in regard to equip-



Opposite page, some of the poles in the Rosiclare yard — SEIEC has 900 of various sizes on inventory. This page, clockwise from top left, each bin of small parts has its own tag. Some of the transformers in stock. Bob Lands, new business engineer, tallies parts. Ray Sanders counts a binful of square washers. Ruby Patrick, stores clerk, is deeply involved in keeping track of the cooperative's equipment.

Electricity is powerful helper, can be hazardous

All it takes is a conductor — a tall piece of machinery, a clamp, dirty wooden pole, a hand or a foot, that gets between wire and ground and makes contact with both.

Power lines carry electricity, a product that powers, heats, cools and lights at home and at work — energy that can burn, injure, or kill unless you respect it and exercise common sense.

Similar to lightning, the flow of electrical energy is constantly striving to find a path to the ground. Should you cause an object or part of your body to come in contact with a power line, you are immediately providing the path the energy is seeking.

BEWARE OF THESE HIGH VOLTAGE DANGERS

- Farm grain augers, and many other types of farm equipment are of such height and length that they become an excellent path to the ground should you fail to recognize the potential danger of a power line overhead.
- Metal, metal-reinforced or wet ladders that you might use around your home or other buildings are conductors of electricity. Use extreme caution when using these types of ladders around electrical wires, service drops and equipment.
- Antennas are cumbersome and

hard to control. They can easily fall or be blown against nearby power lines. Before you erect or repair a radio or television antenna when a power line is nearby, consult your electric power supplier for advice and assistance.

Keep these safety tips in mind

regarding power lines:

- Consider any overhead line dangerous. Keep objects at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- Don't attempt to raise or move electric lines ... call your power supplier.

Acid rain issue may raise energy bills

The cost of protecting our environment keeps going up, and part of this cost is included in your electric bill.

In fact, costs related to environmental protection run as high as 30 to 40 percent of power production costs in some utility plants. That has a significant impact on your bill.

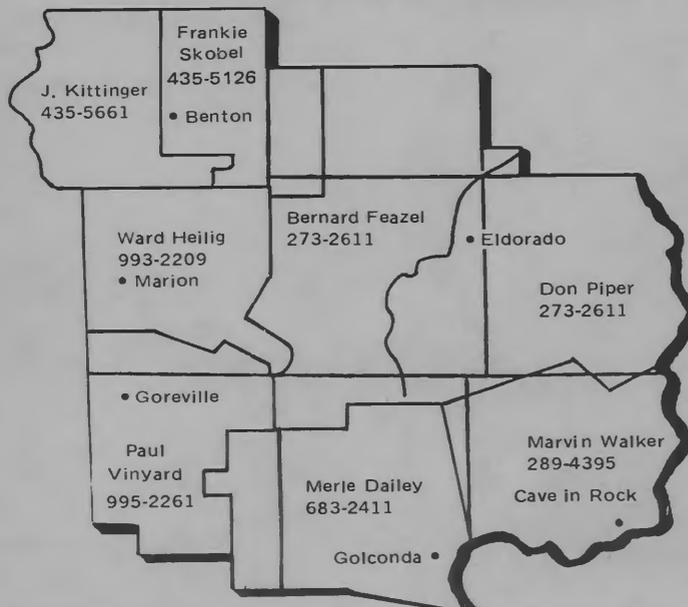
Should still more be added to our electric bills in an attempt to solve another environmental problem that hasn't yet been fully defined or analyzed? We are speaking of the so-called "acid rain" phenomenon which is becoming a hot political issue in Washington. Some environmental groups and some politicians want to place the blame for acid rain and lake acidification on utility plants, even though scientific research has proven that rainfall acidity is but one of the many factors affecting acidity in lakes. And the extent to which power plants

contribute to acid rain isn't really known either.

We are convinced that adding hundreds of millions of dollars of additional scrubbers and other expensive equipment to power plants would not be cost effective. The problem would not be solved. More research is needed first to determine the causes and the most cost-effective remedies.

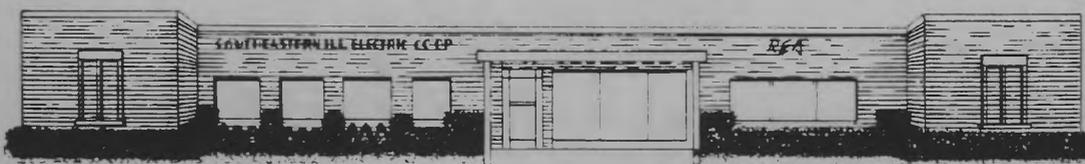
If you don't want your electric bill to be increased by unnecessary and imprudent actions in Washington on the acid rain issue, we suggest you write to your congressmen and senators. Tell them that Congress shouldn't jump to conclusions on a subject as complex as this and that you, as a consumer, would be paying for a pig in a poke through your electric bill if electric utilities are made the villain in hasty legislative action.

Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.



Southeastern Ill. Electric Co-op

Eldorado, Ill.

Water district notes tenth year

Just a little over 10 years ago, a small, one-man utility made a small splash in Southern Illinois. Dale Shadowens, a five-year veteran of the Murphysboro water system, got the Lake Egypt Water District in operation.

"It was a small operation," Dale chuckles, "and I was the bookkeeper, meter reader, manager, everything. We started out with about 900 customers on 120 miles of line, and pumped about 25,000 gallons of water a day. It was so small that we didn't have any celebration, like a ribbon cutting or anything."

While the water district started small, it had been in the hoping and



Manager Dale Shadowens checks a pressure gauge on one of the pumps at the Lake Egypt Water District. The 10-year-old utility has gone from pumping 25,000 gallons a day to 600,000, and has added a sewer system, too. Shadowens, the original employee, came to the water district after working five years for the City of Murphysboro.

planning stages a long time, and had been on paper nine years before that happy day in October 1973 when the Lake Egypt Water District began pumping water. It now pumps an aver-

age of 600,000 gallons a day.

Life in rural areas without water systems was much like that in rural areas without electricity before member-owned cooperatives lighted up the

Right photos, from top: The new sewer operation is housed in this building just northeast of the water district headquarters. Larry Williams prepares to test a sample. Checking out a testing device.



Dale Shadowens



June Walker



Glenda Sullivan



Candace Shadowens



countryside: inconvenient. "Many people had cisterns and had to haul water," Dale says, "and others had deep wells."

The district buys water from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, pumps it from the Lake of Egypt and treats it at a small but well-equipped facility near the dam that forms the lake. While most of its sales are to lake area residences, some half-dozen other water districts also purchase water.

Since its modest beginning a decade ago, the customer-owned utility has prospered, and now boasts 10 employees. Dale has since spun off many of his duties, and June Walker now serves as receptionist, his former bookkeeping hat is worn by Glenda Sullivan, while Candace Shadowens handles secretarial work. Omer Craig and Jim Robb do much of the day-to-day work of keeping the water plant going, and Oscar Rodgers serves as meter reader.

Water is tested twice a day, and checked primarily for alkalinity. "We're fortunate in that we have a good stable water supply from the



lake," Dale says, "and it's fairly easy to work with. When you use well water it changes constantly."

"Federal regulations require us to add one part per million of fluoride because it prevents tooth decay. We also add one part per million of chlorine. It kills all water-borne diseases such as dysentery and typhoid fever, and helps control algae growth in the system. By the time the treated water goes through our filters most of the

chlorine's gone," he adds, "but it's already done its job by then."

While very few people give any thought to water, it is a very important part of life, Dale notes. "Tests have shown that the quality of the drinking water has an effect on vision and hearing. There have been cases where people have had troubles and couldn't track them down, until they finally had their water tested."

Dale tells of an elderly farmer who

brought in a jar of well water to have it tested because it didn't smell right. "It smelled terrible," he related, "and it blew the stoppers off the testing equipment. It had the highest concentration of nitrogen in it I've ever seen."

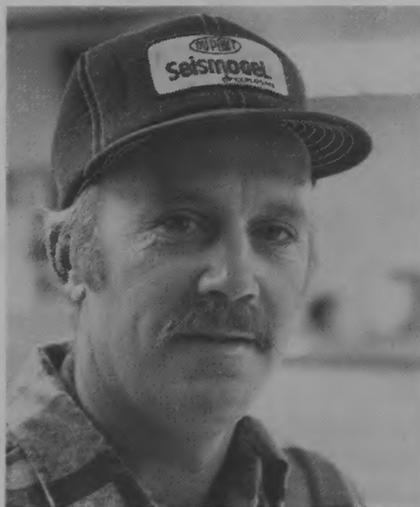
"Turned out," he adds, "that his well was just a few yards from his chicken yard and, every time it rained, the runoff went straight into his well. It's a wonder it didn't kill him. He got the problem solved, but he had to move his henhouse."

Dale notes that the beneficial effect of trace amounts of fluoride in drinking water are well documented, and adds that high concentrations produce a highly undesirable side effect, however. "There's a town in Italy that has five parts per million of natural fluoride in the water," Dale says, "and the people have very, very few cavities. The trouble is that over the years their teeth have turned black. Of course, that's a far higher concentration than we use."

While the water operation has just celebrated its 10th birthday, there is another side of the operation that will celebrate its second anniversary next month, and that's the sewer district, a branch of Lake Egypt Water District that has about 1,000 customers. It is headed by Larry Williams, while Don King and Rick Francis do maintenance work.

Williams, who is headquartered in a small, new lab-office-shop just northeast of the water office, notes that sewer work was not his first career choice. "I was raised on a farm," he says, "and learned to do all the shop activities like welding, cutting and threading pipe, stuff like that. Then I went to work for the city. They were having a cutback and told me I could go to work for the sewer department or get laid off. I transferred to the sewer department under protest," he smiles, "and it was the best thing that ever happened to me. I came here when this operation started, and all the farm background sure helps."

Like the unexpected and unwanted career shift that was the best thing that ever happened to Williams, the water and sewer district is one of the best things that has happened to the lake area in several years.



New employees

Murray L. Jackson came to work at SEIEC as a lineman on November 21, 1983 after several years of construction work. Murray, who lives in Harrisburg, was born and raised in Pope County, and attended schools there. He joined the Air Force after graduation and became an electrician. After military service, he went into construction, and has been at it since. He and his wife, Phyllis, have a daughter, Amanda Lea, who is nine months old.

Cindy Hathaway came to SEIEC October 11, 1983 as a billing clerk. She is an Eldorado native and attended Eldorado schools. She also studied business courses at Southeastern Illinois College. She worked at a local bank and in her father's tin shop in Eldorado before coming to the cooperative. Cindy and her husband, Jesse, have two children. Kim is 17 and Darin 13.

Paint to save

Planning to redecorate?

The National Paint and Coatings Association advises you to plan carefully as the colors you select can either save or cost you precious energy! Certain colors can conserve energy in your home by absorbing heat, reflecting light and providing psychological warmth.

Since dark colors absorb solar heat and reflect little light, homeowners in cold climates are wise to paint the exterior of their house a dark color — perhaps a deep green or brown — to help draw in more heat.

White and pale colors can be energy savers when used on interior walls and ceilings, since they can reflect light and cut down on the amount of electric lighting needed.

The difference in amount of light reflectancy between colors can be great. For instance, white is 80 percent reflectant while dark green reflects only 9 percent of the light in a room.

Glossier paint finishes are more reflectant than flat finishes.

Certain colors can also enable you to psychologically warm up your home. Reds, oranges and yellows will "warm" up a room while greens, blues and violets will make it seem cooler.

For example, in a dark room, or one with a northern exposure, walls painted lemon yellow will reflect light and give the room a warm, sunny feeling.

If you're fond of the cooler hues, use them in a room with a southern exposure where direct sunlight will add warmth.

Decorative accessories can add a cozy feeling to a room, too. Splash bright reds and oranges across the room in pillows, pictures and other accents.

Richly textured materials generally lend a warmer atmosphere than slick ones, so use the former liberally in fabrics and accessories.

Energy saving tips

COOKING ENERGY SAVERS

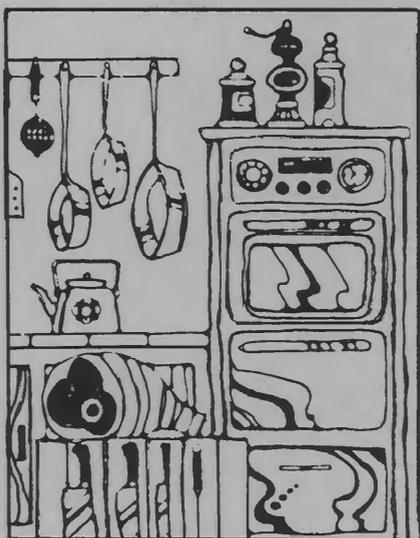
Use cold water rather than hot to operate your food disposer. This saves the energy needed to heat the water, is recommended for the appliance and aids in getting rid of grease. Grease solidifies in cold water and can be ground up and washed away.

• Install an aerator in your kitchen sink faucet. By reducing the amount of water in the flow, you use less hot water and save the energy that would have been required to heat it. The lower flow pressure is hardly noticeable.

• If you need to purchase a gas oven or range, look for one with an automatic (electronic) ignition system instead of pilot lights. You'll save an average of up to 47 percent of your gas use — 41 percent in the oven and 53 percent on the top burners.

• If you have a gas stove, make sure the pilot light is burning efficiently — with a blue flame. A yellowish flame indicates an adjustment is needed.

• If you cook with electricity, get in the habit of turning off the burners several minutes before the allotted cooking time. The heating element will stay hot long enough to finish



the cooking for you without using more electricity.

DISHWASHING ENERGY SAVERS

The average dishwasher uses 14 gallons of hot water per load. Use it energy efficiently.

• Be sure your dishwasher is full, but not over loaded, when you turn it on.

• When buying a dishwasher, look for a model with air-power and/or overnight dry settings. These features automatically turn off the dishwasher after the rinse cycle. This can save you up to one-third of your total dishwashing energy costs.

• Let your dishes air dry. If you don't have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the control knob after the final rinse. Prop the door open a little and the dishes will dry faster.

• Don't use the "rinse hold" on your machine. It uses 3 to 7 gallons of hot water each time you use it.

• Scrape dishes before loading them into the dishwasher so you won't have to rinse them. If they need rinsing, use cold water.

If every dishwasher user in the country cut out just one load a week, we'd save almost 15 million kilowatt-hours of electricity every day or the equivalent of about 9,000 barrels of oil a day.

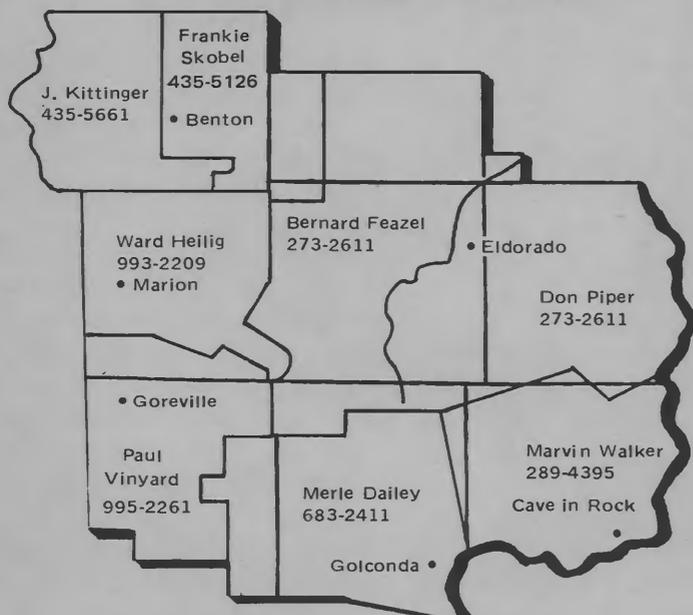
HOW TO SAVE ELECTRICITY BEFORE IT COMES TO YOU

During late afternoon and early evening hours, the load on the nation's electrical systems usually reaches its peak. To meet the heavy demand, electric utilities often must use back-up generating equipment that is not energy efficient.

