

# Cooperative members eligible for energy conservation grants

Are you planning home weatherization improvements or replacing a heating and cooling system but lack the cash to get started? You might be eligible for a home weatherization and energy conservation grant from the State of Illinois.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association members who qualify may obtain up to \$1,500 from the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) for a variety of home energy use improvements to their homes. The program will fund projects that will result in long-term home energy savings. The funding is available through the Rural Home Energy Program, approved by the Illinois General Assembly last spring. Approximately \$26,000 of the \$1.5 million is available through this program to qualifying Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association members.

## WHO QUALIFIES?

There are two basic categories of qualifiers.

Any electric cooperative member with household income 80 percent or less of the cooperative service area's median income is eligible for a grant of up to \$1,500. This is a total grant, without any matching funds required by the applicant.

A member whose household income is 80 to 120 percent of the area's median income is eligible for a grant of up to \$1,000. This is a 50 percent matching grant, with the consumer-member paying 50 percent of the project's cost.

A detailed list of median incomes for Egyptian Electric's service area is shown below.

## WHAT KIND OF

## ENERGY CONSERVATION PROJECTS QUALIFY?

Any project that will improve energy efficiency in the home is eligible. Some examples include:

- Caulking and weather stripping
- Furnace efficiency modifications
- Replacement furnaces or boilers with annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) greater than 90 percent

- Furnace replacement burner (oil)
- Intermittent pilot ignition devices
- Replacement air conditioner with a seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) of greater than 8.6
- Wall, ceiling, floor, pipe, duct or water heated insulation
- Storm windows or doors, and thermal windows or doors
- Electric load management systems
- Solar domestic water heaters
- Replacement water heater that meets or exceeds current ASHRAE 90 efficiency standards

Other energy conservation projects may be eligible for the state grant funds, but such projects must be approved by ENR.

To apply for a Rural Home Energy Program grant or for more information, contact Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association. Before being considered for the grant, participants must have an energy audit completed on their home and have a written bid from a contractor for proposed projects. These bids must contain model numbers and efficiency ratings for heating or cooling systems, and cost estimates.

Applications must be submitted to Egyptian Electric. The cooperative reviews the application, then forwards it to ENR for final review and approval. ENR has the final decision on all Rural Home Energy Program applications.

Once an application is approved, a check is prepared payable to the consumer-member and the cooperative. The cooperative will then endorse the check and present it to the member for payment. Egyptian Electric may inspect the completed work, and each approved applicant must also certify that the installation of materials or equipment funded through the grant program is complete.

For additional information, contact Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association at 965-3434.

## Rural Home Energy Program

Income guidelines for  
Egyptian Electric  
Cooperative Association

### FAMILY SIZE: TOTAL FAMILY INCOME:

1	2	3	4	5	6
\$15,713	\$17,950	\$20,188	\$22,438	\$23,825	\$25,250

100% Subsidy up to \$1,500

If the applicant's family income is less than the figure listed above he/she is less than 80% of the median income for this service area. Therefore, the family is eligible for a grant up to \$1,500 for energy conservation measures in their home. The applicant will not be required to provide any matching funds.

### FAMILY SIZE:

1	2	3	4	5	6
\$15,713- 23,569	\$17,950- 26,925	\$20,188- 30,281	\$22,438- 33,656	\$23,825- 35,738	\$25,250- 37,875

50% Subsidy up to \$1,000

If the applicant's family income is between the two figures listed above he/she is eligible for a grant of 50% of the cost of eligible conservation measures up to a total of \$1,000.

# Your employees



Poole

## ROBERT POOLE

Robert Poole has been an employee of Egyptian Electric since August 28, 1968. He is a journeyman lineman working out of the Murphysboro office. He and his wife, Nancy Mae,



Minton

live near Murphysboro and have five children: Tracey, Kim, Beth, Steven and Chris, and six grandchildren.

His hobbies include gardening and fishing.

## LEWIS MINTON, JR.

Lewis (Buggs) Minton, Jr., is a maintenance lineman who works out of the Murphysboro district office. He is involved with service connections and disconnections and line maintenance work. Minton has been with Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association since October 12, 1967.

He and his wife, Mary, live in Murphysboro. They have two grown daughters: Brenda Wilmoth of Carbondale and Mariann Crowell of Murphysboro.

Minton and Mary enjoy hunting, fishing, camping and traveling, and Mary works with ceramics, too.

## Keep faithful servant in its place

While electricity has proven to be a powerful tool for man ever since its first widespread use at the turn of the century, it still remains potentially dangerous. The same attributes we find so useful are the ones that can be so destructive.

The ability to produce the energy that warms or cools our food and causes our lights to glow can also start the fires that have the potential to destroy. The same ability to produce a shock used by a doctor to revive a heart can also stop it.

The difference between useful and harmful electricity comes down to knowing and practicing electrical safety. Since the safe current flow for house wiring is far beyond what is tolerable to humans, different methods have been developed to protect people from electrical dangers.

Your home's electrical system consists of an entrance panel, with a main fuse or circuit breaker and several individually protected branch circuits. Each of the system's parts must be designed to safely carry its load without overheating.

### Protecting wiring

Fuses and circuit breakers are intended to protect a circuit's wiring.

For example, a kitchen's small appliance circuit has no. 12 wire, rated at 20 amperes, and a 20-ampere fuse or circuit breaker. While this fuse is designed and sized to protect the wiring, it cannot prevent an electrical appliance rated at five amperes from overloading. For this protection, the appliance must have a separate fuse.

Some appliances and tools are internally protected. They may have a reset button that must be pushed to restore operation after an overload, or an automatically resetting circuit breaker. Since some appliances have no overload protection, it is a good idea to check the owner's manual to determine if a particular model has this built-in safeguard.

Fuses and circuit breakers are designed to detect an overloaded condition and open the circuit before the wiring overheats and causes damage. The most common type of fuse has two elements. One reacts quickly to a large current draw, like a short circuited current carrying conductor. The other, while allowing small temporary overloads such as starting motors, interrupts the circuit if the overload continues for more than a few

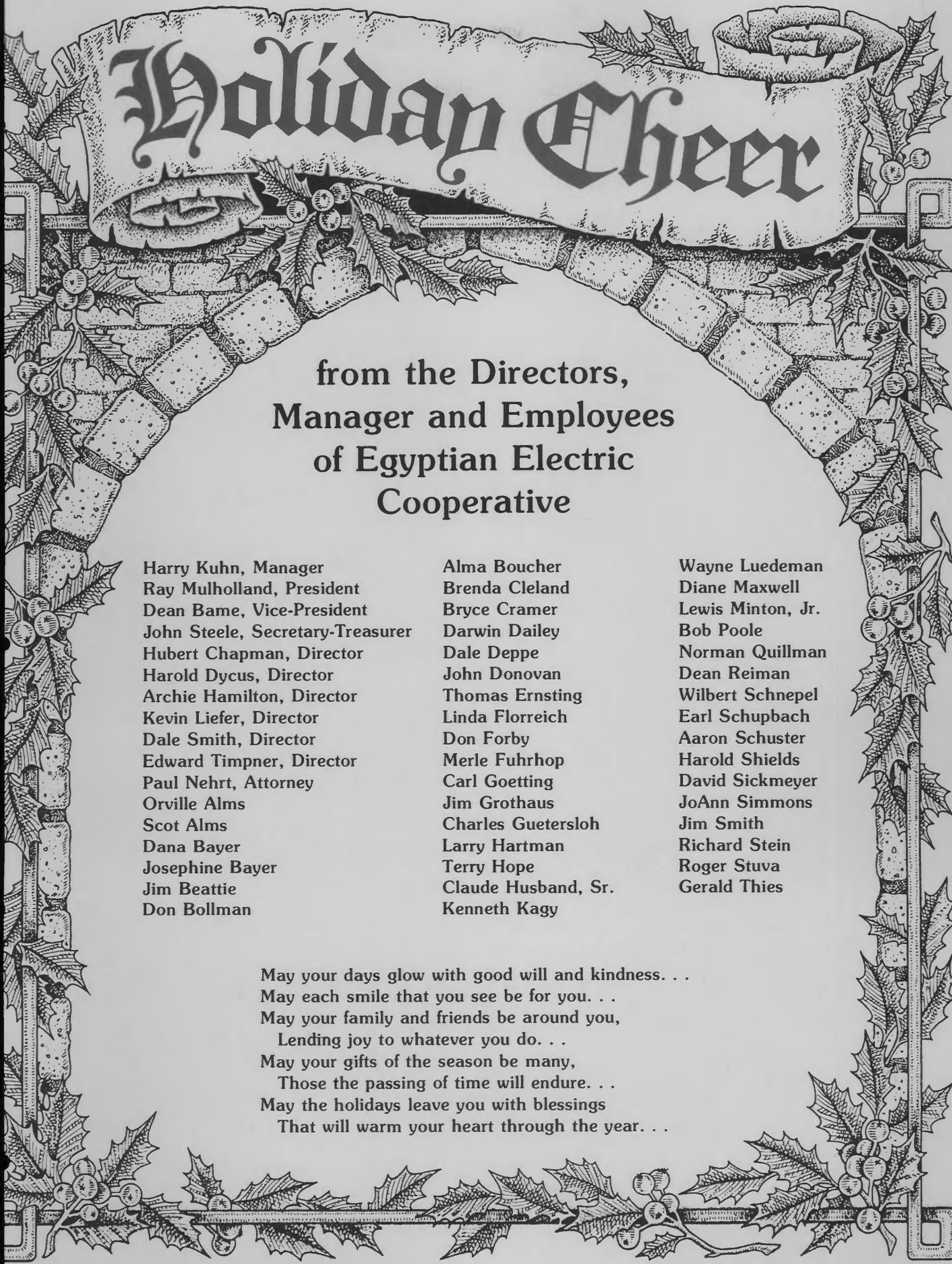
seconds.

