

# Software: *be sure it does its intended job*

**F**inding the best software at the fair-est price is not an easy task even for veteran computer owners. A wrong choice can mean getting stuck with an expensive but worthless program.

There is no simple solution to this dilemma. But, at the minimum, a computer owner should have some hands-on experience before making a software purchase, says Linda Baskin, University of Illinois Extension computer specialist.

"The best way to evaluate a piece of software is to look at it and try it," she explains. "Before making a purchase, the buyer should know firsthand how easily a particular program carries out the task it is intended to be used for."

Even trying a program out at a store may not be entirely satisfactory because of limitations on the amount of time available for testing.

"In addition to spending time on the computer," she says, "it is also a good idea to get the opinions of people who have used the software over a period of time. Their advice can give you another perspective on what features are important for daily use."

Computer programs, known as software, may run an additional \$2,000-\$3,000. In addition, the owner needs several free hours a week to make adequate use of the system.

"If that's too much, either in terms of time or money," she emphasizes, "then perhaps you'd do well not to

buy a computer. Certainly not every farm or farmer needs such a system."

On the other hand, if a farm operator thinks that computers are part of the future and wants to get in on it now, he should consider buying a minimum business system and some electronic spreadsheet software.

Such spreadsheets provide the greatest immediate return because they are not difficult to learn and can be used to answer many of the what-if questions that typically arise in planning farm operations.

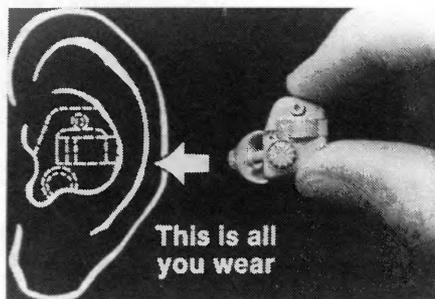
"That is probably in general the lowest cost and highest payoff approach," Steve Sonka says. "Certainly no one should worry that they lack the skills to become proficient with computers. What's important is defining a specific use and spending the time to become familiar with the system's capacities."



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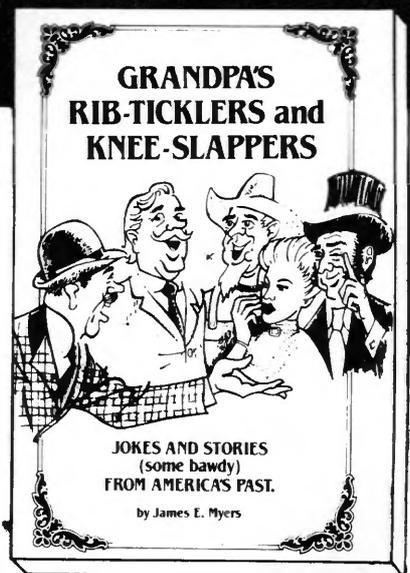
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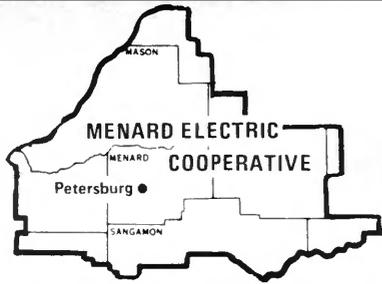
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# Menard Electric News

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

## Co-op Comments

Mr. and Mrs. Norman E. Fricke of Petersburg celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on Jan. 14. Jessie is the radio dispatcher for your Cooperative.

Evelyn P. McLaughlin completed 15 years of service with your Cooperative Jan. 1. Evelyn is secretary to the General Manager of your Cooperative.

Good News! Terry L. Cutright of Petersburg returned to work on Jan. 14. Terry suffered severe electrical burns on July 16, 1984, and has made remarkable recovery. We are sure all of the Cooperative members join us in our rejoicing as Terry returns to work.

A lot of people who wouldn't go

within 100 feet of a high voltage power line fearlessly play around with a 120-volt household current without giving a thought to whether it is dangerous or not. It is and it can give a deadly shock.

Cutting trees and allowing them to fall through power lines happens much too often and the usual remark given us is: "I didn't know the line was there." This is one of the most frequent causes of service outages.

Is there a space heater in your future? Consider the clean, safe, electric alternative. Many people are finding they can save heating costs during the winter by spot heating the most lived in area of their home. Just plug in your electric heater and set the thermostat. You won't have to worry about potentially harmful gases.

## Protect your computer data

If you have a home computer and use it for more than fun and games, you should investigate what equipment is available to protect your data in the event of a sudden power failure.

We have had members with home computers call and ask to be placed on an 'emergency' list. We don't have the people power to call everyone who would like to be called.

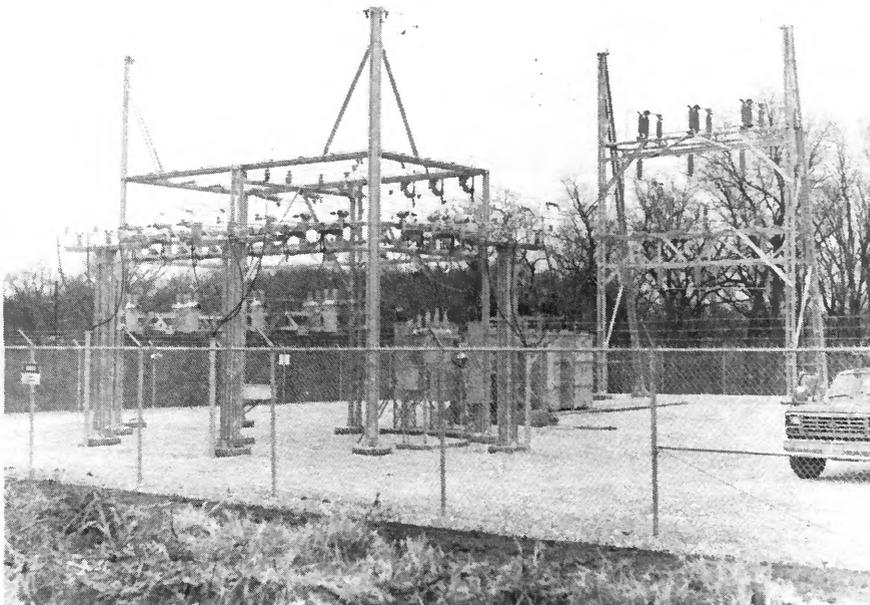
While your Cooperative is not in the business of selling computer protection equipment, we believe that such equipment is available. We also believe a fair amount of protection can be purchased at a reasonable price.

At any rate, we can't call everyone, so please check with your computer dealer. Perhaps he would have suggestions on ways to keep you from losing the data in your computer should an outage occur and over which we have no control.

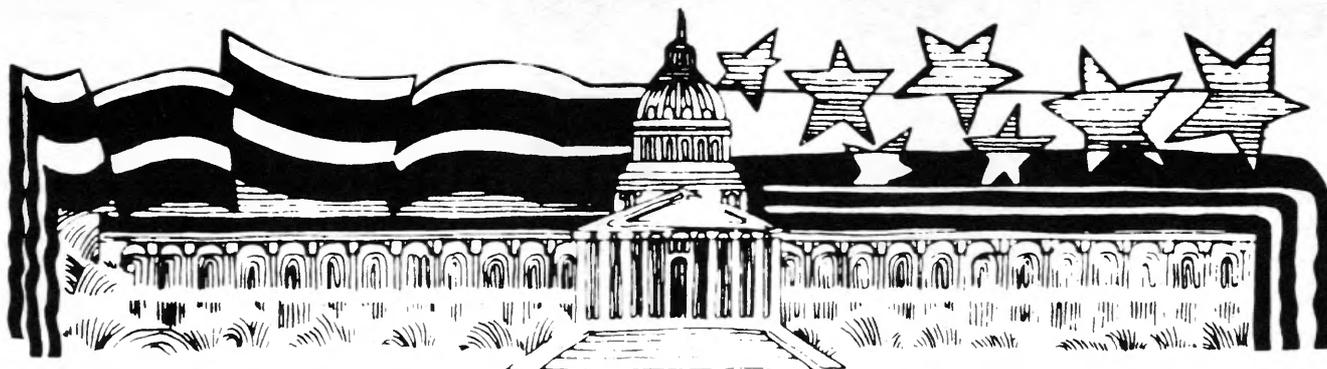
## Vacation planning

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

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



The Bluff Springs Substation was energized on Dec. 27. This station will serve the area southeast of Beardstown, southwest of Virginia and the Concord-Arenzville areas. With the Bluff Springs station being placed on-line, Cooperative members will experience an improvement in voltage, as well as continuity of service.



## Menard to sponsor essay contest

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

Essays will be judged on originality, accuracy of facts, content, composi-

tion, and knowledge of the subject matter. Winners will leave Springfield on June 7 and return on June 14.

Any high school junior enrolled in the eleventh year and attending a high school serving or substantially serving, the same area as Menard Electric Cooperative may enter.

Other details on the essay contest

are available at the cooperative office and at each high school in our service area. Anyone interested in getting an early start in preparing his/her essay is urged to write: Menard Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 279, Petersburg, Illinois 62675.

### It's always electricity's season

It's indispensable during the harvest. It warms in the winter, cools in the summer, lights up the evening after a resplendent spring day. We simply couldn't live without it ... electricity brought to rural Americans by rural electric systems like ours.

It's tough work to provide electric service to our consumer-owners. The seasons may come and go, but there's always something to be done. That's the way it always has been for rural electric systems. We take advantage of the good days of spring and summer to get ready for winter, and when winter's icy claws lay hold to the countryside, we're still hard at work.

We'll stay on the job, no matter what the hour or the weather, to continue to provide reliable electric power for our consumer-members. That's our obligation.

We keep going to keep them going ... whatever the season.

## Wind chill and its dangers

Now that winter is well under way, we've been hearing weather reports warning of the wind chill factor. But what is wind chill and how does it affect us?

In the summer, when a breeze blows over a sweat-covered arm, that arm feels cooler. The same applies in the winter. The harder the wind blows, the faster the body loses heat. People, in turn, feel colder as wind speed increases. What is comfortable in a

coat at 30 degrees becomes a bone-chilling 16 degrees with just a 10-mile-per-hour wind.

Wind chill also affects homes and buildings. A windbreak of trees or other buildings will result in a warmer home or working area, or even a warmer shelter for animals.

The next time you take a look at your outdoor temperature, be sure to see how hard the wind is blowing and dress accordingly.

### How to calculate wind chill factor

Estimated Wind Speed MPH	ACTUAL THERMOMETER READING °F.											
	50	40	30	20	10	0	-10	-20	-30	-40	-50	-60
	EQUIVALENT THERMOMETER °F.											
Calm	50	40	30	20	10	0	-10	-20	-30	-40	-50	-60
5	48	37	27	16	6	-5	-15	-26	-36	-47	-57	-68
10	40	28	16	4	-9	-21	-33	-46	-58	-70	-83	-95
15	36	22	9	-5	-18	-36	-45	-58	-72	-85	-99	-112
20	32	18	4	-10	-25	-39	-53	-67	-82	-96	-110	-124
25	30	16	0	-15	-29	-44	-59	-74	-88	-104	-118	-133
30	28	13	-2	-18	-33	-48	-63	-79	-94	-109	-125	-140
35	27	11	-4	-20	-35	-49	-67	-82	-98	-113	-129	-145
40	26	10	-6	-21	-37	-53	-69	-85	-100	-116	-132	-148
Wind Speeds greater than 40 MPH have little additional effect	LITTLE DANGER FOR PROPERLY CLOTHED PERSON			INCREASING DANGER				GREAT DANGER DANGER FROM FREEZING OF EXPOSED FLESH				

To use the chart, find the estimated or actual wind speed in the left-hand column and the actual temperature in degrees F. in the top row. The equivalent temperature is found where these two intersect. For example, with a wind speed of 10 mph and a temperature of -10°F, the equivalent temperature is -33°F. This lies within the zone of increasing danger of frostbite, and protective measures should be taken.

## Agriculture

(Continued from page 6)

barriers. He said the U.S. should concentrate on expanding exports to the developing countries, and tailoring agriculture products to specific overseas markets.

Those are the kinds of issues that will be addressed at length in the coming year after the Administration sends its 1985 Farm Bill to Congress.

Meanwhile, U.S. farmers are about to take another plunge on the farm income roller coaster. During three years farm income was cut in half, bottoming out at \$16 billion in 1983. In 1984 income swelled to an estimated \$31 billion, a figure inflated by the payment-in-kind program to reduce farm surpluses. That one-year program kept production expenses down by paying farmers in crops to keep land idle. The expected dropoff in such government payments this year is the major reason farm

income is forecast to fall back to about \$21 billion.

The Reagan Administration hopes that expanded exports could bring relief to farmers. But Rudolph Penner, director of the Congressional Budget Office, said at the Outlook Conference that the deficit, which is expected to top \$200 billion this year, skews the economy against exporting industries.

A few years ago, economists generally agreed that heavy borrowing by the federal government would "crowd out" other investors from the marketplace, making credit scarce and expensive. But European investors shifted their money to take advantage of high U.S. interest rates, making more money available for lending in this country.

"None of us anticipated that foreign investors would be so willing to finance our deficit," said Penner. Those foreign funds have kept inflation and interest rates down, but have

also raised the value of the dollar, making U.S. products more expensive to other countries.

"We're better off," said Penner, "But I'm not sure I'd like to try to convince a farmer or a steelworker of that."

Agricultural exports have declined every year since 1980, with the U.S. share of the world crop surplus increasing, reaching nearly 60 percent. The amount of U.S. farm exports is expected to increase about 4 percent this year, largely as a result of a bad crop in the Soviet Union. Crop prices are expected to drop, however, making the total value of U.S. export about 4 percent less than last year.

Food prices are expected to rise at about the same rate as 1984, when they matched the inflation rate of about 4 percent. But that won't help farmers as virtually all of that increase will pay for higher marketing costs.

—Rural Electric News Service

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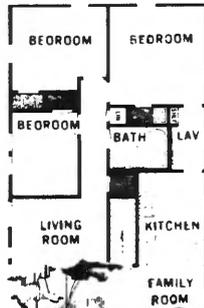
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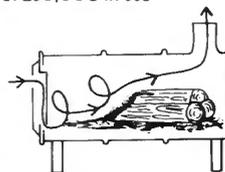
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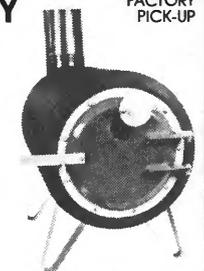
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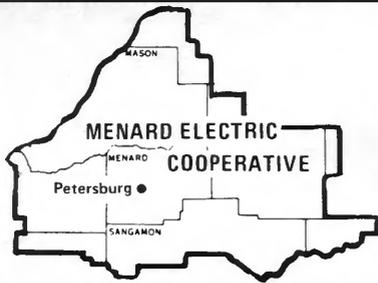
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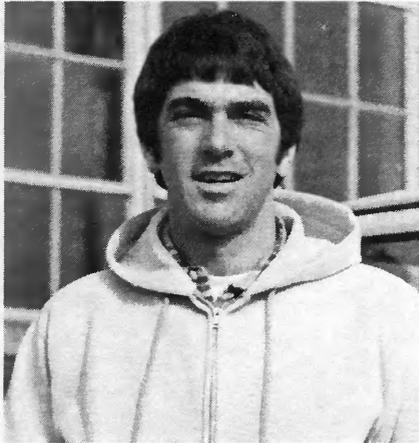
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# Menard Electric News

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

## Co-op Comments



Steven C. Hopper

Steven C. Hopper of Jacksonville began employment with your Cooperative on Jan. 7, 1985. Steve is a journeyman lineman.

During the past six years Steve has worked for various electrical contractors and has been a journeyman lineman since September, 1983.

He and his wife Janet have two children, Lynde and January.

Steve is an avid coin collector and enjoys hunting, golfing and archery. We welcome Steve to the Cooperative family and he is looking forward to meeting Menard Electric Cooperative members.

John E. Root, manager of your cooperative, will complete 20 years of service on March 8.

An ounce of common sense is worth a pound of rules and regulations.

Wisdom comes with experience and experience, with time.

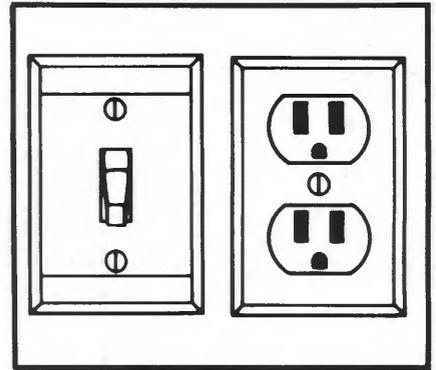
The best is yet to be, 1985 provides the time; you must provide the effort.

## Why pay for no kWh?

The facilities charge is the minimum amount that must be charged, even if no kilowatt-hours are used. The main reason for this charge is what is called transformer "core loss." That means a transformer uses electricity even though you have no kilowatt-hour usage going through the meter. The larger the transformer the more the core loss will be. A small transformer might lose from one to three kwh per day with no load, and a bigger transformer might lose more than five kwh per day with no load, also, this is one reason the cooperative must purchase many more kilowatt-hours in a month than what it sells to the members.

Another reason for the facilities charge is the expense of having poles and equipment there. Poles cost about \$100 each. A transformer costs around \$400 and a meter costs about \$40. (A lightning storm can do a lot of damage to the equipment in a short time.)

The facilities charge is necessary to cover these expenses. If you have any other questions, please contact the office.



## Handy ideas to save money

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.



# Wind generators can be expensive

Wind generators are getting a lot of publicity these days as alternative power sources. Advertisements on television and in "do-it-yourself" type magazines make the installation and operation of a wind turbine to generate your own electricity sound cheap, simple and sensible.

The advertisements highlight the fact that a recently enacted federal law required utilities to buy back any excess power that is produced by a wind generator. It is true that such a law exists. However, the ads are somewhat misleading since they state only the barest facts of the law. They don't go into any detail about the expenses and difficulties involved with such an operation or the feasibility of generating your own power with a wind device in our area.

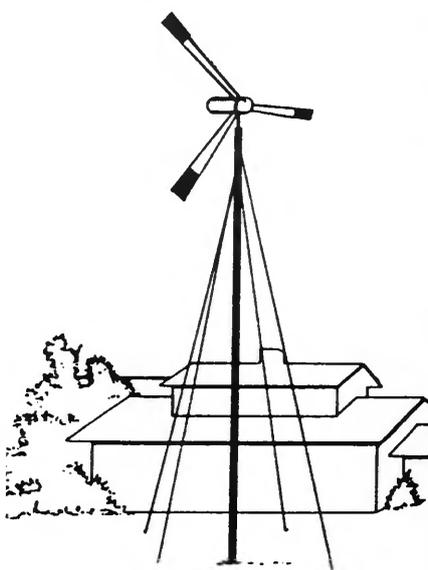
Sections 201 and 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, the law to which the commercials refer, apply to all types of independent power production, but wind turbines are receiving the most attention as potential cogenerators.

What the breathless announcer on the commercial doesn't tell the viewer is that he will need a constant wind speed of 10-15 mph in order to generate enough electricity to run small appliances, and then only one at a time. The typical wind generator unit is one to two kilowatts, which means it could generate between 1,000 and 2,000 watts of electricity. Keep in mind that this is only at optimum performance when the wind is blowing steadily. Considering that a hand-held hair dryer requires about 1,200 watts, a person could dry his hair if he didn't have the toaster or a similar appliance on at the same time.

Whenever a wind generator is tied in with our power lines through the connection to a member's wiring, there are certain rules and regulations which must be followed. These rules are contained in the PURPA law itself and must be followed by all individuals. According to the PURPA law, the small producer or cogenerator is

required to pay for all interconnection costs including connecting, switching, metering, transmitting, distributing, safety, insurance costs, and other costs related to this interconnection.

Generally there are three areas that require attention prior to installing a wind generator. First, a written contract must be entered into, establishing the rights as well as the responsibilities of both parties. Second, considerable changes to the meter loop must be made and must pass our inspection. All costs associated with the installation of this new meter arrangement must be paid for by the generator owner. The third big hurdle to cross is the insurance requirement placed on the wind generator owner. Limited



space here does not permit detailed explanation of the rules and regulations.

It isn't as easy or as cheap to install and operate a wind generator as some would lead you to believe.

Those of you who are interested in wind generation should contact Menard prior to spending money. Even though there is a tax break on wind energy equipment, the net cost of the equipment, plus the cost of tying into a utility's lines, is probably prohibitive for most in this area of the nation.



## 'Tis Still the Season

Old Man Winter can stretch his muscles any time now and deal out a good dose of cold air, ice and snow.