Try to use energy-intensive appliances such as dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers and electric ovens in the early morning or late evening hours to help reduce that peak load.

If everyone scheduled household chores during offpeak hours, the utilities' daily fuel use would be reduced and the nation's energy would be conserved.

Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.

2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.

3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.

4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.

5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.

6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.



Southeastern III. Electric Co-op

Eldorado, Ill.



Brad Riggs is shown with his new truck and rebuilt body. The body, which has been rebuilt to like-new, is much less expensive than a new unit would have been. The truck replaces a lighter 11-year-old unit. SEIEC saved about \$32,000 over buying a new truck and body by having this one rebuilt. A rectangle on the lower boom is a new addition to the rig, and is a fiberglass insert designed to make the boom even less conductive, for additional safety.

New truck, rebuilt body ready for another decade of work

If you see a new tree-trimming truck on the highways of Southeastern's service area, don't be surprised. Brad Riggs and his crew have a new, bigger truck to enable them to do their job better and more safely. Mark Evans and Gerald Miller are the other members of the crew.

"Actually," says George Leeke, maintenance superintendent, "only

half the truck is new. We bought a new cab and chassis, and had the body rebuilt. We saved about \$32,000 by having it rebuilt instead of buying a new one, and the rebuilt one is as good as a new one, anyway. A new unit would have cost \$70,000. We have \$38,000 in this one."

The old truck was a 1973, and was a little lighter than the new unit. This

truck has a bigger engine and a heavier frame and beefier axles, as well as a two-foot frame extension to permit the mounting of a winch behind the front bumper.

In the 11 years the old truck was on the road, it traveled a surprisingly short distance — it had just 90,000 miles on the odometer.

"That's a deceiving figure, though," Leeke says, "because most of the truck's work is done while it's sitting still, but with the engine running. They use the power takeoff an awful lot. Actually, we had replaced the truck's engine twice during its service life. It had the equivalent of 300,000 miles on it. We had wanted to have it

(Continued on page 16d)



Karber's Ridge man is bullfighting

Clockwise from above: Mark earns his money, distracting a bull — note the rider at the far right, heading over the fence. Mark, right, and another clown-bullfighter, and another rider going over the fence. Mark in a more peaceful moment. Large, ornate belt buckles are a big part of rodeo life.

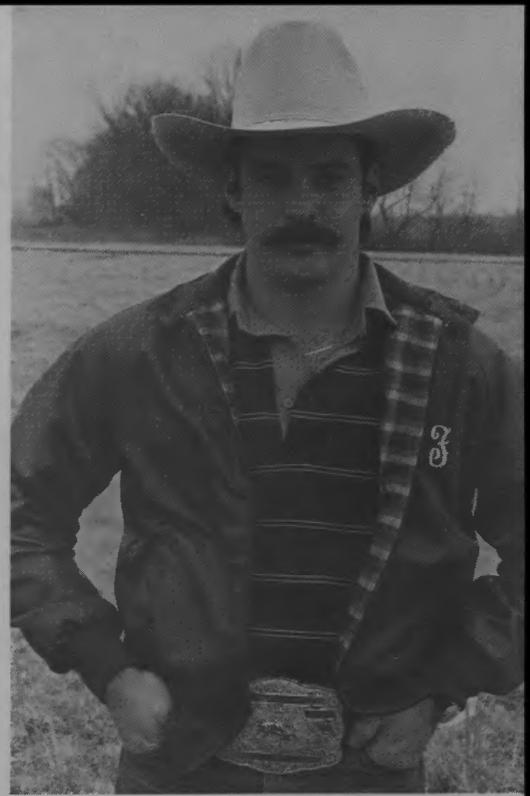
The bull and rider explode from the chute, and the crowd goes wild. Sitting astride half a ton of meanness, the rider bounces precariously, one hand holding tightly to a rope around the Brahma's midsection, the other waving above his head. Finally, the rider can no longer keep his seat, and falls off the angry bull.

A rodeo clown rushes in to distract the animal so the shaken cowboy can get "over the fence." But this time there is a hitch: the rider's hand is caught in the rope and he can't get away from the bull! The clown's work, which is really a very serious business, then becomes even more important. It is his job to distract the animal, free the rider, then distract the bull again so the cowboy can get away. Then —

and only then — he is supposed to make his dash for the fence.

This is the kind of work Mark Finnie does all spring and summer, and is the kind of work he wanted to do even while he was still in high school. "But," Mark points out, "there are usually two kinds of people out there in the arena who dress like clowns, but they generally do different jobs.

"A rodeo clown just gets out there and tells jokes and does falls — things like that, and he's out there during the whole rodeo. The other guy is what we call the 'bull fighter,' and he has a different kind of job. He goes out just during the bull-riding events, and he's supposed to make life easier for the riders. I'm really a bull fighter rather than a clown, but I do clowning when



er-American style

I'm needed. Bull fighting's what I'm trained for, though, and I'm better at it than being a clown."

Mark, who is 21, was born and raised in Eldorado. He is building a house at Karbers Ridge, near the Garden of the Gods, where he and his wife, Angie, are putting together a cow-calf operation.

Mark got into the rodeo business while he was still in school, then went to a three-day rodeo school in Wichita, Kansas. "It's kind of like a basketball camp," he says, "and you go there to learn the fundamentals. You learn how to judge bulls — figure 'em out before they figure you out. That's probably the hardest part."

While "bull fighting" might seem to be a job for only the young and fit,

Mark notes that there were a couple of middle-aged men in his class who did pretty well, and he also has to wear a knee brace because of a football injury he picked up in high school. "I jog and work out with weights to keep in shape, and I can get up the fence real quick if I have to," he says with a slow smile.

Still, he has had his share of injuries. "I misjudged one bull," he explains, "and the rider got tangled in the rope. I went in to free him, and just as I got him loose, the bull tossed me right over his head. I landed about 15 feet behind him. There have been a lot of days when I'd get out of the arena black and blue all over. I've been pretty lucky, though," he says with another smile, "'cause I haven't

broken much."

Part of the reason for that is the training, where bull-fighters learn some surprising things. For example, Mark says, distance is an enemy, not a friend. "The closer to the bull you get, the better off you are. I like to get close enough that I can lay my forearm down the bull's face. If I can't, I'm farther from him than I should be," he says.

Pads are another reason he hasn't broken many bones. "I wear a lot of the same padding football players wear: hip pads, tail pads, forearm pads and shin guards. They help a lot, but they can't protect you from everything. I've been run over by horses and bulls, and bruised up pretty bad, but

(Continued on page 16d)

Clown

(Continued from page 16c)

one thing that'll take the fun out of a whole afternoon is when an animal steps on your foot. That really hurts."

While it may seem foolhardy to some to get into an arena with an angry bull after only three days of schooling, Mark notes that he had had some experience before going to school, and the instruction there was good. "You'd be surprised what you can learn in three days," he says.

"Actually," Mark continues,

"school is the easy part. After you get out you have to find a stock contractor who'll hire you. When you're just starting out it's kind of tough because nobody knows you and what you can do."

Much of Mark's job hunting difficulties are behind him now, and he has already lined up some 15 jobs, and he'll work three or four days at each of them. "I expect to get a lot of my jobs during June and July," he says, "and I expect to work 25-30 rodeos in a year. I'm going to make it a point to be home around July 4, though,

because Angie's going to have a baby then. I'd probably be in trouble if I didn't make it for that.

"I try to stay fairly close to home anyway," he adds, "and I like to be within 12 hours' drive. That pretty well limits me to Illinois, Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Missouri, and I've worked all those states. It's hard work and there are some risks and I sometimes end the day all bruised, but it's the kind of work I like to do," he says.

You can't ask for much more than that.

New truck

(Continued from page 16a)

rebuilt a year ago, but we got caught in the same economic crunch everybody else did, so we deferred it."

There are some good reasons to have the bodies rebuilt, Leeke points out, and cost is only one of them. Before any work is done, a very specific bid sheet is drawn up, outlining exactly what the rebuilder must do to the unit to make it suitable for further use. These specifications sheets are sent to several companies who specialize in such work, and they bid on the job. The lowest bidder then does the work.

"The first thing the contractor does," Leeke explains, "is to subject

the body to a 'structure test' to make sure it's worth rebuilding. They put it under stress and see if the welds are holding, things like that. A few hair-line cracks wouldn't be any problem, but a lot of major flaws would be. We have them replace all the doors and add new hoses, pins, bushings and a new hydraulic pump and PTO. They also rebuild all the cylinders, control valves and electrical components.

"The units are like new when the contractor gets done with them, and are fully tested for function and reliability before they come back to us," Leeke says.

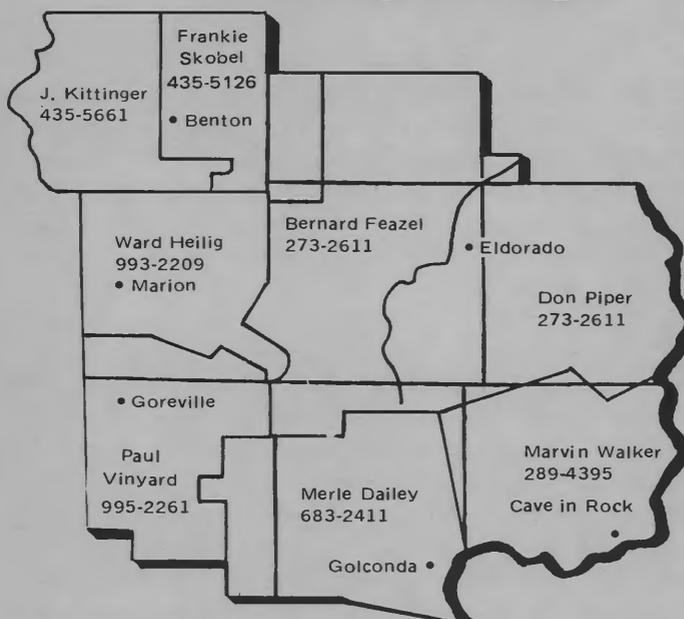
The newly rebuilt body has been changed in one way, purely for the sake of safety. The two-part boom was made up of a fiberglass upper strut and

a steel lower unit. The contractor took out a section of the steel boom and put in a robust fiberglass section to reduce conductivity, since the truck is used in the presence of "hot" lines.

"The trucks and booms are dielectric tested every year to make sure they're safe," Leeke says, "and this one has always passed. We just had the fiberglass insert installed to give us an added safety margin."

Leeke remarks that the rebuilt bodies have a good record at Southeastern, partly because they go to the rebuilder in fairly good condition to begin with. "We keep them up pretty well," he says, "because it's cheaper in the long run to maintain than to rebuild, and we do our best to keep costs down."

Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.

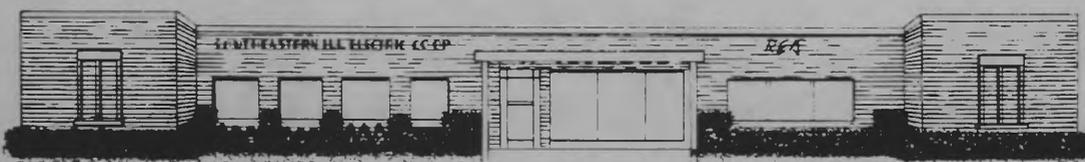
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.

3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.

4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.

5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.

6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.



Southeastern Ill. Electric Co-op Eldorado, Ill.

Southeastern manager 1960-1984

Roger C. Lentz

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on March 8 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Eldorado for Roger C. Lentz, 60, of RFD 2, Eldorado. Mr. Lentz died at 4:50 p.m. on March 5 at Welborn Baptist Hospital in Evansville, Indiana, where he had been a patient since suffering a massive heart attack on February 25.

A native of Chester, Mr. Lentz married the former Genevieve Schrieber in Harrisburg on December 28, 1951. Survivors include his widow, a son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Jodie Lentz of Eldorado, a granddaughter, Melanie; and a brother, Jack Lentz of Libertyville.

After graduating from Chester High School in 1941, Mr. Lentz was employed by the International Shoe Company from 1941 until he entered the United States Army in January, 1943. While serving in the Army, he studied engineering for three terms at Stanford University. He entered the University of Illinois in 1947 and received his bachelor of science degree in accounting in 1949. He then joined Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative as an accountant and later served as office manager, operations division manager and assistant manager. On June 10, 1960, he was named general manager of the cooperative.

In addition to his duties as manager of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Mr. Lentz served in numerous leadership capacities in the state and national rural electrification program and business organizations. He had served as a director

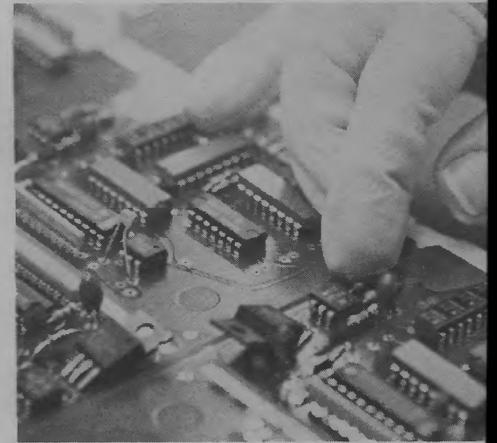


Roger C. Lentz

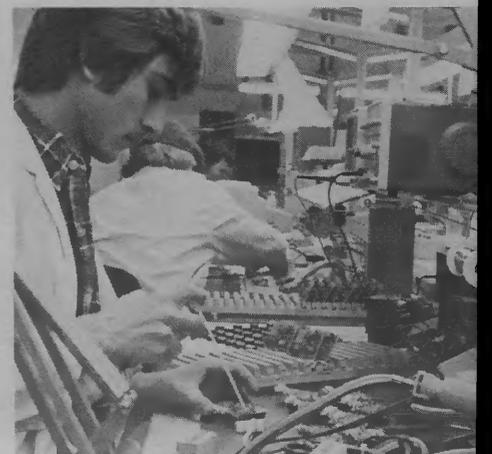
of Southern Illinois Power Co-operative since its reorganization in 1960 and served terms as its secretary, vice president and president. He was also a past president of the IEC Managers' Association and, at the time of his death, was a member of the NRECA Standing Committee on Power and Water Resources.

His many friends and associates in the rural electrification program share with his family the sorrow and loss at the death of Roger Lentz.