A circuit breaker essentially performs the same task as a time-delay fuse, but it doesn't have to be replaced each time it interrupts an overloaded circuit. A breaker-interrupted circuit can be reenergized by moving the breaker toggle to the "off" position, then to the "on."

For the safe use of electricity in potentially damp and wet areas, such as bathrooms there are ground-fault interrupters. These electronic devices continually measure the current flowing in the current conductor and the neutral wire. Any differences between the amount of current flowing in the two is assumed to be a fault to ground and the circuit is instantly interrupted to stop the flow of electrons.

Ground fault interrupters are available as portable units, as built-in units that can fit in the same space as regular duplex outlets and as circuit breakers that can protect entire branch circuits.

If we use our electric service in a safe and efficient manner, it will continue to be a good and faithful servant, helping to make our lives easier and more enjoyable.



# Holiday Cheer

## from the Directors, Manager and Employees of Egyptian Electric Cooperative

Harry Kuhn, Manager  
Ray Mulholland, President  
Dean Bame, Vice-President  
John Steele, Secretary-Treasurer  
Hubert Chapman, Director  
Harold Dycus, Director  
Archie Hamilton, Director  
Kevin Liefer, Director  
Dale Smith, Director  
Edward Timpner, Director  
Paul Nehrt, Attorney  
Orville Alms  
Scot Alms  
Dana Bayer  
Josephine Bayer  
Jim Beattie  
Don Bollman

Alma Boucher  
Brenda Cleland  
Bryce Cramer  
Darwin Dailey  
Dale Deppe  
John Donovan  
Thomas Ernsting  
Linda Florreich  
Don Forby  
Merle Fuhrhop  
Carl Goetting  
Jim Grothaus  
Charles Guetersloh  
Larry Hartman  
Terry Hope  
Claude Husband, Sr.  
Kenneth Kagy

Wayne Luedeman  
Diane Maxwell  
Lewis Minton, Jr.  
Bob Poole  
Norman Quillman  
Dean Reiman  
Wilbert Schnepel  
Earl Schupbach  
Aaron Schuster  
Harold Shields  
David Sickmeyer  
JoAnn Simmons  
Jim Smith  
Richard Stein  
Roger Stuva  
Gerald Thies

May your days glow with good will and kindness. . .  
May each smile that you see be for you. . .  
May your family and friends be around you,  
Lending joy to whatever you do. . .  
May your gifts of the season be many,  
Those the passing of time will endure. . .  
May the holidays leave you with blessings  
That will warm your heart through the year. . .

# Egyptian Messenger

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

## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



Last month I discussed bill collecting and the amount of credit utilities extend to their customers, so this month I will talk about something that a customer might consider as "the other side of the coin." When the subject of utility bills comes up, someone will usually mention the fact that the customer really has no chance to shop around for the best price and is really a captive customer of a monopoly type of business. In some cases an individual will use this as an excuse or rationale for not paying the utility what is owed on an electric bill.

I will agree that a customer really does not have a choice as to which utility provides his electrical needs at a given location. You could, of course, move to an area served by the utility of your preference, but in most cases that is simply not feasible or practical. While you are obligated to take your electrical service from us if you locate in the cooperative's service area, the exclusive right to serve your electrical needs is a means of holding down utility costs, rather than increasing them. While competition is usually regarded as a means of holding down prices, you have to consider that utilities operate in a different business world than your local grocery store or service station.

If you will let us build a power plant on a street corner in your local community and you come in and get your supply of electricity, we can sell it to you a lot cheaper and you can buy from whichever utility you choose. You must bear in mind, however, that we are only going to open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., five or six days a week, and we won't be available after hours or on Sundays or holidays. So, if you have trouble with your electrical system or run out of electricity, you will have to wait until we open for business during regular hours. Also, we are only going to have available the amount of electricity we think we can sell everyday and there won't be any rain checks if you suddenly need more and we don't have it. If this sounds familiar, it should because this is the way a lot of the retail establishments operate. I don't think, however, that is the way you want your local electrical utility to operate.

If, on the other hand, you want us to build a line to your doorstep and provide you with all your electrical requirements whenever you have a need to use electricity, we cannot sell it as cheaply nor can we get into a competitive situation. You have to keep in mind that not only are we going to build an expensive line to your place and a very expensive power plant to supply the maximum need, no matter when it occurs, but we are also going to have to supply the people and equipment to keep you in service around the clock, 365 days a year. If we are going to do all this for your benefit, then the one thing that we need from you is your guarantee that you will buy all of your electrical needs from us.

If utilities did not have designated service areas and each one built a line into every consumer so that the consumer could buy from the one that had the lowest rates, the duplication of facilities and the doubling or more of investment costs would be more than anyone would care to bear. Under those kinds of conditions, eventually most companies would go broke with the surviving company having all the business and no other yardstick with which to be compared. No, we do not operate in a competitive situation like your local grocery store or service station, but they don't bring their services to your door, nor do they build roads to your house in order for you to have a way to town. Neither do they guarantee that they will have what you need when you get there.

A great portion of the rate increases during the past 10 years have been due to the high cost of new power plants and some excess capacity due to less-than-expected load growth. While excess capacity is not desirable, there is really no way that utility managers can afford to be short in their estimates because the consuming public simply would not stand for insufficient power supply. While we do experience outages from time to time, probably none of us has ever experienced a situation where rolling blackouts or brownouts had to be utilized because there was not enough generating capacity to go around. That says a lot for a system that may not be perfect, but it does deliver.

### Office closing

Our offices will be closed Friday, December 25, for Christmas, and Friday, January 1, for New Year's Day.



Sen. Glenn Poshard (D-Carterville), Rep. Bruce Richmond (D-Murphysboro) and officials of the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources and Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association announced a new state weatherization and energy conservation grant program on October 30 in Carterville. The Rural Home Energy Program, established through legislation authored by Poshard, allocates \$1.7 million to be used for weatherization and energy conservation measures. The funds are available only to qualifying low and moderate income families served by electric cooperatives. Funding for the program comes from penalties assessed by the federal government against oil companies. From left are: Ray Mulholland, Marissa, president of Egyptian Electric; Rep. Richmond and Sen. Poshard (seated); Mitch Beaver, director of energy and environmental affairs, Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources; and Harry Kuhn, manager of Egyptian Electric.

## Your employees

### ALMS

Orville Alms, a service repairman/maintenance lineman at Steeleville for Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, has completed more than 20 years with your cooperative. He started with Egyptian on October 24, 1966.

