

Software: *be sure it does its intended job*

Finding the best software at the fairest 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.

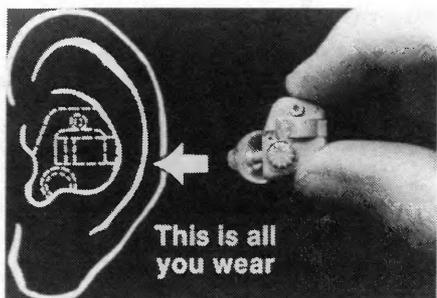
"That is probably in general the lowest cost and highest payoff approach," Steve Sonka says. "Certainly no one should worry that they lack the skills to become proficient with computers. What's important is defining a specific use and spending the time to become familiar with the system's capacities."



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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Monroe Electric News

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

Please accept our best wishes for a happy and successful new year.

The year 1985 and the ensuing years will present many challenges to the board, management and employees of your Cooperative. There are a number of matters of importance that will transpire in 1985 that will have a bearing on the operation and well being of your Cooperative.

As we have conveyed to you previously, we experienced an approximate 25-30 percent increase in wholesale power cost effective Jan. 1. This increase in wholesale power will necessitate an increase in your retail rate for the coming year. Your directors and management are working with the engineering department of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives to draft a new retail rate that will cover the cost of power, operating expenses, and give the Cooperative operating margins that will satisfy the financial standards of our two lenders, the Rural Electrification Administration and National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. We will do everything we can to limit the increased cost to our members. The new rate will be effective with the March 15 billing period. Meanwhile, the increase in wholesale power cost will be reflected in your WPCA charges until the new rate is in effect.

Bids have been awarded to Donco, Inc., of Eldorado to construct a new substation and build five miles of 34.5-KV transmission line to feed the new substation. Construction of the new East Carondelet Substation and the transmission line will start in mid-January. The substation will be located at the intersection of Wagner and Otten roads in St. Clair County. It will relieve some of the load on our Millstadt Substation and improve the service to the members in the northern portion of our service area. The new substation will allow us to loop feed the present Millstadt Substation, feeding it from different directions in case of a major disaster. Construction is scheduled to be completed in June before the KW demand created by air conditioning loads during the summer months, is experienced.

Other system improvements planned for this year that will increase reliability of service to our members include

conversion of approximately three miles of single-phase to three-phase line on the east Red Bud line. This will allow us to split some of the load on the single-phase lines in the area northeast of Red Bud, which will allow for growth and improved service to present members.

To complete the loop feed to the Millstadt Substation, we intend to convert a section of single-phase line between Coxeyville Road and Gilmore Lake to three-phase. This will allow us to feed the Millstadt substation from the new East Carondelet Substation from the north and from the Waterloo Substation from the south, as well as from its present source, Illinois Power Company's transmission line. The East Carondelet and Waterloo substations could also be fed from the Millstadt Substation in emergencies.

To facilitate the office work load, we plan to install a Sperry Univac Universal Terminal System, commonly called a UTS 400 system. This is a microprocessor-based intelligent computer system consisting of video display units, printers and diskette storage units. This unit will give us access to Central Area Data Processing Center's computer 18 hours a day. Information in the data base would be available to the Cooperative instantly, on the video screen and could be stored and printed later. The time involved in getting accounting and engineering reports and other records will be reduced tremendously. This time saving computer system will expedite information needed in the day-to-day business operation of the Cooperative.

These are the most prominent projects we expect to undertake in 1985. With all the long and short range planning that is done, undoubtedly there will be some unforeseen work and system improvements that will be required during the year.

Other programs that will be continued during 1985 will include the meter testing program, the pole testing and treatment program, and right-of-way maintenance and tree trimming program.

All of these projects are planned and are preformed with the interest of the member in mind. We pledge to meet the challenges as they arise and continue to provide you with reliable electric service.

Nominating committee

A nominating committee will meet Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at Monroe's Waterloo offices to select candidates for election to the board of directors at the Cooperative's annual meeting April 8. The committee will slate candidates for three positions. Directors whose terms are expiring this year include: Larry Haas of Belleville, Clarence Metter of Columbia, and Thomas Rosenberg of Red Bud.

Budget billing plan now available



Recognizing that electric rates have increased substantially over the past several years and taking into consideration our increased cost of wholesale power effective Jan. 1, which will appear as a WPCA charge on your electric bill until a new retail rate is established, we are aware that electric bills, particularly for electric heat customers, are becoming somewhat burdensome during the heating season.

Upon request, the Cooperative will establish a 12-month, equal payment plan for each individual member. The monthly payment will be figured in accordance with past history of electric usage. On July 15, which is the end of the budget period, if the payments made under the monthly payment plan are more than actual consumption, a credit will be applied. Should electric usage be higher than the monthly payments, a statement for the difference will be rendered at that time for remittance with the July 15 payment. Should there be a substantial difference in the

amount consumed and the amount paid, an adjustment in the budget payment may be made for the ensuing year.

If you have high seasonal usage, you may want to consider our budget billing program. Thus, you can avoid higher payments at time of peak usage and spread them throughout the year.

If you are interested or have questions concerning budget billing, please contact the Cooperative office. Phone 939-7171.

Home heating hints

Check your thermostat setting. Regardless of the type of fuel you use to heat your home, be it gas or electricity, your thermostat can be the key to more economical operation. The lowest comfortable settings naturally mean the greatest in economy.

TEMPERATURE - COST RELATIONSHIP

Room Temperature	Based on 70 Degrees
68 Degrees	Costs 6.2% less
69 Degrees	Costs 3.1% less
70 Degrees	Costs 0
71 Degrees	Costs 3.1% more
72 Degrees	Costs 6.2% more
73 Degrees	Costs 9.4% more
74 Degrees	Costs 12.5% more
75 Degrees	Costs 15.6% more
76 Degrees	Costs 18.7% more
77 Degrees	Costs 21.9% more
78 Degrees	Costs 25.0% more
79 Degrees	Costs 28.0% more
80 Degrees	Costs 31.0% more

Stock waterers usage

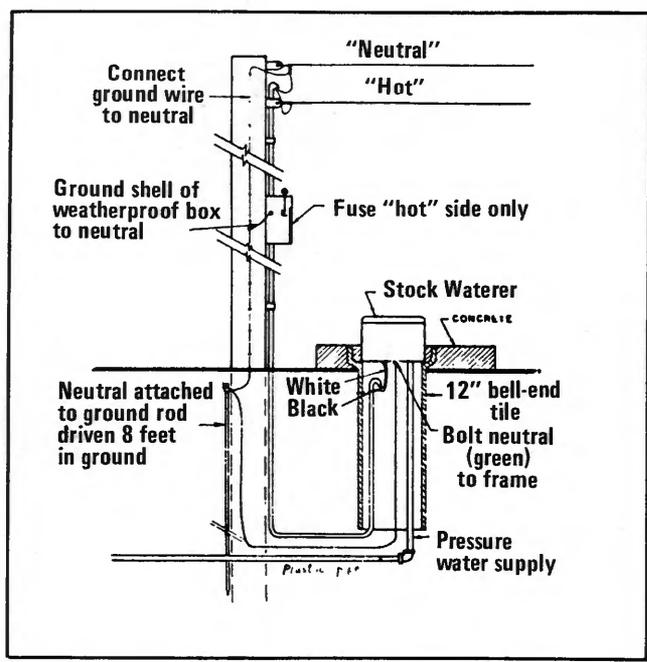
With winter's cold temperatures come questions about the operation of stock waterers. How much energy do they use? The answer basically depends on the size location, thickness of insulation and thermostat setting of the waterer.

The following figures will give you an estimate of what the average kilowatt-hour usage is for a winter season:

Type & Location	KWH Per Season
Hog waterers (sheltered)	193
Hog waterers (open lot)	333
Cattle waterers (in barn)	103
Cattle waterers (outside)	469
Combination hog-cattle waterer (inside)	535
Combination hog-cattle waterer (outside)	1,208

Check waterers during off season for proper insulation and wiring. Pink Thermax insulation is a higher moisture resistance insulation. Wet insulation is like wet clothing and makes for poor insulation.

Proper wiring is very important when installing a waterer. Be sure to use the proper size fuse for the waterer installed and do not use copper rod around galvanized water pipe.



This is a diagram for proper installation of a waterer:

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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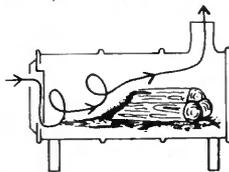
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Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

The official anniversary of the rural electrification program is May 11, 1985, the 50th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of an executive order establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

Prior to the establishment of REA as the primary mechanism to get electricity to the countryside, only about one in 10 farms were electrified. The first aim of the new Rural Electrification Administration 50 years ago was to provide low interest, long term federal loans to the existing power industry, hopefully making it possible to provide service across the thinly populated rural areas. With few exceptions, the industries response was to refuse the loans on the grounds that there was little demand for such service and that it would never pay its way. It was clear that the nation's commercial power companies were not going to help remedy that severe rural disability.

That's when rural Americans moved aggressively to provide electric service for themselves. They legally organized corporate entities so they could borrow and negotiate contracts, and most chose the cooperative form because it is user-owned and all share evenly in decision-making and in benefits.

Their objective was not to own electric utilities for a dollar gain, but simply to obtain a service that they were unable to get prior to the REA.

In many instances, they volunteered their labor, their land for necessary right-of-way, their teams of horses and equipment — whatever was needed in order to make possible the extension of electric service to their homes and farms. They knew it wouldn't be easy and the cost would be high in spite of their contributed services and their non-profit operation. The number of electric users for each mile of line was still painfully few to share in the cost of providing this service.

Still, they recruited as many neighbors as they could to join them. They took on as much of the job of hauling and setting poles, stringing wire and other duties as they could to spare costs and hold them in reach so their friends and neighbors could hook up to the miracle of electricity.



Starting in those early days, and through all the years to follow, they did their job so well that today there are nearly 1,000 user-owned rural electric systems scattered across 46 states, delivering electricity to 25 million rural Americans.

Those pioneers learned on many occasions how sorely people needed each other and depended on one another, so it was no surprise to them to find user-owned rural electric systems would work.

So, it will be more than a 50th anniversary for cooperative rural electrification this year. It will be a golden anniversary — a truly valued milestone along the path that led us from the darkness of 50 years ago into a bright new day for all of us.



**REMEMBER ...
IT'S YOUR BUSINESS**

Your fireplace: a pleasure or a problem? 31

The warm, cheery glow from your fireplace on a chilly night this winter might be costing you more than you think.

A fireplace is a potential energy waster because as much as 30 percent of the conditioned air within the home may be lost up the chimney. When the fire is burning, not only the greater part of the heat generated by the fire itself is lost, but a lot of expensive heated air in your home is also being sucked up the chimney.

If you install or have a fireplace, it can become much more efficient if it is fitted with a tight fitting damper and a glass front. To further increase efficiency, an outside air duct system could be installed to serve the fire, preventing any conditioned air inside the home from being used to keep the fire burning.

FIREPLACE HEATING TIPS

Here are a few tips concerning fireplace use:

- Don't use your fireplace for supplemental heating when your usual heat is on unless you take one of the measures listed below to prevent or lessen heat loss.
- Be sure your fireplace duct is closed whenever the fire is not burning.
- When buying or installing a fireplace, make sure the fire is fed by an outside air inlet.
- All joints must be thoroughly caulked at intersections of walls with

fireplace masonry, and wall insulation must be extended to ceiling height around the fireplace (use caution to avoid fire hazard).

• Different woods have different heating values, as well as different

starting, smoke and spark characteristics. Select wood which offers the best value for the price.

• Inspect and maintain your fireplace. Too much ash and soot reduce efficiency and may cause hazards.



**You've never been to your REC annual meeting
here are three good reasons to go:**

1. As an REC member it's your right AND RESPONSIBILITY to manage your business.

2. You'll find out what the future holds for YOUR co-op.

3. You'll have the opportunity to participate in YOUR co-op's democratic process, and to make your voice heard.

**47th ANNUAL MEETING
7:30 P.M., Monday, February 8
Waterloo Junior High Auditorium**

POTATO CASSEROLE

6 medium potatoes
2 cups grated cheese
3/4 cup chopped onion
1 cup evaporated milk

2 small cartons sour cream
1 small jar pimentoes
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 TAMALE PIE

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
1/2 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
3/4 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
1/4 cup flour
2 tablespoons salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons fat
1/2 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
1/4 cup prepared mustard
1 1/2 tablespoons cider vinegar
1 tablespoon prepared horseradish

1 teaspoon sugar
3/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 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
1 1/2 lbs. sharp cheese, grated
1/2 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
2/3 cup granulated sugar
3 tablespoons flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 egg yolks

2 teaspoons vanilla flavoring
2 cups buttermilk
3/4 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

1/4 cup evaporated milk
16 oz. caramels
2 cups pecans

7 9 oz. Hershey chocolate bars
1/4 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. (3 1/2 oz.) pistachio pudding mix
1 cup salad oil

3 eggs
1/2 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
1 1/2 cups cold milk

1 box of pistachio pudding mix

Blend all ingredients and beat well.