We can never quite predict what the "Old Man" will do, but the folks at your rural electric system have worked all year long to be sure we're ready to keep the power flowing when winter strikes.

We've put on the snow tires, got out the cold-weather work clothes, and done everything we can to make sure our consumer-owners can count on reliable electric service during the cold months.

We even have agreements with nearby rural electric systems to provide or request assistance if storm damage is especially severe.

That's the way the rural electric program has always worked and always will — people helping people.

The people who are our consumer-owners are our most important consideration. That's why we'll be on the job — day and night, holidays and weekends — to be sure we keep the lights on this winter, or get them back on quickly if Old Man Winter hits extra hard. It's a seasonal tradition.

### POTATO CASSEROLE

6 medium potatoes  
2 cups grated cheese  
¾ cup chopped onion  
1 cup evaporated milk

2 small cartons sour cream  
1 small jar pimentos  
1 stick butter or margarine  
Salt & Pepper to taste

Boil potatoes. Peel and grate. Add remaining ingredients. Bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes.

### HOT TAMALES

1 can hot tamales  
1 can cream-style corn  
Cheese slices

Layer tamales and corn in casserole dish. Pour hot tamale juice over this. Bake 1 hour at 300 degrees. Last 5 minutes top with cheese and melt.

### MEXICAN BEEF CASSEROLE

2 lbs. ground beef  
Onion flakes or 1 medium onion, chopped  
Garlic salt  
½ lb. American cheese, grated  
1 pkg. Taco-flavored Doritos

1 can cream of chicken soup  
1 can cream of mushroom soup  
1 can Rotel tomatoes with green chili peppers  
¾ can water

Fry ground beef in skillet until redness disappears. Place in bottom of baking dish. Sprinkle onion flakes and garlic on beef. Sprinkle half of the cheese on this. Crush Doritos and sprinkle half on top of cheese. Mix soups, Rotel tomatoes and water together and pour over chips. Add rest of cheese and crushed chips. Bake at 350 degrees until brown.

### BROWN HAMBURGER STEW

1 lb. ground beef  
¼ cup flour  
2 tablespoons salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper  
2 tablespoons fat  
1½ cups water

3 carrots, sliced  
3 potatoes, diced  
2 onions, sliced  
1 turnip, sliced  
2 cups tomato juice

Mix meat with flour, salt and pepper. Brown in fat, stirring as needed. Drain off fat. Add water and carrots. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Add other vegetables and simmer until crisp and tender, about 10 minutes. Add tomato juice, heat and serve. Makes 6 servings.

### SPICY BARBECUED RIBS

1 cup catsup  
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce  
¼ cup prepared mustard  
1½ tablespoons cider vinegar  
1 teaspoon prepared horseradish

1 teaspoon sugar  
¾ teaspoon garlic powder  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon ground black pepper  
3 to 4 lbs. spareribs

Combine catsup, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, vinegar, horseradish, sugar, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Place ribs on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Bake, uncovered, for 15 minutes. Turn over and bake 15 minutes longer. Remove from oven; drain off drippings. Reduce oven to 325 degrees. Spoon half of barbecue sauce over ribs. Bake uncovered for 10 minutes. Turn, and brush remaining sauce over ribs. Bake until glazed well and done, about 20 minutes. To test for doneness, make a cut near the center and be sure no pink remains.



### MACARONI CASSEROLE

2 pkgs. (8 oz.) large macaroni  
2 cans cream of mushroom soup  
1½ lbs. sharp cheese, grated  
½ cup butter  
2 large green peppers

2 large onions, chopped  
2 jars pimento (4 oz. jars)  
2 (8 oz.) cans water chestnuts  
2 (4 oz.) jars button mushrooms, sliced and drained

Cook and drain macaroni. Stir half of the soup and cheese into warm macaroni. Saute onions and peppers in butter, add sauted vegetables with the remaining ingredients to macaroni mixture. Place in casserole and cover with remaining soup and cheese. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until bubbly. Before baking, I usually add some milk to keep it from being too dry. Serves 12 to 16.

### OLD FASHIONED BUTTERMILK PIE

Unbaked 9" pie shell  
¾ cup granulated sugar  
¾ cup flour  
¼ teaspoon salt  
3 egg yolks

2 teaspoons vanilla flavoring  
2 cups buttermilk  
¼ cup melted butter or margarine  
3 egg whites

Heat oven to 425 degrees. With fork, blend sugar, flour, salt; stir in yolks (beaten slightly), vanilla, buttermilk, butter. Beat whites stiff, not dry; slowly beat in yolk mixture. Turn into shell. Bake at 425 degrees 10 minutes, lower to 325 degrees for 30 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool.

### MILLIONAIRE CANDY

¼ cup evaporated milk  
16 oz. caramels  
2 cups pecans

7 9 oz. Hershey chocolate bars  
¼ stick paraffin

Stir milk until creamy smooth, then add caramels and pecans in a double boiler, and mix well. Drop mix on waxed paper by teaspoonfuls and let cool. Mix paraffin and chocolate in double boiler until melted, then dip caramel candy into this mixture, and let cool on the wax paper.

### WATERGATE CAKE

1 pkg. white cake mix  
1 pkg. (3½ oz.) pistachio pudding mix  
1 cup salad oil

3 eggs  
½ cup chopped pecans  
1 cup club soda

Mix all ingredients and beat 4 minutes at medium speed. Bake 45-50 minutes at 350 degrees.

### FROSTING

2 envelopes topping mix  
1½ cups cold milk

1 box of pistachio pudding mix

Blend all ingredients and beat well.

### PINK YUMMY SALAD

1 pkg. cherry Jell-O  
¼ cup sugar  
1 small can crushed pineapple  
1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 cup water  
1 3-oz. pkg. cream cheese  
½ pint whipped cream

Mix together sugar, pineapple, lemon juice and water. Boil for 5 minutes. Add Jell-O and cool until almost thick. Then beat in cream cheese with mixer. Fold in whipped cream. Pour into mold and chill 4 to 5 hours.

### STRAWBERRY DELIGHT

2 pkgs. strawberry Jell-O  
2 cups hot water  
2 pkgs. frozen strawberries (thawed)

1 pint whipped cream  
1 angel food cake, broken into small pieces

Dissolve Jell-O in hot water. Allow to thicken slightly. Add berries, whipped cream and cake, which has been broken into small pieces. Pour mixture into tube pan and allow to set overnight, or until completely firm.

### FRUIT COCKTAIL CAKE

1½ cups sugar  
1 teaspoon soda  
2 well-beaten eggs  
1 can fruit cocktail  
¾ cup chopped nuts

¾ cup brown sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 cups flour  
¼ teaspoon salt

Mix together sugar, flour, soda, salt, eggs and fruit cocktail. Put in greased and floured 9 x 13 pan. Then mix brown sugar and chopped nuts and put on top of cake and bake at 350 degrees until done.

### Icing:

1 stick oleo  
½ cup milk

¾ cup white sugar  
1 can angel flake coconut

Combine ingredients and let boil 2 minutes. Put on top of cake while still hot. Bake 5 minutes or more.

### EASY COCOA CAKE

2 cups flour  
2 cups sugar  
1 teaspoon soda  
2 sticks margarine  
4 tablespoons cocoa

1 cup water  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup buttermilk

Icing:  
1 stick margarine  
4 tablespoons cocoa

6 tablespoons milk  
1 box confectioners' sugar

Sift together flour, sugar, and soda. Set aside. Heat until almost boiling margarine, cocoa and water. Add to first mixture. Add eggs, vanilla and buttermilk and beat well. Pour into greased pan and bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes. For icing combine cocoa, milk and margarine and heat to a boil. Remove and add confectioners' sugar.

### BUTTERSCOTCH PIE

1 9-inch pastry shell, baked  
1½ cups sugar  
4 tablespoons flour  
¼ teaspoon salt  
1½ cups milk

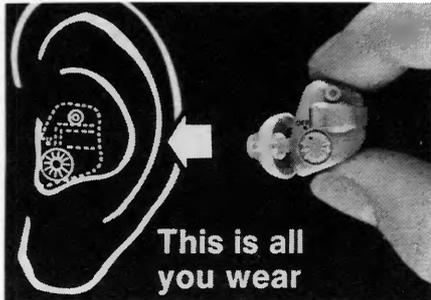
2 tablespoons butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
½ cup water  
2 beaten egg yolks  
Meringue made with 2 egg whites

Brown ½ cup sugar in heavy skillet. Add water to sugar. Boil until all sugar dissolves. Do not stir. Add milk. Stir small amount of mixture into yolk, return to hot mixture and cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Mix sugar (1 cup), flour and salt together. Add to mixture in thirds, stirring. Cook until smooth and thick. Add butter and vanilla. Pour into cooled baked pastry shell. Spread meringue on top of pie and bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

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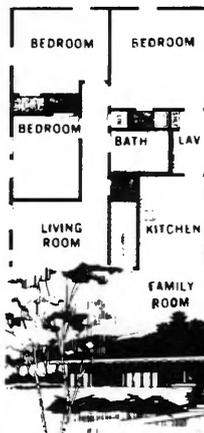
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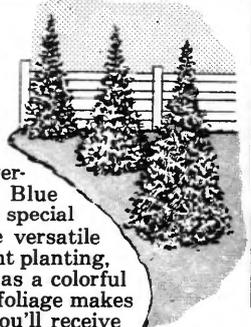
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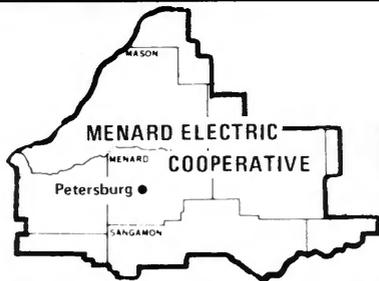
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# Menard Electric News

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

## Co-op Comments

## REA observes 50th anniversary

In January your Cooperative began collecting data by means of a survey of all conductor size of all electric lines, transformers, and other pertinent data on over 2,400 miles of distribution line throughout the Cooperative service area.

Terry Cutright and Steve Hopper, both journeymen linemen for the Cooperative, are collecting the information for an extensive engineering survey.

As this is written, the Saidora substation area has been completed. Cutright is currently working out of the Petersburg substation and Hopper is working out of the Virginia substation.

It is expected that the securing of the necessary data should be completed during the next one and one-half to two years. Once secured, the information will be of extreme value in determining where tie lines are needed, location of regulators, oil circuit reclosures, capacitors, switching points and when upgrading of conductor size becomes necessary.

Should you observe Cutright or Hopper climbing your transformer pole, securing a tag on the same, checking the metering installation and conductor size, you will know that they are working for you, not only today, but planning for the years ahead.

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Many heated arguments are ruined by people with facts.

---

The lazier the person, the greater tomorrow's intentions.

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Ask for whatever, even pray for it hard and long. Remember, though, that sometimes the answer is no.

A fiftieth anniversary is called "golden" because it is seen as a symbol of something very special, something particularly valued because it has endured through the most trying of all tests, the test of time.

This country's people-owned electrification program right now is in its fiftieth anniversary year, that time for special golden observance.

Fifty meaningful years have passed since President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an Executive Order May 11, 1935, establishing the Rural Electrification Administration as an agency of the federal government. He explained that its purpose would be:

"To initiate, formulate, administer and supervise a program of approved projects with respect to the generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy in rural areas."

That was a bare beginning, of course, but its final dramatic effect was to lift the veil of darkness that had covered rural America, and to stimulate the march of its people into the light of the 20th century.

Among those who hailed this bold new move 50 years ago were leaders, both rural and governmental, who were convinced that an electrified rural America would mean powerful and productive benefits for all of this country. They predicted that a major result would be the unlocking of the vast new market for the goods and services produced by the workers in our cities. They were confident that it would generate an unprecedented transfusion of new wealth, flowing from country to town and back again, over and over, multiplying its dollar effect everywhere.

And there were others who looked far forward and saw an even brighter and more promising vision — an entirely new world for the families scattered along this country's back roads, who at last would join the rest of the United States in this shining new time of light and power.

Many knew precisely what that meant. They and their families had known first-hand the grim drudgery and grind which had been the common lot of rural American men and women. They had strained to read by the uncertain flicker of the tallow candle and the kerosene lamp; they had pumped water by hand; they had performed hard farm labor in the wet and cold by lantern light; they had pitted their own bone and muscle against every difficult task that needed doing in their barns and sheds and farmyards, in their darkened root cellars and kitchens and attics.

The half-century that has passed since that hopeful beginning has shown repeatedly that both perspectives were right, and that both were good.

The labor and invested dollars of the cities both have earned remarkable new returns since electricity came to the countryside. Every electric appliance and tool and machine that had become familiar to urban life quickly found a place in rural America, as well. The factories of the cities hummed with new vigor to produce for this broad new market, and the laboratories and research centers worked overtime to develop the modern farm technology that had not yet been invented because there was no power to put it to use. Jobs and payrolls and tax collections proliferated as this newly developed buying power contributed a flush of health to the entire country. The predictions had been right. Rural electrification was a powerful stimulant for the American economy.

# Power co-ops, IP sign pact

The November issue of this magazine reflected in detail the agreement entered into by Western Illinois Power Cooperative, Soyland Power Cooperative and Illinois Power Company, with which the cooperatives secured access to some 400 megawatts of electric capacity from Illinois Power's fossil-fueled generating plants as of January 1. This is in addition to the anticipated capacity of some 190 megawatts from the nuclear Clinton Power Station.

This agreement provides for joint operation of the systems and will provide the cooperatives the right to

receive transmission and subtransmission service from Illinois Power Company to deliver the electricity to 22 Illinois electric cooperatives.

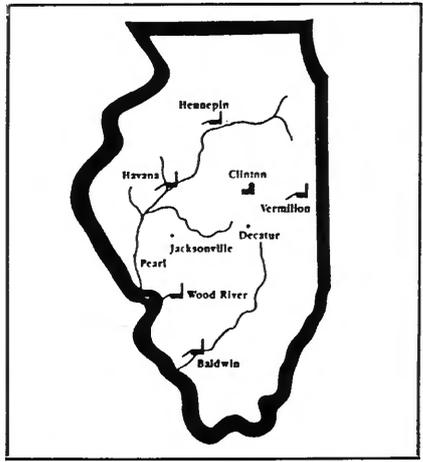
The bulk power requirements of Menard Electric Cooperative are being assured well into the 1990's. It will give the cooperative a broad generation mix that will lend stability to the wholesale power cost for years to come. In addition, the agreement between WIPCO and Illinois Power put a cap on the investment in Clinton by the cooperatives and no further cooperative money will be involved in the

direct cost of placing this unit into commercial operation.

This long-term commitment provides your cooperative, along with the 21 other cooperatives, with the most cost-effective way to meet the future needs of their members.

In mid-1984, Soyland and WIPCO formally approved an agreement to pool their power supply operations and thereby improve the overall cost. This agreement to pool operations took effect on January 1.

The cooperative boards of the two



The map above shows the location of Illinois Power Company's coal-fired plants that provide capacity to 22 Illinois electric cooperatives as of January 1.

## January 7th coldest in 30 years

January 1985 had 1,437 degree days, which was the seventh coldest January in the last 30 years. In retrospect, only the weekend of January 19-20 stands out, when the thermometer dropped to -24 degrees with a wind chill factor of -80 degrees.

The linemen for your Cooperative, in this writer's opinion, did an outstanding job in restoring service as rapidly as they did on January 19 and 20 under conditions so adverse that their own health and safety were in jeopardy and most people would not have ventured outside.

Under conditions that were nearly unbearable at times, the linemen spliced conductor, replaced hot line clamps, re-fused transformers and restored service to the members in as short a time as possible. These men put out extra effort to get the job done and many of us sometimes forget

how dependent we become upon electricity. To those who worked under extremely hazardous conditions, we say thanks for a job well-done.

The Oakford and Middletown substations are fed from a transmission line owned and operated by Central Illinois Public Service Company. CIPS lost its transmission line on January 19th for more than an hour. Thus, some 400 Cooperative members were out of service. Due to the extremely cold weather, when the electric lines became very taut, we experienced five locations of broken conductor and, with the thermometer at -24 degrees, extra time was needed to splice the conductor, climb the poles and repair the damage without freezing to death.

All in all, the outage report for the month of January was as good as or equal to January of 1984.

G&T's also approved the concept of a merger of WIPCO and Soyland; if ratified by the individual Cooperatives, it would take effect no later than July 1, 1986.

The proposed merger is another step in an attempt to hold the cost of electricity to as low a level as possible for all cooperative members.

## Children and appliances

What is the best age for children to start using the toaster, the clothes dryer or the microwave? How much supervision do they need?

Good questions, says Marian Hess of the Missouri Cooperative Extension Service.

"Delegating responsibility in the use and care of appliances is good training," Hess says. So find your appliance instruction booklets and read them with your children. This not only teaches them how to use the appliances but also reinforces the need to read instructions.

The American Home Appliance Manufacturers say the median age when children are able to begin using appliances is as follows:

	Supervised	Unsupervised
Refrigerator	4	5
Toaster	5	7
Freezer	6	7
Hair Dryer	7	10
Blender	8	10
Clothes Dryer	9	11
Range	9	12
Coffeemaker	10	12
Food Waste Disposal	10	12
Microwave Oven	10	12
Clothes Washer	10	12
Electric Frypan	10	13
Trash Compactor	10	13
Food Processor	12	14

### MILLIONAIRE PIE

- 1 can Eagle Brand milk
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1 can fruit cocktail
- 1 cup nuts, chopped
- 9 oz. Cool Whip
- 1 can coconut

Combine and pour in graham cracker crust. Makes two pies.

### PIE CRUST

- 1 cup flour
- 1 stick butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar

Mix and add enough water so you can pat the crust into a pie pan. This can be baked and used for any filling or filling may be baked in shell.

### BOILED CUSTARD

- 1 qt. milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 egg yolks
- 2 tablespoons flour (level)
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Heat milk. Beat yolks with a little cold milk. Mix sugar and flour, add to heated milk. Cook until it coats a spoon. Add flavorings. Pour into a bowl, cool. Do not overcook!

### OLD FASHIONED LEMON PIE

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 3 soda crackers, crumbled
- Juice of 2 lemons
- 6 well-beaten eggs

Cream sugar and butter together. Add crackers, juice and eggs. Pour into unbaked pie crust. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

### ANGEL BISCUITS

- 5 cups flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cake (or pkg.) yeast
- 2 tablespoons warm water
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 1 stick melted oleo

Sift dry ingredients together. Blend in shortening. Dissolve yeast in water, let stand 5 minutes. Add to buttermilk. Mix yeast and add to flour mixture. Mix well. Turn out on floured board. Roll out and cut. Dip biscuits in melted oleo. Bake at 450 degrees for 12 minutes. NOTE: Bake at once or let stand. Once prepared can be wrapped in foil and frozen. P.S. Don't forget the salt.

### FRUIT DIP

- 2 cups (7-oz. jar) marshmallow cream
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 tablespoon orange rind, grated
- dash of ginger

Gradually add marshmallow cream to softened cream cheese. Mix well. Add other ingredients. Whip until fluffy. Serve with fresh fruit or frozen melon balls.

### COCONUT BALLS

- 1 box coconut
- 1 box powdered sugar
- 1/2 can condensed milk
- 2/3 stick butter (melted)
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 small pkg. semi-sweets
- 1 block paraffin

Combine sugar, coconut, and pecans in mixing bowl. Add milk and butter. Mix well and form small balls. Let set a few minutes and melt paraffin and semi-sweets, then dip balls with a tooth pick.

### PRALINES

- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon soda
- Pinch salt
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 1/2 cups pecans or fresh coconut

Mix sugar, milk and soda and stir constantly until it comes to a fast boil. Add butter, salt and nuts, continue to stir and cook until it forms a soft ball when a little is dropped in cold water. Set off for about 2 minutes, beat until creamy. Drop by spoonfuls onto wax paper.

### CHOW-MEIN CASSEROLE

- 1 (16-oz.) can beef chow mein
- 1 cup uncooked rice
- 1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 (8-oz.) can tomato sauce
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon salt
- (more or less to taste)
- 4 (1-oz. each) slices cheese

Bring to boil 5 cups water, add rice, cook until done. Remove from heat, let stand 20 minutes. In lightly greased heated skillet, add ground beef. Add 1/4 cup water to start cooking process. Cook till light brown, remove from heat. Mix cooked rice, onion, pepper, paprika and salt in a large bowl. Add ground beef, chow mein and tomato sauce, mixing well. Pour into baking pan. Cut each slice of cheese into 3 strips, place on top of mix. Bake in pre-heated 350 degree oven 30 minutes. Serve hot with favorite vegetables or salad to 12.