Orville lives in Steeleville with his wife, Nita, and their three children: Orville, Jr., Scot and Debbie. His hobbies include golf, fishing and bike riding.

### FORBY

Donald Forby also has completed more than 20 years with



Forby

your electric cooperative. Donald began work for Egyptian on October 6, 1966. He is a serviceman/maintenance lineman at Murphysboro.



Alms

He and his wife, Sue, live in Makanda with their two children: Ken and Donnia Kay. He lists fox and rabbit hunting as his hobbies.

sor of this legislation. Approximately \$1.5 million is available through this program to qualifying electric cooperative members.

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For additional information, contact Egyptian Electric at (618) 965-3434 or the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources toll-free at 1-800-252-8955.

Rep. Bruce Richmond (D-Murphysboro) has received the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Public Service Award. The presentation was made October 15 in Springfield. With Richmond (right) is Hubert Chapman, Carbondale, a director of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The IEC Public Service award is presented annually to those legislators and other government officials who have made significant contributions to the electric cooperatives' legislative goals.



Unlike most other businesses, a utility sells its services on credit to anyone that requests it, without the customer having to provide any credit references. Typically, a month of electrical service is provided and a bill is rendered sometime during the next month. This cooperative operates in this manner with our only difference being that approximately 80 percent of the members read their own meters and submit their payment without our having to send them a bill. Billed accounts, on the other hand, have their meters read around the 12th to the 15th of the month and receive a bill from us around the 25th day of the month. They then have until the 10th of the next month to pay the net amount, and if payment is not received, we start a process of notifications. If payment is not received after the final disconnect notice is rendered, the service is disconnected for non-payment.

As you might conclude, a considerable amount of time is involved before a service is actually disconnected. Typically there will be about two and one-half months of service on the meter that has not been paid for at the time the disconnect is made. Thus, it is a little difficult for me to understand how anyone could think it is unreasonable for us to request payment when we have already extended credit for over two months of electrical service simply on the basis of his promise to pay.

I think we would all agree that electrical service is virtually a necessity these days, but I think you would also agree that having something to eat is more critical. In view of that, how many supermarkets allow you to carry out 30 days of groceries without any payment on your part and continue to allow you to carry out another 30 days while they are trying to collect for the first 30 days? Unless you shop at different stores than we do, I don't imagine you can name any. There are probably still some small town stores that still have charge accounts for some long time customers, but by and large they are a thing of the past. My experience with the modern supermarket is that you pay for everything before you carry it out of the door and you have a zero credit limit.

While gasoline is probably not quite as critical as electrical service, you certainly need it to get to work to earn a living or to do the many errands that are necessary to keep a household going. You can, of course, use a credit card to buy gasoline from some sta-

tions, but you must first obtain a credit card. Once you have a credit card, the company issuing the card expects to receive the required payment or it will revoke the card, and you are back to a cash-only basis.

Many self-service stations do not accept credit cards and, in fact, some are so trusting that you have to put money up front before they will even turn on the gas pump. While their product is nearly essential to you, they consider your payment more essential and want it in hand before they produce the product.

I would venture to say that most people will pay cash at the supermarket or service station and will not voice the slightest complaint about having to pay up front for everything they get. Why do you suppose some of these same people will then take to writing nasty letters when their electric cooperative makes a reasonable request for payment after having extended credit for at least 60 days of energy usage? I'd like to believe that it is because they do not really realize just how they are billed and how much credit they get simply on the basis of their promise to pay, but sometimes it does make one wonder.

Let me state at this point that the vast majority of the members pay their bills on time every month and they never get a notice from us. If, however, you do forget your bill payment and you receive a reminder notice from us, please view it as a reminder and a collection tool that we must use to operate this cooperative in a sound business manner. We think the members rate the credit they receive, and we believe the cooperative treats you a lot better than your local supermarket or service station in that regard.

All that is asked in return for allowing you to pay after the fact for services used is that you pay the bill when it is due. If everyone did that, it would sure make our jobs a lot easier. I can assure you that we do not enjoy trying to collect money from the members. It is a task the employees like the least. We do not, however, let our dislike for the task keep us from doing it, because I believe that you expect us to operate this cooperative in the same manner you would operate your own business, and no business can afford to give away its products or services. Those that get into that position usually are not around too long, and I expect this cooperative to be in business for a long time to come.

## Cooperative members may be eligible for energy conservation grants

Are you planning home weatherization improvements or replacing a heating and cooling system this year but lack the cash to get started? You might be eligible for a home weatherization and energy conservation grant from the State of Illinois.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association members who qualify may obtain up to \$1,500 from the Illinois

Department of Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) for a variety of home energy use improvements to their homes. The program will fund projects that will result in long-term home energy savings. The funding is available through the Rural Home Energy Program, approved by the Illinois General Assembly this spring. State Sen. Glenn Poshard of Carterville was the spon-

# Egyptian Messenger

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## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### INSURANCE

Although we live in town, our house is served by a rural mail carrier, and this past week we received a letter from an insurance company. The letter was intended for rural mail patrons. If you live on a rural mail route, you probably have received a similar letter or will be receiving one in the near future, because the company is probably working this area at the present time.

While the letter does not make the outright claim that the insurance is endorsed by your local rural electric cooperative, it could easily give you the impression that such is the case. I want to state emphatically that this electric cooperative does not endorse any insurance of any kind, and any claims to the contrary are simply not true.

We are approached from time to time by companies who would like for us to either sell or give to them our mailing list for insurance sales purposes, but we absolutely refuse to do so. We regard our membership mailing list as privileged information, and we will not give it to any company or individual for any purpose. We are not in a position to evaluate the products and services of other companies, and consequently we are not going to recommend something to the membership of which we know nothing about. In our opinion, releasing our membership list gives the appearance of an endorsement, and it is just not going to happen with this cooperative.

While we do not endorse any insurance companies or other products that might be advertised in the Illinois Rural Electric News magazine, that does not mean that they might not be good products. You simply have to make your own determination that what you

are buying is what you want and it is a good product backed by a good company. Please do not rely on an implied association with Egyptian Electric Cooperative as a basis for spending your money.

### BILL COLLECTING

By the time you read this article, we will be starting into the colder months when some members will have trouble paying their winter heating bills. As I have done in past years, I would again urge those members who know they will have trouble paying their bills to seek assistance before we are at the door to disconnect for non-payment.

There is usually some governmental assistance available for low-income families to help pay heating bills, but it does take at least some effort on the part of the individual to apply for the assistance. From our standpoint, the worst thing a member can do is to not make any effort to seek assistance and ignore our notices in the hope that nothing will happen. If a member ignores our notices and makes no effort to work with us in resolving problems with his account, we will make disconnects for non-payment during the winter months. I personally feel that is the only way we can fairly treat those members who pay their bills each month, even though it may be very difficult for them to do so at times. We do not have a magic hat from which to draw funds, and any amounts we are not able to collect from those who do not pay have to be made up by those that do pay. I have to believe that the vast majority of the members would feel that everyone should make an all-out effort to pay for what they have used.

From time to time our collection efforts will cause a member to write a letter of complaint to me, and in some cases the letters are less than polite. I personally attempt to answer all such complaints, and I try not to take the complaints too personally, although at times that is hard to do when you are called names or someone questions your integrity. I guess I never cease to be amazed at how some people can take offense at what is an effort to operate this cooperative on a sound business basis and collect money for services rendered. Perhaps part of the problem is that most people do not realize just how lenient utilities are as compared to your local supermarket or gas station. I am going to take a few minutes of your times to point out what this cooperative does for each of its members with regard to credit.

### OFFICE CLOSING

Our offices will be closed  
Thursday, November 26, and  
Friday, November 27, for the  
Thanksgiving holidays.