PINK YUMMY SALAD

1 pkg. cherry Jell-O
1/4 cup sugar
1 small can crushed pineapple
1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 cup water
1 3-oz. pkg. cream cheese
1/2 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
1/2 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

1 1/2 cups sugar
1 teaspoon soda
2 well-beaten eggs
1 can fruit cocktail
3/4 cup chopped nuts

3/4 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups flour
1/4 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
1/2 cup milk

3/4 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
1 1/2 cups sugar
4 tablespoons flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups milk

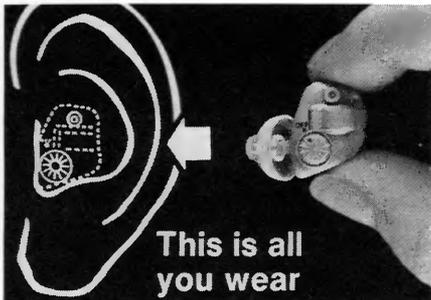
2 tablespoons butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup water
2 beaten egg yolks
Meringue made with 2 egg whites

Brown 1/2 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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MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Monroe Electric News

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

On behalf of the board of directors and management, I invite all of you to attend your Cooperative's 47th Annual Meeting on April 8. We encourage you to accept the obligations and privileges you have as a member to attend and participate in this important event in the life of your Cooperative, listen to reports of the officers and learn more about the Cooperative's operations. Exercise your right to conduct Cooperative business and elect the neighbors whom you believe are best qualified to govern the Cooperative in your interest. (An error in the February issue of the Monroe Electric News inadvertently stated the meeting was on February 8.)

Your participation in the annual meeting is actually a service to both you and your fellow members. An active, informed member is a good member, one who is capable of making a valuable contribution to the Cooperative.

Your non-profit electric cooperative exists for your welfare and your success. That has not changed since the Cooperative was founded nearly 50 years ago. When the investor-owned electric utilities would not provide electric service to the sparsely populated rural areas, rural people

organized your Cooperative to get the electricity they needed. Those cooperative pioneers believed then, as we do today, that the electric service the Cooperative provided was a means to an end. That end was to improve the living standards, the economic welfare and the general condition under which many of you and your ancestors lived.

Everything we do today still aims to uphold our commitment to the welfare of our members. Whether it is planning a new substation, building new distribution line, replacing worn out equipment, or planning new programs to help you use energy more efficiently, we do it with you, the member, in mind. The qualified employees we hire, the policies, procedures, and rates we establish are done for you to ensure that you have adequate and reliable electric service now and in the future. You are part of our commitment. That's why our service extends beyond the light switch or wall outlet.

We know what an adequate supply of dependable electricity means to our members in terms of comfort, security, efficiency and entertainment. That's why we work to provide your total energy needs.

When you review what it costs for the electric energy you use each month, remember that the cost involves more than just the price of a commodity, it is the price we must pay for the services electric energy provides for us to maintain the quality of life we are accustomed to.

We are constantly reviewing all areas of Cooperative service to you, because if we are to remain a strong Cooperative, we must be able to adapt to the needs and services you, the member, demand and deserve.

Attend your annual meeting April 8!

Two projects include substation and new lines

Construction has commenced simultaneously on the two projects covered under the contract that was awarded to Donco Construction of Eldorado. The major portion of the contract is for 5.0 miles of 69-KV transmission line and a new substation to be built at the intersection of Wagner Road and Otten Road in St. Clair County. The remainder of the contract is for the rebuilding of approximately 2.75 miles of line from single-phase to three-phase and an addition of .5 miles of single-phase line in the north-northeast Red Bud area to be used as a tie-line.

The cooperation of our members has been greatly appreciated in both of these projects, and has without a doubt kept the cost of these projects at a minimum. These projects, along with a three-phase tie-line from the Gilmore

Lake to Coxeyville Road area, will complete the major portion of our current work plan and provide us with reliability and valued flexibility in these areas for years to come.

A few years ago, we began a pole treatment and change-out program. We are very pleased with the results of this program and have spent most of the winter changing out defective poles, especially in the fields when the ground was frozen. In 1985, we intend to treat and test the remainder of the poles on our Poe Substation and possibly begin on our Waterloo Substation this fall.

Please give us as much notice as possible if you plan on needing a new service or changing a service this year, as with the lowering of interest rates, we anticipate a busy construction year.

Attend your annual meeting
April 8, 1985
7:30 p.m.
Waterloo Junior High School gymnasium

Reports of officers Entertainment	Door prizes Attendance prizes
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Interference: how to check your system

On occasion we get calls concerning interference on radios or televisions in your home. In some cases, this is a result of some problem on the Cooperative system. Tree limbs in the line, broken insulators or arcing of some piece of equipment are common causes of radio and television interference. Sometimes it is hard to find the problem. We make an effort to locate what is causing such interference, but sometimes when we go out, it has stopped or we can't locate the trouble.

It is possible that the problem is not the Cooperative's fault at all, but is on the member premise. Listed below are ways to locate radio or television interference in the home or on your farm.

1. Go to your main fuse or circuit breaker panel with a battery-operated transistor radio tuned between stations and listen for the noise. (If at night or in an enclosed room be sure to have a working flashlight with you.)
2. If the noise is present and corresponds to the disturbing interference, shut off all power to your premises by opening the main circuit breaker, switch or other enclosed service disconnect. (Do not attempt to remove cartridge fuses or operate exposed or open-type disconnects if physical contact with the electrical circuit is at all possible. If the noise on the battery-operated radio stops, the source of interference is within your own premises. Restore the main circuit breaker, switch or disconnect and restart all electric clocks.)
3. Assuming the noise stopped while your electric service was off, you can now locate the noise sources. While monitoring the transistor radio as before with the noise present, open individual sub-main circuit breakers one at a time until the noise disappears. You must now determine what has been turned off by going from room to room, if necessary, checking outlets, appliances and lights for the absence of electricity. The offending noise source will be something on this circuit. If the noise is steady, look for a running electric motor, fluorescent lighting fixture or other radio or television equipment.

Devices most commonly found on private premises that

cause intermittent radio or television interference are:

furnace controls	electric blanket controllers
home thermostats	tropical fish aquariums
electric clocks	refrigerators
antenna amplifiers	(butter conditioners)
well pump controls	door bell transformers
heating pads	flashing decorative lighting

4. It is important for your own benefit to have the offending device checked and/or repaired to insure normal safe operation. Offending devices can be in violation of Federal Communications Commission rules, and can be a nuisance to yourself and to your neighbors.

Condensation can damage your home's windows

While homeowners can do little about frosty winter days, they can give attention to fogged windows.

Condensation — or frost — will appear on windows when the temperature of the glass falls below the dew point. Moisture from condensation can cause major damage to wood window frames and sills.

To reduce the problem while maintaining comfortable humidity in the home, the home owner can take measures to keep the inner glass from getting excessively cold.

Careful installation of storm windows is one way to insulate glass and solve the problem. Make certain that storm windows have quarter-inch vents in the frame where the storm sash meets the sill. If they don't, drill holes through the frames. The opening allows the moisture to dissipate.

If condensation persists, try placing a teaspoon of silica gel — a desiccant, or drying agent — between the outer window units. Silica gel is commonly used for drying flowers and can often be found in flower shops or craft outlets.

Interior windows will often ice up when shades or draperies are closed because most window treatments separate the cold glass from the warmer inside air, allowing the glass to cool below the dew point temperature.

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
- 3/4 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 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 preheated 350 degree oven 30 minutes. Serve hot with favorite vegetables or salad to 12.

BAKED BEANS

- 2 strips bacon
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 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 cremated 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
- 3 cups beef broth
- 3 cups hot cooked rice

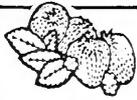
Saute meat, garlic powder, and onions about 5 minutes. Add green pepper, cauliflower (separated into smaller pieces), tomato wedges, and soy sauce. Stir lightly to coat vegetables with soy sauce. Cover pan and simmer until vegetables are tender crisp, about 5 minutes. Blend cornstarch, sugar and broth. 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 teaspoon salt
- Bran bread

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



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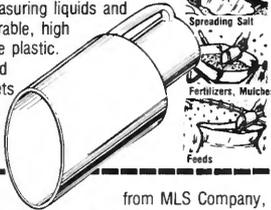
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sore
Arches

Pain in the
balls of your feet

Lower
Back
Pain

Leg
Pain

Sore
Ankles

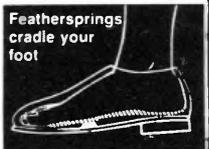
Sore
Heels

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.

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Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

Directors of electric cooperatives in Illinois and across the nation share a unique responsibility. Not only are they member-owners of their local electric distribution cooperatives, but they are also elected representatives of their fellow member-owners.

Since our annual meeting, where we elected three Cooperative members to the board of directors, has just been completed, I think it is an excellent time to review the responsibilities and functions of our board of directors.

Directors do not manage your electric cooperative. They delegate this to the manager, but they set the basic policies and approve the plans and programs and then establish controls to make sure that these plans and programs are carried out effectively.

Basically, the board of directors has these major functions:

1. To provide legal entity or the basic legal structure within which the Cooperative operates. This includes activities such as making sure the bylaws meet current conditions, appointing general counsel to represent the Cooperative, and to make sure that all legal requirements of the Cooperative are being complied with.
2. Trusteeship. The board serves as trustees for the membership and is held accountable to the membership for protecting the assets of the Cooperative. They really are serving as stewards for the members' interest and this probably is one of their most important responsibilities.
3. Long- and short-range planning. The board must consider in some depth, long and short range plans in a variety of areas and then get reports on results compared with those plans. This includes areas such as the annual work plan and budget, engineering, system maintenance, and general and administrative.
4. To provide the operating requirements. This includes selecting a manager for the system and establishing policies and guideline parameters within which the manager works. It includes providing the funds, material, etc. to operate the system. The board provides the funding through considering plans and studies that indicate the amount of loan funds

needed, and approval of loan applications.

5. Another major function of the board of directors is controlling. The board sets up measurements to evaluate the end results of their plans and policies. This includes review on how policies they developed are being carried out, reviewing the annual audit, and other studies to evaluate the effectiveness of the Cooperative's operations.

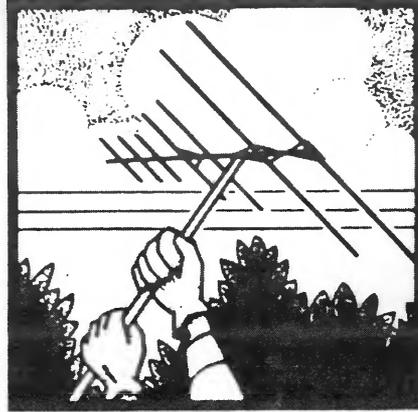
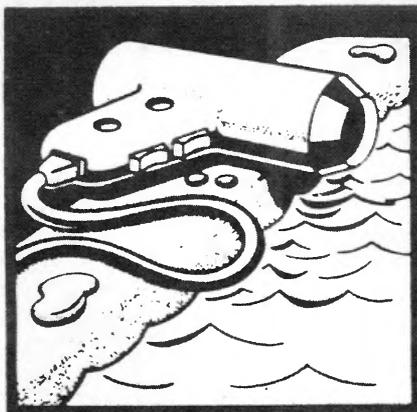
To summarize, the members own the Cooperative and they place the control of the Cooperative into the hands of an elected board of directors. When they do this, they delegate to their elected board members responsibilities for determining policies, approving basic plans and appraising the results of the Cooperative's operation.

The directors and management of your Cooperative are deeply concerned about the future of the rural electrification program. We are greatly aware of the responsibility to the membership. The problems today are more complex and we are dealing with new challenges and changes daily. Directors must have adaptability and courage to accept new ideas and be able to keep pace with the changes in the electric industry and the rural electrification program.

Cooperative directorships are honorary positions of trust and service. They should be chosen with care and consideration. It is the responsibility of the membership to select responsible and qualified men and women with sound business judgement as your leaders.

We commend you on your selection of the current directors of the Cooperative. They are a group of well qualified people and are dedicated to meeting the responsibilities placed on them.





Low voltage no protection from shock

A lot of people who wouldn't go within 50 feet of a high-voltage power line fearlessly play around with 120-volt household current without giving a thought to whether it is dangerous or not. It is and it can give a deadly shock.

About 1,000 people are electrocuted every year in the United States, and here is how some of those accidents happened:

A do-it-yourselfer using a defective electric drill in the basement is electrocuted when he touches a metal laundry tub.