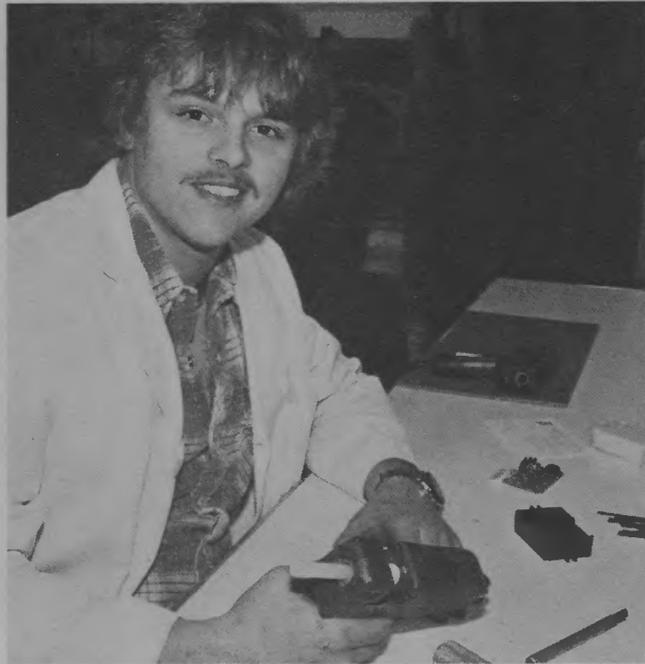
Micronics International, an electronics firm with offices in Chicago and Anaheim, California, is in business in Rosiclare, making top-quality theft alarms for cars and motorcycles. The alarms, named "Theftguard" for cars and "Cobra" for motorcycles, are built by some two dozen employees at the factory in the old Rosiclare grade school. The company also makes alarms for General Motors cars and manufactures a unit for Sears, too. In the three photos beginning clockwise from right, Joanna Holland installs the first dozen components in a bare circuit board, while Billie Jo Cook, background, adds several more to other boards. Darlene Kirk completes a board. Benny Orman prepares boards for machine soldering.



Rosiclare



From right, Mark Newberry solders a connection. Tony Cankovich cleans a board. Norma Shore and Bill Williams package units for shipment. Rusty Warren checks the operation of an alarm installed in a car.



Clockwise from left: Peg Lewis makes motion sensors. Gary Birch examines a finished board. "Bozo" Vaughn glues in a backing piece. Donald Holbrook adjusts a potentiometer. Bill Cook, who is mayor of Rosiclare, also manages the Micronics plant. Fingers give an idea of the size of some parts, which must be installed a certain way: In this one, the longer wire denotes positive polarity. Below: Stan Pennell makes wiring harnesses.



ctory builds alarms



Acid rain scare may boost your bills

Ready to pay more for the electricity you use? If the U.S. Congress passes acid rain legislation now before both houses, you can expect a major increase in your monthly bill, and it may do no good.

What acid rain is, where it comes from and what effect it has on the environment are just a few of the questions being asked. Utilities are raising the same questions. They are just as concerned and involved as the news media and scientists.

In fact, the utilities believe that much more research is needed to gather the information necessary to make a rational decision on acid rain.

At present, acid rain is generally linked to power plant emissions. Critics of the Midwestern utility industry charge that fossil-fueled power plants release sulfur and nitrogen oxides, contributing heavily to the formation and deposition of acid rain.

Sulfur dioxide supposedly converts to sulfuric acid in the air and combines with water vapor to form acid rain. Utilities say there hasn't been enough evidence to prove this theory, and wonder why no mention is ever made of local automobile pollution.

Interestingly, although it is true

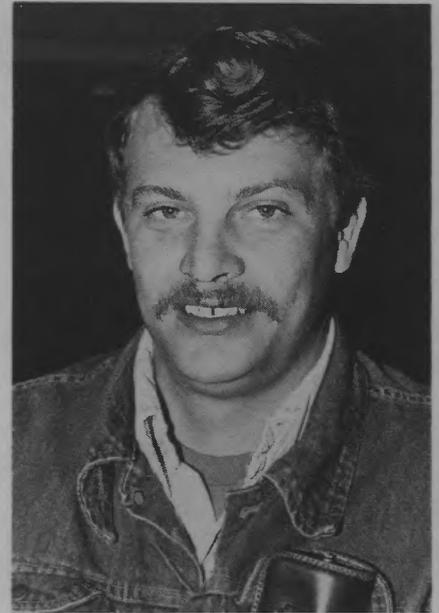
that there are lakes in the Northeast that are too acidic to support fish life, there is also evidence to suggest that this is not a new situation. Studies show there were lakes in the Adirondack Mountains too acidic to support fish life as far back as the 1940s.

In spite of the lack of evidence supporting the theory of acid rain formation, there is a call for the control of sulfur dioxide emissions on power plants in the Midwest. All these proposals have three things in common — they're expensive to Midwesterners, they may not alleviate the lake acidity problems in the Northeast, and they're being greatly exaggerated during an election year.

The simple truth is that we do not really know that sulfur dioxide emissions from Midwestern power plants cause acidic precipitation in the Northeast, and we do not know that cleaning up the emissions from those plants will do a bit of good.

We do know that the call has gone up to "do something" about acid rain, and a quick fix may be on the way.

We at Southeastern urge you to visit with your legislator when he is home campaigning, phone him, or write him.



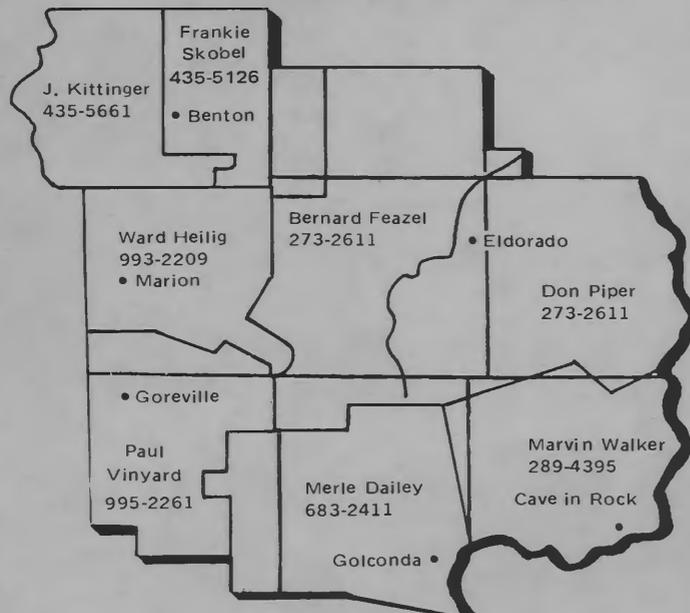
Gerald Miller

New employee

Gerald Miller, 31, of Rosiclare, is the newest addition to Southeastern's tree-trimming crews, having been hired Jan. 9. Born in Ironton, Missouri, he has lived most of his life in Rosiclare and attended schools there. He worked as an electrician at Minerva Mines from 1976-1983, and has completed a three-year correspondence course to become a master electrician.

Miller and his wife, Janet, have a son, Scott Allen, 8, and a four-year-old daughter, Mindy Dawn.

Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.

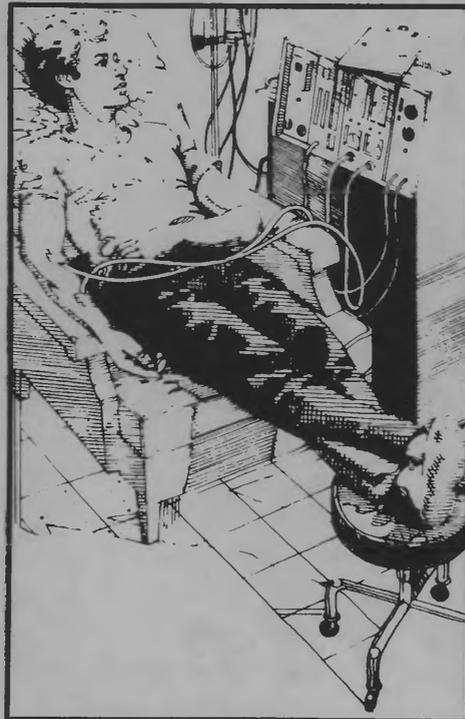
the **SOUTHEASTERN** LIGHT



Southeastern Ill. Electric Co-op Eldorado, Ill.

Life-support equipment registry

Last year the state legislature enacted a law which requires all utilities to keep a "registry" of persons who depend on electrically operated respirators, dialysis machines or any other electrically operated life support equipment.



We have had such a list for many years, however the law states we must tell everyone of the existence of this registry. It's the responsibility of the individual to notify us of their dependency on such equipment.

A "good faith" effort will be made to restore power first to those persons on the registry and to notify them of any anticipated power interruptions. We cannot guarantee they will be the first back on following a power failure, but when there is a choice, their location shall have priority. As always, no one can guarantee uninterrupted power so it's up to the individual to provide an emergency standby generator.

Anyone requesting to be on this registry should contact the Cooperative office.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHOSEN

As provided by the bylaws of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc., a Nominating Committee was chosen April 24, 1984, consisting of the following Cooperative members:

Gallatin County: Earl Ray Edwards,
Route 2, Omaha

Hardin County: Bernard Hurford,

Route 1 - Box 65, Rosiclare; Esdon
Jerrells, Route 1 - Box 51, Rosiclare

Franklin County: Robert Barancher,
Route 3, Benton; Carroll Pearce,
Route 1, Ewing

Williamson County: Eugene Cobb,
Route 4, Marion; Eugene Roper,
Route 4, Marion

The Committee will meet at the office of the Cooperative on Monday, June 11, 1984, at the hour of 10 a.m., for the purpose of nominating three (3) candidates for three-year terms as Trustees of Southeastern Illinois Elec-

tric Cooperative, Inc. Trustees whose terms are expiring include: Bill Cadle, Route 1, Marion (Williamson County); Orrie V. Spivey, Route 4, Elizabethtown, (Hardin County), and Robert Tiberend, Route 3, Benton (Franklin County).

David Ramsey, Secretary
Board of Trustees



Electricity costs and the co-op difference

The fisherman sat under a tree beside the slow-moving stream, waiting expectantly for a fish to bite. A young carbon copy sat beside him, alike down to the logo on his baseball cap.

He was waiting for a bite too, and knew he should be quiet, but something was on his mind, bothering him.

Finally he turned to his dad and blurted, "Pop, what's a co-op?"

"I work at the co-op," his dad said. "You know that. Don't scare the fish."

"But dad, you know that summer camp I went to a couple of weeks ago? Well, we were all sitting around the

fire that first night and the counselor asked us to tell our names and a little about ourselves. Where we live and our hobbies and what our folks do: stuff like that."

The father leaned back, finding a comfortable place against the tree. He was beginning to realize that his son was really interested in his line of questioning. He was also beginning to realize that the fish weren't interested in his line.

"So what?"

"Well," his son went on, "when I said you worked for the co-op, a couple of kids booed. A couple of others clapped, and most of 'em just had blank looks on their faces. Why'd some guys boo and others cheer, Pop?"

"Son, I guess those guys didn't know what they were booing about, because there's nothing wrong with a co-op. They were set up to do a job nobody else would do, and it's a difficult job. The idea was to bring electricity to people who live 'way out in the country, at the best possible price.

"The federal government set up the Rural Electrification Administration almost 50 years ago, and appropriated a lot of money. That was during the depression and they figured building lines across the countryside would put a lot of people to work and electricity would make farms more efficient.

"Anyway, they offered the money to the power companies at two percent interest if they'd run lines out into the country. They didn't want to. Didn't think they could make any money at it, and that's what investor-owned utilities — or IOU's — are all about; providing a service and making a profit."

"Then what happened?"

Well, they set up cooperatives. They organized them as non-profit corporations. Each member had one vote in the co-op, and they elected a board of directors to govern its overall operation. The board hired a manager and staff to keep the organization going from day to day. A member who was displeased with something could

complain to the manager or his representative on the board, or both. They were members too, and they understood. It's still that way.

"Once they got the groundwork done, they used the money the government had appropriated to build lines, and the money was funneled through the REA, along with a lot of badly needed technical advice. A lot of people still call their co-op 'The REA,' but that's just the government branch that loans us money to expand. Or to rebuild if there's an ice storm or tornado.

"Since a co-op is non-profit and owned by its members, it can usually do the job cheaper than a company that's out to make money, but it's not as cheap as it used to be, and a lot of people are mad about that."

"Why is electricity so expensive? Even mom complains when the bill comes, and you work for the co-op."

"There are a lot of reasons, son. The electricity business is a 'capital intensive' one. That means you have to spend a lot of money to get a little back. A capital intensive business is really hit hard when interest rates go up. Interest is five times as high as it was ten years ago. Coal and oil are used to generate electricity, and they cost a lot more now, too. It costs millions to build a coal-fired plant. Billions to build a nuclear one, if you can get it built at all.

"And the legislature has passed dozens of environmental protection laws. Each law costs consumers a little bit of money. It wouldn't be all that noticeable, but there are so many laws now that they've all added up. It's great to have clean air and clear water, but it costs money. And while co-ops aren't set up to make money, they still have to operate like a business. They can't operate at a loss and still do the job."

The boy fidgeted nervously, trying to frame his next question so he could get the answer he wanted without irritating his dad.

"You said co-ops could usually do the job cheaper than a company that's

out to make money. Why 'usually?' If they have to make profits and we don't, why can't we beat 'em every time?"

"Son, it costs more to serve the country. On the average, our members are about a quarter of a mile apart. Each house or farmstead takes a separate transformer, and they cost a lot of money. And maybe a farmstead will have some grain bins down the road a ways, and they'll need a transformer, too. In town you may see six or seven service drops going from one transformer to different houses. A street a quarter of a mile long may have 20 houses on it, so they can serve 20 customers with a quarter-mile of line and three or four transformers. We serve one member with the same amount of line and one or two transformers. In rough country sometimes."

He glanced skyward, noting a cloud buildup, and felt a hint of a breeze. "Might rain," he said. "If you say each family spends \$75 a month on electricity, you can see that we get \$75 from a quarter-mile of line, while a utility in town might get 20 times that much. That's hard to beat. And in Illinois, cooperatives aren't allowed to serve town bigger than 1,400 population, except in special cases. And there area a lot of industries in the bigger towns and cities and some of them run day and night. That means the power companies can make better use of their power plants by keeping them running more. That's called having a good load factor, and it really helps."

They listened attentively for a few minutes to the muted, distant thunder. "It'll be pure luck if we don't get rained on," the dad said. "If we don't get a good bite soon, we'll be eating lunch out of the picnic basket instead of frying it fresh from the river."

"Dad, how come electric co-ops can serve one area and a power company half a mile away can have better rates?"

"Son, one reason is that IOUs have large city loads that are easy to serve. Some of them charge their city custo-

mers a little more than the actual cost of service plus profits, and charge their rural customers a little less.

"It helps keep rural rates down, and there are so many people in the cities that it's hardly noticeable. And as I said, we don't have any city loads, so we can't do that. Townspeople are kind of subsidizing rural customers, I guess you could say."

"It's gonna rain, Pop. Speaking of subsidies, what about them? One of the guys who booed said something about 'subsidy-hungry co-ops'."

"Well, son, it's true the electric cooperatives were set up with government loans. They've paid those loans back and the money has gone into a 'revolving fund,' so other cooperatives could borrow it. They pay interest, and very seldom get an entire loan from REA except in case of a real disaster, like a storm of some kind. And that two percent money the government loaned years ago is gone now."

They watched tiny drops hit the water, leaving little ringlets that disappeared as quickly as they'd formed.