### BAKED BEANS

- 2 strips bacon
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup chopped bell pepper
- 1/2 to 3/4 lb. ground beef
- 1 cup catsup
- 1 teaspoon mustard
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 large can Campbell's pork and beans

Fry bacon. Brown onion and pepper in fat. Remove from skillet and brown beef, add bacon, onion and pepper. Add remaining ingredients and simmer about 2 hours.

### APPLESAUCE CAKE

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon flour
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup applesauce
- 1 egg

Cream shortening and sugar. Add beaten egg. Add applesauce to which soda has been dissolved. Sift flour with spices and salt. Add to batter. Dredge raisins in teaspoon flour and fold into batter. Bake in floured and greased pan at 350 degrees for 1 1/4 hours.

### ZUCCHINI SQUASH BREAD

- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups zucchini, shredded
- 1 cup oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Mix first 5 ingredients together slowly, adding flour. Add remaining ingredients. Pour into 2 greased loaf pans. Bake at 325 degrees for about 1 hour. Zucchini does not have to be peeled. Makes 2 loaves.

### RICE CASSEROLE

- 2 boxes of Uncle Ben's Wild and Combination rice
- 4 whole pieces celery, chopped
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 2 sticks butter
- 2 1/2 cans mushroom soup
- 2 large cans mushrooms, drained
- 1 1/4 lbs. Velveeta cheese

Cook rice as directed and set aside. Cook celery and onions in butter. Mix soup, mushrooms and cheese together. Cook until cheese melts. Combine all 3 steps and bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours.

### BROCCOLI CASSEROLE

- 2 boxes chopped broccoli, cooked
- 1 onion, sauted
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 cups cooked rice
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese

Mix all together leaving part of the cheese for top of casserole. Put in baking dish. Top with remaining cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

### TAGLIARINI

- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 2 small onions, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons bacon grease
- Pinch of oregano
- Dash of cumin
- Dash of marjoram
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Dash pepper
- 1/2 cup red wine
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 1 can creamed corn
- 1 can olives, chopped (4 1/2 oz.)
- 1 can mushrooms (2 oz.)
- 1 pkg. noodles, cooked (1 lb.)
- 1 cup cheese, grated

Brown meat, onions and garlic in bacon grease. Mix remaining ingredients together, except cheese. Place in casserole dish. Sprinkle cheese on top and bake covered for 1 hour at 300 degrees.

### LEMON CHESS PIE

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon flour
- 1 teaspoon corn meal
- 1/4 cup lemon juice (2 lemons)
- 4 eggs
- 1/4 cup melted oleo
- 4 tps. lemon rind, grated

Toss sugar, flour and corn meal lightly. Add eggs and beat well. Mix together oleo, lemon rind and lemon juice. Add to flour mixture. Mix well. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes.

# HAWAIIAN

### KAUAI CHICKEN

- 2 lbs. choice chicken pieces
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1 1/2 large green peppers, cut in thin strips
- 1 cup diagonally sliced celery
- 1 1/4 cups chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 large fresh tomatoes, cut in eighths
- 3 cups hot cooked rice

Remove skin and bones from chicken. Cut meat in thin strips. Season with garlic salt, paprika, and pepper. Saute chicken in oil about 1 minute or until tender. Add onion, green peppers, celery and 1/2 cup broth. Cover and steam for 1 1/2 minutes. Blend remaining broth with cornstarch and soy sauce. Stir into chicken vegetable mixture. Add tomatoes; cook and stir about 1 minute or until sauce is slightly thickened. Serve over beds of fluffy rice. 6 servings.

### OAHU SKILLET DISH

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 cup sliced onions
- 1 green pepper, cut in 3/4-inch pieces
- 1 pkg. frozen cauliflower (10 oz.)
- 2 large tomatoes, cut in eighths
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar, optional
- 1 1/2 cups beef broth
- 3 cups hot cooked rice

Saute meat, garlic powder, and onions about 5 minutes. Add green pepper, cauliflower (separated into smaller pieces), tomato wedges, and soy sauce. Stir lightly to coat vegetables with soy sauce. Cover pan and simmer until vegetables are tender crisp, about 5 minutes. Blend cornstarch, sugar and broth. Add to meat mixture. Cook, stirring constantly until thoroughly heated and sauce is thickened. Serve over beds of fluffy rice.

### CHEESE-BACON SPREAD

- 1 8-oz. carton sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 4 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1/4 cup chopped toasted almonds
- 1 tablespoon chopped green onion tops
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Bran bread

Combine first 7 ingredients, and blend well. Spread on bread. Yield: 2 cups of filling.



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place where it has been installed. Allegedly stray voltage contributes to mastitis and loss of milk in dairy herds, loss of weight in livestock and poultry when fed or watered by electric automatic systems. The Blocker, when installed between primary and secondary neutrals of electric service transformers, "blocks" any primary neutral voltage from entering the secondary neutral circuit and the system grounding conductors . . . thus maintaining electric service safety while eliminating any "off-farm" stray voltage. Send for complete details.



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# Here's How to Stop Foot Pain INSTANTLY!

There's really no mystery about what causes foot pain

Each of your feet has 26 different bones held in balance and position by tendons, muscles and ligaments.

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Lower Back Pain

Leg Pain

Sore Ankles

Sore Heels

Corns, Calluses, Bunions, Toe Cramps

natural balance of your feet, they allow your feet to flex normally in all types of shoes. Thanks to Feathersprings, your aching feet get the continuous, moving support which brings that relief.

There's really no risk involved in finding out whether Feathersprings can relieve your foot pain.

We're so certain that Feather-spring Foot Supports will end your foot problems that if you're not completely satisfied . . . we'll refund your money in full . . . with no questions asked.

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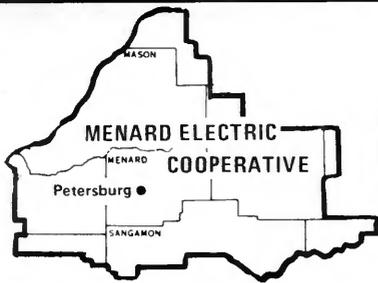
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When in Seattle visit the Featherspring building.



# Menard Electric News

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

## Co-op Comments

Edward Rogers, area serviceman in the Virginia-Beardstown area, has returned home from the hospital after having open heart surgery March 21. At this writing, Ed is doing fine and we look forward to his early return to work.

The Annual Meeting of your Cooperative will be held June 8, 1985, at Porta High School. Why not mark your calendar now and plan on attending your Cooperative's Annual Meeting.

February was the eighth coldest February in the past 30 years. We experienced 1,116 degree days com-

pared to the norm of 969. The February energy bill covered service generally from January 18 to February 18, which was the coldest part of the winter.

Many members of the Cooperative experienced unusually large bills for the above period. However, the energy bills mailed March 29 reflected a substantial drop in kilowatt-hours.

If you follow the crowd, you do not have to think. Indeed, you cannot.

That straight path is so narrow because too few people walk it.

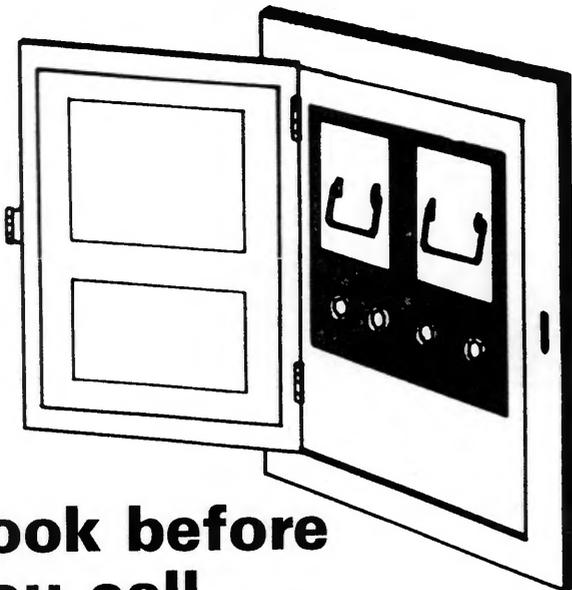
Your Cooperative has started its pole inspection program for 1985. Approximately 200 miles of line in the area west of Easton, west of Manito to

Havana, will be inspected by representatives of Crest Chemical and Milton Trummel.

During the past several years, all poles in the Cooperative system have been inspected and those that were rejected have been replaced. Poles in the above area were last inspected in 1976 and 1977.

It is interesting to note that the Environmental Protection Agency of the government will no longer allow us to use creosoted poles or penetreated poles. This, of course, adds to the cost of providing electric service in the rural area.

It is much easier to march to the music of a request than to the thunder of a demand.



## Look before you call

An interruption in your service in some instances is a result of your own protective devices operating. In some cases your power may be interrupted by the breakers or fuses that are located on the meter pole. In this instance, you are without power and your first reaction is to contact the cooperative. We ask you to check this breaker box. Most of us only check the box in our home. All breakers

appear to be in working order or you may have changed some fuses and it still is inoperative and it is probable your power has been interrupted. We do ask you to double check all your breakers. Most of the time if it is your problem — you may correct it by simply changing a fuse or breaker.

If everything has been checked and you cannot find a problem, we ask you to check with your neighbors. Chances are they are on the same line as you and you can determine if it is a line outage or individual. We remind you to contact the cooperative with any other information that might be helpful in restoring your power.

Remember — look before you call! Your lights may be on faster than a phone call.

### **Electricity: easier, quicker**

The wonderful thing about electricity is that it helps you complete tasks easier and usually quicker than you can do them by hand — opening garage doors, washing and drying laundry, trimming hedges, sawing lumber and even cranking your ice cream freezer (summer is around the corner). Is the price you pay for electricity worth all the clean, efficient energy? What does this mean to your family's standard of living? Only you and your family can decide. But remember, you say yes every time you buy an appliance or flip a switch.

We remind you to use all the electricity you want, just use it efficiently and effectively!

## Use care around power lines

Electricity has played a major role in the astounding progress of American farming, helping make Illinois and the nation the leading exporters of agricultural commodities. But electric power lines present serious potential hazards to farmers who don't exercise care when working with tractors, combines, balers, augers and other large equipment.

Watch out for overhead power lines when you are driving or towing farm equipment. If you have young farm hands who are responsible enough to operate farm equipment, impress upon them the importance of carefully surveying a work area or travel route to ensure that power lines are well out of the reach of any equipment.

Keep in mind other basic safety

measures as well during harvesting operations: Check out your equipment before you use it. Make sure your helpers are familiar with the equipment they use. Shut off power before unclogging or fixing a machine. Wear appropriate protective equipment.

One careless moment can cause a tragic accident. Don't let tragedy strike your farm.

## Coal generates more than half of electricity

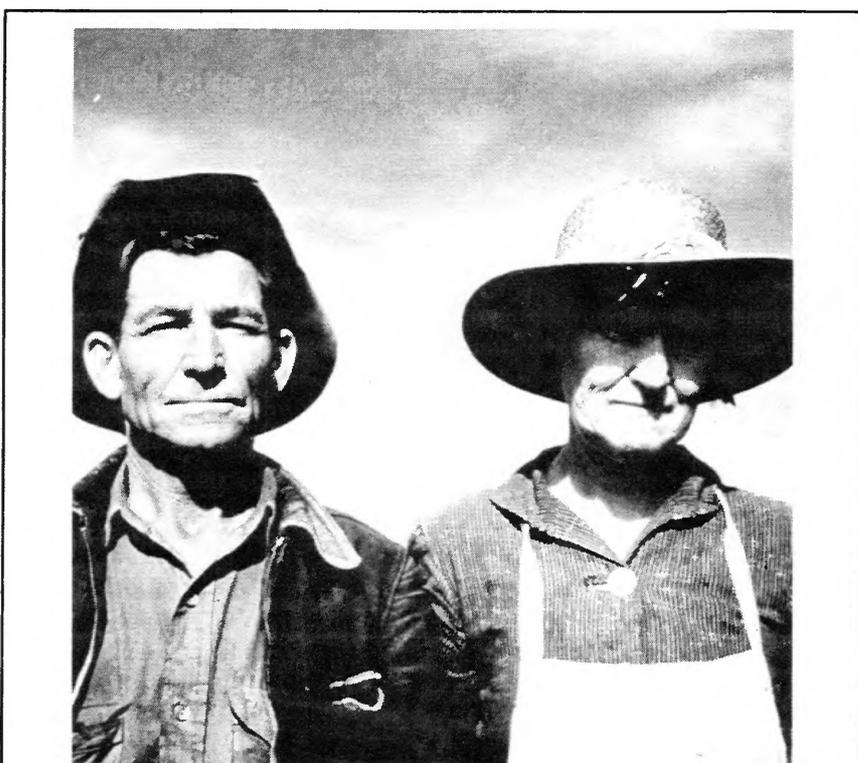
Coal accounted for 54.7 percent of all electricity generated in the United States in the first seven months of 1984, according to the Energy Information Administration. The "Electric Power Monthly" says that figure compares with 53.5 percent a year ago. Petroleum accounted for 5.3 percent of total generation from January through July of 1984, which was down from 6.4 percent the year before. Natural gas generated 11.8 percent of the electricity compared with 11.4 percent in 1983. Nuclear for 13.3 percent compared with 12.7 percent and hydro-electric for 14.6 percent compared with 15.9 percent.

## Nuclear power favored

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has come out in favor of increased use of nuclear generation plants for electricity at its recent annual meeting held in Honolulu.

AFBF delegates pointed out that other nations were proceeding with development of nuclear power at a faster pace than the United States.

Energy Secretary Donald Hodel recently said that the United States should move ahead in the area of nuclear power so that "we will be ready when . . . the American people ultimately decide that they want nuclear energy." Hodel pointed out that the United States should resist foes who have been instrumental in harassing and/or blocking nuclear plant construction during the past 10 years. He expects that 20 percent of electric energy will be produced by nuclear power by the end of this century.



## LIFESTYLE

That word wasn't used much 50 years ago, especially on the farm. Life was hard; there was little time for "style."

You milked by hand . . . battled drought to raise a crop . . . canned in the intolerably hot kitchen in the heat of summer . . . chopped kindling and carried wood and water several times a day . . . and then, there was the outhouse.

**Rural electrification changed all of that.**

Milking machines, irrigation, refrigeration, light and power, indoor plumbing . . . and all because of a slender wire that transformed life in the countryside.

The commitment of 50 years ago was to improve the quality of life for rural people. Still is. Consumer-owned rural electric systems like ours continue to strive to improve rural living through rural electrification . . . for a better lifestyle.

*. . . and the work goes on.*



Six WIPCO directors, counterclockwise from far right: Harvey Vortman of Bluffs, Donald Willard of West Point, Les Aeilts of Carthage, Stanley Otten of Modesto, Robert Smith of Barry and Roy Goode of Virden.



## 25 years of achievement for

**T**he past quarter century has been a period marked by several key milestones for Western Illinois Power Cooperative (WIPCO), a Jacksonville-based generation and transmission electric cooperative serving seven Western Illinois distribution cooperatives.

Robert E. (Ed) Gant of Winchester, president of the WIPCO board, said during his report at the cooperative's 25th annual meeting March 5 in Jacksonville that over the 25 years there have been many significant achievements for the benefit of the distribution cooperatives' members. Addressing representatives of the seven member-systems, Gant noted several

accomplishments, including: construction of the Pearl generating station on the Illinois River, development of the WIPCO transmission system, collective billing procedures, establishment of long-term power agreements for capacity needs with area power companies and municipal utilities, addition of capacity at Pearl, WIPCO's partnership in the Clinton Power Station, and the cooperative's new agreement for power pooling with Soyland Power Cooperative.

Gant said the developments of WIPCO over the 25 years had produced positive results for the seven member-systems, not only in the past but also for the future.

"WIPCO entered in the agreement with Soyland (a federation of 15 Illinois electric cooperatives) to pool their resources and operate as one entity in an effort to provide power to their 22 distribution cooperative-members at the lowest possible cost," he said. The allied power cooperatives have successfully negotiated long-term power pooling and transmission agreements with Illinois Power Company entitling the combined entity to the use of about 400 megawatts of IP's existing fossil-fired generating plants, he added. "Those agreements were effective this past January 1 and we believe they will help to hold down the rate of increase in the cost of

# achievement

became the most steady, reliable worker the farmer or rancher had ever known.

The fears that no one would ever use all the electric "juice" flowing through the new co-op's power lines were dispelled as rural men and women flocked to the appliance stores on Main Street to purchase appliances and equipment.

## 'As soon as we got Momma an iron, we got a radio'

When rural people referred to "The Radio," wrote essayist E. B. White, they meant "a pervading and somewhat godlike presence which has come into their lives and homes."

"The day we got our radio," wrote one farm wife, "we put it in the kitchen window, aimed it out at the field, and turned it on full blast. During the first week, the men hated to be out of the sound of it."

Without doubt, the radio was the most desired and the most influential of all of the wondrous new appliances that came to the country with rural electrification.

"As soon as we got Momma an electric iron, we got a radio," was often heard. Indeed, the iron barely nudged out the radio as the most popular purchase. In home after home, Crosleys or Philcos became not only a center of information and entertainment but a place to proudly display family photos or other mementos.

The Rural Electrification Administration recognized the potential as early as 1936, noting that "the city dweller looks upon radio solely as a means of entertainment; the farmer relies upon it for the betterment of his economic status as well."

Only two years later, REA reported a remarkable statistic: A survey of co-ops found that 86 percent of their members had a radio — even though the average project had been operating only eight months!



The radio became a center of many rural families' social life.

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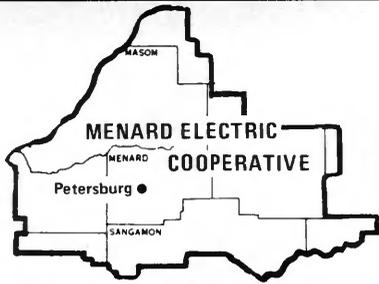
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CITY \_\_\_\_\_

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PHONE \_\_\_\_\_



# Menard Electric News

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

## Co-op Comments

Your Cooperative recently completed construction of a three-phase electric distribution line in the Oakford area. This line ties in the substations of the Cooperative at Saidora in Mason County, and at Bonnett corner in Menard County.

A 1985 Annual Work Plan provides for other tie lines to be constructed in various parts of the Cooperative ser-

vice area. As this work is completed, we will experience an improvement in line switching, maintenance, voltage regulation and continuity of service which will benefit all Cooperative members.

For several years the power cost adjustment factor has been shown on your monthly energy bill. It was and still is shown on the left hand side of

the bill. Effective with the March 1985 billing, the PCA is also shown as a dollar and cent item on the billing. To compute the PCA, multiply the kilowatt-hours used by the current PCA factor. For the first three months in 1985 the PCA was a negative amount, however, on the April billing it was a positive amount. Should you have any questions with reference to the PCA, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office.

## Annual meeting set for June 8

The 48th Annual Meeting of your Cooperative will be held on Saturday, June 8 at PORTA High School. A pork chop dinner will be served by the Cass County Pork Producers beginning at 5:00 p.m. and the business session will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

The official notice of the meeting will be mailed under separate cover during the latter part of May. All Cooperative members are encouraged to attend the annual business session, however, should you be unable to attend we would appreciate your sub-

mitting the proxy that will be a part of the official notice and returning it to the Cooperative office as soon as possible.

In addition to the business session, entertainment will be provided and several attendance prizes will be given away at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

Why not mark your calendar now and plan on attending the 48th Annual Meeting? We would appreciate your completing the coupon located elsewhere on this page and sending it to the Cooperative office as soon as possible. This will assist us in planning the food requirements.

## Box numbers needed

It appears that the Postal Service is enforcing their regulations which require all mail to be delivered as addressed. In other words, if your address is rural route, it must also include your rural box number.

While some postal officials may not be enforcing this particular regulation at this time, others have started and members in the Mason City area apparently did not receive the most recent edition of this magazine.

The Cooperative has been advised that it is very important that members of the Cooperative who live in the rural area and who do not have a street name and/or house number as their mailing address should have their rural route number and box number included on all of their mail. Should we not have your complete address, please provide the same to the Cooperative office at your earliest convenience. The Cooperative is attempting to upgrade the address of each member of the Cooperative and some postal officials provide the information requested while others are making significant charges for the same. Your cooperation in this matter will certainly be appreciated.

Please clip this coupon and return it as soon as possible to:

Menard Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 279  
Petersburg, IL 62675

Please count on \_\_\_\_\_ members of my family for the Pork Chop Dinner at the 48th Annual Meeting on June 8th. (You are encouraged to attend, whether you send this coupon or not.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Our offices will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day**

# Operations of Your Cooperative

of the Cooperative in Range 4 West of 3rd P.M. lying South of the division line between Township 16 North and Township 17 North.