A woman, whose basement was flooded by heavy rains, wades through the water to reach her freezer. She is electrocuted when she touches the lid of a shorted electric freezer.

A child dies when he plugs one end of an iron cord into a wall socket and puts the other end in his mouth.

Two children die when a radio falls into the bathtub where they are taking a bath.

Actually, it is not the number of volts that causes shocks, but the amount of current (amperage) that enters the body, how long the shock lasts and the path which the current follows.

One milliamperage (1/1000th of an amp) passing through

the skin creates a tingling sensation. Only seven to 10 milliamperes can rob you of muscular control so that you can't let go. One hundred milliamperes (just 1/10th of an amp) can kill if the shock lasts for one second or longer.

Usually, the current passes in a hand and out of a foot, which may not be too bad. The real danger lies when the current passes in one arm, through the chest area and out the other arm. When this occurs, the current can paralyze the respiratory muscles, causing breathing to stop.

Such paralysis may last even after the person is disconnected from the electrical source. Too, the current can strike the heart, causing fibrillation, resulting in instant electrocution. The heart goes into unsynchronized fluttering, cutting off blood and oxygen circulation to body cells, including the brain.

Because of the way electricity works, low voltages surprisingly can be more dangerous than high voltages. A heavier jolt can "clamp" the heart and prevent fibrillation. People have been known to recover from comparatively large jolts of electricity while a smaller amount, under certain conditions, can kill.

Trimming crews will work on Monroe right-of-way

During the summer and early fall of this year, we will again have a tree trimming crew clearing and maintaining right-of-way under Cooperative power lines.

Your help and cooperation is essential for this program to be successful. Trees and power lines don't mix. If a tree is growing under and/or into a power line, it must be cut or trimmed. We need your, or the landowner's, permission to trim or cut trees.

We don't necessarily like to cut trees down, but sometime it is necessary to maintain reliable electric service to you and your neighbors.

Help us by sending in the form at the right. We will make a list of all the forms received and catalog them by location. When we are working in your area, every attempt will be made to cut or trim the tree or trees per your request.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Clearing and trimming permission

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

Trees and brush may be removed _____

Trees need trimming _____

Describe the location _____

Map location no. _____

Land is owned by _____

Can be contacted at _____
(phone number)

This information furnished by _____

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

The 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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Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

We offer our thanks and appreciation to all of the members who attended our annual meeting April 8. Since only approximately 7 percent of the membership was in attendance, we feel it is appropriate to print the message president Robert Rippelmeyer conveyed to the members present at the meeting. We will print manager Joe Fellin's remarks in next month's manager's column.

We think the content of Mr. Rippelmeyer's comments and the manager's remarks to be published next month may clear up some issues relating to retail rates, Soyland Power Cooperative and the Clinton Power Station.

Mr. Rippelmeyer's message:

"OUR CO-OP"

Joe and I have again combined a written report in your meeting notice. I hope you have taken the time to read this section and, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask and I will make every effort to allow Joe to answer — OK!

We do have a slide program this evening that I will also allow Joe to tell you about in his remarks.

In the past, I have taken this opportunity to visit with you a few minutes on more specific issues regarding our Cooperative. Some happenings around the state in other electric cooperatives and some conversation we have been a part of at our local level has prompted my concern and these remarks.

There are times when comments are made to employees or board members that indicate the feeling that we are not on your side — that the co-op no longer provides its great benefits. Around the state we see definite signs of consumer actions mostly because of the rising costs of electrical energy.

Members, we are not only on your side, we are your side. The board members, all of them, pay a monthly bill, with an adder, just like you do. However, we also are responsible by your direction, to provide good service and provide adequate revenue to pay all bills, establish a very small return on investment, that is allocated back to you by the way, and maintain a system that will provide depend-

able service in the future.

For the time being, our members at Monroe County Electric and members of other co-ops in the Soyland/WIPCO group will compare their monthly electric bills and find them considerably higher than their neighbors on Illinois Power. A reason for concern? I hardly think so. You see, Illinois Power enjoys the same asset that the co-ops do for the future — Clinton plant. They will also need to recover capital costs through rate increases. What am I saying? You and I are going to pay more for electrical energy in the future. However, if I have my choice, I want to pay it through Monroe County Electric. My friends, for the first time in the life of your co-op, you control your own power supply. Cost too much?

Sometime in the future you may be privileged to hear some of our critics. You know, if as a politician or campaigner you want to get loads of support, you merely convince people that you are going to lower their utility rate. This simply never happens, but it is effective.

Some of the critics' answers may sound like this: Get out of Soyland — Soyland declare bankruptcy — Bring suit against Illinois Power for mismanagement — Abandon Clinton — Put co-ops under the Commerce Commission — and one other, recall all the directors and fire the manager.

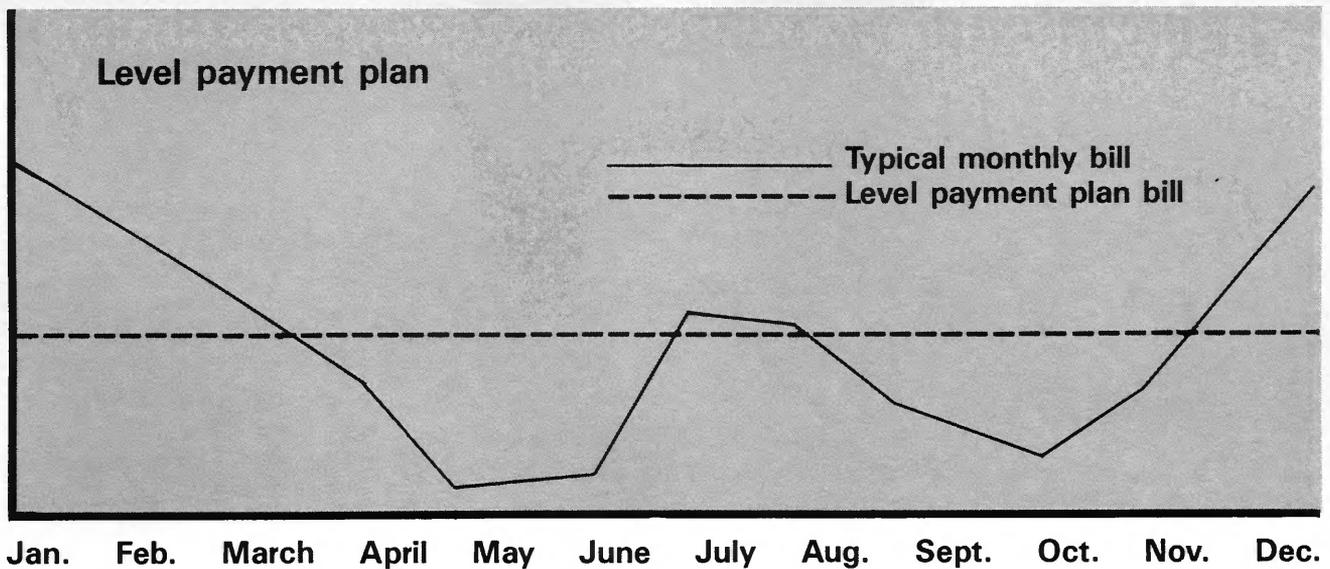
We could discuss any of these at length, but let me try to summarize some common-sense proposals by giving you simple and straight facts. First, getting out of Soyland. Your Cooperative has signed an all-needs contract with Soyland, which simply means the consumers connected with Soyland will pay a rate high enough to meet Soyland's debt service payments to your federal government and CFC.

Bankruptcy and law suits. These options were considered. By simply considering it, our bargaining position was strengthened with Illinois Power in our long-term contract. The decision was negative — any action along these lines would provide a retirement plan for at least six attorneys and you my friends would pay for it. And, we would jeopardize the future of many cooperatives.

Abandon Clinton. Clinton is over 90 percent finished. The people that are advocating such action are assuming that by some magic wand this debt incurred by Soyland over the last eight years will disappear — it can't happen!

You and I, as members of Monroe County Electric, through Soyland will owe the federal government and CFC \$450 million whether Clinton ever cranks out one kilowatt. Their message indicates: "Let the stockholders of I.P. eat Clinton." You and I, my friends, are 10 percent stockholders of Clinton.

Put co-ops under the Commerce Commission. Our rate



Budget billing available to members

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

The plan allows you to pay the same amount each month for 11 consecutive months with the 12th month used to balance the account.

Here is how it works: we take the last 12 months usage and divide that figure by 12. That will be your payment for 11 months. The account will

be balanced on the 12th month. It is necessary to send in current monthly readings with your level payment.

If you are interested, please contact our office.

If you are interested, please contact our office.

Check breakers before calling co-op

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.

of return is so low at most cooperatives, I am reasonably sure your cooperative could get a higher rate than you have. Plus the fact that everytime you needed to have a rate increase, it would cost you, the consumer, an additional \$50 to \$60 thousand in fees to get Commission action. Great answer?? No thanks!!

Replace the directors. That is your privilege, really at any time, and especially every year at this meeting. I sincerely believe most of you, given the facts and situations that this board was given, would have arrived at basically the same decisions.

What am I telling you? First, any utility, now or in the future, that needs to build all or a part of new generation, will have higher rates for a period of time.

Second, you may not be able to choose your electric supplier, you may be paying more for energy than you ever did, but you are part owner. You help elect the directors,

you enjoy the best of service, and 100 percent of the profits are allocated back to you.

I know our rates in rural America are not cheap; however with the co-ops they are the cheapest that possibly can be attained. Electrical energy in Illinois is not high compared to some areas of this country.

It is difficult at these times to remain positive. However, if you will but study the cooperative system that made rural America what it is today, you come to realize it alone could light up rural America, and we certainly do need this system to keep rural America provided with dependable energy at the lowest possible cost.

We will need leaders and directors that can see farther than this month or this year, to continue the far-reaching benefits of your system. Don't lose it!

I need to thank my fellow directors, Joe and his staff, for their support and dedication the past year.



A year of growth for SIPC

Sales 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, Steelevator; Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado, and Southern Illinois

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

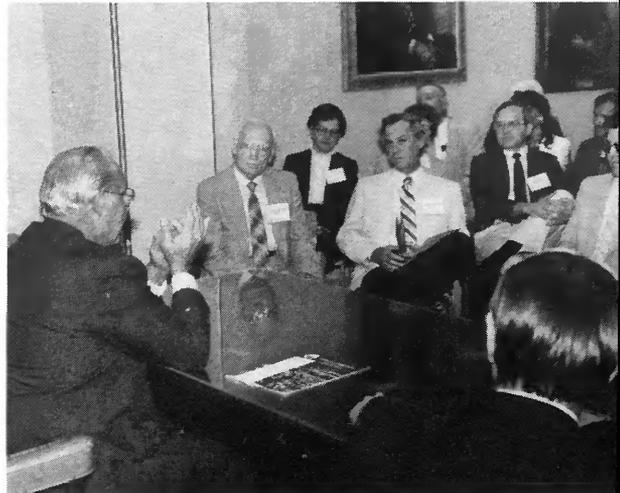
Manager James R. Chapman said the cooperative remains committed to utilizing Southern Illinois resources. "We purchased 886,944 tons of fossil fuel during 1984," he said, "97 percent from Southern Illinois mines." He noted that coal costs have stabilized in recent years when compared with the rapid price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



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC. WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

I hope you had the opportunity to read board president Robert Rippelmeyer's message that he presented at the annual meeting in April. My report to the members at the annual meeting is printed below. We feel that Bob's and my remarks may answer a lot of questions you may have had concerning Soyland Power Cooperative and our retail rates. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to bring forth, please give us a call. We will be happy to visit with you.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

We had many calls and comments about the high WPCA for the month of February, which showed up on your March 15 billing receipt card. This was due to the change in our wholesale power cost that went into effect January 1, 1985. You may recall that our old rate was set to produce just enough revenue to keep us in the black if our wholesale power costs averaged 4.4 cents. When our cost per kilowatt-hour purchased increased to over 5.5 cents in February, it was necessary to recover the 1.1 cents difference. Had we not passed this additional cost on through the WPCA, we would have lost over \$85,000 for the month of February. If you would turn to page nine of your annual meeting notice, you would see that we only had \$89,900 in operating margins for the entire year of 1984.

We hope you will study your Cooperative's financial reports. You will see that our revenue increased \$464,000 for 1984, but our expenses increased \$550,055, of which power costs accounted for \$506,000. Our margins for 1984 gave us a times-interest-earned ratio (TIER) of 1.66 (REA requires a minimum of 1.50 and would like to see us maintain a 2.0 or better). TIER is a measure of our ability to repay our REA loans.

If you compare our rates with some investor-owned utilities and municipals, you will find they are cheaper than Monroe County Electric. Ladies and gentlemen, there is no way we can compete with a utility such as Illinois Power, who serves over 40 consumers per mile of line and has a large industrial base in the energy usage patterns, or with a municipal which serves over 100 meters per mile of line.