(Continued from page 12a)

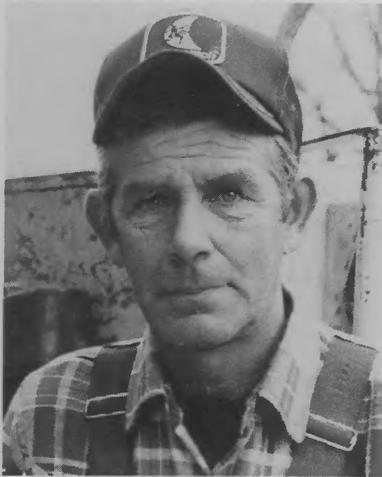
a lot of valuable time. Fortunately in this case, as with many other outages, an alert member called us and told us where the problem was at and we were able to start isolating the problem area from the rest of the system as soon as we could get linemen on the scene. We really appreciate the assistance of Mr. Ray Hartmann of

Campbell Hill on this outage because his call enabled us to restore power sooner than we would otherwise have been able to do it. We wish to thank him and all the other members who from time to time call us with information that makes our jobs a lot easier and greatly lessens the inconvenience to the membership as a whole.

## Office closing

Our offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, 1987, in observance of Veterans Day.

# Your employees



**Donovan**

### John Donovan

A 22-year employee with your electric cooperative, John Donovan is crew foreman. He began on August 12, 1965.

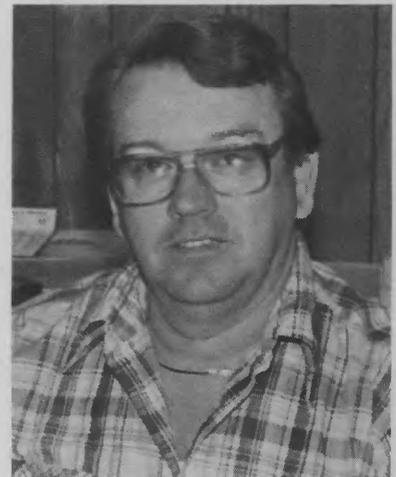
He and his wife, Nancy, live near Murphysboro, and she is director of sales and catering for the Ramada Inn of Carbondale. They have two daughters: Elizabeth, a college student, and Shawna, a high school student.

John says he enjoys fishing, rock hunting and observing wildlife.

### Gerald Thies

Gerald Thies, billing supervisor for Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, has been an employee of the cooperative for more than 21 years. He began on April 4, 1966.

Gerald lives in Percy with his



**Thies**

wife, Ruth Ann, and they have four children: Brian, 22; Carla, 21; Kevin, 18, and Jason, 13.

He lists his hobbies as hunting, fishing and bowling.

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143. AFTER OFFICE HOURS: STEELEVILLE AREA — Call 965-3437 first. If there is no answer call 684-2144.

MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call 684-2144 first. If there is no answer call 965-3437.

THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.

5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.



**Two Egyptian Electric Cooperative employees, Jim Smith (left), line foreman, and Dana Bayer, journeyman lineman, remove a small tree from underneath an electric line. Keeping trees away from power lines helps assure system reliability.**

rub on the conductor and damage it and can push the phase and neutral conductors together, causing the line to burn. Trees that are not growing into the line can still be a threat to good, reliable electric service. Wind storms, like we have recently been experiencing, break limbs from trees or the whole tree may give way and fall into the line. Trimming and cutting trees and brush is an essential part of a line

maintenance program.

Tree limbs will cause an oil circuit recloser to operate. The oil circuit recloser will shut the power off momentarily, and if the line has cleared after this operation, the power will stay on. Many of you have noticed these momentary power interruptions and sometimes think of them as being a nuisance, but the oil circuit reclosers are doing their job.

It is important to note that oil circuit reclosers must be serviced periodically. They are designed to automatically interrupt the power when something creates a fault on the line. They will automatically interrupt the power a series of times if the fault has not cleared, and on the fourth operation will "lock out" if the fault still has not cleared. The fault, if one is found, must then be corrected, and the oil circuit recloser is manually reset.

Guy wires, used to add support to the line, are installed at strategic points. The guy wires are sometimes accidentally cut with mowers or farm machinery or, if the end of them should get covered over with dirt, they may rust. They have also been known to come loose at the anchor. When any one of these things happen, they have lost their ability to support the line and must be replaced or repaired.

It is important that they be maintained to keep too much "pull" from being placed on the pole, letting the conductor sag too low for proper clearance. The guying also helps support the line when ice builds up on the conductor during an ice storm or when the wind sometimes causes the conductor to "gallop." The linemen are continually watching for and repairing the loose guying as part of the line maintenance program.

Another very important part of the line maintenance program is the inspection and replacement of poles. The treatment used on the poles protects them from insect damage and rot, usually giving them a long life. There are more than 40,000 poles in your cooperative's system. Many of these have been in use for many years and are still

good. We do recognize that, in spite of the treatment they have been given, they will rot or get damaged and must be replaced.

You, the member of the cooperative, can help us keep the system in good condition by reporting any cut ground wires, loose guying, or poles that are bad or have been hit by vehicles or machinery. Allowing us to trim or cut trees so there is good line clearance can really be a big help; and not planting trees under or near electric lines helps, too.



**This splintered pole was struck by farm equipment. It was replaced immediately, preventing what could have been an inconvenient and costly outage.**



## Maintaining the system

Maintaining the lines and equipment that make up the power distribution system of your cooperative is a continuous activity.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, your cooperative, has almost 2,000 miles of line. This system extends from south St. Clair County on the northwest to the western portion of Williamson County at the system's southeastern edge. The territory served by your

cooperative is approximately 70 miles long from and about 40 miles wide at the widest point.

This system, with terrain ranging from fairly open and flat to creek bottoms and bluffs to woods and cleared land to Kaskaskia Island, requires differing line maintenance skills. One part of the system may have most of the lines located along or near roadways, making them fairly easy to get to for maintenance,

while in another locality the lines may run through a creek bottom or up through hills, away from the road.

Wherever the lines are located, controlling trees and brush is an ever-present line maintenance project. Many of the species of trees we have in this area grow fairly fast and can soon be back into the lines after they have been trimmed. Trees growing into the power lines can

# Egyptian Messenger

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

## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### BILLING PACKETS

By the time you read this article, you should have received your new billing packet if you are a self-billed member. If you are on self-billing and have not received your packet, please contact one of our offices as soon as possible and we will mail one to you. At this time of year we always find out how good our address records are, and unfortunately we always get a number of packets back because the address is wrong. If you move during the year, it is important to provide us with the correct address for your location because the post office will not deliver mail that is not addressed correctly.

If you received the billing packet and did not read the letter that was enclosed, please take a few minutes to read it. Other than telling that there will again be no rate increase this year, it does contain some information on grants for energy conservation projects that might be of interest to you.

### TRANSMISSION OUTAGE

As those of you who live on the northern half of the system probably know, we had an outage on the system on Thursday, September 10, that lasted for approximately an hour and 20 minutes. Initially, we had seven substations and approximately 3,400 members out of service, but we were able to restore service to the Campbell Hill and Pyatt substations about half an hour before we picked up the rest of the system. This was one of those times that Murphy's law applied because everything that could have gone wrong apparently did. At the worst, we should have had only the Campbell Hill and Pyatt substations out of service, but due to the failure of automatic relays and reclosers to work properly, we lost all transmission ties to the Lake of Egypt power plant and the interconnection to the Baldwin power plant.

The outage was caused by an insulator string becoming unhooked from a crossarm at the top of a 90-foot pole near Trico School. The conductor attached to the insulator string then fell on the crossarm below it,

causing a short circuit to ground and the subsequent tripping of all circuits tied to the Campbell Hill transmission switching station. The insulator was hooked to the crossarm by means of a hook through an eyebolt and, if you were to look at it, you would agree that there is no way that it could have become unhooked with the weight of the conductor hanging from it. It did happen, however, and we are not at all sure as to the cause although we do have a theory as to a possible cause. The pole does have a scar on it where it appears that a truck might have backed into it and a hard shock to a pole of that height might have caused the top to snap over and the insulator string to flip up enough to unhook it from the eyebolt. At this point it is strictly speculation on our part, but it is the only possible cause that makes much sense at the present time.