"We don't have anything to be ashamed about when people talk about subsidies, son, because the IOU's are subsidized more heavily than we are. Not necessarily in direct appropriations, where the government gives them money, but in other ways. The Internal Revenue Service permits them to fast-depreciate some of their equipment, so they can save on taxes, and some of those 'utility taxes' they collect never get to the federal government, either. They're 'forgiven,' which means they don't have to be paid. That's a form of subsidy you don't hear about very often.

"Instead of being ashamed of our subsidies, we should be proud of how much we get done with the money we do get. The rural electrification program has been one of the most productive government programs in history. And that's no fish story, like the one we're going to tell your mother when we get home."

Kitchen energy savers

Make two batches of your favorite recipes. Serve one the same day and freeze or store the other for later use.

Avoid cooking foods that are solidly frozen. Let them thaw in the refrigerator first.

Always wash full loads in automatic dishwashers.

Divide a skillet with foil inserts when warming up several small quantities of leftovers. Only one burner will be used and fewer pots need washing.

Turn off lights, radios, and other appliances when leaving the room for any length of time.

Use cold water when rinsing your hands. Most hand soaps will work well with cold water. Also, do as much household cleaning as possible, including rinsing dishes, with cold water.

Repair leaky faucets promptly. One drop a second can waste as much as 60 gallons of water in a week. If it's hot water, you're paying to heat it, and then it goes down the drain.

The profit is all yours

A lot of people *sell* service. Automobile and appliance manufacturers, insurance companies, hotels, banks . . . they all promote their services because they want your business. Which means, naturally, that they want to make a profit.

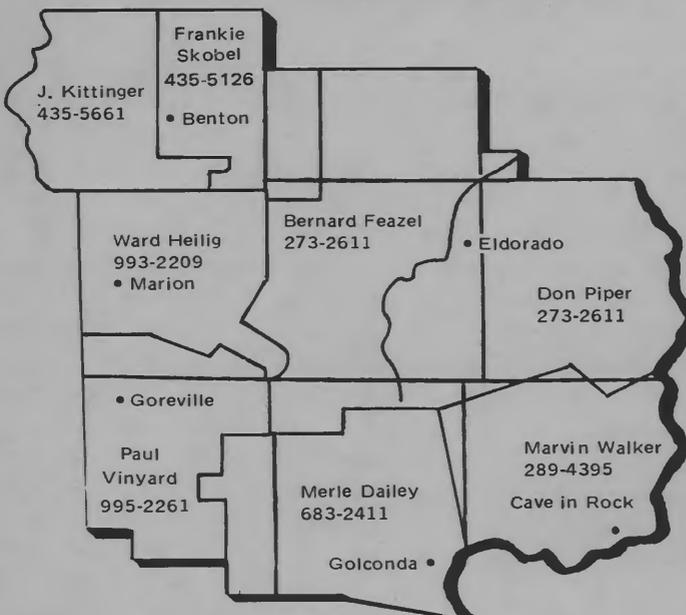
But when your member-owned electric cooperative talks service, we're talking about a completely different sense of the term . . . because we're *nonprofit*. And that means that we aren't seeking your patronage in order to keep some stockholder in Rhode Island or California happy about increased dividends. We provide the reliable, efficient service we do because we're committed to the well-being and success of our members. That's why we were founded nearly 50 years ago and that's why we exist today.

So, when our construction crews build a few miles of transmission line, it means we're interested in improving your service reliability . . . not in increasing future profits. And when our member services representative offers advice on insulation, heating or wiring, he's interested in helping you use energy efficiently and safely . . . not in earning a sales commission.

Everything your member-owned electric cooperative does is meant to ensure you of a reliable supply of high-quality, affordably priced electricity. Providing for your well-being is our primary goal. And the profit in that is all yours.



Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.

the **SOUTHEASTERN** LIGHT

37



Southeastern Ill. Electric Co-op

Eldorado, Ill.

Attend your Annual Meeting

AUGUST 7, 1984

Southeastern Illinois College

Registration - 6-7 p.m.

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the Southeastern Illinois College, Illinois Route 13, east of Harrisburg or south of Eldorado on College Drive on August 7, 1984; that the period of registration for said members will be from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. business meeting of said members will convene at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of taking action upon the reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees of said Cooperative:

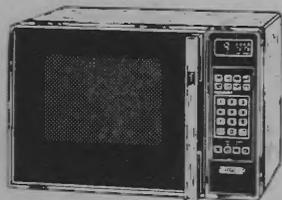
for the election of three (3) Trustees for a term of three (3) years each and for such matters as may be properly considered at such meeting.

The number of Trustees to be elected at the 1984 Annual Meeting is three (3) and that in the election of three (3) Trustees, one each is to be elected from Franklin County, Hardin County, and Williamson County.

Annual Meeting

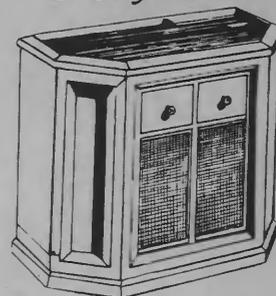
PRIZES

- 2 Grand Prizes:**
- microwave oven
 - color TV



***Awarded by Drawing
from
Member Registration***

**2 Humidifiers and
Many More**



To Be Eligible for Prizes You Must Be Registered and Present at Drawing

Be Sure to Register!

Spivey retirement will 18-year career as SEIEC board

Orrie Spivey, a retired Elizabethtown farmer, will retire from the board of directors of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative at SEIEC's 1984 annual meeting Aug. 7. His departure will cap 18 years of service, begun when Spivey was chosen to fill out the unexpired term of Escol Oxford of Cave-in-Rock, who died while in office.

Spivey was appointed in March 1966, and elected the following August. He was only the third person to represent Hardin County on the

board. He was vice president of the board of directors in 1970 and went on to the presidency in 1971.

"I'm getting on in years," the 80-year-old civic leader said in explaining his decision to retire, "and my wife's health is a factor, too. And, I've had a lot of good years on the board and it's time for somebody younger to have an opportunity."

During those "good years" on the board, Spivey served it well, and saw a gradual but steady improvement in the quality of electric service in the 10-

county area served by the cooperative, and membership has increased fairly steadily, too.

"We're in what they call a depressed area," he says matter-of-factly, "but we've been able to show at least a small increase in the number of members every year.

"We're paying our way out of debt, too," he says, adding, "we'd have been clear now, but we had to replace a lot of the lines as they got older, and heavy up some others."

Southern Illinois Power Co-operative, the Marion generation and transmission cooperative that provides electricity to SEIEC and two neighboring distribution cooperatives, has a board of directors much like Southeastern's. For 13 years, beginning in 1971, Spivey represented SEIEC on that board.

The first three generating units at the Lake of Egypt plant were on line and running when he was tapped for the board, but he was heavily involved in negotiations for the construction of the fourth unit, which generates more electricity than all three of the early units.

"The original plant cost \$25 million," he says, "and the new one cost \$83 million. We didn't like that, but it looked like it was time to increase our capacity. Electricity costs went up fast after that and people started conserving, so kilowatt-hour sales slowed down a lot, but the plant was still a good investment. We got it built just before costs really started to climb."

For a while when energy sources were hard to come by, he says, coal prices were increasing and suppliers had a "take it or leave it" attitude. It was a seller's market.

"We had to sign some cost-plus contracts to get any coal," he says, "but we had to have it. None of us liked it, but we signed. Southern Illinois Power is getting away from



Orrie Spivey, who will retire at the next annual meeting, reminisces about some of the changes that have taken place during his 18 years as a member of the board of directors of the cooperative, and during the 13 years he served as a director of Southern Illinois Power Co-operative, the generation and transmission cooperative that provides electricity to SEIEC and two neighboring distribution cooperatives.

Member

those contracts now, and that's good."

The retiring director praised the management of the power cooperative for prudent fiscal practices, and had some kind words for the employees, too.

"I like the way they're running the plant," he says, "because they're working hard to pay off their indebtedness and to sell more electricity to make the best use of the plant. Both the generation and distribution co-ops have good, dedicated workers, and both are working to gain more loads than they lose. If you can do that, at least you're working in the right direction."

Looking down the road, Spivey sees a future less dependent on fossil fuels, and believes that for this area at least, the Ohio and Mississippi rivers will offer some help. "It's true that you can't build big tall dams here, but there's a lot of pressure where the water is confined, and there's an awful lot of it. I think someday they'll build small generating plants on the navigation dams they have now.

"Solar's not very good here," he says thoughtfully, "because it gets too cloudy too often. Out west it's great, and they have a lot of sun. Here, it's no good, but we have a lot of running water. I think we can make it help us."

Spivey, like most civic leaders, was active in many organizations besides electric cooperatives over the years. He was active for many years in the Hardin County Farm Bureau, serving as secretary, vice president and finally president of the county organization, and spent a total of 30 years on the local ASCS board.

"I have been glad to give of my time and ability in representing SEIEC and SIPC as a trustee," he says, "and the per diem I received is incidental. I wouldn't take anything for the good friends I've made and the many memories I have."



Top photo, Mr. Spivey displays a plaque presented to him by fellow members of the Southern Illinois Power Co-operative board. Above, he ponders a point during a discussion of cooperative progress.

Members attending meeting will receive certificate good for \$10 credit on bill

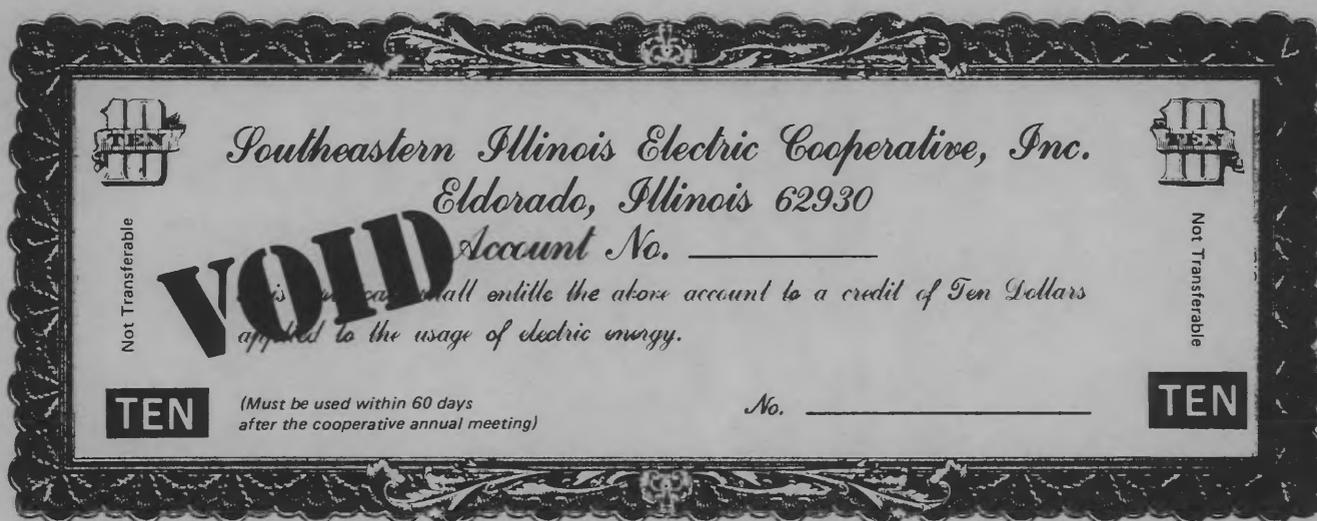
All members attending this year's annual meeting will be presented with a certificate good for a credit of \$10 that can be applied to the member's electric energy assessment.

Every registered member will receive a certificate and that certificate must be used within 60 days of the annual meeting date.

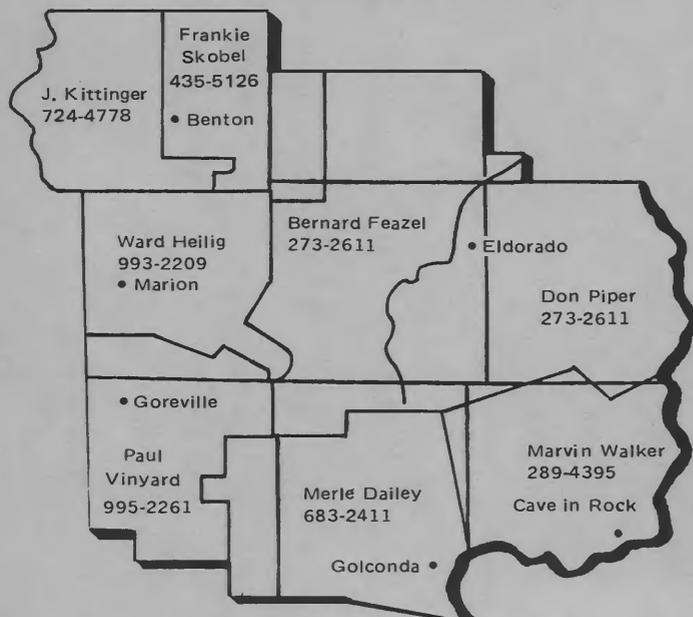
It is hoped that this \$10 certificate will help members offset their expense in attending their cooperative's annual meeting. It is estimated that the cost to the cooperative for the certificates will be no greater than expenses incurred at previous meetings and that the full benefits will go to those members eligible to vote who take

sufficient interest in their cooperative to attend the annual meeting.

Besides the certificate, other prizes will be awarded during the meeting, including two grand prizes for lucky members who attend the meeting and are eligible to participate in the drawings.



Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.



Southeastern Ill. Electric Co-op **Eldorado, Ill.**

Official notice of 1984 annual meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That the Annual Meeting of the Members of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., will be held at the Southeastern Illinois College, Illinois Route 13, East of Harrisburg or South of Eldorado on College Drive, on August 7, 1984; that the period of registration for said Members will be from 6 P.M. until 7 P.M.; business meeting of said Members will convene at 7 P.M. for the purpose of taking action upon the reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees of said Cooperative; for the election of three (3) Trustees for a term of three (3) years each, and for such matters as may be properly considered at such meeting.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED That the number of Trustees to be elected at the 1984 Annual Meeting is three (3) and that in the election of three (3) Trustees, one each is to be elected from Williamson County, Franklin County, and Hardin County.

Report of nominating committee

As provided by the bylaws of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc., a Nominating Committee, consisting of the following Cooperative members:

Franklin County
Robert Barancher
Carroll Pearce
Gallatin County
Earl Ray Edwards
Hardin County
Bernard Hurford
Esdon Jerrells
Williamson County
Eugene Cobb
Eugene Roper

met at the office of the Cooperative on June 11, 1984, at the hour of 10:00 A.M. for the purpose of nominating three (3) candidates for three-year terms as Trustees of

SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

The undersigned presided as Secretary of the meeting.
The following candidates were nominated:

Bill Cadle, Williamson County
Robert Tiberend, Franklin County
Neil Soward, Hardin County

DATED at Eldorado, Illinois this 11th day of June, 1984.

Earl Ray Edwards
Secretary of the Meeting

Attend your Annual Meeting August 7, 1984

**at
Southeastern
Illinois College**

Registration — 6-7 p.m.

- *Reports from manager and officers*
- *Election of officers*
- *Attendance prizes*
- *\$10 credit to members*

Earth-coupled water source heat pump offers year-round heating, cooling savings

When the subject of water source heat pumps comes up, it is necessary to distinguish between the ground water (open loop) and closed loop systems. Both are earth coupled, meaning they are in contact with the earth and thus capture the natural heat of the earth to heat your house. The difference is the loop itself and how this loop contacts the earth.