MCEC has over 1,000 miles of line to maintain in three counties and receives revenue from only four meters per mile of line.

Also, remember that 47 years ago this low interest money was available to investor-owned utilities, but they still refused to extend service to rural areas because they could not produce a rate of return that could satisfy their stockholders.

William Thien, David Kurz, Emil Ruhl, William Niebruegge, Herman Rosenberg, Louis Vogt, Henry Pape, Elmer Stumpf and Emil Taake did not incorporate this organization to make a profit. They own or owned no more shares in this organization than you do today. They formed this Cooperative to provide a service to areas that no one else wanted to serve. If it were not for people like those mentioned above, many of you to day would not be enjoying the conveniences that electricity brings.

Also, remember that for the most part, each of you had to contribute very little money to receive electrical service. Even today, under our mortgage agreement with REA, we must extend lines to those wanting permanent service to a new home or farmstead, at little or no initial cost to you.

Now there were many complaints about the rate increase. Some members who do not understand the cooperative philosophy even stated either verbally or in writing that we were thieves or trying to rip them off. As a manager who has worked with four different cooperatives in two different states for more than 20 years, these kind of statements really trouble me. I hope that those of you here tonight, that have taken the time to review where we have been, where we are, and where we are going, will take a few minutes and explain to those members what cooperatives are all about. Simply put, they are organizations formed by people to provide themselves a service that no one else would provide.

But getting back to our rate increase. The cooperatives of Soyland and WIPCO, who are generation and transmission cooperatives, are made up of 22 distribution cooperatives similar to Monroe County Electric. In 1984, out of the 22 distribution cooperatives, MCEC had one of the, if not the lowest, rate at the 500 and 1,000 kwh levels of usage.

Our average rate for 500 kwh, including WPCA and taxes, was \$44.36 in 1984. The average charge for 500 kwh from the other 21 co-ops, was \$59.83, or 34 percent higher.

For 1,000 kwh in 1984, our average annual charge was \$81.37. The average annual charge for the 21 other co-ops in 1984 was \$103.62, or 27 percent higher than Monroe County Electric.

Even with our new rates that are effective with your April 15 payment, our average charge will be less than the 1984 average for the other co-ops. (1,000 - \$99.75; 500 - \$55.12).

In reviewing the annual report for Illinois Power for 1984, the average charge per kwh sold to residential consumers was seven cents. For 1984, MCEC's residential rate payer paid an average of seven cents (6.988 to be exact).

Chairman Rippelmeyer mentioned in his report that all margins are allocated back to you, the members, in the form of capital credits. Over the past years we have made general retirements of capital credits to all members receiving service through the years of 1960, and we have also been refunding capital credits to heirs of deceased patrons. So far, the cooperative has refunded to the membership over \$746,000 in general retirements or to estates.

I know that a lot of what I have said does not make you feel much better. Electric rates are high and will continue to go higher, but if you stop and think, electricity is not the only thing going up. Some people say their cost for electricity is higher than their house payment and this is probably true if you purchased a home 20 years ago. You cannot buy a home for the same price as you did 20 years ago and you cannot build new generation plants for \$250 to \$300 a kilowatt. So the cost of paying these new units off is going

to be high.

For those members who are interested, we do offer a leveled payment plan and for people who are on a low-fixed income, or if unemployed, we can put you in touch with agencies that can assist with payment of utility bills if you meet certain income requirements. Please call the office for additional information. We also provide free energy audits on your home if you desire one.

So, in summary, if you really get down to comparing costs and services with organizations like ourself, ours is pretty good. We had one of the lowest rates in 1984, we served more members per employee than any other cooperative in the state. And remember, our board and employees are concerned just as you are - they pay the same rates and enjoy no more benefits than any other member of this cooperative. We are going through some turbulent times and we are not over all of the obstacles yet. But, by working together, I'm sure we can and will make it.

I want to thank the employees for their support and want to state that you have a very dedicated group who do their utmost to provide the best service possible. I also want to thank you, the members, for your support and understanding. It's people like you who help make Monroe County Electric one of the best cooperatives in the state.

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.



Office closing

The office will be closed on Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

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.

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

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.

Illinois Rural Electric Cooperatives and Telephone Cooperatives recommend that you take advantage of these plans:

- Disability Income Protection • Major Medical Protection
- Cancer Cost Supplement • Mutual Care (for those 65 and over)
- Catastrophic Hospital Coverage • Life Insurance
- Basic Hospital Coverage with Maternity Coverage

These plans are underwritten by Mutual of Omaha and United of Omaha and available at Association Group rates.

If you'd like to know more, just fill out and mail this coupon.

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Omaha, Nebraska

Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative Association Insurance Plan
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company
Mutual of Omaha Plaza, Omaha, NE 68131

Please see that I receive full details on the plans available to me as an Illinois Electric Co-op member.

Income Protection Hospital Life
 Mutual Care Cancer Major Medical

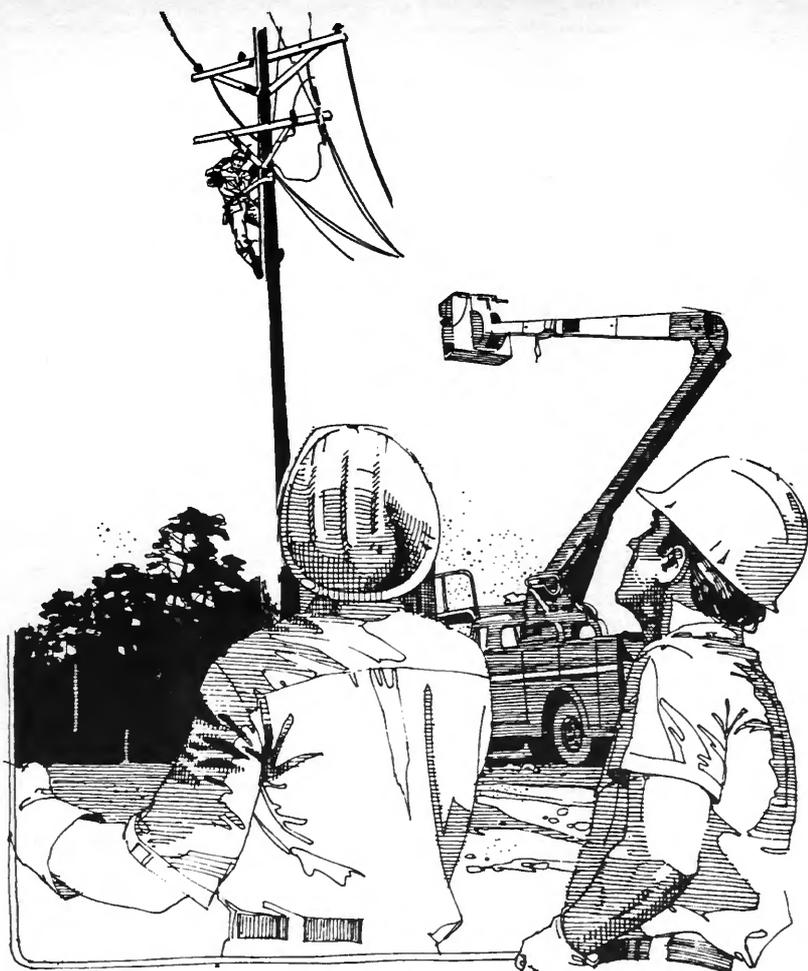
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

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."



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

Most of us do several things to hold down our electric bill — turning off unnecessary lights, adjusting the thermostat setting, using appliances efficiently, etc. These help, but they require a constant effort or a good memory.

There's something else you can do for a few hours this summer that will hold down your electric bill all year long. All that is required is to practice energy management at home by helping the Cooperative shave its peak load during the hot summer days of July and August.

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

constant.

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

The concern isn't whether the demand can be supplied. The real concern is the cost of supplying peak demands. Here's where shaving peak demand helps. Leveling out the peak demand saves money all year long because our wholesale power costs are based on the cooperative's peak demands. The higher the peak usage, the higher the charge we must pay.

We ask that you help avoid contributing to peak demand and help us control costs by distributing your electric usage during the day. We ask that you not use all of your major appliances — electric range, clothes dryer, water heater, air conditioner — at the same time.

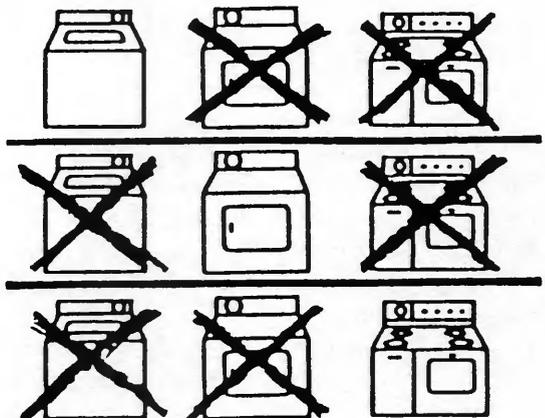
What happens between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. on hot summer days could greatly affect your electric rates next year.

A little effort now during the hottest days of July and August can make a big difference in our future power costs. If we all practice peak awareness, it will help keep the cost of electricity lower.



Help hold the line

Plan Your Electricity Use



ENERGY MANAGEMENT AT HOME

Electricity doesn't take a vacation

Now that vacation time is upon us and you are planning to be gone for an extended period of time, your electric bill should decrease. Right? If you think this, you are certainly wrong!!

It is a misconception by too many people that when they leave on a vacation their electric meter stops until they return. If they are on vacation for two weeks, they expect their electric bill to reduce to one-half of their normal monthly usage.

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

1. Was the water heater turned off during your vacation? Remember, if the electric water heater is left energized during vacation, it will continue to operate, and maintain the tank temperature even if you are not using any hot water.
2. Was the refrigerator emptied and turned off? If not, it will continue to operate to maintain the pre-set temperature.
3. Was the freezer also emptied and turned off? Unless it is practical to do so the freezer should be left energized.
4. Other electrical appliances that keep running while you are on vacation are: clocks, remote television sets, and automatic lighting.

If you are determined that no electricity is to be used

during your vacation, you can accomplish this by turning off your main breaker or fuse box. Remember when you do this the automatic appliances and lighting will stop. Your refrigerator and freezer will defrost; your electric water heater will not have hot water ready for use upon your return. It's a decision only you can make.

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

1. Unplug all appliances not in use.
2. The water heater should be turned off at the breaker or fuse box.
3. If a light is to be left on, it should be connected to a timer.
4. If you intend to be gone for an extended period of time, come into our office and make arrangements so your electric service will remain uninterrupted.
5. Read your meter upon leaving and again upon your return. This will let you determine the number of kilowatt-hours used during the period of time you were gone.

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

REMEMBER

Only you can decide whether your electric meter gets a vacation or not while you are gone.



Check air conditioner

Air conditioner started? It's not too late to:

Inspect fan belts for proper tension and signs of wear.

Lubricate motor and fan bearings if necessary.

Clean or replace filters.

Make sure drain holes are open, so water can drain from the condenser coils.

Keep all supply and return air ducts open, any airflow restriction can cause coil icings, motor overheating or possible compressor failure.

Keep grasses and shrubs away from outdoor unit.

With power disconnected, cover the fan motor on the outdoor unit and clean the coils.

If you are not sure about the performance and maintenance of your air conditioner and it isn't cooling properly, call a competent serviceman. An air conditioner that operates at peak efficiency will help you get the most for your energy dollar and good maintenance will prolong the life of your unit.

Enjoy your summer and try different temperatures to satisfy your comfort and your pocketbook!

Moving? call Monroe

If you are moving off the Cooperative lines or plan to move in the near future, you want to be sure to notify the Cooperative office to disconnect or transfer the service from your name. If you do not notify us and another person moves into the location you have vacated, you will be held responsible for the electric service until you have it taken out of your name, or until the new tenant notifies the office to make the transfer.

If you are the landowner, you should inform the new tenant that he must contact the Cooperative office to make application for service and necessary consumer service fees.

If you are moving into or out of a home served by the Cooperative and have made the necessary transfer, be certain that you and the incoming or outgoing tenant agree on the final meter reading. The final reading becomes the beginning reading for the new tenant.

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

TO: PATTERNS
Illinois Rural Electric News
P.O. Box 3787
Springfield, Ill. 62708

I have enclosed \$ _____ (\$2.75 per pattern - cash, check or money order accepted) for the following patterns (please allow four weeks for delivery):

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

Print Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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What is stray voltage? What can be done about it? In the past there was no help . . . but now the RONK BLOCKER has eliminated this problem in every 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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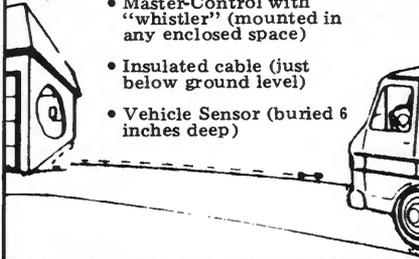
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- Vehicle Sensor (buried 6 inches deep)



Yes, I'd like more information

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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.