Regardless of the cause, you can well imagine what was happening to our phone system with 3,400 members out of service. I am sure that if you tried to call you probably received a busy signal and probably also thought that we were not answering the phone. Let me again state that we always have an employee on duty to take outage calls, and this time was no exception. We were, in fact, taking calls at both Steeleville and Murphysboro, but the volume was such that most people could not get through. The only possible time that we might not answer an outage call is when there are so many calls coming in that the person on duty cannot get free to call out linemen to find and correct the problem. At times such as those, he might forego answering the outage phone for a few moments in order to get someone started on the way to take care of the problem. In those situations, we believe it makes a lot more sense to let the outage phone ring for a few moments and get on with solving the problem, rather than lose valuable time taking more calls about the same problem. You can be pretty well assured that if you are getting constant busy signals, the outage is fairly widespread and a lot of other people have already reported it and we are working on it.

In regard to outages, I might also add that it is sometimes really difficult to isolate where the problem might be when you are dealing with a large area. In the case of this outage, the trouble could have been anywhere from south of New Athens to Campbell Hill. If you have to go through the normal switching procedures to isolate the problem, you are going to lose

*Continued on page 12d)*

Hubert L. Chapman of Carbondale, left, has received Professional Director Certification given by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Chapman, a director of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, Steeleville, since 1978, received the award during the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives's annual meeting in Springfield, August 4-6. Electric cooperative directors must participate in more than 75 hours of NRECA courses in order to receive the certification. The presentations were made by Robert I. Kabat, right, director of NRECA Management Services.



## Avoidable autumn accidents

As a chill in the air becomes noticeable with the onset of autumn, the outdoorsman's thoughts turn to hunting, sawing firewood and a variety of "sweater weather" activities.

Unfortunately, in their zest to enjoy the great outdoors, people sometimes cause interruptions in electric service and create life-threatening situations by interfering with high voltage power lines.

Careless hunters are responsible for broken insulators on power lines and other hazardous conditions each year.

Taking target practice on insulators or shooting at birds sitting on the lines is not very sporting, and may be fatal if a line is damaged or broken. Damaged lines can snap and fall to the ground while still energized, creating an electrocution hazard to the hunter, anyone else walking through the area, or livestock in the field.

Also, a random "pot-shot" can crack a line insulator and the damage may not be visible from the ground. Over time, the crack can fill with moisture and cause a short in the line, which means members will be without service until the insulator is replaced.

In some cases, if the insulator is severely damaged, the line may become detached from the pole and drop to within a few feet of the ground, posing an electrocution hazard to anyone in the area.

Shooting insulators or any electric equipment is illegal and expensive. Repairing the damage from a careless hunter's shot, whether intentional or not, is an added operating expense to your cooperative which must be passed along to the membership. Still, that cost is minimal when compared to the potential for personal injury or death.

Tree trimming and cutting are frequently the cause of service interruptions and shock and electrocution

hazards, as well.

Overhead power lines are so prevalent in both urban and rural areas today that, unfortunately, it is all too common for people to start cutting before taking a moment to visually inspect their site for power lines and other hazards.

Always call Egyptian Electric Cooperative if you want limbs near lines trimmed or a tree cut that has even the slightest possibility of contacting lines at the location. Our forestry crew will make arrangements to trim branches or cut the entire tree down for you if there is any risk of line interference.

Each year outages and injuries are caused when limbs or entire trees make contact with high voltage power lines. The timber doesn't have to knock the line down to cause problems, either. Reports of people climbing trees to trim dead branches and receiving serious and even fatal shocks by contacting power lines with their body or their trimming equipment are heard much too often. And, depending on the moisture in the ground and other factors, you can be injured simply by touching the tree when it makes contact with the lines. Wood is generally not a very good conductor of electricity, but a certain amount of current can be carried through a tree and through you if you are touching it.

As the leaves begin to change colors and it is more pleasant to work and play outdoors, remember to locate and stay clear of power lines when participating in any activity.

Electricity is a safe and reliable service, but must be respected because it can be very dangerous when mishandled or ignored. Think safety before you aim your gun or start your saw. It saves everyone time, money and worry.



Gaylen Greer of rural Pinckneyville, winner of the 1987 FFA Illinois Agricultural Electrification Award, was presented with a plaque in recognition of his work and achievements at the local and sectional level of the FFA. The plaque was presented to Greer by Thomas H. Moore, general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, at the association's 46th annual meeting held August 4-6 in Springfield. Pictured with Moore and Greer are two members of the board of directors of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association of Steeleville, Greer's home electric cooperative. Flanking them at left is Edward C. Timpner of Pinckneyville and at right is Dale A. Smith of Cutler. The AIEC presents a plaque each year to the winner of the FFA award to draw attention to the contributions of the Future Farmers of America to the agricultural industry.

## Pinckneyville youth honored by AIEC

Gaylen Greer of rural Pinckneyville, winner of the 1987 FFA Illinois Agricultural Electrification Award, was honored during the 46th annual meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives held on August 5 in Springfield. Greer was presented with a plaque recognizing him for his work and achievements in FFA at the local and sectional level.

Greer discussed his FFA experience with nearly 400 employees, directors and guests of electric cooperatives from throughout the state. Greer and his parents, Charles and Mary Greer, are members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, Steeleville.

The AIEC honored Greer as a part of its continuing effort to call attention to the Future Farmers of America and the role that the organization plays through the vocational agricultural education system to train and assist rural young people in preparing for their chosen vocations and future leadership positions in their communities.

Greer is a member of the Pinckneyville FFA Chapter



and a recent graduate of Pinckneyville High School. He has been involved in the 4-H and FFA electricity programs for nine years, holding the offices of sentinel and vice president of his local FFA chapter and serving as sentinel of Illinois FFA Section 24. Greer said he planned to attend Southern Illinois University in Carbondale this fall where he will major in electrical engineering.

for lunch to find the door and windows closed and the air-conditioner humming away. I was then informed that the conservation program had terminated and to date it has not been resumed. Judging by the way the load gradually builds on the system over a period of hot weather, it would seem that our reactions are pretty typical of most people. We tend to tough it out for a few days, but when it looks like the heat will continue, we finally decide that enough is enough and we turn on the air-conditioner. The most likely comment you will hear at that point is "I pay to heat it. I might as well pay to cool it."

Even though this has been a relatively hot summer, the system's summer peaks are not that much greater than other years. About all I can conclude from that is that during most summers we have enough hot weather that most everyone will run their air-conditioner for some period of times and the system

will experience a fairly high air-conditioning peak load. This system is still a winter peaking system by a considerable margin, so system capacity in the summer is not a problem. Other than some really scary lightning caused by the hot weather, we have not experienced many problems due to the heat in operating the system. We lost a considerable number of transformers due to lightning, but only a handful due to overloads and overheating. We have believed for some time that the distribution transformers were pretty well sized for the load that was out there and a summer like this tends to bear that out pretty well. If we could just figure out some way to control and harness the lightning strokes, your lights would blink a lot less, outages would be fewer and I would spend a lot less time looking out the window and wondering what is happening to the system.

## Your employees



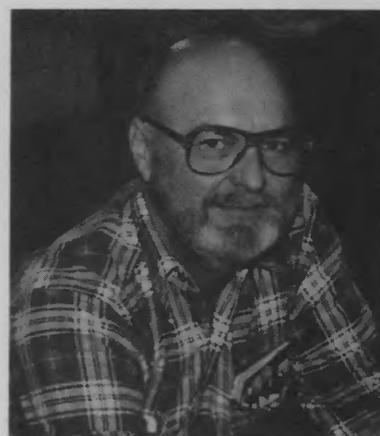
**Fuhrhop**

Merle A. Fuhrhop, office manager for Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, will mark 40 years with the cooperative next spring.

Fuhrhop, who began work with the cooperative on April 1, 1948, lives in Steeleville. He and his wife, Mary, have five children:

Barbara, Sue, Karen, Rick and Steve.

Fuhrhop's hobby is golf.



**Schnepel**

August 1.

As meter tester he is responsible for testing, calibrating and maintaining electric meters and voltage regulators.

A resident of Steeleville, Schnepel enjoys boating and fishing.

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Wilbert Schnepel, meter tester for Egyptian, completed 24 years with the cooperative this past

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143. AFTER OFFICE HOURS: STEELEVILLE AREA — Call 965-3437 first. If there is no answer call 684-2144.