Article I, Section 1 of the by-laws provide that any person or firm may become a member of the Cooperative by making a written application agreeing to purchase electricity from it and to be bound by the Articles of Incorporation and by-laws, and paying a membership fee. Husbands and wives may obtain a joint membership but no person or firm may have more than one membership.

Article III of the by-laws of Menard Electric Cooperative requires that a meeting of the members of the Cooperative be held once a year for the purpose of electing Directors and to transact other appropriate business. Each member is entitled to one vote. Husbands and wives who are joint members are entitled to cast only one vote. Five percent of the members entitled to vote, present in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum.

Article IV of the by-laws of your Cooperative set forth the Election and Tenure, Qualifications, and Nominations of Directors by certain geographical areas as follows:

## ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**SECTION 1. GENERAL POWERS.** The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine members which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law, the articles of incorporation or these by-laws conferred upon or reserved to the members and from time to time fix rates for service rendered by the Cooperative.

**SECTION 2. ELECTION AND TENURE.** Three directors shall be elected each year, by and from the membership, except in case of vacancies and to serve for a term of three (3) years or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. If an election of directors shall not be held on the day designated herein for the annual meeting or at any adjournment thereof, a special meeting of the members shall be held for the purpose of electing directors within a reasonable time thereafter.

Directors to be elected at said annual or special meeting shall be selected so that at all times one of such directors shall be a resident of each of the districts described as follows:

**DISTRICT NO. 1** — All that area of the Cooperative in Range 7 West of the 3rd P.M. lying South of the division line between Township 17 North and Township 18 North and all of that area of the Cooperative in Ranges 5 and 6 West of 3rd P.M. lying West and South of the Sangamon River.

**DISTRICT NO. 2** — All that area of the Cooperative in Ranges 8 and 9 West of 3rd P.M. lying South of the division line between Township 17 North and Township 18 North.

**DISTRICT NO. 3** — All that area of the Cooperative West of the division line between Range 9 West and Range 10 West of 3rd P.M. and lying South of the Sangamon and Illinois Rivers.

**DISTRICT NO. 4** — All that area of the Cooperative in Ranges 7, 8 and 9 West of 3rd P.M. lying South and West of the Sangamon River and North of the division line between Township 17 North and Township 18 North and all that area of the Cooperative in Township 19 North lying South of Salt Creek and East of the Sangamon River in Ranges 6 and 7 West of 3rd P.M.

**DISTRICT NO. 5** — All that area of the Cooperative between the Sangamon River and the Division line between Township 21 North and Township 22 North, lying West of the division line between Range 6 West and Range 7 West of 3rd P.M.

**DISTRICT NO. 6** — All that area of the Cooperative in Ranges 7 and 8 West of 3rd P.M. lying North of the division line between Township 21 North and Township 22 North and all that area of the Cooperative in Ranges 5 and 6 West of 3rd P.M. lying North of division line between Township 20 North and Township 21 North.

**DISTRICT NO. 7** — All that area of the Cooperative lying East of the division line between Range 4 West and Range 5 West of 3rd P.M. and lying North of the division line between Township 18 North and Township 19 North and all that area of the Cooperative in Townships 19 and 20 North in Range 5 West of 3rd P.M. and all that area of the Cooperative in Townships 19 and 20 North that lies North of Salt Creek in Range 6 West of 3rd P.M.

**DISTRICT NO. 8** — All that area of the Cooperative in Township 18 North lying between the Sangamon River and the Division line between Range 2 West and Range 3 West of 3rd P.M. and all that area of the Cooperative in Township 17 North lying between the Sangamon River and the division line between Range 3 West and Range 4 West of the 3rd P.M. and all that area of the Cooperative in Township 16 North that lies North of the Sangamon River in Range 5 West and Range 6 West of 3rd P.M.

**DISTRICT NO. 9** — All that area of the Cooperative lying East of the division line between Range 2 West and Range 3 West of 3rd P.M. and lying South of the division line between Township 18 North and Township 19 North and all that area of the Cooperative in Range 3 West of 3rd P.M. lying South of the division line between Township 17 North and Township 18 North and all that area

**SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS.** No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who is not a user of Cooperative service in his personal residence, or who is in any way employed or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative, and no person shall take or hold office as a director who is the incumbent of an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid, other than school officers. Nothing in this section contained shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 4. NOMINATIONS.** It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a Committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors, but any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. Nothing contained herein shall, however, prevent additional nominations to be made from the floor at the meeting of the members. The members may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as hereinbefore provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not effect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

We hope every member of Menard Electric Cooperative will be able to attend the Annual Meeting. However, for those who cannot attend in person, the by-laws provide for Proxy Voting. Under the by-laws, no person may vote as proxy for more than ten members. The presence of a member at the meeting revokes his proxy, and he votes in person.

John E. Root, Manager  
MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



## A year of growth for SIPC

**S**ales of electricity to member-cooperatives of Southern Illinois Power Co-operative (SIPC) increased by 2.2 percent in 1984, marking the largest annual increase in six years. In addition, officers reported during SIPC's annual meeting March 28, the sale of surplus energy to other utilities combined with the higher member usage to produce solid gains for the federation of three Southern Illinois distribution electric cooperatives. The meeting was held at SIPC's headquarters at Lake of Egypt, south of Marion.

Archie Hamilton of Ava, president

of the SIPC board of directors, said sales to member-systems totaled 673,968 megawatt-hours in 1984. "The cost of energy to member-cooperatives remained stable throughout 1984," Hamilton added, citing "tight control of operating costs and prudent management of cooperative assets" as primary factors in the effort to contain costs for consumers.

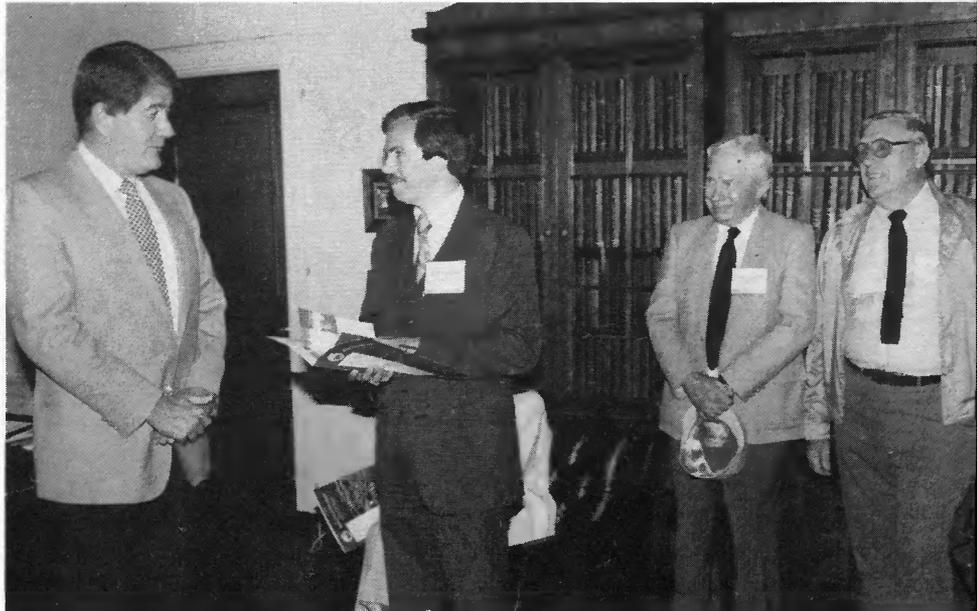
SIPC is a generation and transmission cooperative that provides electric power to Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Steeleville; South-eastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado, and Southern Illinois

Electric Cooperative, Dongola. The three distribution cooperatives serve more than 37,000 meters in 19 counties.

Manager James R. Chapman said the cooperative remains committed to utilizing Southern Illinois resources. "We purchased 886,944 tons of fossil fuel during 1984," he said, "97 percent from Southern Illinois mines." He noted that coal costs have stabilized in recent years when compared with the rapid price increases from 1976 through 1982, when coal prices climbed by about 80 percent. "From 1982 through 1984, our fuel costs



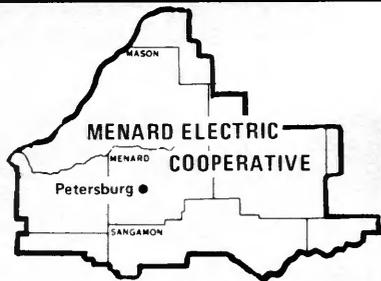
Left: Representative Lane Evans, left, talks with visitors from McDonough Power Cooperative. Below: Clinton County leaders listen to Representative Ken Gray, left.



Above: Representative Terry Bruce meets with leaders from several electric cooperatives in his district. Right: Representative Ed Madigan with Illini and Corn Belt electric cooperative representatives.



Left: Representative Harris Fawell with delegates from Illini and Corn Belt electric cooperatives. Above: Representative Robert Michel with leaders of Spoon River and McDonough electric cooperatives.



# Menard Electric News

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

## Co-op Comments

The 48th Annual Meeting of your Cooperative was held on Saturday, June 8, at PORTA High School. The July issue of this magazine will give you a synopsis of the annual meeting.

Darlene McGee of Petersburg completed five years of employment with your Cooperative on June 1, 1985. Darlene is a clerk in the Cooperative office at Petersburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Cutright will celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary on June 28, 1985. Terry is a journeyman lineman (leadman) on a construction crew out of the Petersburg warehouse.

Members wishing to incorporate monthly electric bills into their budgets may do so by participating in the level payment (budget) plan.

This plan allows you to pay the same amount each month for 11 consecutive months, with the 12th month used to balance the account. June is the perfect time to begin your 'budget' billing and should you desire further information about the same, please contact the Cooperative office.

Electrically powered pressure washers used by farmers and others can cause death when power cord connections get wet or there is an internal short. Several fatalities from electric shock caused by defective pressure washers have been reported nationwide.

Ohio State's Al Pugh says, "To avoid this possibility, users should stay away from adapter plugs, always plug into a three-wire grounded outlet and wear rubber footwear." Now that ground-fault-circuit-interrupter (GFCI)

## Meter testing now underway

A representative of Electric Lab and Sales of Mattoon began testing meters in an area south of Virginia, west of New Berlin, and north of Jacksonville. Approximately 800 meters will be tested in this extreme southwestern portion of your Cooperative's service area. Upon completion of meter testing listed above, we will then test approximately 400 meters in the Havana area.

Your Cooperative has been testing approximately 1,000 meters per year and it is anticipated at this time that we will be able to test all meters in the course of seven or eight years. The meter tester will have proper identification, however, should you have any questions with reference thereto, please do not hesitate to contact the Cooperative office.

## Trim brush, shrubs for meter readers

It's the time of year when summer rains and warm sun make those pesky weeds, as well as shrubs and trees, grow skyward. We request all members to please make sure that all meters are readily accessible to meter readers. So that meter readers can make timely and accurate readings, we ask that tall grass and weeds be mowed, shrubs and bushes be trimmed and any trash or other debris be kept away from the meter pole. Your cooperation will enable your neighborhood meter reader to do his or her job with a minimum of time and expense. Thank you for your help in this matter.

protected outlets are available for under \$20, washer users should install one at a good location.



## THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

Miniskirts and narrow neckties, convertibles, double-breasted suits and short hair . . . popular years ago, and popular again years later. Dig around in Mom's attic and odds are you'll find something from years ago that's all of a sudden "the cat's meow."

Some things don't change, though. One is our absolute commitment to provide reliable electric service for our consumers. We're one of this country's 1,000 consumer-owned, nonprofit rural electric systems, which altogether serve 25 million people all over the nation. You'll find us working hard to keep the lights on . . . using the most sophisticated new equipment and most advanced techniques available to serve the varying needs of our consumers . . . finding innovative ways to help our consumers use electricity wisely and efficiently.

We've changed some, but not just for fashion's sake. Our job remains the same: to serve our consumers the best way we can, no matter the style — short hair or long, miniskirt or double-breasted suit, convertible or coupe.



ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

# What is a cooperative member?

It is important to make the distinction between terms found in the ordinary investor-owned utility and in a rural electric cooperative. The investor-owned utility provides electricity to its customers. Its primary goal as a business organization is to make profits for its stockholders. These profits are returned to the stockholders in proportion to their individual investment (shares) in the corporation.

For those working in rural electric cooperatives, we seldom, if ever, refer to you as a customer. Members join together in a cooperative to provide electric service to themselves that would otherwise be unprofitable if provided by any other means. Any return or savings achieved are remitted to the individual members in the form of capital credits and in proportion to the use each member makes of his or her cooperative.

When we refer to you as a member, know that is not a contrivance but that the word "member" has genuine meaning. Realize that you are more than just a customer and have a part ownership in a democratically controlled business.

In becoming a member of a rural electric cooperative, you make an implied pledge to fellow members to "cooperate" in advancing the business. Fundamental to the pledge is paying your electric bill in a timely fashion, granting rights-of-way needed to serve yourself and fellow members, supporting cooperative legislative aims, participating in cooperative activities and business sessions, in particular the annual meeting, and, when called upon, serving on the cooperative board of directors or nominating committee.

In becoming a member, you agree to share in the responsibility for the volume of business and the capital needed to maintain and expand the cooperative's system. In turn, you have a limited liability up to and including the amount of your "investment" in the cooperatives (accrued capital credits).

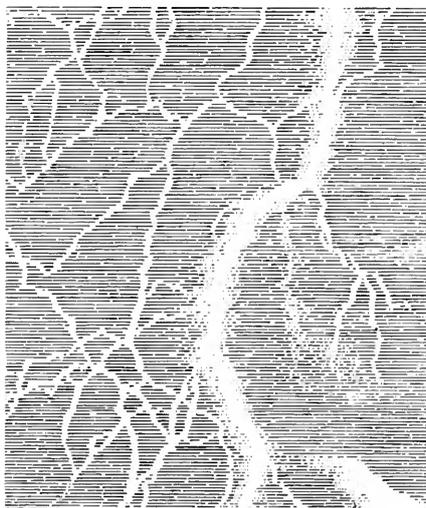
While only a few members can participate in the policy decisions of the cooperative, or the day-to-day operations of the cooperative (that's

the employee's job), they can help by following our activities through the annual meeting, special members meeting and the Illinois Rural Electric News.

When we consider that this affiliation of some 6,700 members and their families enables them to provide themselves with electric service at reasonable costs compared to the

investor-owned utilities, seemingly against all business sense, the strength and viability of the cooperative business is demonstrated. This invention, truly an American one, has served farmers and rural people in a way that membership not only provides service but brings with it pride in achievements and "cooperators" — as members.

## Lightning-caused surges can damage microchips



The average lightning bolt has enough current to light 100,000 60-watt bulbs. The peak recorded stroke has four times that much. The average duration of lightning is three-tenths of a second. According to engineers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, your home needn't be hit for your household equipment to be affected. You may have noticed during a thunderstorm that your lights flicker. That means there has been a power surge caused by lightning. It lasts but an instant, but that surge can damage microchip circuitry in your home computer, telephone answering device — or anything else that uses microchips.

To minimize the threat, the surest way is to disconnect or at least turn off anything with microchip circuitry during a severe thunderstorm. You can also buy a device that plugs into AC outlets and protects the computer and other microchip circuitry. Be sure it is

UL listed, or its equivalent. The operation of such a device may cause a circuit breaker to trip making its use on a branch circuit with a freezer or refrigerator inadvisable, unless you are planning to defrost anyway. Although the answering device on your phone is vulnerable, the telephone itself has a reasonable level of protection due to a device on the side of your house, put there by the telephone company. There is less protection if you are using the new extra-cheap phones. Cable TV, if not installed in accordance with the National Electrical Code, can present a major risk of set damage from lightning. CB radio and ham radio antennas also present an increased exposure to lightning damage. As to how serious the damage is, the most common is program upset. No equipment is harmed, but a home computer program for example, does illogical things for no apparent reason, or answering device turns itself off. The next most probable damage is equipment damage requiring a service call to replace burned out components. The old-fashioned lightning rod on your house is still the best protection from direct hits to your house. But you have to maintain it. Check the connections to make sure they do not corrode open so your protection is lost.

### Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed on July 4, 1985.

## Senators

(Continued from page 5)

need to be involved with."

Also addressing the luncheon, which was a midway point in a day of activity in the capital, was Senator John Maitland, of Bloomington and senator in the 44th Senate district.

Maitland said, "The two-party system is alive and well and functioning correctly and properly. Senator Demuzio and I are of opposite political parties, and yet we work for the common good of the entire 11½

million people in the state of Illinois.

"When I introduced legislation in the spring, I knew very well that all of that legislation would not be passed. But we do know for sure that when the General Assembly adjourns here on June 30, or July 1, 2 or 3 or whenever, the legislation that might happen to arrive on the Governor's desk reflects the attitude of the 11½ million people in Illinois. It's a beautiful system; it works well.

"Senator Demuzio and I both challenge you to work hard because

you are the new generation that will assure that the two party-system continues to work."

Demuzio described the legislative process as "demanding," pointing out that 1,642 pieces of legislation had been introduced in the Senate this session. "That means that, with the 16 legislative committees that we have in the Senate and under our rules, by May 3 those bills must be subjected to scrutiny by our members and have some affirmative action if they are to proceed in the Illinois Senate this year. That means that in the next seven legislative days that we are here in session, committees will have in excess of 100 bills to consider."

The two senators also noted that several former participants in the rural electric youth program have gone into careers in state government and in the General Assembly.

The students involved in the day of touring Springfield historic and government sites and visiting with senators and representatives from their home districts were finalists in various electric cooperative "Youth to Washington" essay competitions. A number of the students on the Springfield tour, as winners of their local contests, will travel to Washington, D.C., June 7-14.

The day's agenda for the students included tours of the Governor's mansion, Lincoln Home, Old State Capitol, Illinois State Museum and the State Capitol, including both the Senate and House chambers. Several of the groups remained in Springfield after the day of touring and attended a legislative dinner visited by a number of their area senators and representatives. At the dinner were Senators Demuzio, Laura Kent Donahue of Quincy, Ralph Dunn of DuQuoin and Kenneth Hall of East St. Louis and Representatives Gary Hannig of Mt. Olive, Jeffrey Mays of Quincy, Tom Ryder of Jerseyville, Ron Stephens of Collinsville and Harry (Babe) Woodyard of Chrisman.

As has been the custom in past years, Governor Jim Thompson declared the day "Illinois Rural Electric Day" throughout the state. Thirteen electric cooperatives participated and about 120 students attended the Springfield activities.

# Healthy, Wealthy and Wise!

It makes good sense to protect your assets, and your health is one of your most valuable assets of all. Your good health enables you to work and provide all the things you and your family need.



Now, while you're healthy, is the time to make sure that you're properly insured.

By planning ahead, you can help provide a financially secure future for your family, even when serious illness or injury strikes.

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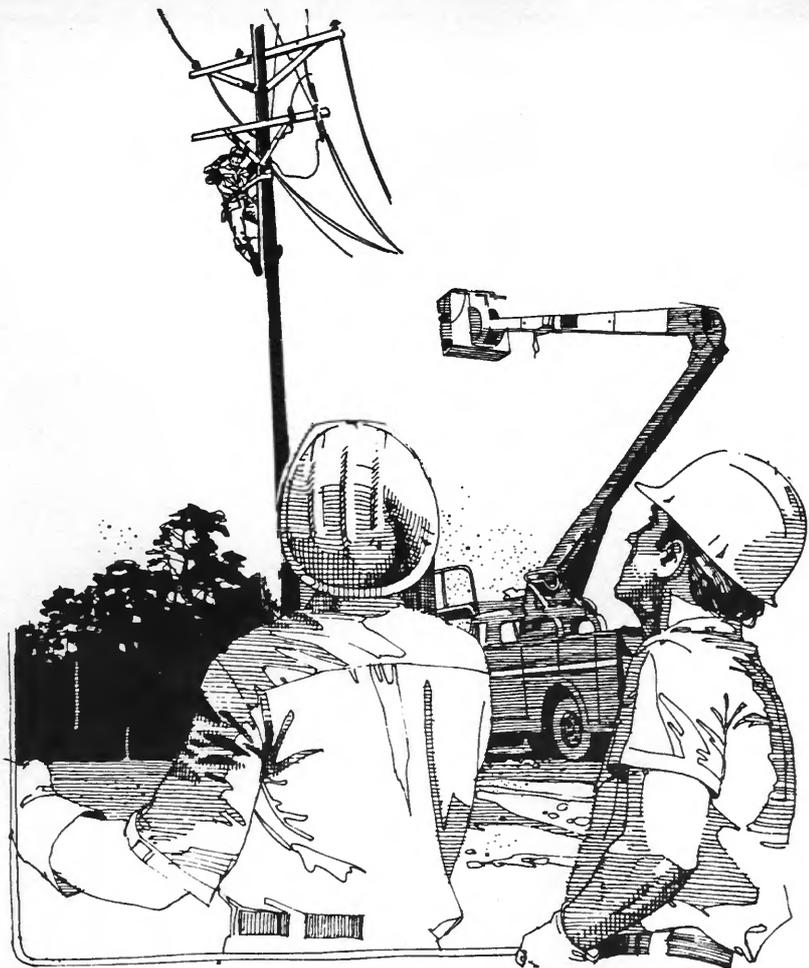
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Co-op \_\_\_\_\_



## Safety pays dividends for cooperatives

A farmer stops by his grain bins and checks to see that the aeration fans are still running. Satisfied, he climbs back into his pickup and heads for the house to catch up on his computer work.