The following plans are available for electric cooperative and telephone cooperative members:

- Disability Income Protection • Major Medical Protection
- Cancer Cost Supplement • Mutual Care (for those 65 and over)
- Catastrophic Hospital Coverage • Life Insurance
- Basic Hospital Coverage with Maternity Coverage

These plans are underwritten by Mutual of Omaha and United of Omaha and available at Association Group rates.

If you'd like to know more, just fill out and mail this coupon.

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People you can count on...

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Mutual of Omaha
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Home Office:
Omaha, Nebraska

Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative Insurance Plan
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company
Mutual of Omaha Plaza, Omaha, NE 68131

Please see that I receive full details on the plans available to me as an Illinois Electric Co-op member.

Income Protection Hospital Life
 Mutual Care Cancer Major Medical

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Name of Co-op _____



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC. WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

Rural America, Illinois farmers and rural communities are facing some pretty tough economic times. While costs continue to increase and credit gets tighter, commodity prices are not keeping pace. It is an all-too-familiar story for American agriculture.

That is why it is important for your Cooperative to continue providing electric power at the "lowest possible cost." It isn't always easy to do, with the construction of a new power plant, and as high interest rates and inflation from prior years impact the cost of that power.

We have an abundance today of what is one of the most important and useful products to serve us — rural electricity. Several years ago we weren't sure if there would be enough for the future or where it would come from. With the formation of Soyland Power Cooperative and the directions it has taken, this no longer holds true.

The abundance of electricity does the members little good if it is not used to its greatest benefit, especially if it isn't available at a reasonable price. In fact, when it is not used effectively and efficiently, the cost to the consumer goes up. The product is really not just kilowatts of electricity. It is heat, light, motion, comfort, those things that enhance our quality of life and enhance our productivity.

In the months to come you will read and hear rural electric people including us at Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, talking about marketing, load management, reducing demand and other related terms. What do these terms mean? Well, it's finding ways for rural electric cooperative members to use electric energy more productively and more efficiently, in such a way that the per unit (kilowatt-hour) cost will be lower.

Marketing, load management, etc. are basic responsibilities your rural electric cooperative has to each of you. And because we are member-owned, that means each and every member-owner should become involved, for yourselves and for your cooperative.

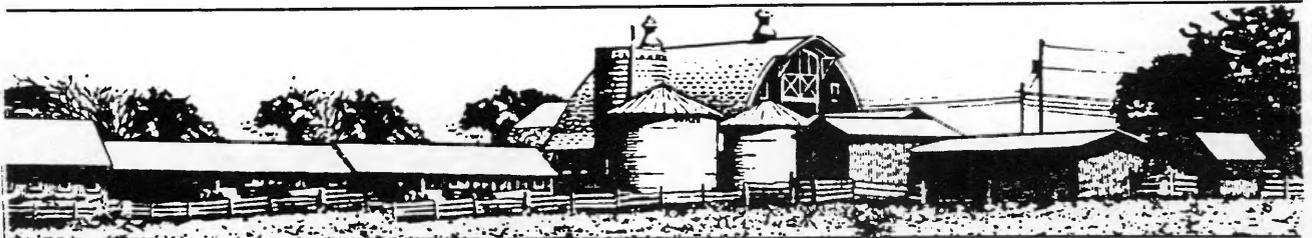
Your Cooperative, along with representatives of other Illinois electric cooperatives, is working on task forces, studying ways to implement special incentive rate programs, promotional and load management programs, along with economic development and other programs, to try to keep down the cost of electric energy to the member. We must look at new and innovative ways to provide electric energy at a reasonable cost.

During the past we have provided you with a reliable electric supply. During the next few years our goal will be to make our system work to the maximum benefit of the members.

This effort will take the same kind of insight, trust, and cooperation that established the rural electric program nearly 50 years ago. It will take the wisdom and commitment of the board of directors and management. It will take the expertise, hard work and dedication of each Cooperative employee. But most of all it will take the understanding, support and cooperation of the members to make any kind of marketing or load management programs be effective and beneficial. We pledge our commitment, dedication and efforts to find solutions and establish programs to benefit all members.

We don't have to build anything new. The distribution system is already in place. We won't have to spend a lot of money. For the most part the investment has already been made and the structure is there. We don't need a new product — our product is already the best on the market. What we do have to do is focus in a specific direction and continue to do the job we are already doing. Our goal is simply to market electric energy at the lowest possible cost.

So in months to come, maybe not this year — but surely next year — you will be hearing us talk about programs to increase sales of electricity with the member's interest in mind. We will need your cooperation to make any proposed program work.



Congress agrees on REA program

A compromise agreement passed by the U.S. Senate in May preserves the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), retains the current 5 percent loan program and calls for congressional hearings on any proposed administrative or policy changes that would arbitrarily deny borrowers loans or substantially alter the structure of the agency.

The House of Representatives in its May 23 budget resolution included loan levels identical to those approved earlier by the Senate, and House leadership on both sides of the aisle agreed to the same understanding on REA that prevailed in the Senate, namely continuation of the 5 percent interest rate on insured loans, no phase-out of REA and no administrative changes in REA without Congressional review.

An earlier agreement between the White House and the Senate Republican leadership would have phased out REA over an eight-year period and would have raised interest rates to borrowers to the U.S. Treasury's cost of money plus one and one-eighth percentage points beginning in fiscal year 1986. The compromise agreement approved May 10 supersedes the earlier agreement.

As part of the compromise agreement, loan levels for the current fiscal year were reduced by \$550 million. Insured loans were reduced to \$650 million from \$850 million, and loan guarantees were reduced by \$350 million, to \$850 million. The compromise loan levels are those requested by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for fiscal year 1986.

The Senate pact also included a provision that rural electric loan levels would be reduced by \$50 million in fiscal years 1987 and 1988, with the reduction to be taken in either insured loans or loan guarantees or both.

Bob Bergland, NRECA's executive vice president, termed the agreement a victory for the rural electricians and praised the leadership roles played by Senators James Abdnor (R-S.D.), and Mark Andrews (R-N.D.) and other Senators in forging the compromise. The compromise agreement effectively quashed Administration attempts to

eliminate REA, and the approval of 1986 loan levels represents the fifth time in as many years that the Congress has overridden the Administration's attempts to drastically cut the rural electrification program.

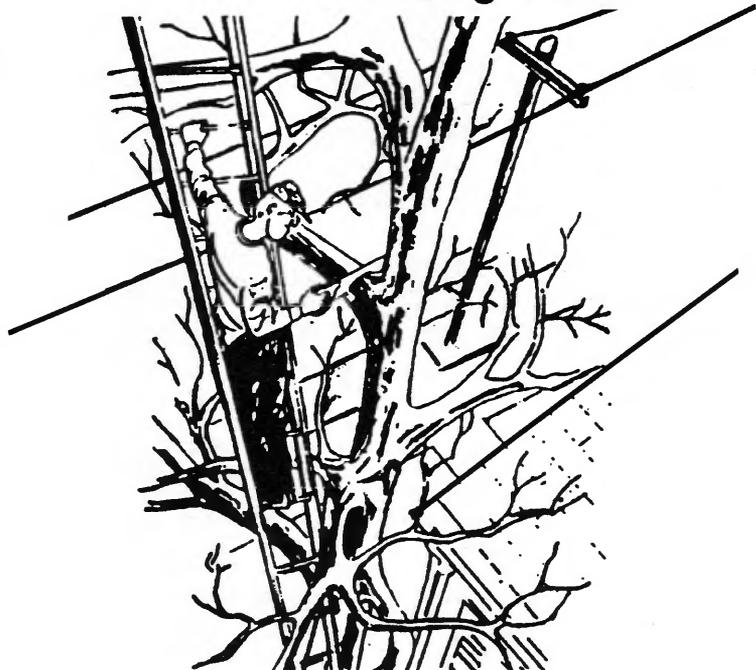
In February, the Administration had proposed phasing out REA by 1990, reducing insured loan levels to \$500 million and loan guarantees to \$300 million. Additionally, the Administration announced its intention to propose legislation to raise interest rates on REA loans to the cost of money to the government plus one and one-eighth percentage points. The February budget proposals were only the most recent in the Administration's attempts to cut and alter REA loan programs. Early during the Administration's first year, 1981, Office of Management and Budget Director David Stockman had indicated Administration plans to eliminate REA.

The Administration had also indicated its intention to effect admini-

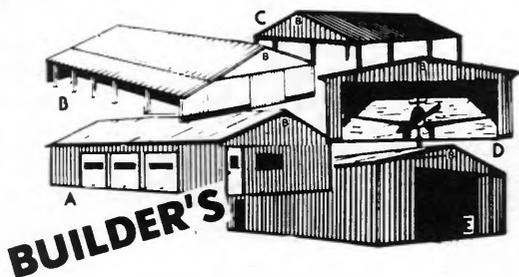
strative changes in the Rural Electrification Administration, including the possible elimination of the REA's Engineering Standards Division and the removal of REA's personnel, budgeting and administrative functions to another agency within the Department of Agriculture.

The House Appropriations Committee, chaired by long-time rural electric supporter Representative Jamie Whitten (D-Miss.), directed the REA to make no regulatory or administrative changes in the agency without clearance from the Committee. The language was included in a committee report accompanying a supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 1985. The Committee indicated that it "will expect the Department (of Agriculture) to operate these programs (REA electric and telephone loan programs) in fiscal year 1985 as intended by Congress," and specifically expressed concern over continuing unfilled vacancies in the Engineering Standards Division.

Take care cutting trees



Please...when you are cutting trees for firewood this winter, use extreme caution around power lines. If a tree falls on a line, you and your neighbors could be without electricity for several hours or more. But even more important, there's a lot of current going through those lines. Coming in contact with it can be fatal.



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Jim Hinman

Jim Hinman new manager at Tri-County

Jim 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 Florida.

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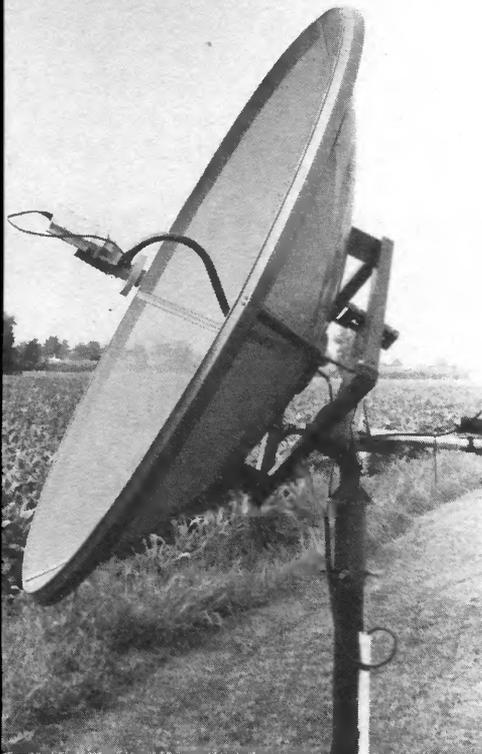
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and some people believe they are illegal. "That's not true," he emphasizes, adding, "it's perfectly legal to pull in unscrambled signals for viewing on TV." And, he says, about 80 percent of the programming a dish is likely to receive is not scrambled.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

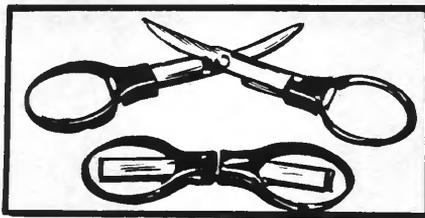
"They scramble, then charge a subscription fee for the decoder," he says, "and we agree that they should be able to profit from their programming. We offer legal, subscription-paid unscrambling for some of the channels that scramble. The charge is billed through ITA, just like the other charges are."

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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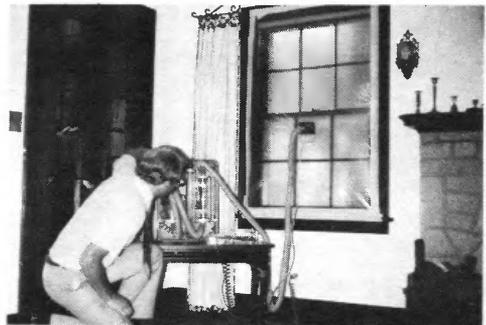
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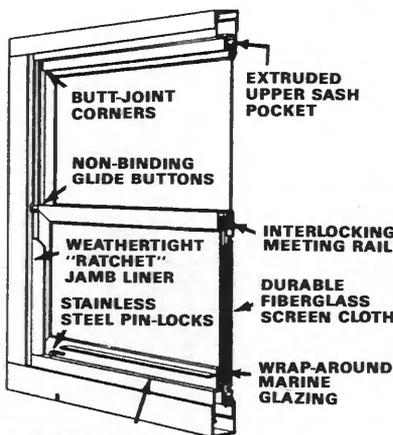


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Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

Construction of the new East Carondelet 5,000-KVA substation and transmission line has recently been completed. The transmission line and substation were energized on July 26. Representatives of REA, Donco, Inc. (general contractor), Allgeier, Martin and Associates, Inc. (engineering firm that designed and supervised construction), and Co-operative employees were on hand for the occasion.