The open loop, or ground water system, uses water from your normal well. The loop in this case is the water from underground. The term "open" loop means the water is not the same water used over and over. In the open loop system, once heat from the water is removed, the water is discharged and not intended to be reused. Discharging generally means either dumping it to a basement drain or field tile or, if there is a chance of running out of water, it should be returned to a "return well" at least 100 feet from the supply well.

Groundwater vs. closed loop

Most of the open loop systems installed to date are returning the water to the aquifer. This discharged water is not harmed in any way. Only 10 degrees of heat has been removed.

Closed loop refers to a loop in a closed circuit, meaning the fluid is reused or recirculated again and again. The closed loop heat pump works much the same way as the open loop heat pump, taking out about 10 degrees of heat from the water with each pass. The difference in operation is the source of water. Although both systems can be described as "earth-coupled," the closed loop system relies entirely on the length of the loop that

is in contact with the earth to pick up the required heat. The loop or pipe and its length must be carefully sized to each particular house. A loop that is undersized will not provide the needed heat and a loop oversized will add to the cost of installation.

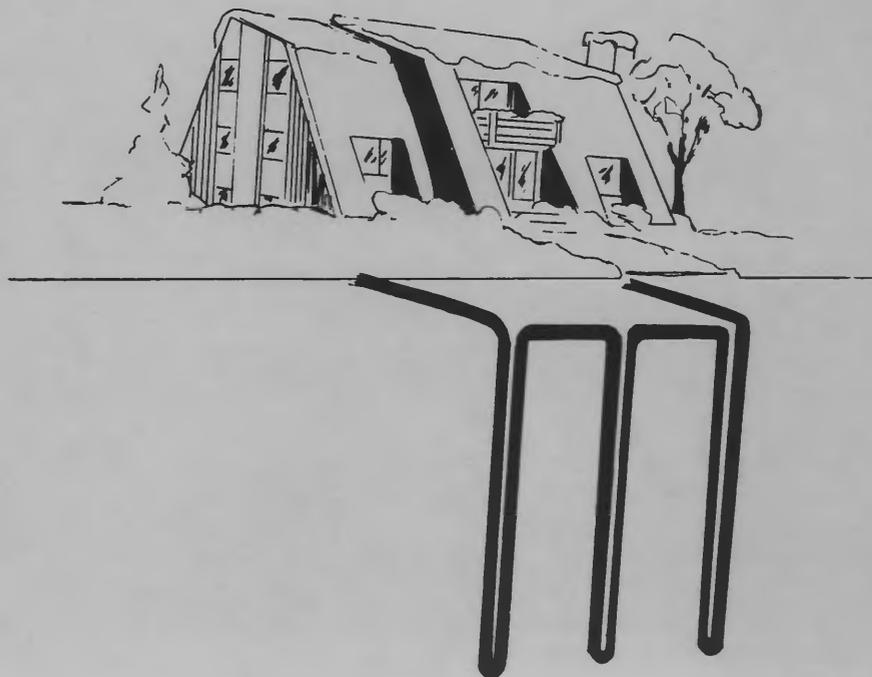
Even when the closed loop is sized properly, economics dictate that the loop length will not be long enough to keep the water temperature from dropping to the freezing point during the coldest weather, thus an anti-freeze solution must be included.

Not all water source heat pumps work on closed loops

Most water source heat pumps are designed to operate with water from a well that is generally at a constant temperature of around 54 degrees. To

protect the equipment in case of a water supply problem, these heat pumps will automatically shut down when the incoming water temperature is less than 40 degrees. There is a chance the heat exchanger could freeze up if incoming temperatures are much lower. Thus, installing an ordinary water source heat pump on a closed loop will not work.

In addition to the length of the pipe, the depth and the material the pipe is made of is important. Only two kinds of pipe are recommended. Polybutylene or polyethylene are recommended. Both are extremely tough and have an expected life of 50 years. In addition to their strength, the relative ease of heat transfer from the earth to the fluid is important. A pipe that acts as an insulator would cause the loop to need more length in order to pick up an equal amount of heat.



Horizontal vs. vertical loop

The closed loop can be installed in a horizontal or a vertical position. In a horizontal system, the pipe should be buried as far down as possible in order to be in contact with warmer soil. Generally it is best to be between four and six feet deep or more if economically possible. This is deeper than most trenchers will go, so a backhoe may be needed. In that case a depth of nine feet could easily be reached. Generally once you get down eight feet, there is not much seasonal change in soil temperatures. As a rule of thumb, around 450 feet of pipe will be needed for each ton of cooling, thus a lot of open ground would be needed. Anyone having open farm ground next to their house might find the horizontal system the cheapest to install.

Vertical loop

Although it varies from area to area, most closed loops in this area have been vertical loops. With a vertical loop, generally a five-inch hole is bored to around 150 feet deep. A loop of pipe is dropped into this hole. The number of bore holes is determined by the length of pipe needed. That in turn is determined by the size of the house and the heat pump. A rule of thumb calls for 175 feet of bore hole per ton of cooling needed. To keep the ground temperature from one bore hole from affecting another one, the holes are generally at least 10 feet apart.

Although not a well, these holes are generally drilled with well drilling equipment. Sometimes described as deep post holes, there are at least three advantages to a vertical system: less yard has to be torn up during installation; good where a limited area is available such as a city size lot or limited yard space; and most important is the reduced footage of pipe needed because the surface air temperature does not influence the earth temperature in the slightest.

This is probably more than you ever wanted to know about either closed or open loop. The important thing to remember is that both sys-

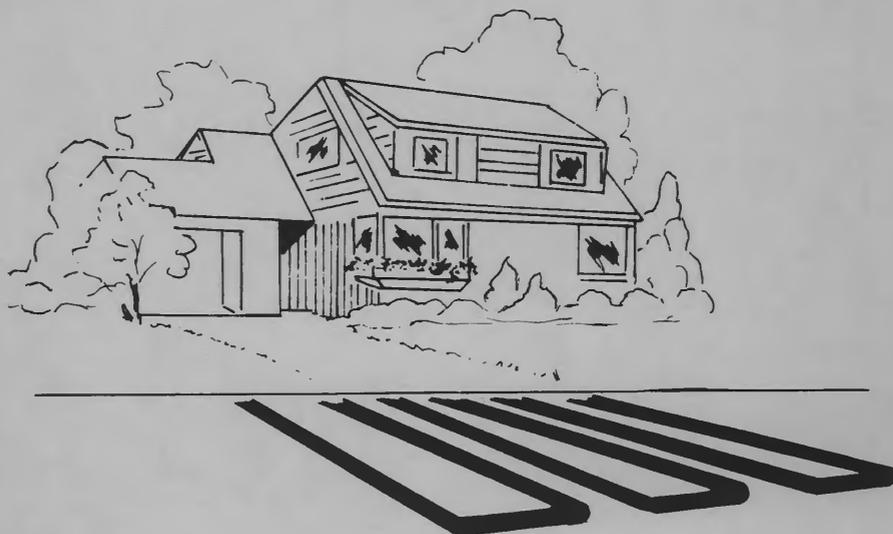
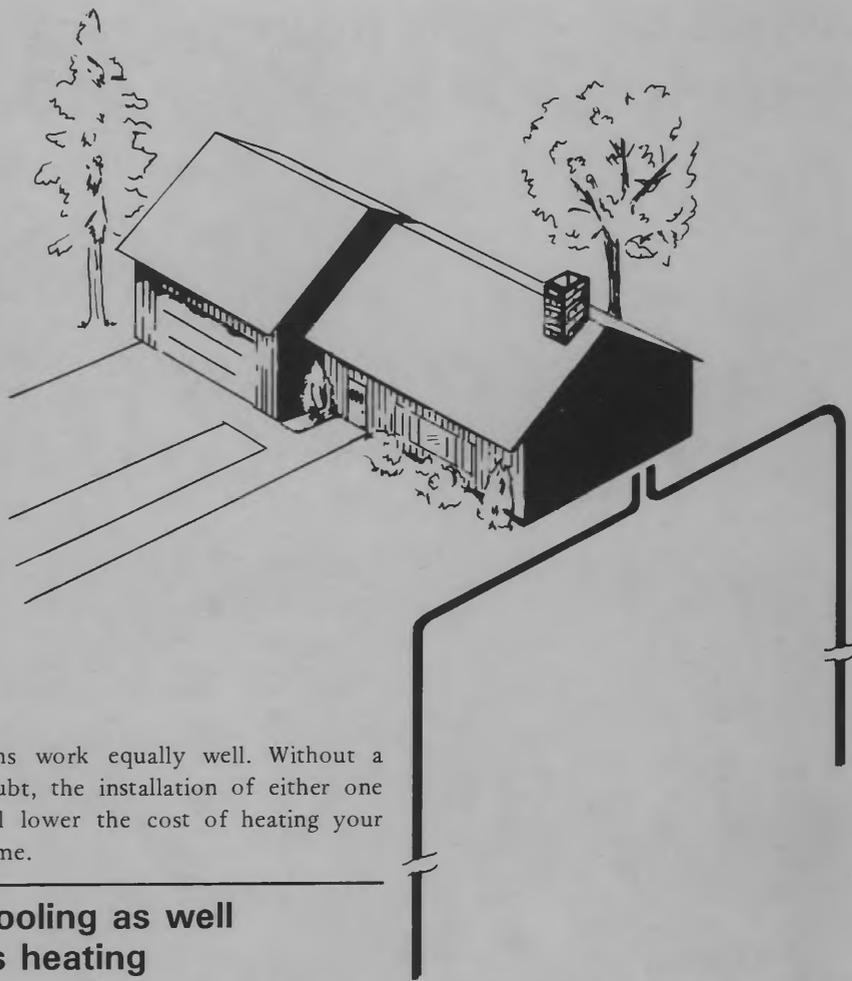
tems work equally well. Without a doubt, the installation of either one will lower the cost of heating your home.

Cooling as well as heating

Although the water source heat pump has been widely used in the far southern climates for many years, the water source heat pump is a much greater energy saver during the heating cycle than the cooling cycle. Most water source heat pumps have an EER rating of between 12 and 14. This is good but not all that much better than

some super-efficient air source air conditioners.

The greatest efficiency is in the heating cycle. The efficiency during the winter is nearly double the efficiency of the air source heat pump. The reason is that the earth's temperature is much warmer than the air, with the greatest difference occurring in the northern climates.



Members attending meeting will receive certificate good for \$10 credit on bill

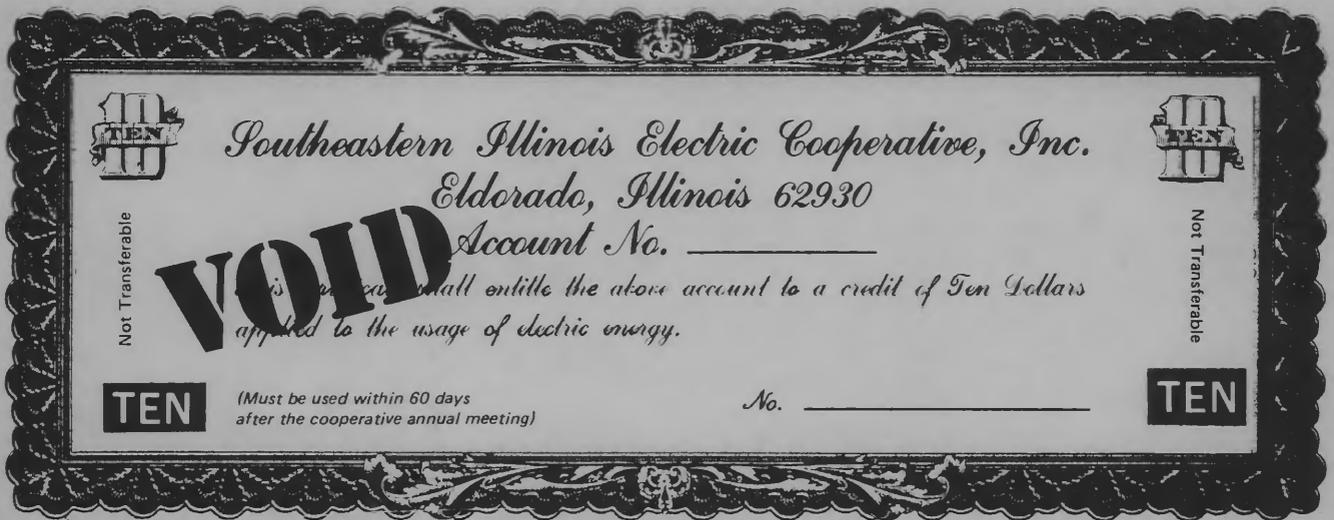
All members attending this year's annual meeting will be presented with a certificate good for a credit of \$10 that can be applied to the member's electric energy assessment.

Every registered member will receive a certificate and that certificate must be used within 60 days of the annual meeting date.

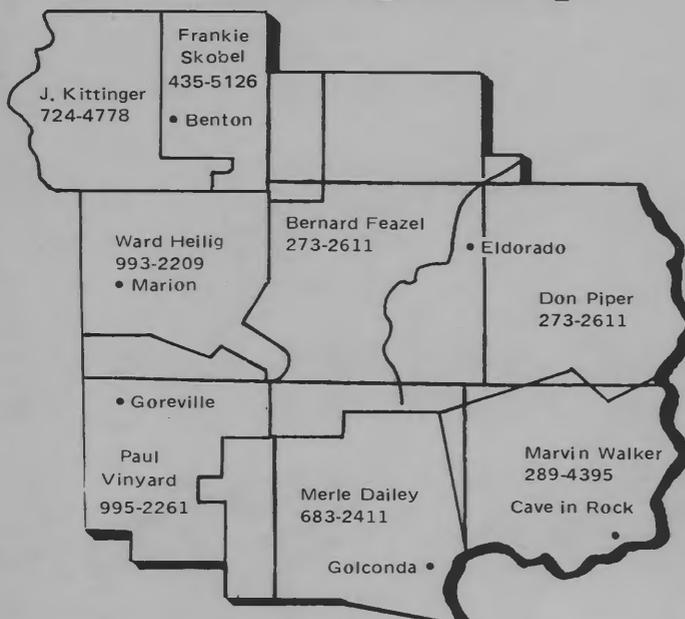
It is hoped that this \$10 certificate will help members offset their expense in attending their cooperative's annual meeting. It is estimated that the cost to the cooperative for the certificates will be no greater than expenses incurred at previous meetings and that the full benefits will go to those members eligible to vote who take

sufficient interest in their cooperative to attend the annual meeting.

Besides the certificate, other prizes will be awarded during the meeting, including two grand prizes for lucky members who attend the meeting and are eligible to participate in the drawings.

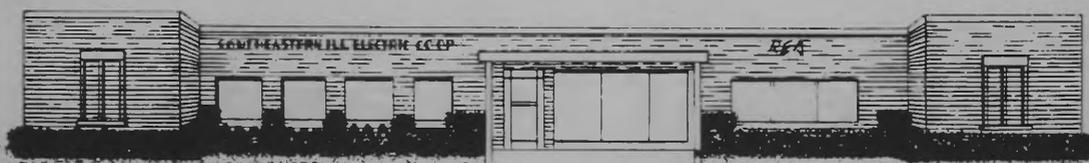


Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.