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5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

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## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### SUMMER BILLS

With the warm weather we have experienced this summer, electrical usage has been up considerably and many members have seen a corresponding increase in their summer bills. While it may seem like a lot to pay for being comfortable, in many cases, the cost is not that bad when you really take a look at just how much energy is being used by the air conditioner. Most of us do not have any idea as to how much of our total usage goes through the air conditioner, but we have placed several meters on heat pump units in conjunction with the add-on heat pump program and the summer usage figures are rather interesting.

We are currently submetering eight heat pump compressors, and while we do not have all of the August readings in as yet, most of the readings for June, July and August fall in the range of 400-740 kilowatt-hours per month. One monthly reading did exceed 800 kwhs, but thus far it is the only one to record that much for one of the summer months. The overall average for the three-month period, based on the readings we have thus far, would probably not exceed 700 kwhs per month.

That may sound like a lot of kwhs, but when you figure the bill at the final block price in the rate schedule, it figures out to be \$35 per month to keep the house cool and comfortable. That equates to about \$1.20 a day and that is really a pretty good bargain when you look at what some other things cost.

I, for example, do not drink coffee so I get my caffeine out of a soda machine and \$1.20 will not buy three cans of soda. At 50 cents a can, it will buy about two and one-half cans of soda. A lot of families with children will drink a lot more soda than that in a day's time and really not think twice about it. I don't smoke, but I understand that a pack of cigarettes is around a dollar a pack, so many people spend more on cigarettes in a day's time than it probably takes to air condition their house and allow them to be comfortable and get a good night's sleep.

The point I hope I have made is that we sometimes get upset about our utility bill and tend to lose sight of just how much we have benefited from our usage of the electricity and how much we have spent for other things that are relatively unimportant to our well being and happiness and do us relatively little good. I would guess that if each of us had a meter on each energy-consuming device in the house and could see exactly how much every job or activity costs, we would probably conclude that the cost of electricity is not all that bad when compared to the alternatives and the relative cost of other things in our lives.

I personally did not fare as well as those members whose air-conditioning units we metered. I have a meter on my unit and during the real hot days we were using a little over 30 kwhs a day, which was costing us about \$3 per day to air-condition. Our usage was probably higher for a number of reasons that people do not consider when they get together with their neighbor and compare bills. For one thing, our house sits in a location where there are no big trees and it receives absolutely no shade. The sun beating on the aluminum siding and brick facing on the front will heat the house to a point where it will stay warm long after the sun goes down. We have three boys who are in and out of the house a lot, along with a number of friends. The opening and closing of the exterior doors will allow heat and humidity to enter the house. Those same boys will shower much more when it is hot and humid, and the extra heat and humidity from the shower will cause the air-conditioner to run more.

Thus, if I were to compare my bill to some of my neighbors where there are no children in the house and both husband and wife are gone all day at work, it would just not be a valid comparison. Each house is different and each family's lifestyle is unique. Before you think that there is no way your bill could be that much higher than your neighbors, take a few minutes to consider how you live and how your homes compare.

I might add at this point that I had resolved, knowing what the summer rate would be in our town this summer, that we would hold off on running the air-conditioner so much and we would tough it out. I thought my wife and I had pretty well agreed on this and things went pretty well the first few relatively warm days.

However, about the first day it came close to 90 degrees, I came home from my air-conditioned office

and system improvements. Steele explained, "All margins are, of course, allocated to the accounts of individual members on a prorated basis and the formula for computing a member's share of the past year's margins is published in the Rural Electric News once a year."

Kuhn reported that the cooperative is continuing to refund capital credits to the estates of deceased members. "Anyone who is an heir of a deceased member of Egyptian Electric, or knows of someone who is, should contact the Steeleville office for information on how to apply for capital credits that may be owed them," said Kuhn.

Three area men were reelected to the board of directors during the meeting. They are Harold I. Dycus of

Carbondale, Archie Hamilton of Ava and Mulholland of Marissa.

The board met after the meeting to reorganize for the coming year. Mulholland was reelected cooperative president, W. Dean Bame was chosen as vice president and Steele was chosen secretary-treasurer.

Approximately 350 cooperative member owners and guests attending the meeting were entertained following the business session by Bob Thomas, country performer and former regular on Chicago's famous country television program "The Barn Dance."

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association serves 10,813 member-owners on 1,949 miles on line in Jackson, Monroe, Perry, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington and Williamson counties.



Employees help a member register.



Member Bargain Table was popular.



The attendance was up from last year.



**Harry W. Kuhn (right), manager of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, congratulates three reelected directors of the Steeleville-based cooperative following the annual meeting of members July 30. Shown with manager Kuhn are, from left: Harold I. Dycus of Carbondale, Archie Hamilton of Ava and Raymond C. Mulholland of Marissa.**

cient operating level requiring less coal to generate a kilowatt-hour of electric energy. "This increased efficiency results in lower fuel costs passed along to the member cooperatives and a savings to Egyptian Electric members," he said.

President Raymond Mulholland of Marissa noted that residential consumption of electricity is not likely to increase in the future. "In fact, as older appliances wear out and they are replaced with newer, more-efficient models, individual usage may decline slightly. Such being the case, the cooperative will have to run hard just to stay in one place with regard to energy sales to the membership," said Mulholland.

Mulholland also reported that the cooperative had joined the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) to make satellite television programming available in rural areas at an affordable price. NRTC is developing a package to market to the rural public.

"Hopefully, we will have something to offer for your consideration in the next few months. Your board of directors and management are of the opinion that any venture such as this must be self-supporting and will not be subsidized by the electric business," explained Mulholland.

Secretary-Treasurer John E. Steele of Campbell Hill reported that the cooperative had revenues of \$11.9 million, compared to nearly \$11.6 million in 1985. Just over \$8.2 million of that amount went to buy bulk power from SIPC. "In 1986, approximately 69.1 percent of every revenue dollar, after deducting state utili-



**Entertainer Bob Thomas**

ty taxes, was spent for wholesale power. A comparable figure for 1985 was 73.3 percent of revenue after taxes were deducted, so a substantial gain in revenue over power cost was achieved in 1986," said Steele.

Steele reminded the membership that margins, other than those being retired to the estates of deceased members, generated by Egyptian Electric Cooperative through its operations are retained by the cooperative and used to finance the construction of new facilities

# Your employees

Josephine Bayer, billing clerk for Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, has been employed by your cooperative since September of 1958.

As billing clerk, she is responsible for a variety of duties, including recording and checking daily deposits of electric bill payments, related billing correspondence, filing, and general office tasks.

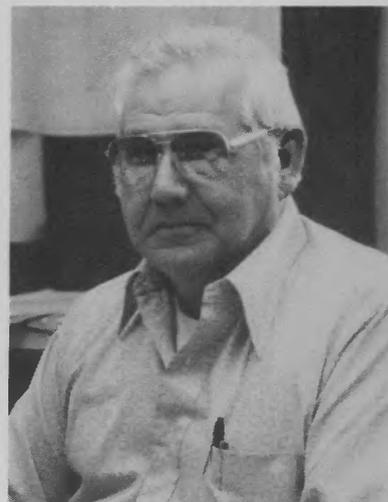
She lives on Route 3, Sparta, and her family includes two brothers and a sister. She enjoys reading, music, country life on



**Bayer**

the old family farm, trying to raise flowers and coping with pet dogs.

Willard Reiman will mark his 27th anniversary with Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association on September 6.



**Reiman**

Line superintendent for Egyptian, Willard lists his hobbies as fishing and woodworking.

A resident of Murphysboro, Willard has a daughter, Christine, also of Murphysboro, and two grandchildren, Nicholas and Nathan.

## What to do if the power goes off

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5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

## 1986 a sound year for Egyptian

A sound financial picture was presented to the members at Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association's 49th annual meeting July 30 at the American Legion Hall in Steeleville. Manager Harry W. Kuhn reported that budget projections for 1986 came very close to actual experience as the cooperative saw another year of relatively little load growth.

"Our annual increase was approximately 1.2 percent, short of the amount of growth needed to offset increasing costs," said Kuhn.