As he nears the house he sees a small electric cooperative crew working on the line. "No juice," he thinks as he waves at the crew, "no computer work now." He steps into the house, where his wife is watching a soap opera and the kids are busy with a video game. "That's funny," he muses, "they're working on the lines, and we've still got electricity." With no further thought, he busies himself at the computer.

That is the way the electric cooperatives of Illinois want it to be: a wave at the crew and no further thought, with downtime and consumer inconvenience minimized.

That is why electric cooperative crews routinely work on "live" lines.

But while "hot line" work makes life easier for electricity users, it adds a certain amount of risk to the employees' jobs. With this in mind, the electric cooperatives of Illinois all work to make a somewhat dangerous job a lot safer, for the benefit of both employee and member-owner.

Some 15 years ago, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association established a training program to recognize cooperatives for outstanding safety achievements. This program, called the Rural Electric Systems Safety Accreditation Program, recognizes selected cooperatives with a Certificate of Excellence.

### Insurance costs

The certificate is not just a plaque for electric cooperatives to hang on a wall. Earning the certification makes a cooperative eligible for significant reductions in insurance rates — a definite savings in the cost of operation that can be passed on to the

members.

While much emphasis is placed on the safety of linemen as they work with electricity, there is more to making a cooperative a safe place to work than keeping them "on their toes." A number of accidents are reported by office workers, and many of those suffered by outside crews are the more mundane kinds of things, such as splinters, scrapes and abrasions and strains. To really minimize such mishaps — and keep insurance costs down — all the employees of a cooperative have to be reminded constantly of the need to be alert and to work at avoiding injury.

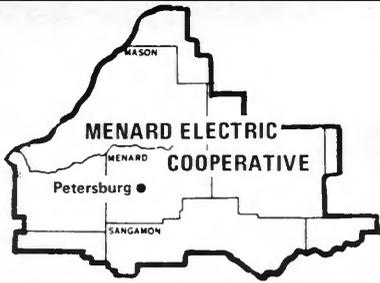
### Awareness

"The safety accreditation program is designed to instill in the cooperative's directors, managers and employees an increasing awareness of the importance of safety in their system operations, to increase their desire to operate safely and to educate them fully in the methods and procedures of promoting safe practices," says Dave Diederich, director of training and safety for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

In order to qualify for the certificate, a cooperative undergoes a stringent investigation requiring considerable extra effort by its manager, board and employees. Most importantly, the cooperative must maintain a very low injury frequency rate for three years. The rate is calculated by a special formula called the Disabling Injury Index, which takes into account several factors, including number of accidents and the number of days a cooperative's employees are off the job due to accidents.

In addition to the written information an electric cooperative submits when applying for accreditation, three outside evaluators complete a detailed observation of its buildings, trucks and other vehicles, equipment and pole yard.

"The most important part of earning this outstanding achievement," Diederich says, "is the commitment to employee safety. The 14 Illinois cooperatives that have earned accreditation show that safety pays. Others are working toward certification and we hope they'll have their certificates — and lower insurance rates — in the near future."



# Menard Electric News

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



*The registration line was a busy place as the largest crowd in several years signed up for the meeting.*

## Annual meeting draws 1,000

Your electric cooperative will conduct a complete review of its power supply options as a result of action taken during a spirited annual meeting June 8 at the Porta High School in Petersburg.

About 1,000 persons overflowed the school auditorium to vote for three members of Menard's governing board and proposed bylaw revisions and to discuss a proposal by a member to terminate the cooperative's power supply contract with Western Illinois Power Cooperative (WIPCO).

A substitute resolution related to a study of power supply options open to Menard was approved by a vote of those present.

A proposed revision of the cooperative's bylaws was sent back to com-

mittee for further study after a brief discussion. Members were invited to contact the cooperative if they had suggestions on bylaw provisions to be included in bylaw changes to be voted on at a later date.

In other business, the group reelected three area men to the cooperative's board: Morris Bell of Chandlerville, Dale Lepper of Ashland and Charles McMillan of Williamsville.

Lepper, vice president, conducted the meeting in the absence of president Bell, who was recovering from an illness.

In their joint printed report to Menard members, Bell and manager John Root said, "You are unique compared to your city cousins who get service from the investor-owned

utilities. You are not only a member-user, you are a member-owner of the cooperative.

"As a user," the report continued, "you are concerned about increasing costs. This irritation causes a chain of thought ranging from believing we are ripping you off, to not showing a proper concern for service interruptions. Please try to remember that all revenues from the sale of electricity are benefiting only the cooperative which you own and any surplus is assigned as capital credits back to you as a member."

Root told the group that, even though costs seem high now, they are about at a levelling-off point, and that rates should remain nearly flat for several years. "The cooperative's past

successes," he pointed out, "have resulted from member loyalty toward the organization, not blind agreement without benefit of thought, but rather loyalty as a fulfillment of the collective contribution of ideas and positive action which we all continue to support."

Jim Greenwood, manager of power supply for Soyland Power Cooperative, which has formed a power pool with WIPCO, spoke on progress at the Clinton Power Station, and noted that construction is going much better than in the past. "We are at the stage now where we can test large subassemblies," he said, "and we'll soon be assembling them together for more testing. You often read that the plant is behind schedule," Greenwood added, "and that's true, in a way. What happens is that each time they manage to speed up construction, they move up the schedule, and it's harder to keep up, but work is going faster all

the time."

E. H. Williams, manager of Soyland, noted that the power cooperative has thoroughly investigated the possibility of getting out of its agreement with Illinois Power Company on the Clinton plant, but that such action would cost more than to see the plant through to full operation.

"We had a coal-fired plant in the works," he said, "and a compressed-air energy storage plant, too, but we cancelled them. We decided that it would be more cost-effective to buy into existing fossil-fueled plants on an as-if-owned basis, and that's what we did.

"We also got a 'cap' on our costs at Clinton," Williams continued, "and as costs increase, our share of the plant will be adjusted downward. We have a good mix of power sources, and we expect to have some power available from Central Illinois Public Service Company in the future, too. We need a

mix of coal and nuclear power for the future, and we have it now. The next few years will be rough, but we'll be in good shape in the future."

Treasurer James Graff of Middletown noted that Menard sold 121,028,551 kilowatt-hours of electricity in 1984, or slightly more than eight million more than the year before. Total operating margins were \$673,230, up just slightly from last year's \$560,000. "We paid \$102,242 in total taxes," he added.

After the business meeting the board met to reorganize and reelected Bell president, Lepper vice president and Graff treasurer. Meredith Worner of Manito was elected secretary.

Entertainment before the meeting was provided by Clark Altig, while the Krueger Clan of Pittsfield entertained afterward. The Cass County Pork Producers prepared a pork chop barbecue for those attending the meeting.



*John Root*



*John Root, left, manager, congratulates two of the three men who were reelected to the board of directors at the annual meeting June 8 in Petersburg. From left are Root, Charles B. McMillan of Williamsville and Dale R. Lepper of Ashland. Morris L. Bell of Chandlerville, who was unable to attend because of illness, was also reelected.*



*Dale Lepper*



*E. H. Williams*



*A member takes advantage of an opportunity to address the membership while a Menard employee holds a microphone for her.*



4721  
SIZES  
6-20

Silly Scarecrow



432



WAIST 31-41 9344

- No. 4721 is cut in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20.
- No. 432 - Silly Scarecrow - is 36 inches tall, transfers and directions.
- No. 9344 is cut in Women's Waist Sizes 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41½ inches. See pattern for yardages.

Sunbonnet Girls



665



4616 6-20



9354  
SIZES  
6-20

- No. 665 - Sunbonnet Girls - uses 5 fabrics, applique and embroidery, measures about 69" x 96".
- No. 4616 is cut in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20.
- No. 9354 is cut in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12 (bust 34) takes 2-7/8 yards 45-inch fabric.



9284  
10½-26½



4892  
SIZES  
10½-24½



4751  
SIZES  
6-20

- No. 9284 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, 24½, 26½. Size 14½ (bust 37) takes 2-3/4 yards 45-inch.
- No. 4892 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, 24½.
- No. 4751 is cut in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20.

Baby Lamb Quilt



7001



9450  
SIZES  
34-50



9409  
10½-26½

- No. 7001 - Baby Lamb Quilt - is colorful patchwork and ruffle about 36" x 42" ruffle included.
- No. 9450 is cut in Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50.
- No. 9409 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, 24½, 26½.

# PATTERNS

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Springfield, Ill. 62708

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Pattern No.	Size	Pattern No.	Size
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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place where it has been installed.

Allegedly stray voltage contributes to mastitis and loss of milk in dairy herds, loss of weight in livestock and poultry when fed or watered by electric automatic systems. The Blocker, when installed between primary and secondary neutrals of electric service transformers, "blocks" any primary neutral voltage from entering the secondary neutral circuit and the system grounding conductors . . . thus maintaining electric service safety while eliminating any "off-farm" stray voltage. Send for complete details.



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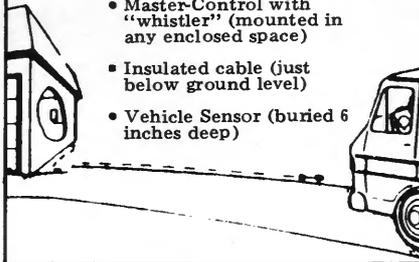
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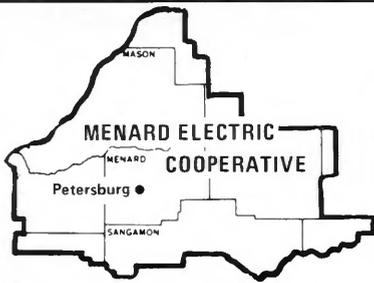
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Name of Co-op \_\_\_\_\_



# Menard Electric News

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

## Co-op Comments

David Atterberry, area serviceman of Buffalo, completed 35 years of employment with your Cooperative on July 24.

Plans are currently under way to conduct a series of district meetings throughout the Cooperative service area. It is hoped that these district meetings will be held sometime in September to discuss critical issues facing your Cooperative. You will be notified as to the date, time and location of the meeting in your area.

The 50th anniversary of rural electrification has been celebrated throughout 1985. In 1986, the 50th anniversary of Menard Electric Cooperative will occur. We invite all Cooperative members to join with your board of directors and employees to begin working together in a brand new way for a brighter future for all members and for your Cooperative. As we face the challenges in the days and years which lie ahead, perhaps this poem by an anonymous writer will give us an appropriate summary:

All have a share in the beauty  
All have a part in the plan.  
What does it matter what duty  
Falls to the lot of each man.

Someone has blended the plaster  
Someone has carried the stone,  
But neither the man nor the master  
Has ever built it alone.

Making a roof from the weather  
Or building a house for the King,  
Only by working together  
Have men accomplished a thing.

## Your home's wiring: maintenance is important

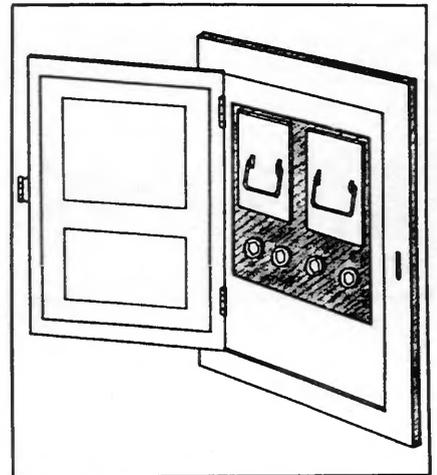
Have you given your electric wiring system any attention lately? Maybe you are one who believes the wiring will last forever. It may seem strange but wiring deteriorates much like materials. Wiring requires maintenance and regular checking of physical conditions and electric loads sometimes require revamping of circuits or addition of new circuits.

Each time any new electrical load, such as a water heater, dryer, range, freezer, motorized equipment or heating device is added, you should review the parts of your electrical system which will handle the new load.

You may need the expertise of a qualified electrician to help check your wiring's requirements and capabilities. General maintenance should include a visual inspection of all parts of the system which are exposed.

The National Electric Code covers

minimum specifications for safe installations of electric devices and wiring size requirements. A qualified electrician



will know the electric code requirements and be able to give good advice and provide safe electrical installations.

Another check to make is to look for loose terminals and connections. Connections have a tendency to loosen over a period of time, especially if the circuit is exposed to heavy usage. The heating up of wiring causes expansion and when cooling, the wire will contract and this can cause loose connections.

A good place to check for loose connections is in the fuse panel or breaker panel. Before checking in this panel, make sure the main breaker or main fuse is in off position.

While in the panel, check for any discoloration and melting of the insulation on the wires. This is a sign of overheating of circuits and action needs to be taken to correct before other damage occurs.



# Attendance awards at 48th annual meeting

# Power cost adjustment on billing

Poulán chain saw (early bird prize from **Burton-Tree**) — Wm. E. Meyer, Topeka  
 Telemate home phone speaker (**Drake-Scruggs**) — Wayne Watts, Green Valley  
 Indoor/outdoor extension cord (**Electric Lab**) — Ruth Beckett, Riverton  
 Hamilton Beach electric knife (**Escambia**) — Gilbert Launer, Beardstown  
 Two-speed tabletop fan (**Fletcher-Reinhardt**) — Arnold Westerhold, Dawson  
 Hamilton Beach blender (**R.R. Kinyon**) — Wayne Henderson, Williamsville  
 Lamp (**U.S. Electric**) — Fred W. Markert, Tallula  
 West Bend electric skillet (**United Utility**) — Marvin Martin, Alexander  
 Rayovac beam lantern (**Wesco**) — Russell Friedrich, Havana

## Prizes from Menard Electric Cooperative:

West Bend corn popper — James T. Blessman, Topeka  
 Electric pencil engraver — Clarence Blum, Virginia  
 Portable mixer — Carroll F. Cline, Pleasant Plains  
 Two-slice toaster — Robert C. Cline, Petersburg  
 Electric can opener — Melvin Constant, Williamsville  
 West Bend corn popper — Dale DeGroot, Ashland  
 Smoke detector — Arthur Durdel, Manito  
 Solder gun kit — George Fleck Sr., Sherman  
 Folding blo-dryer — Thomas Glossop, Ashland  
 Sunbeam air cleaner — Calvin Hall, Athens  
 Solder gun kit — Marlon Heyen, Havana  
 Sunbeam air cleaner — Glen Hillen, Ashland  
 Electric pencil engraver — Hilda Hopwood, Athens  
 Automatic percolator — Paul E. Jones, Petersburg  
 Electric can opener — L. N. Kern, Alexander  
 Curling iron — Art Kramer, Kilbourne  
 West Bend hot pot — Robert Lucas, Mt. Pulaski  
 Smoke detector — Marion E. Maaks, New Holland  
 Folding blo-dryer — Robert Madlinger, Springfield  
 Digital clock radio — Charles Masten, Tallula  
 Curling iron — Glen McCoy, Petersburg  
 Solder gun kit — John Roat, Havana  
 Folding blo-dryer — Emmerson Sheets, Havana  
 Smoke detector — Clarence Spurgin, Middletown  
 Folding blo-dryer — Russell Taapken, Chandlerville  
 Portable mixer — Ralph Vanderveen, Havana

## Proxy prizes (all one-gallon beverage coolers):

Thomas Archer, Buffalo; David Armintrout, Buffalo;  
 Harry Heyen, Petersburg; Donald Stapleton, Sherman, and  
 J. Russell Wallace, Petersburg.

Several Cooperative members have inquired with reference to the power cost adjustment charges on their monthly energy billing.

Effective with the billings rendered on March 29, your Cooperative began to show the wholesale power cost adjustment in dollars and cents on your monthly energy bill. For a number of years the PCA had been shown as a factor on your monthly bill, and still is. However, we were unable to show it as a separate dollar item until recently.

As you recall, effective January 1, 1985, the Cooperative residential rate was adjusted as follows:

Monthly Service Charge	\$13.70
1st 200 kWhrs per month	12.95¢
Next 500 kWhrs	10.32¢
All over 700 kWhrs	9.44¢

In addition, all kilowatt-hours are subject to the power cost adjustment factor listed on your monthly bill.

## TRUCK FOR SALE

The cooperative will accept sealed bids until 12 noon on August 26 on a 1982 Ford F 250 (3/4 ton) service truck with Astoria fiberglass utility body. Dual fuel (LP and gasoline). Approximately 71,000 actual miles. Vehicle available for inspection at the cooperative office 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The cooperative reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

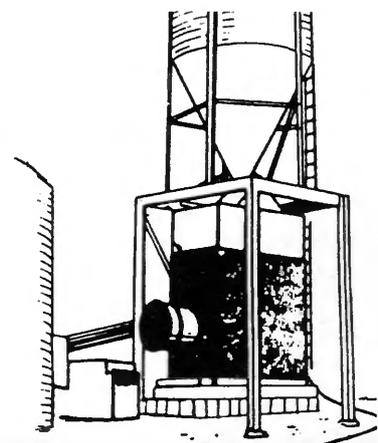
## Crop drying reminder

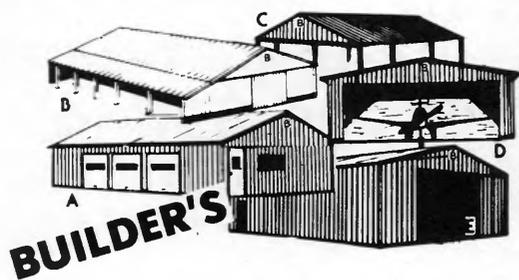
If you are planning to install a new crop dryer or increase your existing drying facility by upgrading existing motor size, don't forget to check with the engineering services department before you buy.

Many times what you, the member, perceive as a small addition can lead to changing out poles, transformer and wire to meet your drying requirements. Occasionally it may require

rebuilding a line from single-phase to three-phase. An improvement of this nature takes a considerable amount of time to engineer and then to construct.

Proper planning by you can eliminate last-minute problems. Our engineering services department is ready to assist in any changes in your service, be it crop drying or any other type of installation.





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*Jim Hinman*

## Jim Hinman new manager at Tri-County

**J**im Hinman has been selected by the board of directors of Tri-County Electric Cooperative to succeed Alan Sisk as manager. Sisk resigned his position with the Mt. Vernon-based cooperative March 29 to accept a position with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), and Hinman became acting manager at that time. He was elevated to manager on July 1.

Hinman came to the 13,000-member cooperative in 1973 as office manager and became assistant manager in 1981. He has worked closely with the board in both positions.

A graduate of Murray State University in Kentucky, the new manager served as a first lieutenant in the Vietnam conflict, where he was awarded two Bronze Stars and the Combat Medal. He worked for Rockwell International in Columbus, Ohio, before coming to Tri-County. He was born in Evansville, Indiana, and raised in Flora.

Hinman and his wife, Elizabeth, a Salem native, have two sons, Robbie, 5, and Steven, 1½. They are expecting a third child in September.

Their hobby is raising thoroughbred horses.



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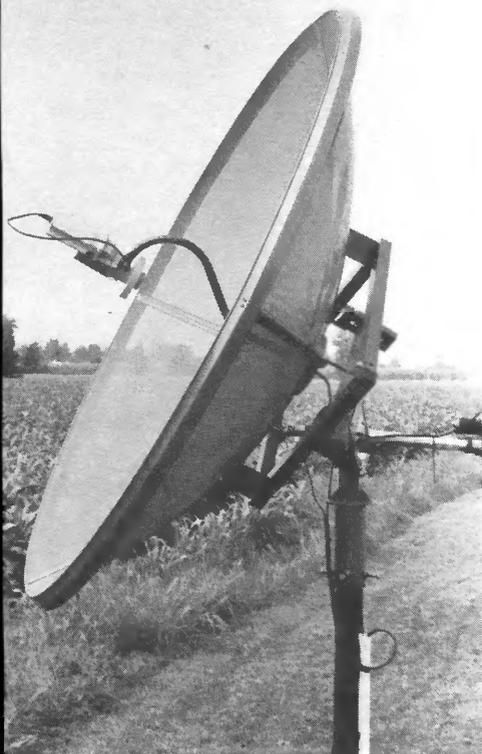
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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and some people believe they are illegal. "That's not true," he emphasizes, adding, "it's perfectly legal to pull in unscrambled signals for viewing on TV." And, he says, about 80 percent of the programming a dish is likely to receive is not scrambled. Most scrambled channels are Canadian, carry adult material only, or carry no commercial messages and must rely on subscription income.