Southeastern Ill. Electric Co-op

Eldorado, Ill.

Scientific and Technical Information Project offered by Shawnee Library

Recently, a hospital lab technician in rural Southern Illinois received the latest information on glucose tolerance testing, a farmer was telephoned with the summer of 1983's "you-pick" blackberry prices, and a retail merchant picked up picture books with hundreds of examples of show window ideas in them. What did all three people have in common? They used the new services of the Scientific and Technical Information (STI) Project begun January 3, 1984, through their local library.

The STI Project is designed to help Southern Illinois farmers, businesspeople, and people starting new businesses find answers to questions about their work. Sponsored by local public libraries and the Shawnee Library System, the STI Project is a free, personalized, confidential information service.

To receive STI service a businessperson or farmer only needs to go as far as his nearest public library. The person states his or her question to the librarian. The librarian answers questions using local library books and magazines if possible, but if the question cannot be answered using local resources, the question is sent to the Shawnee Library System in Carterville. Mrs. Donna Leicht, who is librarian for the STI Project, uses all Shawnee Library System resources as well as those of ILLINET, the multi-type library network of Illinois, to find material quickly. She sends the books and materials to the public library by way of the Shawnee Library System delivery vans that give libraries in Southern Illinois delivery service several times a week.

A farmer or businessperson may ask for information in several different ways. He or she may need a piece of information like a statistic, a market price, a name, address, or telephone number. Perhaps the person has read a trade journal where a new book was mentioned. He or she could then bring the author and title of the book to the public library. The individual may have a general subject area he or she is interested in. For example, a small businessman may

be interested in weighing the pros and cons of buying a small business microcomputer. By going to his public library, he will be provided with books and magazine articles through the efforts of the public librarian and the Shawnee Library System.

To be specific about who qualifies for STI service, it serves all those adults who use or could use technical information or books or other literature in their work — businesspeople, including people with businesses in their homes; farmers — both part-time and full-time; professional people who have their own practices; people starting new businesses; and technicians, like electricians and plumbers.

People who use the STI service are given the chance to give feedback on the information they borrowed. People mark on a postcard how satisfied they are with the service. Also, they indicate if the librarian should call them concerning a need for different or more information. If an answer to a question can be given over the telephone, either the librarian or the project librarian will call the farmer or businessperson. These are some of the ways the librarians have of making the STI service quicker and more personalized.

In addition to providing an information service, the STI Project is an experiment. The experiment will try to find out how effective rural public libraries can be in giving Scientific and Technical Information to small business, farmers, and other technical and professional persons.

The STI Project is partially funded by LSCA Title 1 funds approved by the Illinois State Library. Because it is a demonstration project, non-residents who normally would pay for a non-resident library card can use public library service at no charge. The free service only extends to the end of the project period and is reserved for people's business or farm needs.

Farmers and businesspeople are encouraged to try out the new STI service at the public library. For more information, contact your local public librarian.



Congregation razes school, raises new tabernacle



It is not at all uncommon to see an old, no-longer-used school building turned into a church. Often, a congregation will obtain a building, attach a sign and a cross, and move in.

The Gospel Mission Tabernacle at Golconda was converted from an old school building too, but the process was much more complex than a few cosmetic changes. The church received the building on the condition that they raze and relocate it, according to Billy E. Green, pastor.

Years ago, the structure was a high school, then it was given over to the younger grades when the new high school was built west of town on Route 146. Not long ago, a new elementary school went up across the road, and the old structure in town stood vacant. The land it was on was needed for a senior citizens center, and the building, or what could be salvaged from it, was needed by the Gospel Mission Tabernacle.

The church had long since outgrown its small storefront building downtown, and was ready to build. A member had five acres of land he agreed to donate, and willing and able hands were ready to work. The church put up a \$500 performance bond to ensure that the demolition job would be completed as promised, and members rolled up their sleeves and pitched in.

That was in 1980. In October, 1983, the congregation was able to move into the new 9,300 square foot building, and the last brick was re-laid on November 26.

Congregation members did a lot of work in the time between the agreement to tear down the old schoolhouse and the move into the new building, and community members were helpful too, Rev. Green says. "It was really a phenomenal feat," he says of his flock's accomplishment.

A native of Golconda, Rev. Green worked for several years in construction and carpentry, and spent eight years

working for a paint company in Chicago. Those experiences, and the varied skills of other members of the congregation, were to prove useful in the job of changing an old schoolhouse in town into a house of worship a couple of miles away.

"A couple of our members are engineers and were able to draw up the plans for the building," Rev. Green says, "and others are equipment operators. Essentially, we had about all the skills we needed to get the job done, except that we did contract out the bricklaying."

Much of the work, though, involved plain manual labor, and that was willingly given too. The church young people tore into the old bricks that were hauled in, cleaning them carefully for the new structure. Bricks that couldn't be salvaged were used for fill in the parking lot, and those not needed for the building were put on the market. "We've sold about 90,000 bricks," Rev. Green says, "and plowed the money back into the building fund. We have between 20 and 30,000 bricks cleaned and ready to sell. We also have some I-beams that we couldn't use. There is quite a bit of material, but we haven't done a detailed inventory yet."

Much of the lumber, such as the oak flooring in the school, was not needed in the new building, and was sold to help finance construction. A lot of the wood consisted of 2 x 12s, and most of the called-for materials were 2 x 4s. The solution was simple if somewhat labor-intensive — members simply sawed the larger lumber to the size needed.

There was a lot of community support, Rev. Green notes, and some of the work was performed by equipment borrowed for short periods of time from the city, and a local lumber company was very helpful, too. A local excavation company lent the congregation four pieces of equipment to prepare the land and threw in two days of operator labor, too. After that, members of the congregation ran the machinery.

"A contractor was up near town working on a road project right at the time we needed a good-sized hoist to get the I-beams out of the old school," Rev. Green says, "and they came down and did that job for us. It was a big help and we really appreciated it. The help we had speaks well of the community."

Surprisingly, not all the support came from the community. "Total strangers would go by, see all the activity and stop," he says, "and they'd ask us what we were doing. When we told them, many would give us a donation right there. These weren't local people, but people from all over Illinois and from a lot of other states too. It was very gratifying."

The church is not finished yet, and the dedication ceremony is yet to come, but with the willing support he has had so far, Rev. Green will have a new/old church with all the comforts of home.



Clockwise from above: Pastor Green in his new office. Reclaimed lumber was used extensively. The new building is virtually complete outside, except for pillars that are in transit. The sanctuary is much more spacious than the one in the old storefront building downtown.

Electricity doesn't take a vacation

It is a misconception by too many people, that when they leave on a vacation, their electric meter stops until they return. If they are on vacation for two weeks they expect their electric bill to reduce to one-half of their normal monthly 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 your vacation? Remember, if the electric water heater is left energized during vacation, it will continue to operate, and maintain the tank temperature even if you are not using any hot water.

2. Was the refrigerator emptied and turned off? If not it will continue to operate to maintain the pre-set temperature.

3. Was the freezer also emptied and turned off? Unless it is practical to do so the freezer should be left energized.

4. Other electrical appliances that keep running while you are on vacation are: clocks, remote television sets, and automatic lighting.

If you are determined that no electricity is to be used during your vacation, you can accomplish this by turning off your main breaker or fuse box. Remember, when you do this the

automatic appliances and lighting will stop. Your refrigerator and freezer will defrost, your electric water heater will not have hot water ready for use upon your return. It's a decision only you can make.

We suggest that should you decide to leave your electricity on, to consider the following tips:

1. Unplug all appliances not in use.
2. The water heater should be turned off at the breaker or fuse box.
3. If a light is to be left on it should be connected to a timer.

Determining the cost of operation

Determining the operating cost of electrical appliances is simple, if you understand some electrical terms and a few simple factors.

First of all, the basic terms:

A watt is a measurement of electricity. Appliances, light bulbs and most electrical equipment are usually labeled with the amount of watts they use. A kilowatt is 1,000 watts. A kilowatt-hour (kwh) is 1,000 watts used for one hour. For instance, a 100-watt bulb used 10 hours equals one kwh.

The factors that must be known are: (1) the wattage of the appliance; (2) the number of hours it operates; and (3) your cost of electricity.

4. If you intend to be gone for an extended period of time come into our office and make arrangements so your electrical service will remain uninterrupted.

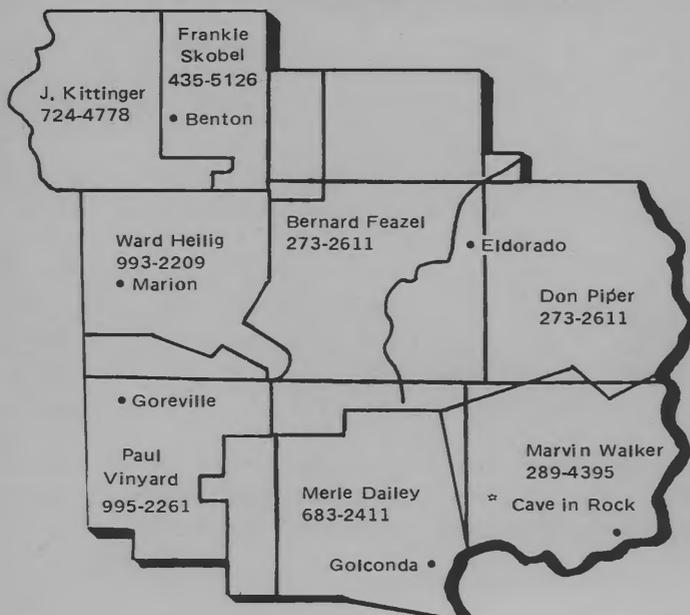
5. Read your meter upon leaving and again upon your return. This will let you determine the number of kilowatt-hours used during the period of time you were gone.

Another reminder is that many vacationers bring home several days or weeks of dirty laundry. This laundry will give your electric water heater a work-out during your first day or two at home.

The wattage of appliances or equipment varies. Usually this figure can be found on the serial plate or wherever pertinent information is given. Sometimes the electrical requirements of an appliance may be expressed in volts and amperes, rather than watts. If so, multiply the number of volts times the number of amperes (120 volts x 4 amp. equals 480 watts).

Once you know the wattage, multiply this by the number of hours the appliance is on and divide by 1,000. Then take the cost of a kwh of electricity from your monthly bill, and multiply this by the result of the above formula.

Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.

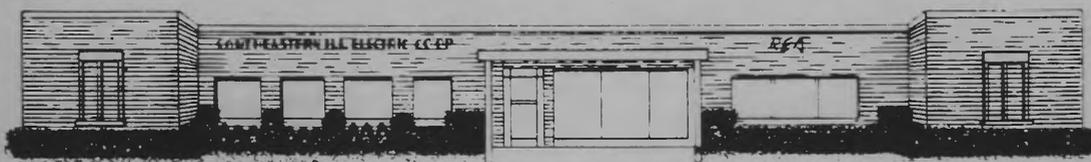
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.

3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.

4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.

5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.

6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.



Southeastern III. Electric Co-op

Eldorado, Ill.

Bergland parries attacks

RE legislation awaits Senate vote

Legislation that would provide a secure source of financing for rural electric systems for the foreseeable future has cleared the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee and been reported out for consideration by the full Senate, but not without strong opposition from the Reagan Administration and strong attacks from a brigade of conservative, right-wing, anti-rural electrification critics.

The Senate Ag Committee reported the Rural Electric and Telephone Revolving Fund Self-Sufficiency Act out June 7 with only a single dissenting vote, and rural electric leaders from all over the country are concentrating their efforts on Senate leadership to ensure that the measure gets a vote before Congress recesses for the fall election campaigns.

The Ag Committee approval came after three sets of subcommittee hearings during which a parade of Administration witnesses and others opposed to the bill consumed most of the hearing time, leaving little for rural electric spokesmen, who nonetheless carried the day with strong supportive statements for the legislation, which had passed the House of Representatives by an overwhelming 283-111 vote on March 1.

While the Senate Ag Committee was giving its blessing to the legislation, which is nearly identical to the House version, a concerted anti-rural electrification media campaign, spear-



Bob Bergland, executive vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, countered attacks on the rural electrification program and on legislation designed to keep the program strong with a spirited response to right-wing, conservative critics.

headed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and carried out through the writing and commentary of several conservative right-wing news commentators with connections to either the U.S. Chamber or the conservative Heritage Foundation, spurred the nation's top rural electric spokesman to issue a statement deploring the campaign.

Bob Bergland, executive vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization of the

nation's 1,000 rural electric systems serving more than 25 million people in 46 states, called a U.S. Chamber of Commerce campaign aimed at blocking full Senate consideration of rural electric financing legislation a "diservice to the merchants and industries of America's small towns."

Bergland warned that the U.S. Chamber had joined ranks with groups identified with the conservative right to back Reagan Administration efforts aimed at discrediting the rural electrification program.

The legislation, S. 1300, would allow interest rates on loans to Rural Electrification Administration (REA) borrowers to rise moderately to ensure the solvency of the Fund. Without this action, the Fund would go bankrupt sometime after the year 2000 because record inflation and high interest rates of recent years have put unexpected strains on the Revolving Fund. The legislation would also postpone indefinitely the repayment of \$7.9 billion from REA to the Treasury over a 24-year period beginning in 1993.

Bergland said that "the Administration, the U.S. Chamber, the Heritage Foundation and others in recent weeks have stepped up an anti-REA campaign calculated to keep the legislation off the Senate floor for full Senate consideration."

Richard L. Leshner, president of the U.S. Chamber, in at least two signed editorials circulated to newspapers

(Continued on page 14d)



At annual meeting

Spivey ends 18 years of service;



Neil Soward of Rosiclare was elected to the board of directors of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative at the annual meeting of members Tuesday, August 7, in Harrisburg. Soward, who will serve a three-year term, succeeds Orrie Spivey of Elizabethtown, who chose not to seek reelection.

Robert Patton of Elizabethtown and Lonnie Lewis of Cave-In-Rock were also candidates for the seat Spivey left vacant.

Spivey's retirement from the board ends 18 years of service to SEIEC. He was appointed to fill a board vacancy in March 1966 and was elected to his first term the following August. He was elected vice president in 1970 and president in 1971. From 1971 until this year Spivey also represented Southeastern on the board of Southern Illinois Power Co-operative, the Marion generation and transmission cooperative that provides power to Southeastern and two neighboring cooperatives.

Members also reelected directors Bill Cadle of Marion and Robert Tiberend of Benton during the business session. Cadle has served as director since December 1964. Tiberend was elected to the board in August 1972.

In his report to members, President Victor Knight of McLeansboro

explained that density is the major reason rural Americans pay, on the average, 12 percent more for electricity than their urban neighbors. Rural electric systems, which average 4.7 consumers per of line compared to 35.8 consumers per mile for investor-owned utilities, must invest more capital per consumer to provide service to rural areas, he reported.

Southeastern is working to hold costs down in the face of rising construction costs and high interest rates and fuel costs, Knight reported. He cited the cooperative's extensive cost-control procedures and favorable coal contracts for SIPC's Lake of Egypt generating units as two areas of accomplishment.

Acting manager R. T. Reeves of Dongola introduced to the members Southeastern's new manager, Walter V. Truitt Jr., who assumed his duties earlier this month. Truitt was recently selected by the board to succeed the late Roger C. Lentz, who died on April 5, 1984. Reeves, retired manager of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, has been acting manager since March.