Continued good news from the cooperative's power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Co-operative (SIPC), helped to offset this minimal load growth in the form of lowered fuel costs passed along to Egyptian. "SIPC

was again able to buy coal on the spot market at an attractive price and pass the savings along to the member distribution cooperatives. Also, through the efforts of its management and staff, SIPC was able to market some of its surplus power in a very competitive market, resulting in some savings to the member cooperatives," reported Kuhn.

Kuhn explained that, through outside marketing, SIPC is able to load its generating units at a more effi-

### Office Closing

**Our offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, 1987, in observance of Labor Day.**

# Egyptian Messenger

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## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### ANNUAL MEETING

The 49th annual meeting of the cooperative is now history and I thought it went rather well. As promised, we held the business meeting and reports to a bare minimum and we were able to finish with the entertainment and the drawing of the attendance prizes by approximately 9 p.m. The meeting hall was air conditioned and I thought it was very comfortable, considering what the outside temperatures have been the last few weeks. I personally like the Legion Hall as a meeting room, as opposed to a school gym, because it is smaller and those of us up front feel like we are part of the group. In a large gym, those of us conducting the meeting usually sit on the stage and you feel rather detached from the crowd because you are a distance from them and people tend to spread out in a larger room.

This was my fifth annual meeting as your manager and I really appreciate the fact that the attendance has slowly been increasing every year. At my first annual meeting as your manager, there were 167 members in attendance. This year the registered members totaled 207 and, on a percentage basis, that is a significant increase. While we do not get a great deal of feedback, what we do get and the increase in numbers leads us to believe that you like the way the meetings are conducted. We are, however, always open to suggestions and if there is something that we are leaving out or some changes you would like to see in the meeting format, please let us know and we will give them consideration.

### RETAIL RATES

I suppose the number one issue in importance to the membership is what the rates will be for the coming year. Those of you who have been members for some time know that we usually make any rate adjustments in October, but that the decision on rates is usually made in July in order to allow time to prepare new billing packets. As has been our practice for a number of years, your board and management did review the

cooperative's financial situation at the July board meeting and concluded that the rates currently in effect would be adequate for another year. Therefore, there will be no rate increase until October 1988, at the earliest. We are pleased to be able to make this announcement and I'm sure that it is good news to the membership.

There are, of course, a number of factors that determine what the cooperative's costs will be in the next year and a great deal of guess work is required. However, our largest single cost is wholesale power and this major item is the primary reason that we will be able to hold the line on rates for another year. Our power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, has been successful in marketing some of the surplus capacity at the Lake of Egypt power plant and has also been able to buy cheaper coal on the spot market because of these surplus sales. Both of those activities translate into lower per kilowatt-hour fuel charges to this cooperative and thus a substantial savings in a year's time. These savings are projected to be such in 1988 that we do not think a rate increase is necessary at this time. We do not intend to increase rates unless absolutely necessary and we will continue to review the cooperative's financial position on a year-to-year basis. If a rate increase should be necessary at some time in the future, you will be appraised of the facts and the reasons for any increases. With a little load growth and a little luck, any future rate increases should be relatively small and within the range of general inflation.

### RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

I did report to the members in attendance at the annual meeting that some progress had been made in providing programming to rural satellite dishes, but not as much as we had hoped for at this point. Our national association has been able to arrange for some programming, but, to date, they have not been able to come to terms with either the Disney channel or a major movie programmer. I do not believe that what they have come up with so far is really very saleable in this area because of our proximity to the St. Louis stations, but hopefully they will come up with additional programming in the near future. If they do not come up with additional programming the next few months, we will probably try to determine how much interest there would be in the basic package that is available now. If we then determine that there is sufficient interest to justify the cost of making the programming available, we will proceed with offering it to our membership.

# Bargain Table List

**These items will be available for members to purchase at the cooperative's annual meeting July 30 prior to the business meeting.**

ITEM	MODEL	PRICE
Can Opener/Kn Sharp	831 AL Hamilton Beach	\$14.00
2-Slice Toaster	313A Hamilton Beach	20.00
Handmixer	82878 Sears	14.00
Blender	82968 Sears	33.00
Steam Dry Iron	6276 Sears	29.00
Electric Knife	300 Hamilton Beach	19.00
Stir Crazy Popper	5346 West Bend	27.00
Electric Skillet	1440 West Bend	29.00
Hot Pot	3253 West Bend	13.00
2-Cup Beverage Mkr	53102 West Bend	13.00
Mini Food Processor	6500 West Bend	37.00
Connect 3 appliance	6510 West Bend	42.00
Heating Pad	820 Northern	13.00
Moist Heat Band	589 Northern	16.00
Blow Dryer	8724 Sears	16.00
Elec. Ice Cream Mkr		
4-qt. Plastic Tub	71AL Richmond Cedar	17.00
Bug Wacker	14342 Sears	40.00
Elec Grill/Table Top	EG115 Charbroil	55.00
Smoke Detector - Batt	57358 Sears	10.00
25' Extension Cord	03327 Carol	5.00
Skil Circular Saw	5150 Skil	40.00
3/8" Var Spd/Rev Drill	6225 Skil	29.00
Solder Gun	54036 Sears	16.00
Voltage Tester	82325 Sears	21.00
Work Light	5922 Sears	12.00
130V light bulbs (4-pack) (40 to 100 watts)		1.75

The above prices have tax included.

## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



This month's center section is devoted entirely to the annual meeting and I want to take this opportunity to extend my personal invitation to you to attend the meeting. This is your annual meeting and those of us that operate the cooperative for you would really like to have you in attendance.

It hardly seems possible, but this is already my fifth annual meeting as your manager. It seems like only last year that I worried about the first one. You may not recall, but I sure do, that my first annual meeting as manager was the one following the long after-midnight session in 1982 and I wasn't quite sure what to expect. We are still trying to get some members to come to another meeting after that experience. I again want to

assure everyone that we are planning for only the absolute minimum number of reports and other items necessary to conduct the business affairs of the cooperative and we will get you home at a reasonable hour.

As you have probably noticed in the annual meeting notice, the entertainment will be a little different than the past few years. We had a guest speaker for the last three meetings and we thought it might be time for something a little different this year. I have never heard Bob Thomas perform, but I am told he puts on a good show and I think you will enjoy him.

A new feature this year will be the member's bargain table whereby you will be able to purchase some selected items at attractive prices. Our statewide association is supplying the items to us and a list of the available items and their prices is published in this center section. We will be giving each registered member eight long-life light bulbs as an attendance prize and additional bulbs will also be available in packages of four bulbs each.

Mark July 30th on your calendar and make plans to join us.

## Your employees

### EVERT EARL SCHUPBACH

Evert Earl Schupbach is another Egyptian employee who has one of the longest careers in rural electrification. Accountant and work order clerk for your electric cooperative, Schupbach has been with the cooperative since May 1, 1948, more than 39 years.

Earl's wife, Lucille, works for American Device Manufacturing in Steeleville. They live in Evansville.

His hobbies include crafts, travel, golf, fishing and charity work.

### ERNEST DALE DEPPE

Ernest Dale Deppe, a maintenance lineman with Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, has one of the



Schupbach

longest records of service of any cooperative employee in the nation. Ernest began work with the cooperative on July 3, 1945, giving him 42 years of employment.

Ernest and his wife, Faye, live in Percy and have four children:



Deepe

Allen Deppe, Donna Riley and Kendra Deppe, all of Springfield, and Sendra Miller of Percy, and two grandchildren: Aaron Deppe and Taryn Riley.

His hobbies are gardening and raising fish.

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143. AFTER OFFICE HOURS: STEELEVILLE AREA — Call 965-3437 first. If there is no answer call 684-2144.

MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call 684-2144 first. If there is no answer call 965-3437.

THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.

5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

# Nominating committee meeting minutes

The nominating committee, in compliance with the by-laws of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, met in Steeleville, Illinois, in the office of the Cooperative, on June 1, 1987, at 8:00 p.m., to nominate candidates for the office director of the Cooperative to serve for a three-year term and to be voted upon by the membership of the Cooperative in its annual meeting to be held on July 30, 1987, in the Steeleville American Legion Hall.