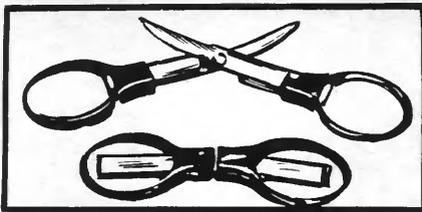
"They scramble, then charge a subscription fee for the decoder," he says, "and we agree that they should be able to profit from their programming. We offer legal, subscription-paid unscrambling for some of the channels that scramble. The charge is billed through ITA, just like the other charges are."

If any one word were used to describe the product lines — and there are 16 packages available — through ITA, it would have to be "quality."

"There are a lot of inexpensive units on the market," Scott says, "but we're offering only the higher quality equipment, and leaving the cheaper stuff alone. We've found that in the long run, that practice will save you money and prevent headaches."



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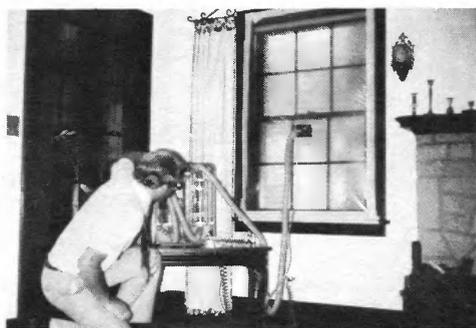
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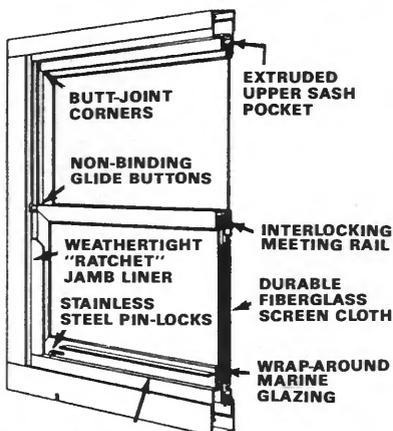
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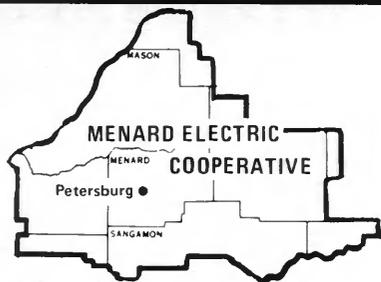
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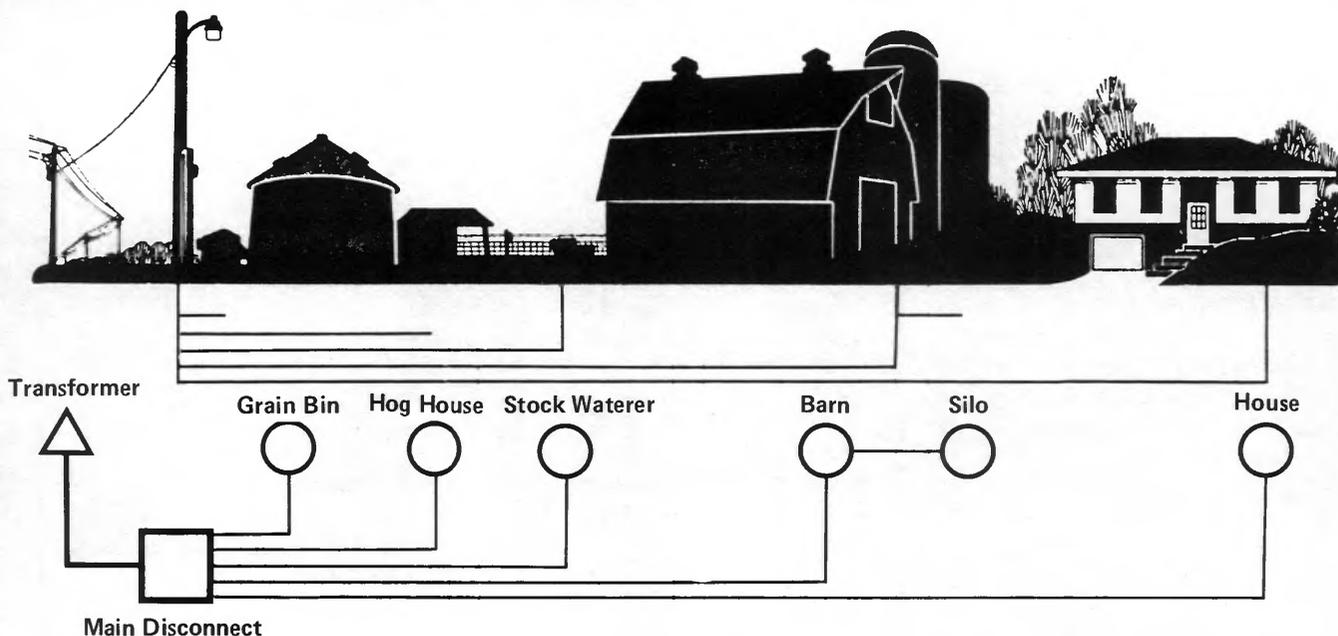
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BEST TIME TO CALL \_\_\_\_\_



# Menard Electric News

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

## You can use your meter for trouble-shooting



If results of meter monitoring show that your daily electrical use has doubled for no apparent reason and you have ruled out lifestyle considerations and other unusual uses, you can use the following procedure to locate sources of trouble with the aid of your electric meter.

**Step One** – Turn off the main disconnect. The disk in the electric meter only turns if electricity is being used. Therefore, the meter should have stopped. If the disk is still turning, check to see that the water pump is turned off at its own fuse box. Sometimes the water pump is wired ahead of the main disconnect for fire protection purposes.

Now that the meter has stopped, you can proceed with trouble-shooting. The idea is to energize as much of your electrical wiring system as possible, one circuit at a time, and still

have a stopped meter disk.

**Step Two** – Turn off the main fuse or breaker in all buildings. Then turn on the main disconnect. If the meter disk is still stopped, this tells you that all wiring from the main disconnect to each building main fuse or breaker is okay.

**Step Three** – Proceed with each individual building by unplugging or turning off everything that could use electricity. Then turn on that building's electrical box or breaker. To further pinpoint possible trouble, turn on each main fuse or circuit breaker in each building, one at a time.

Continue this process until one of two things results – if the meter disk is stopped, you're okay; but if the disk is turning and the appliances are off, you have discovered a source of trouble.

Common sources of trouble include

electrical faults in wiring systems that are usually due to physical damage, moisture and dirt, or improper connections.

Sometimes you'll find equipment using electricity that you thought was turned off. It could be a stock waterer, thermostat, or basement and attic lights.

If no problems are found, your electric cooperative has test meters available to record the electrical consumption of whatever is plugged into them. By comparing your recorded use with that of our list for farm and home appliances and equipment, you can determine whether that equipment is using an unusually high amount of electricity.

However, if all methods fail, contact your electrician or seek proper advice from your local electric cooperative. We're here to help.

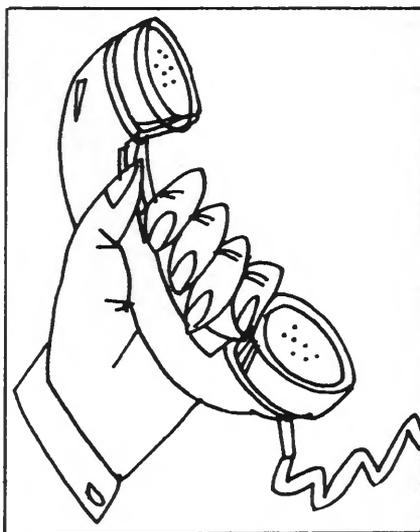
# Please notify your cooperative if you see a safety hazard

Your Cooperative has many miles of overhead and underground lines and thousands of poles, insulators, transformers, and other related equipment necessary to supply electricity to all its consumers. Through systematic inspection and maintenance, we try to keep everything in good repair.

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

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

- **Damaged or Fallen Utility Poles** — When a pole has fallen, because of an accident or other reason, or when it is about to fall, don't get near it. Call the office at once. Then, if possible, stay on the scene to warn others away from



the hazardous area. We will send out a repair crew as soon as possible to correct the situation.

- **Damaged Lines or Insulators** — Storms, accidents, or vandals may inflict damage to electric lines or insulators. Sagging or broken lines can be acute safety hazards. Should you

happen on such a scene, call us at once.

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

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

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

## The overlooked value of your electricity

Electricity is not sold by the package, the pound, the gallon, or the piece. Residential consumers buy electricity by the number of kilowatt-hours they use during a month.

A kilowatt-hour is 1,000 watts of electricity used in one hour. We do not actually use a kilowatt-hour; we use a refrigerator, a TV, a motor, lights, or some other electric appliance or device that consumes that much electric energy to operate.

We cannot see, hear, feel, taste or smell electricity as it cooks our food, and cools our homes, pumps and heats our water, lights our homes, powers our tools, and does hundreds of other tasks on a regular basis. We do not have empty jars, bottles, cartons or packages left over from the use of electricity, so we easily forget what the kilowatts were used for by the time we get our electric bills.

It might be better if we had a meter on each electrical appliance, tool, light, motor, water heater, etc. If we did, we could see that our TV used 25

cents worth of electricity today; our refrigerator 50 cents, which, by the way, is equivalent to one-half bag of ice from the supermarket; our hair dryer used one cent, our lighting 20 cents, etc. If we had such a system, we would be more aware of the cost of energy for each electric appliance used and each electrical chore performed. Then we could decide whether 25 cents was a reasonable price to use our TV, one cent to dry our hair, 50 cents to freeze and cool our food, etc. We could compare to other alternatives and we might realize that electricity is really a bargain when we consider what it does for us.

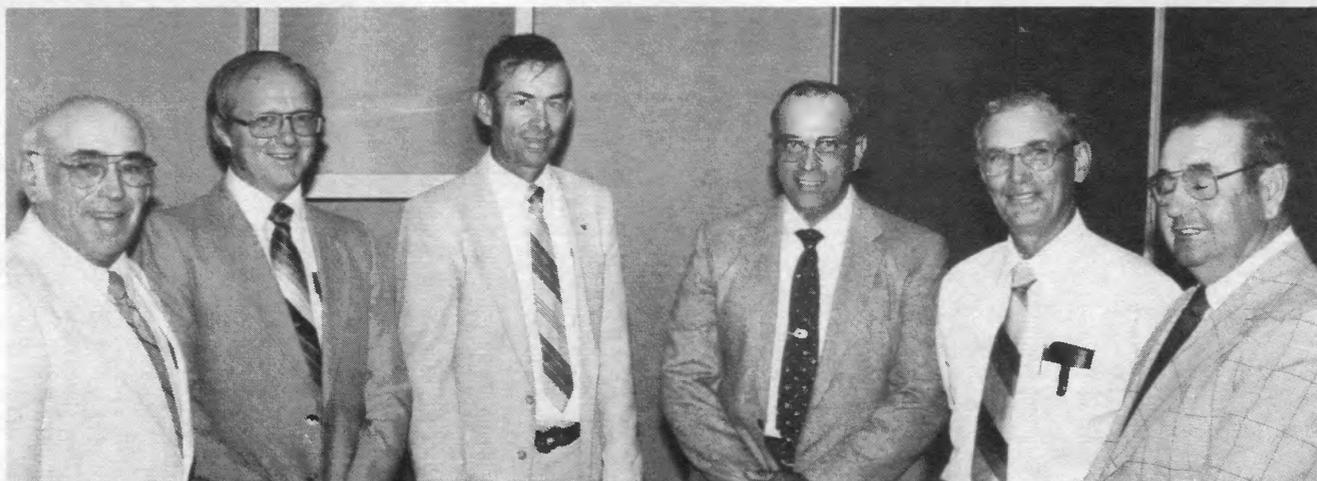
When we look at other life essentials of food, clothing and shelter, we find there is diversity in the consumption levels of different individuals. We can buy soup or steaks, depending upon our appetites and ability to pay for the food we buy. We can buy blue jeans or expensive three-piece suits, depending on our preference, need and financial ability. We can buy mobile

homes or mansions, depending on our lifestyles and ability to pay for shelter.

As we consider the vast cost range of life's necessities, we realize that there is a great difference due to quantity of consumption and quality of life. We also have choices in the electric energy consumption area. Alternate energy sources are available in almost every area of electric use, but very few alternatives are as convenient or inexpensive as electricity.

Prices of electricity are based on the cost of providing electric service. We're sure we would like the 20 cent loaf of bread, the \$5 blue jeans, the \$5,000 home, and the \$20 electric bill, but those prices just don't exist anymore.

We wish Menard Electric Cooperative could give you 1985 electric service at 1960 prices, but such prices would not come close to meeting all the costs involved in serving you with electricity. We know electricity has become essential just as food, clothing, or shelter.



The ITCA board of directors, from left: Kenneth Diers of Smithshire, Dennis Cornwell of Quincy, Raynold Eggemeyer of Chester (alternate for Leland Luthy of Marissa), Dale Chenoweth of Table Grove, Charles Atteberry of Cisne and Marvin Scott of Belle Rive.

## New laws protect rural telephone users

**N**ew legislation should help insulate local telephone companies, including the state's six telephone cooperatives, and their consumers from unfair competition and companies ill-prepared or unqualified to provide reliable and equitable dial tone service in their service areas. That was the good news from the last Illinois legislative session as reported by Jack Tharp, executive vice president of the Illinois Telephone Association, at the annual meeting of the six-member Illinois Telephone Cooperative Association held in Springfield on July 24. Tharp said the new laws provide three major tests that a competitor has

to pass before being permitted to encroach on their service areas.

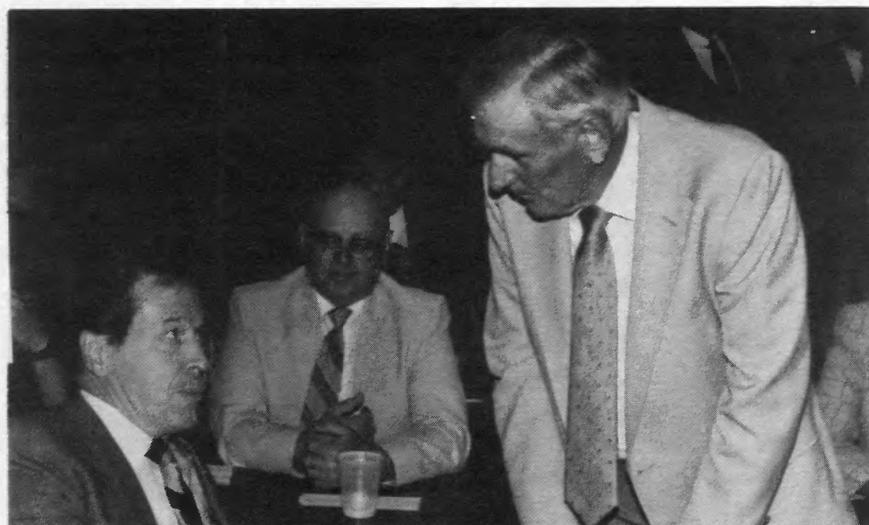
The tests are: (1) getting certified by the Illinois Commerce Commission to provide service in an area that already has service from a local company, (2) proof of technical ability to provide that service, and (3) proof that the existing carrier would not be adversely affected by the intrusion and that its customers would not suffer higher rates because of the newcomer's operations.

Tharp also reported on the new interstate toll message tax bill that was then awaiting the governor's signature. Governor James Thompson signed the

compromise legislation August 1, putting it into effect on his signature and providing for a 5 percent tax on interstate toll calls with the money collected being allocated between the state's General Revenue and Common School funds.

Earl W. Struck, director of the Legal and Public Affairs Department, AIEC, reviewed the past year in monitoring state legislative and executive activities affecting the ITCA. He noted successful efforts to correct language in pending bills to maintain the telephone cooperatives' present status under the public utility and not-for-profit corporation acts.

Following the annual meeting, the directors of the ITCA met to reorganize. Reelected were president Dennis Cornwell of Quincy, vice president Leland Luthy of Marissa, and secretary-treasurer Kenneth Diers of Smithshire. Clyde Bollinger, manager of Egyptian Telephone Cooperative, Steeleville, was retained as chairman of the advisory council. Cornwell is the Adams Telephone Co-Operative representative to the ITCA, Luthy is from Egyptian, and Diers represents McDonough Telephone Cooperative. Other directors of the ITCA include Charles Atteberry of Cisne (Wabash Telephone Cooperative), Marvin Scott of Belle Rive (Hamilton County Telephone Co-op) and Dale Chenoweth of Table Grove (Mid Century Telephone Cooperative).



Clyde Eskridge, seated, manager of Mid Century Telephone Cooperative, Canton, talks with John O'Neal, president of Adams Telephone Co-Operative, Golden. O'Neal, of Augusta, is the Region V director of the board of the National Telephone Cooperative Association.



# New method of calculating tax means reduced costs

**L**egislation signed September 14 by Governor Thompson will result in reduced total bills for rural electric cooperative consumers. The signing of the bill culminated several months of efforts by electric cooperative leaders in the state to bring about a new method of calculating the state utilities tax.

The new legislation, to be effective January 1, 1986, changes the method of computing the tax on electric bills to make it a flat rate per kilowatt-hour used rather than a percentage of the total bill.

Illinois electric cooperatives were the only state utility

organizations to support the legislation, of which Rep. Tom Homer of Canton was the primary sponsor.

The legislation changes the method of calculating the state taxes on natural gas and electricity sales from a percentage basis, currently 5 percent, to a per-unit basis. The new rate for electric consumers is 32-hundredths of a cent (\$.0032) per kilowatt-hour.

The legislation guarantees no utility tax increases for state residents.

Electric cooperatives and other consumer groups supporting the legislation charged that the state's 5 percent utility tax was a "hidden" tax because it increased automatically as electric and natural gas rates increased. Revenue generated through the 5 percent tax increased 308 percent from 1972-82.

In fact, the utility tax was the fastest growing state tax in Illinois, and currently is the state's third largest revenue source. Only New Jersey has a higher utility tax rate than Illinois. Future utility tax increases would have to be approved by the General Assembly and the governor.

Rural electric leaders stressed during their support of the bill the fairness of the legislation to all Illinois residents because the tax will be applied evenly on the amount of electricity or natural gas used, regardless of the rate charged by the supplier. The legislation should also be an incentive for industry which might locate in Illinois, because it will help lower future total utility costs.

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Quantity	Description	Delivered to Your Door Price	Factory Pick Up
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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_ VISA / MC (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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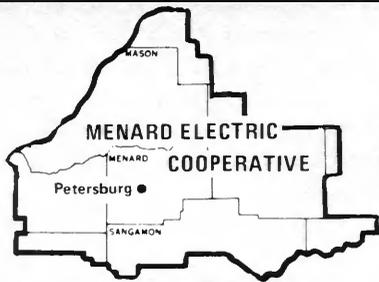
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# Menard Electric News

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

## Co-op Comments Pooling to trim costs

Mr. and Mrs. John Shelton of R.R. 3, Petersburg, celebrated their 15th anniversary August 21. John is an Engineering Technician with your Cooperative.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Worth of R.R., New Holland, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary October 6. Glenn served as Assistant Manager of your Cooperative for a number of years and retired in 1972.

Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Crawford of R.R., Petersburg, will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary October 23. Marjorie was a former secretary for your Cooperative and retired in January of 1984.

An experimental rate is now in effect for electricity used since the September meter reading until the meter reading which will be taken December 16. This rate available on Rate Schedule A — Farm and Residential, single-phase service has a new rate block that is nearly 2 cents per kilowatt-hour lower than the current rate and applies to all electric usage over 1,500 kilowatt-hours per month.

This "fall special" could amount to considerable savings on crop drying or any other large use of electricity, such as electric heat.

If your electric usage is less than 1,500 kwh/month during this period, you will still benefit, as any margins your Cooperative earns because of increased sales through this program will be passed along to all of the Cooperative members.

The experimental rate is temporary in nature and is effective only from the September meter reading period through the December 1985 meter reading date.

The cost of electricity has always been a major concern of the directors and employees of your Cooperative. Keeping costs as low as possible for the member-owners is a continuing objective.