Truitt, presently owner and manager of Fiberglas Products, Inc. of Tampa, Fla., began his career in rural electrification in 1973 as general manager of the Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Panama City, Fla. He

later worked as senior management consultant in the Management Services Department of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, as executive director of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Corporation, Groton, Conn., and as general manager of the Chugach Electric Association in Anchorage, Alaska.

Truitt has a bachelor of arts degree in industrial management from the University of Florida, Gainesville, and a master's degree in business administration from the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Secretary-treasurer David Ramsey of Omaha reported to members that the cooperative's 1983 operating revenue and patronage capital total was \$22,624,376, an increase of about \$1.8 million over 1982. Southeastern's total operating expenses were nearly \$21.5 million, a \$1 million increase from 1982. Of that total, slightly more than \$15.7 million, or 68.5 cents of every revenue dollar, was used to purchase wholesale power.

The cooperative paid nearly \$235,000 in taxes and \$1.2 million in interest last year, Ramsey said.

Also during the meeting, Reeves presented service awards to a number of employees. Recognized were Journeyman Lineman Glendell Butterworth, 25 years; Forestry Foreman Edward Bayer, Utility Serviceman John L. Kittinger Jr., and Line Foreman Gilbert Oetjen, 2-years; Payroll Clerk Mary K. Thomas, 15 years; and Engineering Party Chief Jeffrey Hope, Forestry Journeyman Steven Hudson, and Line Foreman Terry Moore, 10 years.

Soward elected to board



Opposite page, top, Orrie Spivey, who retired after serving 18 years on the SEIEC board, gives his farewell address to the membership. From left, members register for the meeting. Walter V. Truitt, Jr., who was chosen to replace the late Roger Lentz as manager of the cooperative, speaks. Balloting during the three-way election to replace Spivey. The Thomas T. Ibatas won one of the grand prizes, a microwave oven.

S. 1300

(Continued from page 14a)

throughout the country, claimed that the job of rural electrification is over, and has repeated Administration arguments against the legislation. Richard W. Rahn, the U.S. Chamber's chief economist, in a radio commentary entitled, "Economic Outlook Report," attacked both the legislation and the REA program. The commentary was distributed through Radio America, a distribution service funded by the conservative American Studies Center. Rahn was not identified in the commentary as an official of the U.S. Chamber.

Bergland was critical of the accuracy and motivation of critics of S. 1300. "I think the purpose of the Chamber of Commerce, the Administration and other critics has very little to do with the legislation they are opposing. I believe the unusually vitriolic campaign grows out of the Heritage Foundation's blueprint handed the Administration on the eve of President Reagan's inauguration which has been adopted by the Administration as its own," Bergland said.

The Heritage Foundation report claimed that REA had completed its mission, and concluded that "it is time for . . . borrowers to turn to the pri-

vate market for their finance." Bergland characterized the paper as "not an objective study, but a propaganda attack to support a preconceived notion that America doesn't need REA."

Bergland noted that the Administration has for four years attempted unsuccessfully to drastically cut the REA program and ultimately proposed legislation that would dismantle the rural electrification program despite a promise in 1980 from then-candidate Ronald Reagan that no changes would be made in the REA program without first consulting rural electric leaders. No consultation took place before the attacks on our program began.

Creating a 'comfort center' in your home

There is a way to reduce the amount of heating energy you use and still stay warm. You can do it by creating a "comfort center" in an area of

your home.

By closing off other rooms and by turning back your furnace thermostat, you can reduce your energy consumption dramatically. Then by adding an electric space heater to the "comfort center" you have selected, you can still be warm and comfortable — even in the coldest weather.

You will want as your "comfort center" a room or area of your house where most of your wintertime activities occur. Isolate that area from the rest of the house as much as possible.

For any outside walls, seal out the cold by insulating, weatherstripping and caulking, if you haven't already done so.

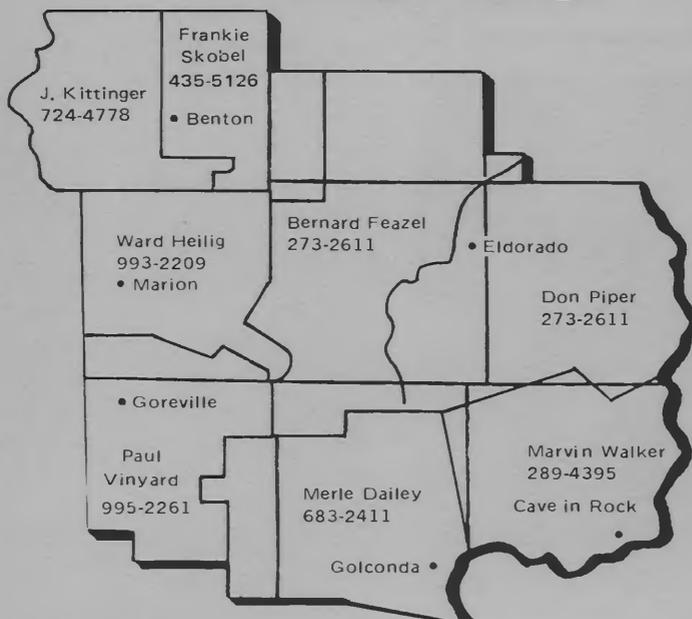
Electric space heaters are attractive, convenient and safe. They allow you to heat only the area you have selected as your "comfort center," so there's no wasted energy. Of course, you will want to be sure you have chosen the right model for your particular needs.

Now is still a good time to consider creating a "comfort center" and purchasing an electric space heater.



Where families concentrate their energies

Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.

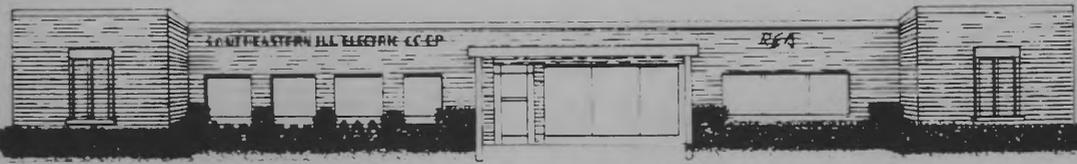
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.

3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.

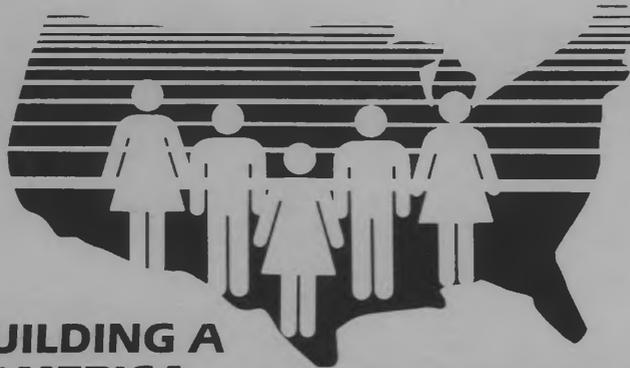
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.

5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.

6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.



Southeastern Ill. Electric Co-op
Eldorado, Ill.



**BUILDING A
BETTER AMERICA**

COOPERATIVES

When President Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address, he emphasized the word "people" in his famous line "Government of the people, by the people and for the people."

Today millions of people have put that idea to work providing all kinds of goods and services to meet the needs of people. These people are members of cooperatives. More than 60 million people rely on and use the services of the more than 40,000 cooperatives in existence in the United States today.

The cooperative way of conducting business has an impressive track record. The reason is simple — co-op's provide an efficient economical way of meeting common needs of people. October has been designated nationally as Co-op Month to recognize their contribution to providing a better way of life for Americans.

The first U.S. Cooperative was formed in 1752 to insure a group of Philadelphians against the loss of their homes by fire. Since then, cooperatives have been formed to provide practically every product or service

demanding by the people of the United States.

For example, rural electric cooperatives were formed to bring electricity to the rural areas when no one else would do it. Because there were so few members per mile of line, power companies said it was not feasible to provide electricity to rural areas. But rural people, cooperatively, literally lit up the countryside. They banded together and hired professionals to put up poles, string lines, hook up the farms and rural villages, and manage the service.

Cooperatives are found in urban, rural and suburban areas all over the country. Owned by the people they serve, they operate at cost — not for profit.

Whether large or small, rural or urban, cooperatives follow the same concept of member ownership and member participation in the decision making process. Members elect a board of directors from among themselves and adopt a set of bylaws.

The board of directors is responsible for setting policies to guide the operation of the cooperative, consist-

ent with the bylaws approved by the membership. The board of directors may hire a manager who is responsible for the day to day management of the cooperative. The manager is responsible to the board and the board is accountable to the membership. Each member has one vote on matters considered by the membership at their annual meetings.

In addition to providing products and services to their membership, cooperatives are also important to the communities they serve. Cooperatives provide jobs, pay taxes — real estate property taxes, sales and excise taxes, motor vehicle gasoline taxes and generally all other taxes paid by businesses and corporations.

Most cooperatives do not pay federal or state income taxes because they have no net profit.

Rural electric cooperatives are vital to rural areas, as they provide the basic link in the energy chain that produces agriculture goods, powers business and industry and insures a reliable supply of electricity for the rural area.

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative was formed in 1938. Its first 155 miles of line was energized to serve 300 member-owners in Saline County. Today, Southeastern serves 17,800 meters on 3,047 miles of electric distribution line in all or parts of Saline, Williamson, Franklin, Johnson, Massac, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and White counties. SEIEC has an annual payroll of \$2,488,831 and paid local, state and federal taxes of over \$2,121,302 in 1983.

Join us in observance of Cooperative Month. Come visit the Cooperative office and observe your Cooperative at work.

The Hydro-Ax does a good job in rough country.



This recently cleared line will be sprayed next year.



Southeastern Illinois is rough country, and SEIEC serves a lot of it. In fact, we have 3,047 miles of line in all or parts of 10 counties. Much of our line is in hilly, thinly populated areas where weeds grow faster than crops. This would not concern us a great deal, but trees — and brush — do not mix well with power lines, so we need to keep our lines as clean as possible in order to provide you with good,

reliable electric service.

According to Larry Mitchell, right-of-way control engineer, there are three really effective ways to keep a right-of-way clear. SEIEC uses them all, depending on various conditions.

“Our tree cutting crews go out with different kinds of saws,” he says, “and cut tree limbs back to where they’re not a threat to our lines. The spray crews use chemicals to kill off weeds

and shrubs, and we contract for the use of a Hydro-Ax that cuts out trees and heavy brush.

“Our tree trimming crews will cut trees for members if the member thinks the tree may become a problem in the future,” Larry says, “and we’re glad to do it, because many of the trees are close enough to our lines that we can imagine having to clean them up after a major storm, when we have

Keeping lines clear



Good, clean rights-of-way make for fewer outages.



far more work than we can possibly handle. We'd rather to do it on a planned basis, when we're not rushed and in daylight, during good weather."

Several large trees, especially oaks, have died off recently, and cooperative crews have had many requests to cut them for members who are not equipped to cut such large trees, and who may not be able to keep such a giant from falling into nearby lines, even if they could get a chain saw that would do the job in the first place.

"In a case like that," Larry says, "we wait until we've had several requests in one area, and we'll go in and take care of all the jobs. That way, we don't spend a lot of time driving all over. There's no charge to the member for the service, because we think it benefits us to get those big dead trees away from our lines."

Spraying is a good method of control, he notes, especially about a year after brush clearing, when shrubs are not up too high and leaves are not dense enough to prevent a good penetration of the spray into the shrubbery. A disadvantage is that spraying cannot be done too close to farm crops, to prevent damage. "We used to spray by helicopter early in the morning and late in the evening, when the air is still," Mitchell says, "and it worked well. The only problem was that a lot of people got awfully irritated when the 'copter woke them up.

"Many people don't understand

why we try to keep the shrubs down," Larry says, "because there's no danger of them ever growing into the lines. But there are many, many places in our service area where we have to go down the right-of-way to get to a break in the line because there's no road. It's hard work and takes a lot of time, and time's something we don't have a lot of during a big outage."

In a storm situation, wires will sometimes get tangled in brush and small trees, and that hampers cleanup operations, too.

The Hydro-Ax is a \$120,000 machine that is derived from the same family as the rotary lawn mower and brush hogs that are so common on farms. The main difference is that it's bigger. A lot bigger. Each of its four tires is about 6 feet tall, and the cab and protective structure sticks up another 6 feet or so. It's a big machine, built to do a big job. It literally "mows down" vegetation in its way.

Even as big as the "Ax" is, it can't do everything, so it's accompanied by a man with a chain saw, who gets into small spaces where it can't, and saws down trees that are too big for the machine to cut efficiently.

Sprays, tree trimming crews and the Hydro-Ax are all used for one purpose: to keep electricity going out to members in all kinds of terrain as efficiently as possible — at the lowest possible cost.



Removing a hazardous tree.

Electric usage buyer's decision

When you plug in an electric appliance or flip a light switch, you are making a buyer's decision to purchase electricity. You may not be as conscious of your purchase as you would be if you were at a store, but, just the same, you're buying a commodity. And when your bill arrives and you see that you bought more than you intended, it's too late to do anything about it.

Part of the problem with higher-than-expected usage is that clean, efficient electricity is so convenient to use. It's become such a major part of modern life that we tend to forget the costs attached to the bundle of wonderful services that electricity provides. And that may cause you to use more electricity than is really needed.

The first step toward efficient energy use is to be aware of your usage habits. Every time you flip a light switch or plug in an appliance, ask yourself, "Is this the best buy for my energy dollar?" If electricity is helping you save hours of tedious labor, the answer is yes. If electricity is operating a television and lamp in an empty room, you're throwing money away.

Trees



Vehicle accidents



Wildlife



Weather



Of All the Reasons for Electrical Outages . . .



One Makes Absolutely No Sense At All

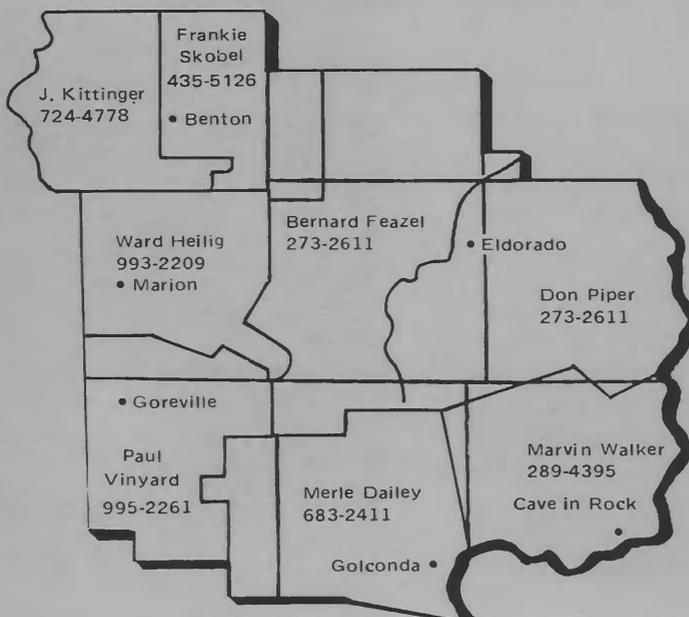
Shooting electric distribution lines and equipment is malicious destruction of property. Not sport. But vandalism, pure and simple.