The 34,500-volt transmission line was built to feed the new substation. The 5.0 miles of line is interconnected with Illinois Power Company's 34,500-volt transmission line on Mule Road. Our new transmission line was energized and checked out before the cooperative energized the new substation.

Co-operative journeyman lineman and foreman Wilbert Juelfs pulled the high-side switch to energize the new substation. The substation transformers and regulators were then checked for proper voltage and operation. Everything checked out OK.

The Co-operative line crew will now tie in the feeders which distributes the energy to the members receiving elec-

tricity out of the new substation. When all of the distribution feeder lines are energized, we will then start taking the old lines down and removing the utility poles.

The new transmission line and substation will improve the reliability of service in the northern section of our service area. It will relieve some of the load on our Millstadt substation and improve the load condition on that substation.

In conjunction with the new substation, we built a new three-phase feeder line from Highway 3 at Coxeyville to the Gilmore Lake area which will allow us to feed the Millstadt substation from two directions; whereas before, we had no way to continue to serve members on that substation if it failed until it was repaired. Now we can feed around it from either the East Carondelet substation or the Waterloo substation.

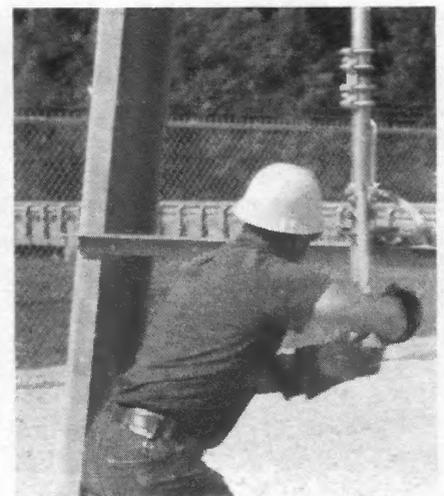
We want to extend our thanks and appreciation to all members whose land we crossed to build the transmission line. We know that sometimes it was an inconvenience to you. We thank you for our cooperation.

In our continued effort for system improvement, we plan to convert a single-phase line to three-phase from the new substation along Imbs Station Road to Triple Lakes crossroad. This construction will begin sometime next spring.

Our service area is experiencing the most growth in the areas northeast of Columbia and north of Millstadt. The above system improvements are necessary to handle that growth.



Ermin Brinkmann, superintendent of operations, checks the voltage on the new substation as representatives of the contractors and engineering firm look on.



Wilbert Juelfs, a line foreman, pulls the switch to energize the New East Carondelet substation.

The heat pump and dual fuel

The heat pump is getting a lot of attention now days with everyone wanting to get as much as possible out of their heating and cooling dollar. It is no wonder that the heat pump gets mentioned. It is one of the most efficient heating and cooling devices around.

Heat pumps have been around for a long time. There is a good chance that you have a heat pump in your home right now. The refrigerator uses a heat pump for cooling. The heat inside the refrigerator is transferred from inside the unit to the outside by means of freon gas that undergoes temperature and pressure changes through the marvel of the heat pump that causes the process to occur.

That process has been applied to heating your home. The heat is extracted from the outside air and transferred to your home. There are many times during the winter that this can be done with such efficiency that you may be purchasing one BTU (British thermal unit) of heat in the form of electricity and in turn receiv-

ing two BTU's of heat delivered into your home.

Why has so much attention been given to heat pumps in recent years? Heat pump equipment has improved both in reliability and performance in recent years thereby providing a product to the consumer that is cost efficient.

An extremely attractive alternative to home heating is a dual fuel system. A heat pump in conjunction with a fossil fuel furnace (oil, gas) will provide you with a cost efficient means of heating your home.

The heat pump will heat your home at those times when the temperatures are not real cold. When it does get cold the heat pump shuts off and the back up fossil fuel furnace comes on providing comfort until the temperature warms back up so the heat pump can handle the job. The heat pump under these conditions will provide from 80-85 percent of the heating requirements during the heating season. For a large percentage of the time you receive the efficiency of a heat pump and when

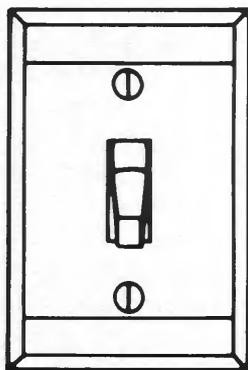
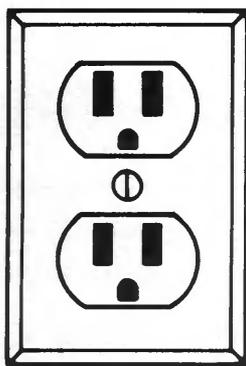
the extreme cold comes you have the capability of providin the comfort you desire. Of course this is all done automatically. Your equipment will know when the heat pump should operate and when the furnace should function.

This combination is very attractive to the current consumer who has a fossil fuel furnace and is looking to reduce his heating bill. A heat pump will work very well with your current gas furnace. This not only will lower your heating bill but also extend the life of your gas furnace.

What about air-conditioning? The heat pump is one of the most efficient air-conditioners for those hot summer days there is. By operating the heat pump in reverse it becomes another plus for you in providing comfort and economy for you.

Dual fuel can be a great advantage to you. It's economical, provides both the heating and cooling function and is reliable.

Please drop by and ask us about dual fuel or contact your local heating and air conditioning dealer.



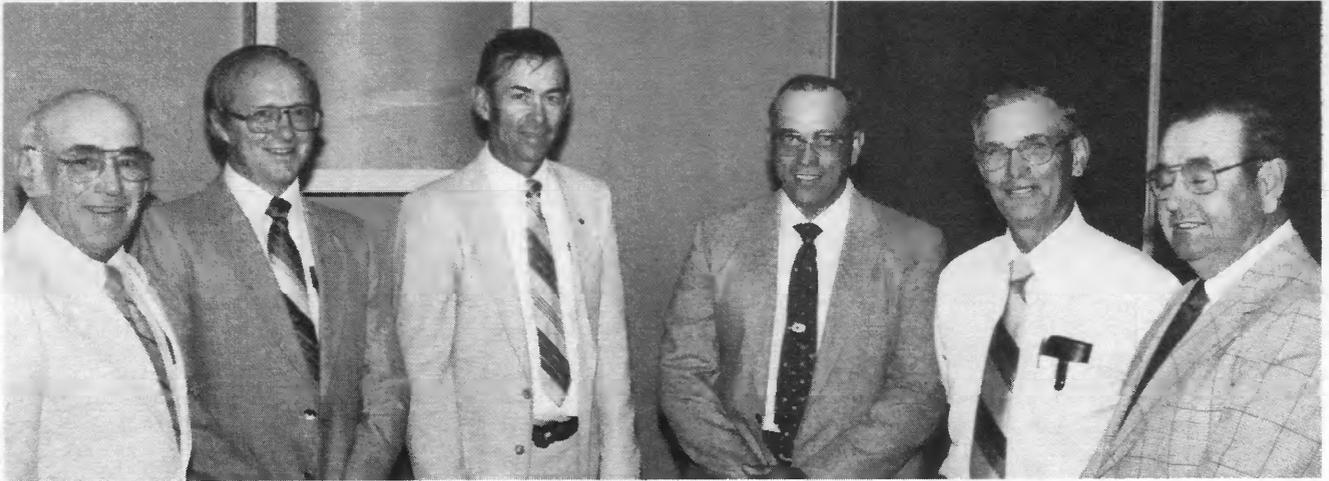
Two of the most important order forms you can use

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.

If you have any questions on how you might use electricity more efficiently, or if your attempts at efficiency haven't reduced your bill as you had hoped, give Monroe County Electric Co-Operative a call. We think electricity is a wonderful bargain, but we don't think you should buy more than you need.



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

New 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.

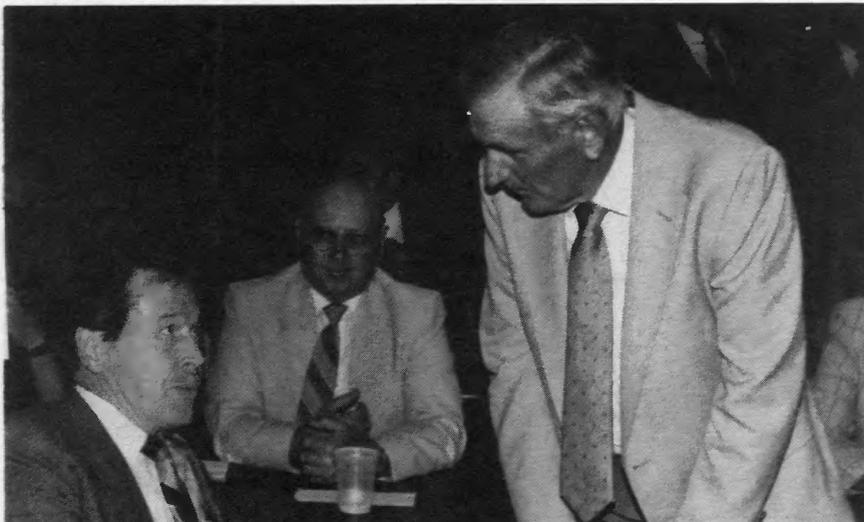
The tests are: (1) getting certified by the Illinois Commerce Commission to provide service in an area that already has service from a local company, (2) proof of technical ability to provide that service, and (3) proof that the existing carrier would not be adversely affected by the intrusion and that 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

Legislation 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.

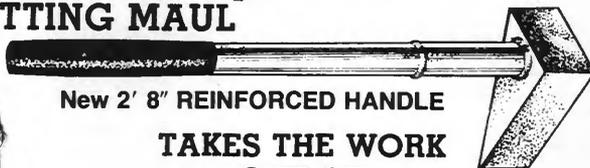
Rural electric leaders stressed during their support of the bill the fairness of the legislation to all Illinois residents because the tax will be applied evenly on the amount of electricity or natural gas used, regardless of the rate charged by the supplier. The legislation should also be an incentive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

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618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Monroe Electric News

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

More than 150,000 central Illinois electric cooperative members can expect stable electric rates in the late 1980s thanks to pooled power supply planning and operations of two Illinois generation and transmission cooperatives. These two organization are pooling their operations, personnel and other costs along with their power supply facilities to halt the spiraling cost of electricity that has plagued rural electric consumers since the mid-1970s. Under the joint operating agreement that made the pooled operations possible, the two cooperatives may completely merge their organizations by July 1986.

Soyland Power Cooperative, based in Decatur, was organized in 1963 and today serves as the wholesale power supplier to 15 electric distribution cooperatives and their 105,000 local members and their families. Western Illinois Power Cooperative (WIPCO) was organized in 1960 to develop a reliable supply of wholesale power for its seven member-cooperatives and their 45,000 members located in west-central Illinois. Its headquarters is in Jacksonville.

Prior to January 1, 1985, WIPCO generated approximately 30 percent of the electric energy it distributed to its members at the 22-megawatt coal-fired generating station and 22-megawatt gas turbine generator it owns on the banks of the Illinois River near Pearl. It also owns two oil-fired peaking units located in Pike County. WIPCO supplemented the production of its own units with wholesale purchases from Illinois Power Company and Central Illinois Public Service Company. At the same time, Soyland was purchasing all the energy requirements of its 15 member-cooperatives from Illinois Power, CIPS and Central Illinois Light Company.

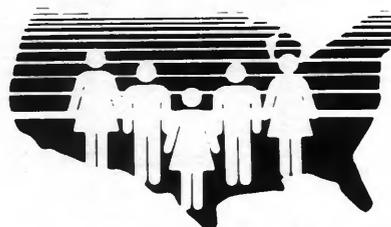
In the early 1970s when electric energy loads were growing at 7 to 8 percent annually and the cost of wholesale power from investor-owned utilities was skyrocketing, WIPCO and Soyland entered into contracts with Illinois Power Company to purchase 9.5 percent and 10.5 percent ownership shares, respectively, in the nuclear Clinton Power Station which Illinois Power was building in DeWitt County. That plant was started at a time when fossil fuels were

increasingly in short supply, environmental fears made it appear unlikely new large-scale, coal-fired plants could be constructed and nuclear power appeared to be becoming "too cheap to measure."