Maintaining reasonable costs, though, is but half of the foremost responsibility of your Cooperative. An equally important concern is providing an adequate supply of electricity.

Since January 1, Western Illinois Power Cooperative (WIPCO) and Soyland Power Cooperative have been operating under a power pooling agreement providing all electrical energy requirements of 22 distribution Cooperatives in Illinois. The pooling arrangement provides long-term power supply contracts to purchase, on an "as if owned" basis, fossil fuel generating capacity from Illinois Power Com-

pany (IP). This capacity combined with CIPS agreements and the ownership interest in the Clinton Power Station and the generating plant at Pearl, Illinois, will meet your Cooperatives power supply needs into the 1990's.

The accompanying chart shows the generating plants of IP and the percent of each involved with the pooling agreement of WIPCO and Soyland.

This unique arrangement will provide for optimum use of generating plants, resulting in lower costs than could be achieved otherwise and, for the first time, allows the Cooperatives to wheel power over IP transmission lines, so that the power we buy on a wholesale basis from WIPCO will be the least expensive electricity available to Menard Electric at any given moment, day or night.

## New tax law will cut bills

New legislation was recently adopted which changes the method of computing the utility tax on electric bills to make it a flat rate per kilowatt-hour rather than a percentage of the total bill.

The legislation changes the method of calculating the state tax on electricity to .32 of a cent per kilowatt-hour. Currently the 5 percent utility tax amounts to \$6.38 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours and the new tax rate would amount to approximately \$3.20 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours.

The state utility tax has been the fastest growing state tax in Illinois and is currently the state's third largest revenue source. While there are still some unanswered questions about the new tax rate, the legislation appears to

be fair to all and the tax will be applied evenly on the amount of electricity used regardless of the area in which the user lives.

The new tax rate will be implemented on bills rendered Jan. 31, 1986.

**DANGER**  
**Keep Clear**  
**of**  
**Power Lines**

# Large turnout at district meets

At the direction of the board of directors, district meetings were held in each of the director districts between August 30 and September 20. A total of 435 people attended the nine district meetings and we believe they were beneficial to those who attended.

Numerous questions and concerns were raised and Manager Root responded to each one.

Morris Bell, president of the board of directors, attended each of the district meetings and the director of each district was host at the meeting in their area.

The responsibilities and qualifications of directors of electric co-ops were reviewed and specific responses to the following questions were presented at each meeting.

1. Why Menard Electric Cooperative serves you.
2. Why WIPCO was organized.
3. Why all-requirements power contracts were necessary.
4. Why we are in the Clinton project.
5. What is being done to stabilize our rates.

Mr. Root indicated that there are still concerns, such as nuclear Clinton plant being delayed; acid rain legislation being adopted at the federal level which would drive up the cost of coal-

Soyland/WIPCO Participation in Illinois Power Capacity			
Generating Unit	Total Net Capacity (MW)	Soyland/WIPCO %	MW
Baldwin 1	587	10.7%	62.8
Baldwin 2	587	10.7%	62.8
Baldwin 3	587	10.7%	62.8
Wood River 1	49	10.7%	5.2
Wood River 2	49	10.7%	5.2
Wood River 3	49	10.7%	5.2
Wood River 4	101	10.7%	10.8
Wood River 5	390	10.7%	41.7
Havana 1-5	258	10.7%	27.6
Havana 6	426	10.7%	45.6
Hennepin 1	74	10.7%	7.9
Hennepin 2	224	10.7%	24.0
Vermilion 1	74	10.7%	7.9
Vermilion 2	107	10.7%	11.5
Vermilion CT	12	10.7%	1.3
Jacksonville JT	13	10.7%	1.4
Stallings CT	91	10.7%	9.7
Oglesby CT	60	10.7%	6.4
Bloomington Diesel	2	10.7%	0.2
	<b>3740</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>400</b>

fired generation; and the concern that the economy of the agricultural community and all of rural America might continue to suffer. On balance, Root was optimistic for Menard Electric, its members and rural America.

## Take a look at your wiring

Have you given your electric wiring system any attention lately? Maybe you are one who believes the wiring will last forever. It may seem strange but wiring deteriorates much like materials. Wiring requires maintenance and regular checking of physical conditions and electric loads sometimes require revamping of circuits or addition of new circuits.

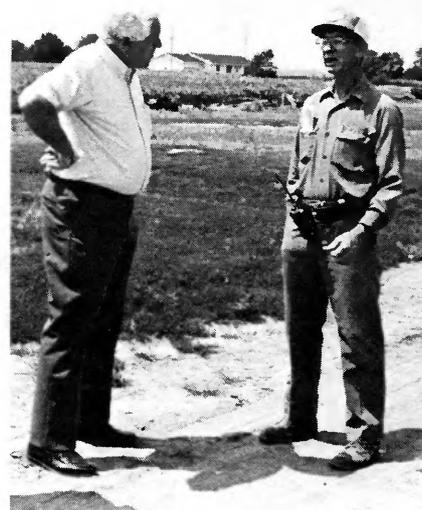
The National Electric Code covers minimum specifications for safe installations of electric devices and wiring size requirements. A qualified electrician will know the electric code requirements and be able to give good

advice and provide safe electrical installations.

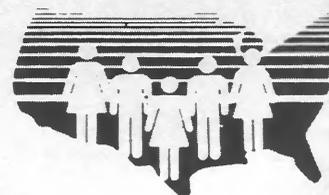
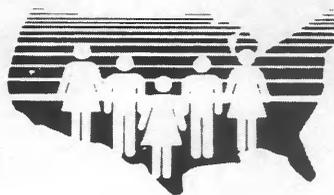
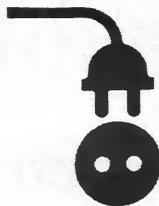
Check for loose terminals and connections. Connections have a tendency to loosen over a period of time, especially if the circuit is exposed to heavy usage. The heating up of wiring causes expansion and when cooling, the wire contracts and this can cause loose connections.

A good place to check for loose connections is in the fuse panel or breaker panel. Before checking in this panel, make sure the main breaker or main fuse is in off position.

While in the panel, check for any discoloration and melting of the insulation on the wires. This is a sign of overheating of circuits and action needs to be taken to correct before other damage occurs.



Soyland General Manager E. H. Williams meets with George Brauer of rural Oakford, Illinois, a major hog farmer and member of Menard Electric Cooperative. Williams has been a frequent visitor with cooperative members served by the 22 cooperative-systems making up the Soyland/WIPCO federations.



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# COOPERATIVES

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## *Rural development dedication urged*

**F**or Bob Bergland, one of the nation's first rural development efforts began 50 years ago when President Roosevelt signed an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration.

"My mother cried when the rural electric co-op brought electricity to our farm," says Bergland, general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the 1985 Cooperative Month chairman. "She knew that because of electricity, there was a chance for us to break the bonds of poverty."

But that first burst of rural development is history and America is in need of a new dose of development in rural areas, says the former Secretary of Agriculture under President Carter.

"We need this renewed vigor because the composition of rural America has changed dramatically," Bergland says. "In the span of time from 1940 to 1965, 20 million people moved off the farm."

Along with that demographic shift, Bergland says that there has been a change in the attitudes of the rural population — a change that demands a reappraisal by all cooperatives about their business and role in rural America.

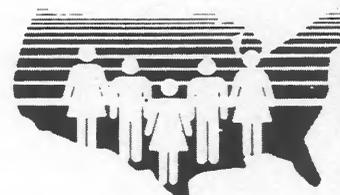
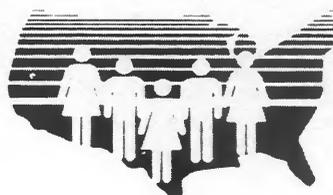
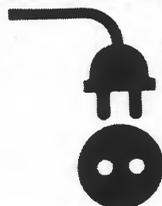
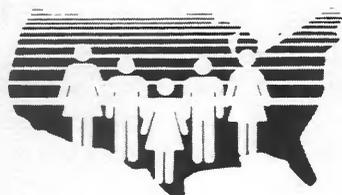
"My father is dead, but dad would have patronized the local cooperative no matter what because to him it was a matter of religion, an article of faith," he says.

But, Bergland says, his children's view of the world is different. "My kids say that, 'well, the co-op is an important part of the system of competitive enterprise, but there's a limit to how much I can afford to give them above the marketplace rate,'" he says. "So I think that cooperatives have to find their business niche without giving up the role of providing leadership and service that no non-cooperative business can commit to or undertake." To do so will take a better understanding of the composition and

attitude of the changing rural population, as well as a better understanding of the cooperative's role in working toward building a strong economic structure for rural America.

According to Bergland, not much is known about today's rural mix. "In the rural electric area, for example, we know that we have 10 million consumers and we know that one million farm for a living," he says. He adds that there are an additional 1.5 million part-time or "hobby farmers" and they divide \$25 billion in wages earned in the local communities and live comfortably. "While not depending on the farm economy, they are still rural residents," he said. "This leaves 7.5 million rural families served by rural electric co-ops that are not directly involved in production agriculture. We don't know much about them."

Bergland's NRECA is undertaking a detailed national survey to find out. In doing so, Bergland hopes that the information will direct rural electrics in rural development areas and non-ag job creation because, in his view, there will be few new jobs in the farming industry. "In general, we're not going to see a massive demand for labor on the farm anytime soon," he



they needed, they said, was a presentation to show them how to avoid wasting energy.

While a video presentation initially seemed like a good idea to the AIEC staff, Regal 8 people said they preferred slides because their training setup is based on the use of filmstrip projectors, and it is fairly simple to transfer a set of slides onto a filmstrip.

In Regal 8 Inns' training program, new employees view several filmstrips that explain the best way to perform certain tasks, and employees go through an occasional "refresher" to keep the good habits they have learned.

The motels are not involved in food service and large convention business, so the task became a matter of treating each room almost like a single residence and going from there, with the main difference being that the motels have pools.

From a simple slide show, the job soon branched into two distinctly different shows for Regal 8, and a third, "generic" motel presentation has also been spun off the series, for other motels interested in keeping energy costs low.

One presentation was directed toward management to provide an overview of potential energy improvements to their buildings. The other was aimed at providing guidance to maintenance and housekeeping people on low-cost or no-cost energy improvements they could take advantage of in their daily activities.

The "management" slides go over possible changes to the buildings to make them more energy-efficient, such as caulking, weatherstripping and lighting, also suggesting wall, window and door changes in the event the motels get involved in renovation in the future. The present motel units, many built before the severity of the energy crunch became apparent, generally have considerable window space, limited insulation and are relatively prone to air leakage.

The "employee" slides deal with changes in routine that are important in keeping costs down. As an example, the AIEC learned that, as the motels start filling up at about 5 p.m. employees would go down each hallway turning on heaters or air

conditioners, depending on the season. That creates considerable demand, which is metered separately in the motels, as it is with most large loads, and high demand makes for high costs. Starting units a few at a time over a longer period can help hold down demand.

Other employee chores, while not geared to large, one-time energy savings, receive attention, too. Housekeeping personnel are urged to shut off dripping faucets and to make a note of those that will not shut off completely, so maintenance workers can follow up immediately. Laundry workers are encouraged to use high-energy machines on a staggered basis, instead of all at once.

Controlling energy use related to the swimming pools is more difficult. Decreasing the pool water temperature could produce some savings, but is not considered a practical thing, management determined. Some of the motels in the chain have indoor pools and it was suggested that the firm might want to shut them down in the winter, that depending on management's idea of how important their pools are in attracting cold-weather customers.

Whether pool savings are realized or not, the company is pleased with the slide shows and the results of their energy-efficiency drive. Jack Dotts, one of the company's financial planners, notes that the presentation was enthusiastically received at a regional meeting last spring in Orlando, Florida, and that the program has saved money.

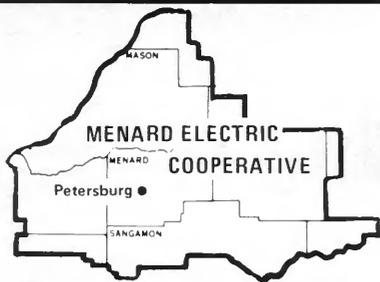
"We used the 1983-84 fiscal year as a jumping-off point," he says, "and we took degree-day figures into account, as well as some costs our innkeepers couldn't control, to set up the program."

He figures the chain has saved just over \$20,000, and has paid out almost \$4,000 in bonuses to managers and employees.

"It has taught our people to pay attention to their meters, to document their kilowatt-hour usage and to keep an eye on the little common sense details we may have overlooked in the past.

"It has worked well for us," Dotts concludes, "and we're using the slide shows and the incentive program as an ongoing cost-cutting program."

**"It has worked well for us and we're using the slide shows and incentive program as an ongoing cost-cutting program."**



# Menard Electric News

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

## Manager John Root plans retirement in May 1986

John E. Root, general manager of your Cooperative, informed the board of directors at its October meeting that he plans to retire in May 1986, after completing more than 20 years of service to the Cooperative's membership.

In announcing his early retirement, Root said that this would give the board of directors ample time to plan for an orderly management transition, "I have enjoyed my association with

1949. He also did postgraduate work at West Virginia University. He was a school teacher prior to his association with rural electrification.

During Root's tenure the number of consumers has grown from 5,000 to over 8,100. Nearly 350 miles of line have been added to the Cooperative service area and the use of electricity has increased nearly four-fold.

Root has been active in the community life of Central Illinois during the past 20 years. He has served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, chair person of the United Way Fund Drive for Menard County, president of the Menard County Historical Society and numerous other committees, agencies and citizens groups. He continues to serve as a member of the board of directors of the National Bank of Petersburg and is currently president of the Lake Petersburg Association. In addition, Root is a member of the board of directors of Western Illinois Power Cooperative (WIPCO) and is on the board of directors of the United Utility Supply Cooperative of Louisville, Kentucky, and is serving on the Soyland/WIPCO joint power supply board. He is past president of the Illinois Electric Cooperative Managers' Association and is a veteran of World War II.

Root indicated that he and his wife, Mildred, plan to continue their residency in Menard County as a member of the Cooperative.

### Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed November 28 and 29 in observance of Thanksgiving.

## Co-op Comments

Terry Entwistle of rural Petersburg completed 15 years of employment with your Cooperative on November 5, 1985. Terry is a crew leader.

William L. McCoy of Kilbourne completed 25 years of employment with your Cooperative on November 10, 1985. Bill served many years as a forestry journeyman and is currently disabled.

At the Cooperative's last annual meeting a resolution was adopted suggesting that the board of directors study the power supply options available to the Cooperative. Subsequently, the board of directors has secured the services of Christenson Associates of Madison, Wisconsin to do an economic study of the options available to Menard Electric. We will continue to use the center section of the REN to keep the Cooperative members informed as to the results of the study.

The Cooperative has over 2,400 miles of overhead and underground electric distribution line, thousands of poles, insulators, transformers and other related equipment necessary to supply electricity to all its members.

As we are entering the hunting season sometimes the unexpected occurs along the lines and creates safety hazards that we can't possibly know about unless someone tells us. We hope that, should such a situation arise that comes to your attention, you will be the someone who reports the problem to us.

He who asks questions and then doesn't give time for an answer either knows the answer or doesn't care and just wants to cause confusion.



Root

Menard Electric Cooperative, the area which it serves in Central Illinois and the rural electrification program throughout the country, but it is time for a new generation to take the leadership reins," he said.

Root has served your Cooperative since March 8, 1965, when he moved to Illinois from Millboro, Virginia, where he had served as assistant manager of B-A-R-C Electric Cooperative.

A native of Lost Creek, West Virginia, Root graduated from Salem College at Salem, West Virginia in

# You can take credit for conservation

Take advantage of tax credits. If you are among the many members of Menard Electric who have weatherized your home, don't forget you are entitled to the residential energy tax credit available on your income tax.

The deadline for taking the credit is December 31, 1985. To be eligible your home must have been constructed prior to April 20, 1977.

The maximum credit is 15 percent of the first \$2,000 spent on energy conservation (maximum credit of \$300). If you have installed storm windows, weather stripping, caulking or other types of energy conservation repair, don't forget to claim your energy tax credit on your 1985 income tax report.



Thanksgiving is a time set aside each year for everyone to pause and think of the blessings they have received during the year. As employees of your cooperative, we have many things to be thankful for.

First and most important are our good members. Members who know and appreciate their cooperative, help us by providing the right-of-way for our lines, by paying their bills promptly, and by notifying us about service interruptions.

We appreciate our members' good nature and helpful attitude when conditions beyond our control cause an interruption in electrical service.

We wish to thank our members for their cooperation and assistance during the past year and hope that each and every one has a blessed and happy Thanksgiving.

## Keep meter area accessible

We often get reports from our meter readers about conditions at certain locations which make it difficult (if not impossible) to read the meter.

Such things as dogs chained within reach of the meter, loose livestock, locked gates, vehicles or junk hiding

the meter from view, motorcycles blocking the path to the meter and overgrown weeds or brush around the meter are real hindrances to your meter reader. Take a look around your meter and make sure none of these, or similar, conditions exist.

## Information on 1986 energy assistance program

The Illinois Home Energy Assistance Program helps income eligible households pay home energy bills.

Applicants will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis.

All ages are eligible to apply.

An overdue bill or a cut-off notice is NOT required.

Upon making application be sure to take copies of your income for the past 90 days to the IHEAP office with you. Acceptable form of income records would be your employee check stubs, your unemployment records or employer verification for the past 90 days. If you are self-employed, bring your bookkeeping records for the past 90

days. If you are on welfare you must have your green card with you.

If your utility bills are included in your rent and you qualify, IHEAP payments will be paid on your account. For those centers in which utilities are included in your rent there is now a form for your landlord to sign. You must ask for this form from your IHEAP office.

If any of our members think that they may be eligible for IHEAP payment, please call the number in the county in which you live or the IHEAP toll free emergency hot line at 800-252-8643.

### TO APPLY

When you apply for assistance, bring with you:

- Proof of your household's income for the past 90 days.
- A copy of your current energy bill (if you pay for your home energy directly).
- Social security number of all persons in household.
- The application process will be the same as last year's program. Beginning November 1, 1985, applications will be accepted for the elderly, handicapped, homebounds, and disconnected households only. On December 1, 1985, applications will be accepted from everyone on a first-come, first-served basis.

The 1986 Illinois Home Energy Assistance Program, "IHEAP," is now getting underway. The guidelines for the program are much the same as the 1985 program. All offices will be open four (4) days a week, Monday through

Thursday, with Friday being processing day for the "IHEAP" centers.

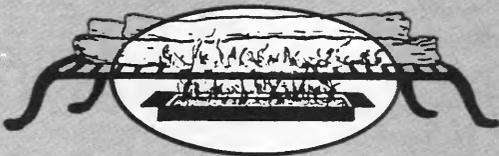
### ELIGIBILITY

Size of Household	Gross Income For 90 Days Prior To Application Date
1	\$1641
2	2203
3	2766
4	3328
5	3891
6	4453
7	5016
8	5578

If special accommodations are required to assist you in applying, please explain your need to your local agency.

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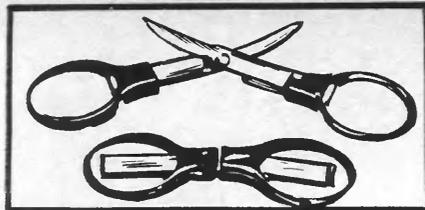
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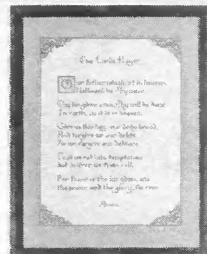
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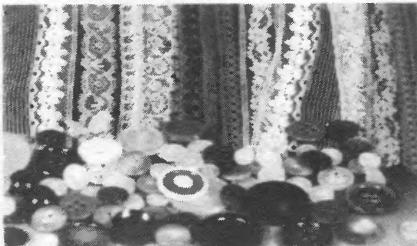
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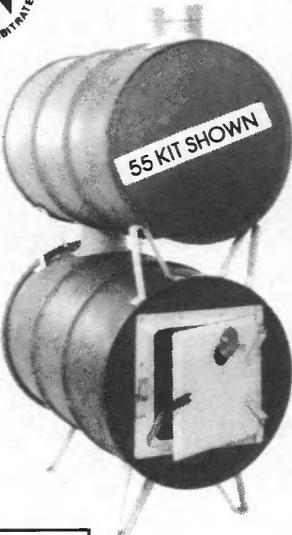
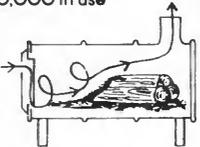


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- Spark Proof
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(Drums not supplied)  
Designed for the budget shopper. For occasional heating jobs such as workshop, cabin or other. Average combustion efficiency. Stove parts similar to Sotz 30-gal. stove kit, except without patented internal draft channel, has spark arrester shield instead. Draft control on bottom of door.