What's worse, this reckless act not only destroys equipment and creates outages, but it endangers the lives of the culprits and others. Lines fastened around insulators shattered by bullets have been known to drop onto shooters, electrocuting them. And innocent people walking in the area of a downed line are also in danger of being seriously injured or killed.

Who pays for this vandalism? You do, maybe twice. Once as an electric cooperative member whose bill helps pay for the maintenance required to repair such damage. And twice if you were the victim of an outage caused by such a destructive act.

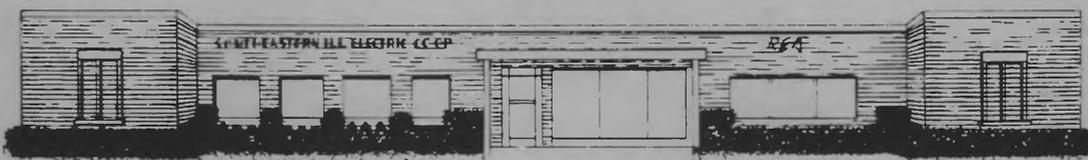
If you have young hunters in your family, stress to them that electrical equipment is not fair game. And if you see anyone shooting at electrical equipment, please contact your county sheriff and your electric cooperative immediately.

Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

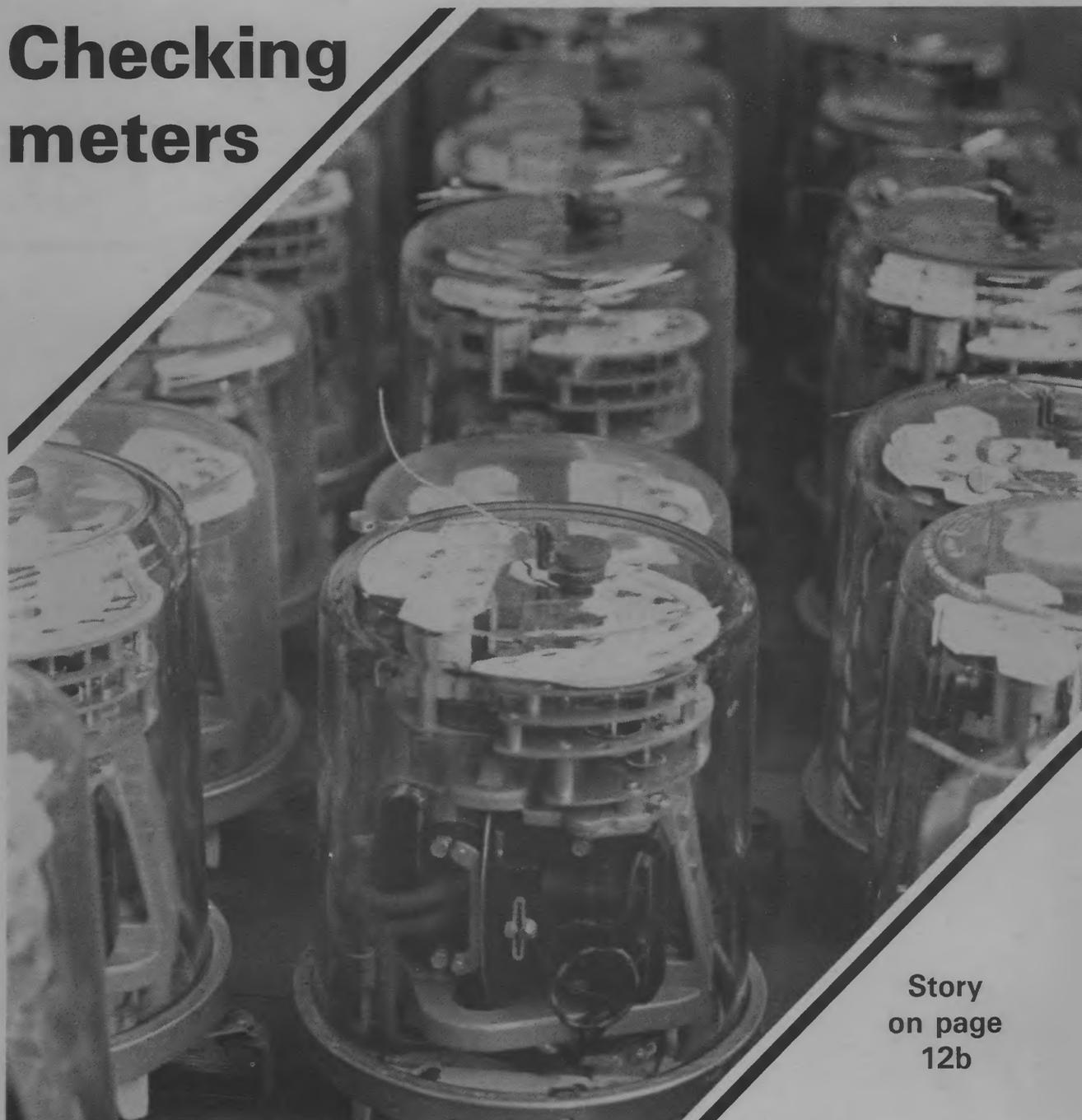
1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.



Southeastern III. Electric Co-op

Eldorado, Ill.

Checking meters



Story
on page
12b



Meter che

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative is in the middle of a system-wide meter reading program, and we're reading, testing and changing out meters like we never have before. And we're finding a surprising number of meters that have been misread or have broken seals, or have been tampered with.

SEIEC is a not-for-profit business, and has been since its founding in 1938. The reasoning behind the decision to be non-profit was that it would be impossible to make a profit serving such a sparsely populated area and still keep costs affordable. That was during the great depression, and investor-owned utilities, or IOU's, which were

Clockwise from bottom left: Philip G. Irvin, left, meter foreman, is pictured with David Stilley, center, and Greg Thomas, who make up the rest of the meter crew. A new calibration device. Stilley checks a meter with a portable tester. Carla Hankins is who you'll probably talk to if you have meter problems. Irvin at the meter testing rig. Thomas checks a rural meter.





ng designed to reduce losses

designed from the ground up primarily to sell electricity at a profit, were flocking away from the countryside in droves.

So, with a little federal help, cooperatives were set up, Southeastern among them. A combination of non-profit structure, donated right-of-way, federal assistance and the willingness to "work lean" helped us keep rates low. Our rates are still low, considering the rough and thinly populated countryside we serve and the government regulations we cope with.

While we are non-profit and happy about it, we cannot operate at a loss. We have to generate enough income to pay our power bill and pay interest on money we've borrowed. We also have to pay our employees and we must also maintain and improve our system so we can continue to provide you with good electric service. In addition, we must keep some money "in the kitty" in case a sudden storm damages a part of our system.

With that in mind, we are making it a point to read and inspect every meter on our system, according to Philip G. Irvin, meter foreman.

"We really didn't have any idea

how much revenue we were losing because of incorrect meter readings, slow meters and outright electricity theft," Irvin says, "and a couple of years ago we decided to check every fifteenth meter, just so we could see if we had a problem."

A later reading of all the electrically heated homes on the system pointed to a fairly serious problem. "The combined results of our sample readings convinced us that we should go ahead with a plan to read every meter we serve," Irvin says.

Of slightly more than 8,000 meters read since early December of last year, just 395 had readings that differed from those sent in by the member, and there were 523 cases where meter numbers were incorrect or duplicated. There were 1,152 meters that needed to be changed out for one reason or another, usually obsolescence.

"We have a lot of old four-digit meters in service," Irvin says, "and we're replacing them with five-digit meters as fast as we can. That'll make it easier for our members to get a correct reading."

Whatever the reason for the discrepancies in meter readings, your cooper-

ative had \$116,377 coming that it did not receive.

"While most of the errors are probably due to misreading of meters, and others due to meters that run slow," Irvin says, "we have found some cases of outright meter tampering, or deliberate, planned electricity theft."

While at least 95 percent of our members pay their electricity bills without complaining or attempting to shirk, there are a very few who try to cheat. Interestingly enough, Irvin says, many of those who tamper with their meters are people who could well afford to pay for their usage.

"A cooperative is owned by its members," he emphasizes, "and a person who steals electricity is not stealing from a wealthy big city investor. Since our revenues come from our members and there's no profit to take losses out of, the rest of the membership has to make up for the lost. A meter thief is stealing from his neighbors. It's as simple as that."

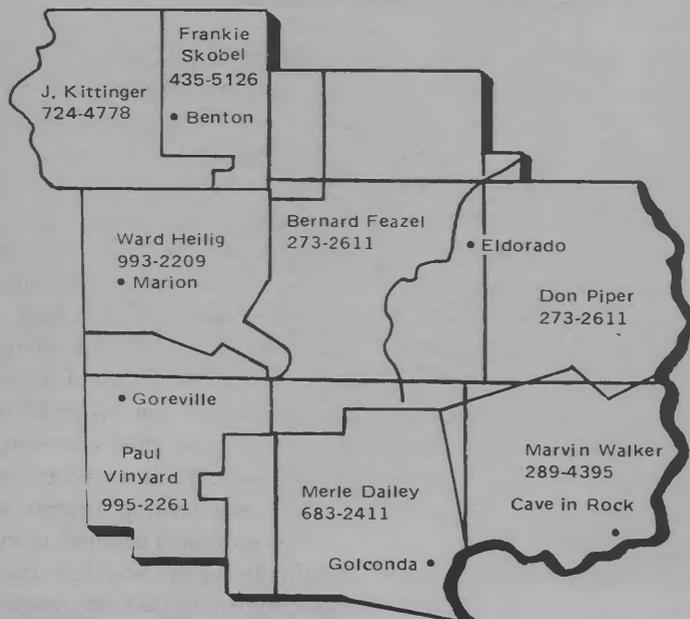
The meter reading program we are working on now is designed to make it less simple for the very few unscrupulous members to take advantage of the vast majority of honest ones.



Bucket trucks: efficiency, safety

Southeastern is a large cooperative, and our eight servicemen each have a lot of area to cover. In the old days, they all used "hooks" to climb poles to make repairs when needed, a time-consuming practice that carries with it a certain amount of danger. To save time and make the job safer, we have been replacing the old trucks they used with new bucket trucks, which use hydraulic power to do the difficult manual work. Here Bernard Feazel, who serves parts of five counties, is shown with his new truck. At present, seven of our eight servicemen now have bucket trucks.

Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.

2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.

3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.

4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.

5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.

6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.



Southeastern Ill. Electric Co-op

Eldorado, Ill.



General Manager's Comments

Walter V. Truitt, Jr.

It is an honor to serve as your General Manager!

I am honored that your Board selected me to be the new General Manager of Southeastern. I am mindful that I am succeeding Roger Lentz, a pioneer in this program and a man who gave thirty-five years of his life making Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative one of the best operated cooperatives in this area.

As I stated at the August Annual Meeting, I will endeavor to make Southeastern ever better, and I can assure you we will continue to provide quality electric service at the lowest possible cost.

As you know, I came to Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative with many years of experience, both in the electric cooperative field as a General Manager, and as Manager of a municipally owned G&T. My family and I made the decision to move to Southeastern because of the challenges afforded by this position and by the quality of life in this area.

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative is the largest cooperative in the State of Illinois and we are fortunate to be co-owners of our own G&T, Southern Illinois Power. To be a part of this Cooperative's future was an opportunity I could not resist.

Despite the severe economic problems which the industry has gone through, Southeastern has been able to maintain a competitive rate. The decisions we make now will determine the impact on your service in the future. I am confident this Cooperative has some of the most dedicated employees I have seen anywhere. Your Board is committed to the well being of the member-consumers and extremely diligent in the performance of its duties. I am honored to be associated with everyone here.

Together, we will continue your tradition of good service at competitive rates. I will add my experience and expertise to that professionalism already here, and there is no reason why we cannot do what will be required to keep this Cooperative a leader.

It is an honor for me, my wife, Charlotte, and our three sons, Kendall, Jeffrey, and Brian, to be a part of the Southeastern Illinois Electric family.

Walter V. Truitt, Jr.



The new equipment, except for the remote terminals, is all in this area.

New computer going on line

Your cooperative is switching over to a new computer system in an effort to keep long-term costs down. Our old computer, an IBM System 3 Model 12 punchcard system, has outlived its usefulness and we are replacing it with a NCR 8455, which stores all data on magnetic tape and disk packs.

At present, data is stored on punched cards and the data we have on file now fills about 125 file drawers. With the new system, all information on those cards can be stored on a reel of magnetic tape about a foot in diameter and an inch thick. This is one of the advantages of the system, since our need to store information was growing and we were running out of

places to store cards.

"We will have roughly seven times more on-line data storage capacity in the NCR than we had in the IBM," notes Allen Litherland, administrative assistant, and the new printer is twice as fast as the old one. The new machine also has 31 times the memory. It is designed for upward compatibility, which means it will be capable of meeting our data processing needs for years to come," he says. "This will provide more efficient, cost-effective means of data acquisition and storage."

Another advantage goes to you in the form of convenience. When you call or visit the office with a billing

problem, you won't have to wait as long, since the receptionists will be able to call up the information at a video display terminal at their desk. These terminals will be a major part of the new system. Instead of having to go to Data Processing to have an operator put information into the computer — or retrieve it — workers will be able to enter or retrieve data from their work stations.

In contrast to the old computer with capability of processing only one job at a time, the new computer, with capability of handling up to 36 jobs at a time and controlling 10 terminals, is indicative of the rapid technological changes in the data processing field.

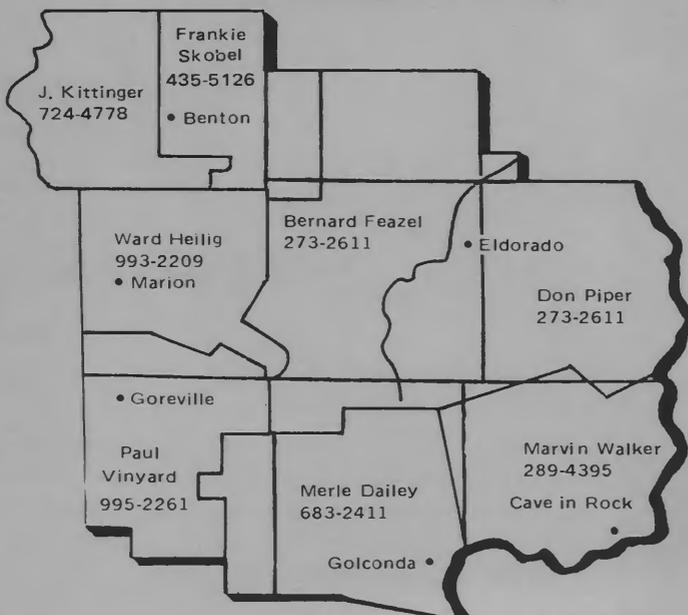


Clockwise from left: Wilma English feeds punch cards into the old machine. Carla Hankins enters data on a card. Cindy Hathaway is busy at the same chore. The reel of magnetic tape pictured here will hold as much data as all these filing cabinets. Sue Yates at a terminal.



*Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative
 extends holiday greetings
 and heartfelt wishes for your happiness,
 comfort and safety
 as we usher out the old year
 and anxiously await oncoming
 1985.*

Outage Map



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611. This number is monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.