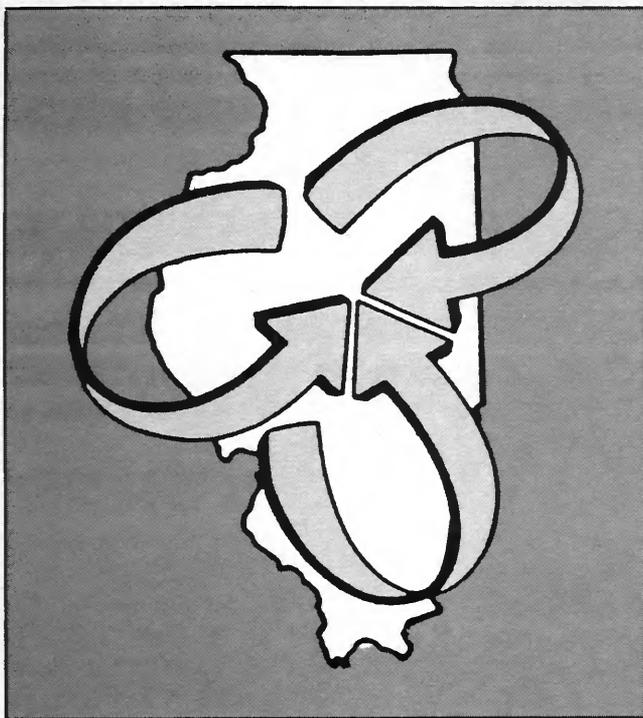
The electric cooperatives had been told their long-term wholesale purchase contracts would be terminated and were told that they should look elsewhere for power supply. As they considered their options in the early 1970s to acquire their own generating capacity, they elected to take advantage of a rule of the United States Atomic Energy Commission that required builders of nuclear power plants to offer shares of ownership to smaller municipal and cooperative-owned utilities. As a result of that rule, WIPCO now owns 9.5 percent of the Clinton Station, Soyland 10.5 percent and Illinois Power the remaining 80 percent. Illinois Power is responsible for construction and all plant operations while the two cooperative federations are responsible for their proportionate share of plant costs.

At the time the two cooperatives decided to participate in the nuclear Clinton project, it was an excellent and logical business decision. However, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has made many changes in the regulations governing the design and construction of Clinton that have resulted in numerous delays. Over the past decade, high inflation and high interest rates have caused construction costs to escalate. The total direct construction cost of the plant, not including interest expense, is projected to be \$2.5 billion when it enters commercial service in November 1986. As Clinton costs mounted, Soyland and WIPCO began seeking alternatives to lessen the impact of the plant's high capital cost on rates paid by their members. Of the many options considered, the concept of joint operations and pooling offered the greatest promise of cost control, secure power supply and rate stability for the two power supply organizations and their 22 member-cooperatives.

COOPERATIVES



**BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA
... and a BETTER WORLD**



Power Pooling

Since January 1, 1985, Soyland Power Cooperative and Western Illinois Power Cooperative have operated as a single power supply organization, combining personnel and energy requirements to gain economies of scale. Soyland/WIPCO have entered into a power coordination agreement with Illinois Power Company under which the cooperatives are receiving 400 megawatts of capacity from IP's fossil fueled generating plants and the right to use the company's transmission and subtransmission system. All capacity owned by the three participants, including the WIPCO Pearl Station, the IP fossil facilities and the Clinton Station, upon its completion, are being operated as a single power pool and dispatched out of IP's modern dispatching center in Decatur.

Other provisions of the agreement between Soyland/WIPCO and IP limit the cooperatives' total direct construction cost of the Clinton Power Station to \$450 million. Should their share of the cost of the plant exceed that limit, the cooperatives' combined 20 percent ownership share will be reduced proportionately. Soyland/WIPCO have also been relieved of their responsibility to construct a

portion of a transmission line to connect Clinton to the statewide power transmission grid. That obligation could have required Soyland/WIPCO to invest another \$70 million on top of Clinton's capital costs.

Soyland/WIPCO recently completed negotiations with Central Illinois Public Service Company for approximately 260 megawatts of capacity to meet their remaining power supply requirements.

Mutual Benefit

The investor-owned utilities, the electric cooperatives and the consumers receiving power from them will all benefit from such power coordination agreements. Within Illinois and across the nation, electric utilities have excess generating capacity, the cost of which must be borne by their customers if it cannot be sold outside their systems. Illinois Power faced the prospect of losing Soyland/WIPCO as wholesale power customers as Soyland/WIPCO were determined to purchase capacity to ensure adequate supplies of bulk power to meet the needs of their 22-member cooperatives.

The major beneficiaries of the joint power agreements will be the 150,000 member-consumers served by the 22 electric distribution cooperatives that make up the Soyland and WIPCO federations. They will be receiving electric energy from a broad mix of coal-fired generating plants, plants constructed before the rapid inflation of the 1970s and '80s. The lower fixed cost of those plants means that Soyland/WIPCO will have some lower capital cost capacity to average in with the higher capital cost of Clinton. The result will be stabilized power supply costs to cooperative members and investor-owned utility customers, resulting in maximum use of existing and future generating units.

Pooling offers many advantages to the companies and the cooperatives. However, pooling cannot bring back the low-cost electricity of pre-inflation, pre-regulation days. That era is gone forever. What pooling does offer to the cooperatives served by Soyland and WIPCO, is a solid expectation that wholesale electric rates will stabilize after 1987 when the Clinton Power Station is on line. The capacity purchase agreements also mean that the cooperatives will no longer be forced to depend on short-term wholesale contracts with rapidly escalating costs. They have assured capacity available to meet their needs at known capital costs. And, they have limited their future capital costs connected with Clinton construction.

Notice Area Member Meetings

DISTRICTS 1 and 2

Monday, October 28 - 7 p.m.
Columbia National Bank Meeting Room
Columbia

DISTRICTS 5 and 7

Wednesday, October 30 - 7 p.m.
Hecker Commercial Club
Hecker

DISTRICTS 6, 8 and 9

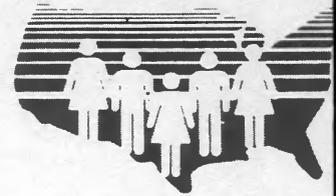
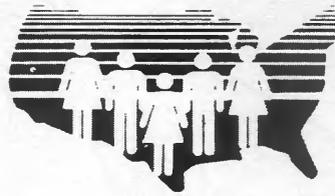
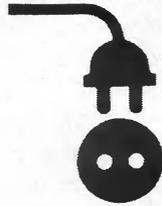
Wednesday, November 6 - 7 p.m.
St. John's United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall
Maestown

DISTRICTS 3 and 4

Thursday, November 7 - 7 p.m.
Monroe County Electric Co-Operative Office
Waterloo

Each member will receive a notice of the meeting in your area. If you are unable to attend that meeting, you are welcome to come to one of the other scheduled meetings.

Door Prizes Attendance Prizes Refreshments



COOPERATIVES

* * * *

Rural development dedication urged

For 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.

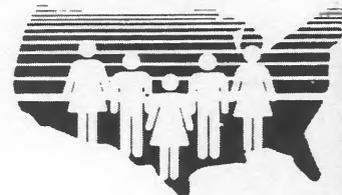
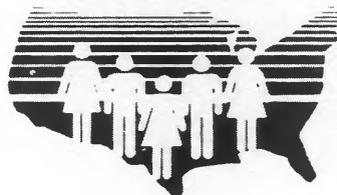
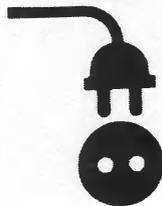
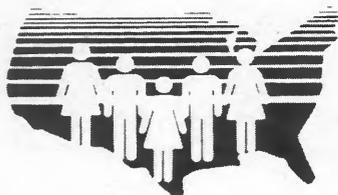
"My father is dead, but dad would have patronized the local cooperative no matter what because to him it was a matter of religion, an article of faith," he says.

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."



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



Joseph J. Fellin

Your Co-Operative board of directors, at its October 15, 1985, meeting, voted to assess a retail rate adjustment effective December 15, 1985, payable with the January 15, 1986, payment.

There are several factors that support the board of directors' decision to implement a rate increase in December.

Soyland Power Cooperative has given us notice of an increase in wholesale power costs effective January 1, 1986. These additional power costs must be passed on to the membership either as a wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) or as an increase in the base retail rate. Your board of directors is of the opinion that a rate increase effective December 15 is more justifiable than having a large WPCA until a new rate is established. With a new retail rate, again, we do not anticipate a WPCA. This is not to say there may not be one later in the year if our power costs should go above 6.9 cents.

The new rate will be:

Facilities Charge \$11.50

First 2,000 kwh @ 9.75¢

Over 2,000 kwh @ 6.00¢

Governor James Thompson signed a new law that changes the State of Illinois utility tax. Currently, five percent of your bill is state utility tax. Effective January 1, 1986, you will be paying .0032 cents per kilowatt-hour. (See related information on revised state utility tax.) As a result of this new way of computing the utility tax, we must send you new rate charts for collecting the new tax rate beginning in January. If we waited to implement a new rate until later in the year, we would have to reprint new rate charts. This would result in the cost of printing and mailing rate charts twice in a short period of time.

The board of directors and management of the Co-Operative are deeply concerned over the rising costs of wholesale power. The new retail rate will be based on a cost of 6.9 cents per kilowatt-hour to the Co-Operative. If during the year, our costs go above 6.9 cents per kwh, it could result in a WPCA to the members of the Co-Operative.

We assure you we are working closely with Soyland Power Cooperative to control power costs and hold them to a minimum. Wholesale power makes up over 70 percent of our total operating budget. The other costs (less than 30 percent) of providing reliable electric service to you are made up of operations, maintenance, administrative, interest, taxes, etc., and are being closely monitored. Again, we are doing what we can to keep these costs under control and as low as possible.

In summary, we are implementing a new retail rate beginning December 15, 1985. The two major reasons are to cover or to recover new wholesale power costs and to implement the new state utility tax.

As always, your questions are welcome. We don't expect you to be pleased with this or any rate increase; however, we hope you will be rational in your understanding the necessity of our actions.

PUBLIC UTILITY TAX REDUCED

New legislation, signed by Governor James Thompson on September 14, 1985, changes the method of computing the State of Illinois public utility tax. The change will be to make the tax on a flat rate per kilowatt-hour used rather than a percentage of the total bill. The legislation becomes effective January 1, 1986.

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 tax rate for electric consumers is 32 hundredths of a cent (\$.0032) per kilowatt-hour. For the Monroe County Electric Co-Operative member using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month, the legislation means a decrease of \$2.45 per month.

Example Computation of Utility Tax:

1,000 kwh	\$109.00	1,000 kwh
(New Rate)	X .05	X .0032
	<u>\$ 5.45</u>	<u>\$3.20</u>

(Savings \$2.45)

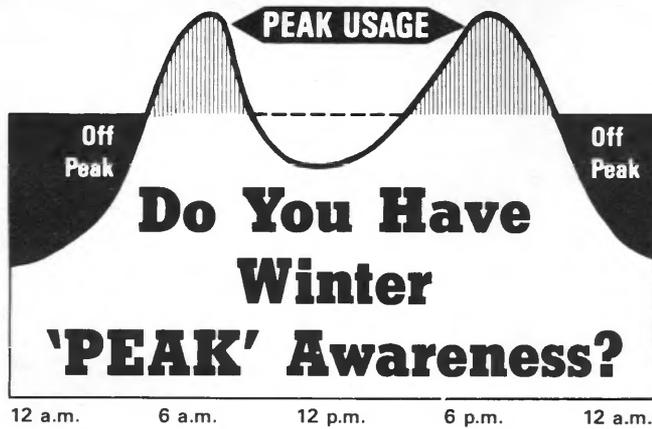
Using September 1985 kilowatt-hour revenue and sales, the savings for Monroe County Electric Co-Operative members for the month would be \$7,430.

Example - September 1985

Revenue	\$436,469.00	Kilowatt-hours	4,497,808
	X .05		X .0032
	<u>\$ 21,823.00</u>		<u>\$14,393.00</u>

(Savings \$7,430)

The new legislation is fair to all Illinois residents because the tax will be applied evenly on a per unit basis, regardless of the rate charged by the supplier.



For the past several years, we have asked your help to control peak kilowatt (KW) demand during the summer months.

WINTER PEAK

Beginning January 1, 1985, your cooperative is being billed for both summer and winter peak KW demand. During the six winter months, the Co-Operative must pay its power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative, fixed costs based on the percent of KW demand we place on Soyland's system in the months of December, January, and February.

Unlike the summer peak, which most likely occurs during late afternoon and early evening, the winter KW demand can peak during the early morning as well as during late afternoon and early evening. This results in two spikes, or peaks, one in the morning another in the evening, as shown in the graph at left.

Why do peaks occur? They're caused by members' energy use patterns. Many of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative's 4,200 member-owners wake up at the same time every day, turn up their furnace, shower, cook breakfast, and perform their farm chores. Electric use hits a peak at this time. In the evening, members arrive home, use electric appliances, hot water, lights and turn up their electric heat — again at about the same time — and electric energy use hits another peak.