### ECONOMY CAST IRON \$29.96

Factory pick-up  
Kit fits drums from 30-55 gallon



Airtight Gasketed Door

Sotz Inc., 13668-N5 Station Rd., Columbia Station, OH 44028

and an antivibration system. Handguards are important to keep the hands from slipping onto the chain. A safety-tip covers the end of the guide bar and chain and reduces the chances of kickback. The chain brake is designed to instantly stop the chain if kickback occurs. The chain brake also can serve as the front handguard. The throttle lockout acts as a guard against unplanned chain motion. A spark arrester (gas models only) keeps the carbon that builds up in the manifold from being ejected as sparks in the exhaust. This reduces the chance of fire in the woods. Special chains are designed to reduce the risk of kickback. The chain catcher helps reduce the risk of injury in the event a chain breaks during operation. Some saws are equipped with an antivibration system which makes operation of the saw easier and helps reduce operator fatigue and stress.

#### Consider Other Useful Features

A chain saw with a thumb-operated kill button, a compression release button and an automatic chain oiler also may make your wood cutting experience more enjoyable and safer. The kill button immediately shuts the engine off. It enhances the saw's safety features. The compression release button makes the saw's starter cord easier to pull. The auto-oiler lubricates the chain each time you pull the throttle trigger.

Most saws are built for right-handed operators, Bolin points out. If you're left-handed, a right-handed saw puts you into an awkward operating position and may increase the risk of injury. Check to see if there is a left-handed model available.

Be sure you are well acquainted with the saw's features and how it should be properly operated. Learn how to shut off the saw instinctively without looking for the kill switch. If you don't understand something, take it back to the dealer and ask him to explain it to you.

"Don't assume the saw's in tip-top condition," Bolin stresses. "Check to see that all the parts are in good repair. Tighten any loose nuts or screws. The chain needs constant attention. Periodically check its tension on the guide bar and sharpness of the chain teeth.

With a little experience, you will be able to tell when the chain needs sharpening. A dull chain just increases your risk of injury."

#### Always Wear Protective Clothing

Your saw can be in great shape, but if you're inappropriately dressed for the job at hand, your chances for injury increase, Bolin warns. Before you ever pull the starter cord make sure you're equipped with a hard hat, safety goggles, sure-grip gloves, ear protectors, safety shoes and trim-fitting clothes.

"Eye, ear and head protection are musts," he stresses. "The saw is very noisy and could damage your hearing over a period of time without hearing protection. Wood chips, bark and sawdust fly when the saw's in operation. Eye protectors minimize the chance of vision loss or obstruction. You never know when a rotten limb may come crashing down on your head. A hard hat will help provide impact protection.

To maintain control, you need a good grip on the saw. Leather gloves are recommended. Heavy logs can take a toll on toes. Safety-toed shoes with non-slip soles are recommended. Baggy clothing can easily become tangled in the brush and cause you to fall. Loose-fitting clothes can be caught by the moving chain as well, Bolin adds.

#### Observe Safe Operating Procedures

• Never carry a saw with the motor operating. Always carry the saw so that the guide bar and chain point behind you, and the muffler is away

from your body. The guide bar sheath should be used when the saw's not operating.

• Never work alone. Have someone assist you.

• Make sure that the work area is free of any debris or vegetation that might interfere with the chain and cause kickback.

• Make provisions for a refueling site that is at least 10 feet from where the saw will be started and operated.

• Never refuel a hot saw. Let it cool down at least 10 minutes before adding gasoline. This will also give you a chance to relax for a few moments.

• Always put the saw on the ground and hold it down firmly when starting. Never attempt to start your saw on your leg or knee.

• When the saw starts make sure the chain does not rotate when it is idling.

• Always hold a running saw firmly with two hands using the proper grip described in the operating manual.

• Use the proper stance. Never lean forward or sideways to cut.

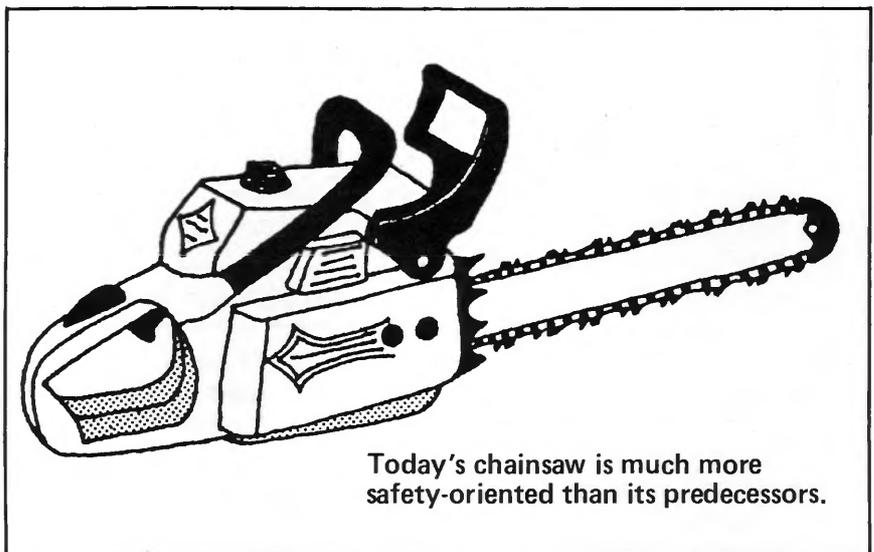
• Make sure your body and legs are clear of the path the saw will follow after the cut is complete.

• Begin all cuts at top saw speed and maintain top speed throughout the cut.

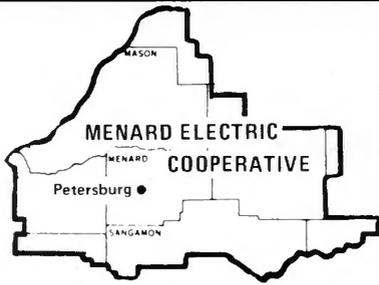
• Never operate the saw above waist level.

• Turn the saw off and make sure the chain stops before any adjustments are made.

• Avoid fatigue. Take frequent breaks to rest.



Today's chainsaw is much more safety-oriented than its predecessors.



# Menard Electric News

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

## Co-op Comments

The "Fall Energy Special" will end at the December meter reading which will occur during the period December 16-18. Those who were able to take advantage of the above found it to be attractive and we believe it increased the total kilowatt-hour sales during the past three months and in effect would have had some bearing on everyone's total energy bill.

Beginning with the billing dated January 31, the new public utility tax law will be in effect. In lieu of paying 5 percent of your total bill as tax, it is our understanding that the tax will be .32 cents per kilowatt-hour. This change will be automatic and members will not have to apply for the tax advantage.

Your Cooperative continues to get reports from the contractual meter readers about conditions at certain locations which make it difficult or almost impossible to read the electric meter.

Take a good look around your meter and if weeds, brush, junk or other type of obstacles are at or near the meter, please correct this condition. In addition, if it is necessary to have guard dogs in the yard where the meter is located, please make arrangements with the contractual meter reader so that accurate meter readings may be secured in a timely fashion. By doing so, the nuisance of receiving an estimated bill can be avoided.

Your Cooperative's board of directors is currently reviewing all electric rates for 1986. The January issue of this magazine will contain information with reference to any decisions made on the electric rates for 1986.

## Distribution lines being rebuilt

Construction by Cooperative employees of approximately 16 miles of distribution line is underway. At the present time, the north feeder line out of the Mason City substation is being rebuilt a distance of approximately nine miles to State Route 136. This will allow connection to a three-phase distribution line out of the Bishop substation which runs parallel to Route 136 and approximately three miles of the Bishop line is being upgraded.

Beginning at the Country Opry corner, south of Petersburg, the distribution line is being upgraded to a three-phase distribution line a distance of approximately four miles ending

near the Deer Park and/or Boesdorfer corner, south of Petersburg.

The above distribution lines are being upgraded to four 4/0 conductor and will allow your Cooperative to have tie-ins with one or more substations. In addition, engineering studies have indicated a need for upgrading of facilities in the above areas due, in part, to the age and condition of the lines currently in place. We cannot afford to let your Cooperative's electric distribution system deteriorate to such a degree that all of it would have to be replaced at one time.

Hopefully, the bulk of the above construction can be accomplished this winter, weather permitting. We appreciate the cooperation of all of the Cooperative members living in the above areas and apologize for any inconvenience and/or temporary interruptions of service which you might experience due to the rebuilding of the distribution line.

## Hypothermia hazards

Chilly winter weather can be dangerous for persons who don't take precautions to avoid exposure to the cold. A serious medical condition called hypothermia can occur when a person's body loses heat faster than it can be replaced.

Elderly and very young people are especially at risk from cold weather.

For them, even a small drop in temperature, if prolonged, can cause hypothermia. And beware! Hypothermia can occur indoors as well as outdoors.

There are many factors that increase the risk of hypothermia. And it's important to know about them, because hypothermia can be fatal if not detected and treated early.

### Christmas tree safety tips



# A celebration of faith, hope and love

The following appeared in the December 1959 issue of McCall's magazine. The ideas this article contains will make Christmas 1985 more meaningful if we take them to heart and carry them out. Because these actions will not only provide more meaning to the celebration of Christmas but to people's lives the entire year, we want to share them with you:

- This Christmas mend a quarrel.
- Seek out a forgotten friend.
- Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust.
- Write a love letter.
- Share some treasure.

- Give a soft answer.
- Encourage youth.
- Manifest your loyalty in word and deed.
- Keep a promise.
- Find the time.
- Forego a grudge.
- Forgive an enemy.
- Listen.
- Apologize if you were wrong.
- Try to understand.
- Flout envy.
- Examine your demands on others.
- Think of someone else first.
- Appreciate.
- Be kind, be gentle.

- Laugh a little.
- Laugh a little more.
- Deserve confidence.
- Take up arms against malice.
- Decry complacency.
- Express your gratitude.
- Go to church.
- Welcome a stranger.
- Gladden the heart of a child.
- Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
- Speak your love.
- Speak it again.
- Speak it still once more.
- May the love and beauty of the season guide you throughout the year.

## Going south for the winter?

If you are planning to head for the warmer climates of Arizona, California, Florida or elsewhere during the winter, please make arrangements for the payment of your electricity bill. Please call, stop by or send a note to notify us that you will be gone and how long you plan to stay. You can handle your payments in various ways:

- 1) You can leave an advance payment of your anticipated usage.
- 2) If you know the address where you will be, we can mail your bill.
- 3) You can make arrangements for someone to pay your bill.

In all cases, we would like to know how to get in touch with you or whomever is taking care of your farm or home while you are gone. If there is an emergency or a problem with your service while you are gone, it will be a big help to know who to contact.

**Office closing**  
 Menard Electric Cooperative's office will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25, for the Christmas holidays, and Jan. 1, for New Year's Day.

## Rent an economical night light from Menard Electric

- INCREASE SECURITY•  
Protect your farm, home, or business with increased security.
- CUT COSTS•  
You save the costs of buying and installing outdoor lighting. The monthly rental charge covers all maintenance, as well as the cost of the electricity.
- INCREASE SALES•  
Your business won't be left in the dark when it comes to increased visibility.

## Choose gifts with care

The tradition of gift-giving has made Christmas a magical time for children, an occasion warmed by their delight and surprise with the toys and gifts Santa brings. But sometimes a dangerous toy can turn the occasion to heartbreak. When selecting gifts for children:

- Consider the age and abilities of the child and select your gift accordingly.
- Look for an Underwriters' Laboratories label on electrical toys.
- Watch out for playthings that have points, sharp edges or removable parts, especially for little ones.
- The popular "rocket" and shooting toys can put an eye out. Present them only to older children who can understand their danger.

## There's a method to arranging Christmas tree lights

When it comes to stringing lights on the Christmas tree, experience has given us a few pointers to make the task easier and the result more beautiful.

For example, if strings are in a snarl from being packed away from Christmas to Christmas, lay them on the floor and straighten out kinks before attempting to put them on the tree. Make sure all bulbs are burning and that no cords are frayed nor sockets damaged. Disconnect strings from outlet before hanging them on the tree.

In arranging lights, start at the top of tree and work around and down. Place lights on inside boughs first and work from trunk outward to the tips of the boughs. Hang ornamental deco-

rations after the lights are in place. Again work from top down.

To help estimate how many lights are needed for trees of varying heights, try this rule of thumb.

4' trees	35 lights
5' trees	56 lights
6' trees	77 lights
7' trees	102 lights
8' trees	140 lights
10' trees	210 lights

On the outdoor tree, strings of lights are usually the same adornment, with perhaps a lighted star on top. On trees up to 10 feet tall, locate lights as described for indoor trees. For taller trees, strings may be hung straight down from top to bottom on outside branches.

### DEVILED SPARERIBS

- 4-5 lbs. back spareribs
- 2 teaspoons butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup onion finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced or pressed
- 3/4 cup chili sauce or catsup
- 3/4 cup tomato juice
- 1-8 oz. can crushed pineapple
- 2 tablespoons dejon mustard
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 cup green chilies drained

Cut spareribs into serving pieces, trim excess fat. Place ribs (single layers) in a large shallow roasting pan. Bake uncovered at 350° for 1 hour. Melt butter in 2 quart pan over medium heat. Add onion and garlic, cook until onion is limp. Stir in remaining ingredients. Simmer uncovered 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. After 1 hour discard fat from roast pan, pour sauce over ribs. Bake uncovered for 1 hour longer, turning ribs and basting until meat is fork tender. Place on serving platter, skim off remaining fat. Put sauce in bowl and pass with meat.

### PORK ROAST MEXICANA

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1-4 lb. boneless pork roast
- 1/2 cup apple jelly
- 1/2 cup catsup
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 cup crushed corn chips

Combine garlic powder, salt and 1/2 teaspoon chili powder, rub into roast. Place meat on rack in shallow roasting pan. Insert meat thermometer, roast uncovered in 325 degree oven for 2 1/2 hours or until meat thermometer registers 165 degrees. In a saucepan combine jelly, catsup, vinegar and 1/2 teaspoon chili powder. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, simmer uncovered for 2 minutes. Brush roast with glaze, sprinkle top with chips. Continue roasting 10-15 minutes more or until thermometer registers 170 degrees. Let roast stand 10 minutes outside oven. To gravy left in roasting pan including chips, add enough water to make 1 cup. Heat to boiling. Serve with meat.

### CORN CASSEROLE

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 green pepper, minced
- 1 small onion, minced
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 pimento, chopped
- 2 cups cream style corn
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 2 well beaten eggs
- Bread crumbs

Melt butter, add pepper and onion. Cover, cook 5 minutes. Add flour, mix well. Add milk, cook until thick. Add corn, pimento and seasonings. Remove from heat, stir in beaten eggs. Pour into a well greased 1 1/2 quart casserole dish. Cover with bread crumbs. Bake until thick at 350 degrees for 60 minutes.

### CRANBERRY SALAD

- 1 can whole cranberries
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 pkg. black cherry jello (small)
- 1/2 cup chopped oranges

Mix jello by directions on box. Add cranberries. Let partly chill. Add remaining ingredients, mix well. Return to refrigerator and jell.

### MACARONI AND CHEESE

- 8 oz. elbow macaroni
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 4 tablespoons flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 lb. yellow American cheese

Cook macaroni until tender. Drain and rinse. Make white sauce by melting butter, blend flour and salt. Stir until smooth. Add milk slowly, cooking until sauce is thick. Combine grated cheese and macaroni with white sauce. Pour into casserole and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

### CHICKEN MACARONI CASSEROLE

- 1 1/2 to 2 cups cooked elbow macaroni
- 1 cup grated cheese
- 1 1/2 cups cooked chicken, cubed
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup diced onion
- 1/2 to 1 cup diced celery
- pimiento for color
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups milk

Mix first 6 ingredients in large mixing bowl. Set aside. For sauce, melt butter or margarine and blend in salt, flour, and pepper. Gradually add milk stirring constantly until thick. Place chicken mixture into long casserole dish. Pour sauce over top and bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes.

### HONEY SWEET POTATOES

- 2 1/2 cups mashed (cooked or canned) sweet potatoes
- 1/2 cup mini marshmallows
- Dash of pepper
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup honey
- 4 tablespoons oleo or butter, melted
- 3/4 teaspoon salt

Combine potatoes, pepper, salt and 2 tablespoons butter. Stir in marshmallows. Pour in casserole dish. In heavy skillet heat 1 tablespoon butter with honey. Pour over sweet potato mixture. Sprinkle nuts over potato mixture. Drizzle with remaining butter. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes.

### FRUIT SALAD

- 1 large can pineapple chunks
- 2 oranges
- 1 cup nuts
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup sugar

Drain pineapple, place juice in double boiler. Mix sugar, flour, salt and add eggs. Pour this mixture into juice and cook until thickened. Stir constantly. Cool and cut oranges in small pieces. Add pineapple chunks, nuts and marshmallows. Add this to cooled sauce. Before serving, add whipped cream and a little coconut if desired.

### JOSEPH COAT SALAD

- 1/3 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup water
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons prepared mustard
- 2-16 oz. pkgs. frozen mixed vegetables
- 1/2 cup diced onions
- 1/2 cup celery, diced
- 1/2 cup diced green pepper
- 1 small jar pimento

Cook vegetables according to package directions, set aside. Mix vinegar and water together. Mix thoroughly the sugar, flour and prepared mustard. Add to vinegar and water, cook until thick, then beat with wire whisk or perforated spoon. Drain vegetables, pour hot sauce over vegetables and combine. Add remaining ingredients, mix well. Let stand 24 hours in refrigerator before serving.

### BROWN SUGAR DROP COOKIES

- 1/2 cup soft margarine
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 beaten egg
- 1/2 cup Milnot plus 1 tablespoon vinegar or lemon juice
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Mix together margarine, sugar, egg and Milnot plus vinegar or lemon juice. Add remaining ingredients and bake at 400 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

### DANISH SUGAR COOKIES

- 1/2 cup soft margarine
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- Pinch of salt

Combine first five ingredients together and mix well. Add remaining ingredients and roll in small balls, then roll in sugar. Mash down with glass and bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

### PEPPERMINT PINWHEELS

- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter, cut-up
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Red food coloring
- Green food coloring

In small bowl of mixer, beat butter until creamy. Gradually add sugar and peppermint extract; beat until fluffy. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture, mixing well. Remove half of dough to another bowl (about 1 cup) stir in a few drops red food coloring. Tint dough remaining in mixer bowl with a few drops green food coloring, stirring until color is even. Roll green dough between sheets of waxed paper to form a 16 x 6-inch rectangle. Repeat with red dough. Invert red dough on green dough and peel off paper. Press gently with rolling pin. Roll dough up as for jelly roll from long side. Wrap in waxed paper and chill overnight. Slice 1/4-inch thick and place on buttered baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees 10 to 12 minutes. Cool on wire racks. Store in airtight containers. Makes 64 cookies.

### PECAN PIE

- 1 1/2 cups light corn syrup
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- Dash salt
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup pecan halves
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine corn syrup, sugar and butter or margarine in saucepan, bring to boiling. Boil gently uncovered 5 minutes, stir occasionally, cool slightly. Combine eggs, vanilla and salt, pour cooled syrup mixture into eggs, beat well. In a 9-inch pie plate that has been lined with pastry, place pecans in bottom. Pour mixture over pecans, bake for 30-35 minutes in 375 degree oven or until knife inserted near center comes out clean.

### SINGLE PIE CRUST PASTRY

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 3-4 tablespoons cold water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Mix together flour and salt. Cut in shortening until pieces are very small. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon water over part of the mixture. Toss with a fork, push to side of bowl. Repeat procedure until all is moistened. Form dough into ball on slightly floured surface. Flatten ball with hand and roll.

### BUTTER CAKE

- 1 pound oleo or butter
- 3 cups sugar
- 6 eggs
- 4 cups sifted cake flour
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 teaspoons rum flavoring

Cream sugar and butter, add eggs one at a time, beating 1 minute after each egg. Add milk and flour alternately. Add flavorings. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour and forty minutes. Use an angel food cake pan.

### OLD FASHIONED TEA CAKES

- 1 cup butter
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 2 teaspoons baking powder

Mix all ingredients, adding enough flour to make a stiff dough. Roll out on floured surface about 1/4 inch thick, cut into desired shape.

### COCONUT COOKIES

- 2 cups crushed cornflakes
- 2 egg whites, beaten very stiff
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- Pinch of salt

Mix all ingredients together, drop by spoonfuls on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees until brown.