Here's what you can do. Shift some of your electrical use to off peak periods; avoid using all of your larger 240 volt appliances, such as electric dryer, electric water heater, electric range, electric space heating and other heat producing appliances at the same time. By lowering your peak power use, you make more efficient use of the electricity available to you and lower power costs for the cooperative and ultimately to you, the member-consumer.

Be aware of the expensive peaks and save money on your electric energy bill.

Electricity produced as needed

Electric power has to be produced as needed to meet demand, and demand is expected to increase sharply over the next two decades, partly because of population growth, partly because of heavier reliance on electric power to replace gas and oil.

Our nation's present generating capacity is approximately 555,000,000 kilowatts (kw). The most conservative government and industry forecasts show that by 1990 electric utilities must be able to produce 300,000,000 kw more — and by the year 2000 another 200,000,000 on top of that. Figuring the average plant's capacity at one million kw, that means up to 500 new generating stations must be built in just 15 short years.

There is a problem. A coal-fired plant started this year may take as much as 10 years to complete, a nuclear plant as many as 14, and half the plants required aren't even under construction yet.

Can generating plants be built faster?

Yes, if some of the red tape is stripped from the licensing and regulatory process. Right now we are looking at five to seven years just for the paperwork on a million-kw coal-fired station — years that cost consumers dearly. Every day's delay in construction, while power plant developers struggle through a jungle of overlapping, unclear, sometimes irrational rules and regulations, adds more than \$300,000 to that coal-fired plant's cost.

Regulators themselves are saying it's come to the point where about 30 percent of the average electric bill goes for the delays. Consumers can't afford to pay the bill.

Energy rules and regulations can, and must, be analyzed, consolidated and eliminated where they serve no real purpose. A nation as utterly dependent on energy as ours must have regulation for the public good. Regulation gone berserk is counter productive.



Office closings

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29, for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Happy Thanksgiving

DEAN'S 'FIRE' STONE

Instant
fire
starter



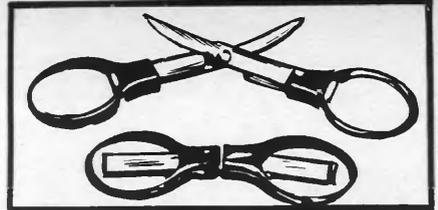
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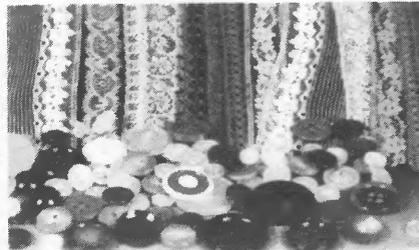
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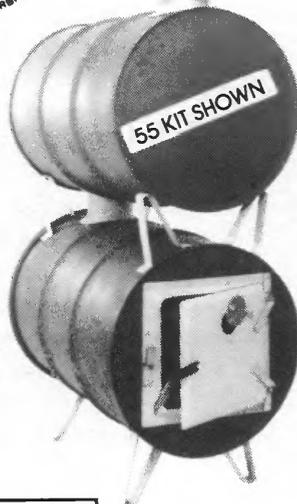
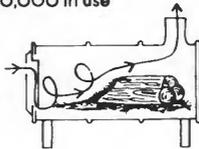
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GUARANTEE. Try the Sotz Heater Kit at our risk. If (within one year) you don't agree it outperforms any wood heater money can buy, or if it ever cracks, warps, or burns up, your money will be refunded. Including shipping charges.

Kits convert 15 to 55 gal. drums (not supplied) into high capacity stoves.

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• Sotz Top Kit includes heavy duty connector pipe - Other brands don't.

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Kit fits drums
from 30-55 gallon

Airtight Gasketed Door

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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.

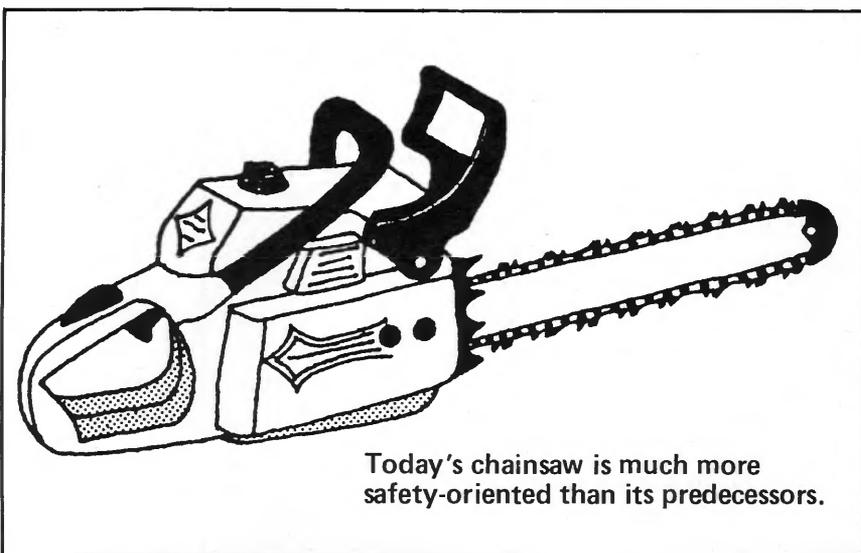
To maintain control, you need a good grip on the saw. Leather gloves are recommended. Heavy logs can take a toll on toes. Safety-toed shoes with non-slip soles are recommended. Baggy clothing can easily become tangled in the brush and cause you to fall. Loose-fitting clothes can be caught by the moving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



Monroe Electric News

618-939-7171

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Across the manager's desk



It 'tis" the season to bear glad tidings, bring good cheer and for revelling with friends and family. The board, management and employees extend to you and yours a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the new year. Let's pray that 1986 is a better year for all of us.

You have received notice of the increase in electric rates effective December 15, 1985, payable with the January 15, 1986, payment. You will receive new rate charts and billing material prior to January 15.

We at the Co-Operative are deeply concerned about the rising costs of electricity. The new rate will be based on a wholesale power cost to the Co-Operative of 6.9 cents per kilowatt-hour. Again, we do not anticipate a wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA), but cannot guarantee that there will not be one during the year. Your Co-Operative pays fixed costs to our power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative, based on the percentage of demand Monroe County Electric places on Soyland's total system demand during the summer months of July and August and the three winter months of December, January and February. We also pay for energy (kwh's) purchased. Our wholesale power cost varies from month to month because the amount of dollars for fixed costs remains fairly constant; however, monthly kwh sales fluctuate widely. They are directly related to weather, higher sales in the winter and summer and lower in the other months. We must pay the same fixed costs whether we purchase one million kwhs or five million.

There is a way that you can help lower our wholesale power costs. Over 70 percent of our energy bill is fixed costs (demand related). By reducing our peak demand during those months, we can reduce our percentage of fixed costs. For example, if we reduce our fixed costs by 1/10 of one percent, it would save the Co-Operative \$60,000 in energy costs during the year.

VOLUNTEER TO SHAVE PEAK

We are looking at ways to shave peaks and fill the valleys during off peak. The easiest and fastest is voluntary peak shaving by the member-consumers of Monroe County Elec-

tric Co-Operative. Shift some of your electric use to off-peak periods, avoid using all of your major electric appliances such as water heater, dryer, range, space heating and other large electric loads at the same time.

Historically, our system winter peaks occur between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. If we can shift some of our usage to the off-peak hours, it can save you, your fellow members, and the Co-Operative dollars spent for electric energy.

We are looking at programs to fill the valleys, by promoting the sale of kwhs of energy during off-peak hours. These programs will be offered to all members and it will be your decision whether you want to participate. These marketing programs will be designed to save those who participate dollars on your electric bill, and also reduce the wholesale power cost to the Co-Operative and ultimately savings to all members.

When these programs are announced, please give consideration to participate in them. Your cooperation will be appreciated.



Our office will be closed in observance of the holidays:

Christmas Day — Wednesday, December 25

New Year's Day — Wednesday, January 1

Cut heat loss and save money

Reducing air infiltration in your home can save you dollars on your energy bill. In figuring heat loss on a new home, nearly 40 percent of that loss is attributed to air exchange. This is based on the fact that a house will have one air change per hour. In older homes, two or more air exchanges per hour are not uncommon.

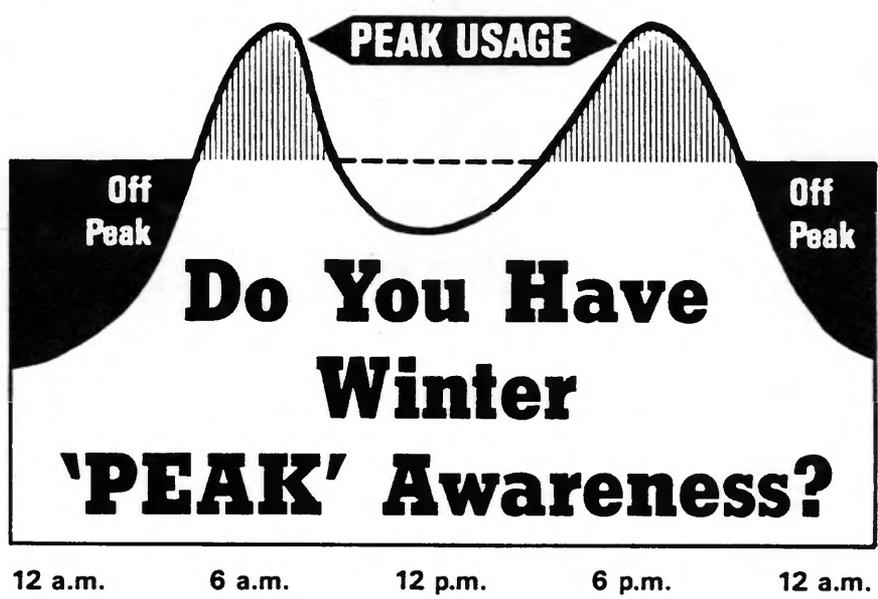
It comes quite evident why weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors is important. These low-cost, owner-installed items can result in a net savings to you the member/consumer.

A test performed by Texas Power and Light Company showed that wall outlets and switchplates accounted for 20 percent of air exchange, 25 percent around the sole plate, 12½ percent around windows and doors, 13 percent in the duct system, and the remainder in recessed lights, vents, fireplaces and other.

A standard door with a 1/12-inch crack around it is equal to a hole in your wall of over four square inches. Needless to say, if you had a hole that large in your wall, you would do something about it.

The air flow around wall outlets and switch plates can be alleviated by inexpensive foam rubber gaskets placed under the cover plates.

No home is going to be void of air infiltration, but a substantial reduction can be achieved economically. This in turn will result in dollars saved. So get out the weather stripping, caulking and tools and go to work.



Do You Have Winter 'PEAK' Awareness?

What is a peak?

It's one or two times each day when consumers' use of electricity is highest.

Why do peaks occur?

They're caused by consumers' energy use patterns. Many of the Monroe County Electric Co-Operatives' 4,200 member-owners wake up at about the same time every day, shower, cook breakfast and begin work. Electrical use hits a peak at this time. In the evening, members arrive home, use electrical appliances, hot water, lights and turn up the electric heat . . . again at about the same time . . . and electric energy use hits another peak.

So what?

Here's the point. Electric cooperatives must provide adequate electrical capacity to meet the highest peaks. Each year the peaks get higher and more power plants are needed to generate enough electricity to meet peak use. There is no reasonable alternative to ensure that we don't run short of electricity during these peaks.

Here's what you can do

Shift some of your electrical use to off-peak periods. Avoid washing and drying clothes or dishes until later at night. Turn off your air conditioner during peak periods. Postpone using major appliances until off-peak times. By lowering your peak power use, you make more efficient use of the electricity we now have and delay the need for more generating capacity. Be aware of the expensive peaks and save money on your electric energy bill.

Capital credits refunded

Your Co-Operative board of directors recently authorized a general retirement of capital credits assigned to Co-Operative members who received electric service during the year 1961. A total of 1,746 capital credit checks will be mailed the week of December 16, 1985. The total amount of the checks is \$13,443. Present and former members who were on our lines in 1961 will receive these refunds.

This year \$17,071 of capital credits have been returned to estates of former Co-Operative members through October.

With this mailing, a total of \$794,600 in capital credits has been returned to Co-Operative members. This is made up of \$496,312 in general retirements through 1961 and retirement of capital credits to estates of deceased members in the amount of \$298,288.

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
 1/8 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
 1/8 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
 pimento for color

2 tablespoons butter or margarine
 2 tablespoons flour
 1 teaspoon salt
 1/8 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
 1/3 cup shortening

1/2 teaspoon salt
 3-4 tablespoons cold water

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
 2/3 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.