Attorney Paul H. Nehrt opened the meeting by stating that the purpose of the nominating committee is to nominate candidates for the office of director of the Cooperative, and that the terms of Mr. Harold Dycus, Mr. Archie Hamilton, and Mr. Raymond Mulholland were expiring this year.

A roll call of the members of the nominating committee was taken, and all members were present.

Attorney Nehrt stated that the first order of business would be to select a chairman and a secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Lawrence Dietz was duly selected as chairman of the committee, and Mr. Paul H. Nehrt was selected as secretary of the meeting.

The chairman requested the secretary to read the

minutes of the last year's nominating committee meeting.

The chairman instructed the committee that three or more nominations could be made by the committee and placed on the ballot. Following a discussion on this, it was unanimously agreed to nominate three candidates.

Mr. Melvin Paul nominated Mr. Harold Dycus, Mr. Archie Hamilton, and Mr. Raymond Mulholland for the office of director of the Cooperative. Mr. Raymond Leinicke moved that the nominations be closed and that they be nominated by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Irvin Phoenix and was unanimously carried, and that their names be placed on the ballot to be voted upon at the annual meeting of the members on July 30, 1987.

There being no further business, motion was duly made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Lawrence F. Dietz, Chairman

Orville R. Bigham  
Richard D. Winter  
Raymond Leinicke  
Melvin L. Paul

Irvin Phoenix  
Leonard Priebe  
Steven Tindall

## Annual meeting entertainment:

### Bob Thomas



Thomas

Bob Thomas, an annual meeting entertainment specialist and television performer, will be featured by Egyptian Electric Cooperative at its annual meeting. Thomas is one of the most versatile performers in show business, and will present 35 minutes of rural family fun, consisting of music, novelty tricks, and good clean, "down home" hilarious comedy. Bob starred on Chicago's famous television show, The Barn Dance, for six years, and filmed over 200 television shows during that time. These programs originated from the nation's largest independent TV station, WGN-TV.

## Annual Meeting registration instructions: last name please

The membership will be divided alphabetically, by the last name. There will be two lines immediately inside the entrance doors for registering members. Be sure that you get in the correct line, as it speeds up registering and keeps the line moving. Members must be registered by 7:30 p.m. to qualify for the "early bird" prizes. Registration will begin as early as 6:30 p.m.

Entrance to the hall will be through the double doors on the south side, from the walkway between the Legion Hall and the new bowling alley building. Access to this walkway is from the front parking lot towards the bowling alley, or from the west parking lot behind the ball diamond. These entrances will be clearly marked, and Cooperative employees will be located around the area to help direct you to the meeting. The club room doors will be locked, so there will be no entering from the club room.

### Drawing for Attendance Prizes — (Must be present to win prizes)

#### Early Bird Prize

10 Credits for \$20  
on Electric Bills

#### Annual Meeting Grand Prizes

Two \$100 Credits  
on Electric Bills

#### Free Gift

8 Light Bulbs  
To Each  
Registered Member

# Egyptian Messenger

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



## Invitation from the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting

Raymond C.  
Mulholland

On behalf of the board of directors of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, I extend a personal invitation to attend your cooperative's 49th annual meeting. The meeting will be held at Steeleville's American Legion Hall on Thursday, July 30, 1987. The hall is air-conditioned and our experience during the last four annual meetings has been that it is very comfortable in spite of the summer heat.

As in past years, registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. and each member registering will receive an attendance gift of eight light bulbs. All members registered by 7:30 will be included in the drawing for 10 "early bird" prizes, which will be \$20 credits to be applied on an electric bill. At the conclusion of the meeting, all members present will be eligible for the drawing of other attendance prizes as well as the two grand prizes of a \$100 credit to be applied to an electric bill.

As we have done the past few years, we are planning a very short business meeting to conduct the necessary business affairs of the cooperative and will conclude the meeting with Bob Thomas as the featured entertainment. Bob is a musical comedy speaker and has appeared before many annual meeting groups. His presentations have been well received and I believe you will also enjoy him.

We have found that the most effective method of getting the word to the members about the annual meeting is for those reading this announcement to tell others about the meeting. So, please help us out and remind your friends and neighbors about the annual meeting, or better yet, bring them with you and let's have a big turnout this year. This is your opportunity to participate in the operation of your cooperative and we promise to keep the meeting short and get you home at a reasonably early hour.

Raymond C. Mulholland, President  
Board of Directors

## Official Notice Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association 49th Annual Meeting July 30, 1987 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Hall  
South Chester Street  
Steeleville, Illinois

### Action Will Be Taken On the Following Matters:

1. Report on the number of members present, in order to determine the existence of a quorum.
2. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting, as the case may be.
3. Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meeting of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon.
4. Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, trustees and committees.
5. Election of board members.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Adjournment.

John E. Steele, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Egyptian Electric Cooperative

pump makes sense. The cooperative will give a \$300 rebate to any member who installs an add-on heat pump unit in conjunction with a gas or oil furnace. This rebate offer is also available to those members who are building a new home and install the add-on heat pump with gas or oil furnaces.

The heat pump does not produce heat. It simply transfers it: from inside to outside in the summer and from outside to inside during the winter (scientists and

engineers say there is heat outside in temperatures well below zero). Its high efficiency allows consumers to use electricity and its advantages and save money. In addition, increased electricity usage in the summer months and moderated usage in the winter months allows Egyptian and its power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, to better use its generating equipment and eliminate the need to build expensive new generating capacity.

## Your employees



### JOANN SIMMONS

JoAnn Simmons, data processing assistant for Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, has been an employee of your cooperative since 1966, with June 16 marking her 21st year of employment with the cooperative.

Included among her duties are: opening electric payments, keeping materials inventory, handling address changes, and a variety of other related tasks.

JoAnn, whose husband, Gary,

### Simmons

is a carpenter, lives near Chester, and they have two children: Jimmie, 11, and Shane, 16. She lists these hobbies: metal detecting, arrowhead hunting with the children, fishing, shopping, gardening and painting.

### CARL GOETTING

Carl Goetting, a five-year employee at Egyptian Electric, is custodian, responsible for general building maintenance, in-



### Goetting

cluding cleaning and care of the grounds.

Carl's wife, Maxine, is secretary for Minton Insurance in Steeleville. Residents of Steeleville, they have five children: Mark of Chester; Todd of Champaign; Jody of San Antonio, Texas; Jay of Rochester, Minnesota; Stacy of Steeleville.

Carl's hobbies include golf and bowling.

### Office closing

Our offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of the 4th of July holiday.





Dale Dillard (left), an Egyptian Electric member who lives near Carbondale, explains to Harry Kuhn, Egyptian manager, how he and his wife, Ann, remodeled their home and added a heat pump.

## Dillards like add-on heat pump

When Dale Dillard and his wife, Ann, decided to remodel their rural Carbondale home, they chose to add central air conditioning. Actually, they added much more than central air.

The Dillards installed a heat pump. Not only would they have central air conditioning, but they also would have the advantage of the heat pump's winter cycle, the heat mode. Now, they enjoy the advantages of the heat pump's outstanding efficiency to cool their home in the summer and heat it in the winter.

"We didn't have central air before," Dale explains. "We put it in as part of our remodeling job last summer, and we've been quite pleased with it."

Coordinating their heat pump installation with Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, the Dillards selected a York two-ton unit to serve as their "add-on" heat pump. The term "add-on" comes from the concept of adding on a heat pump to a conventional heating source to allow the heat pump to provide the user with its high efficiency for operation in most weather conditions. Only when winter temperatures drop quite low does the heat pump shut down to allow for use of the non-electric system, in the case of the Dillards, an oil furnace.

"We already had the oil heating system," Dillard says, explaining that they had installed the oil furnace just before the oil embargo of the early 1970s. They had replaced a coal furnace with the oil unit.

The Dillards aren't shy about praising the new system

and talking about how it is so much better than anything they had before. "We prefer the even heat that comes from the heat pump," Dillard says. "It doesn't seem to have the fluctuations that the oil furnace has. It's really much better than the oil furnace. In fact, we can sure tell the difference when the back-up system comes on, and we are reminded how much we prefer the quality of the heat pump output. The heat pump doesn't dry things out as much, either."

The Dillards, who installed the unit on July 28, have their heat pump set in the "unrestricted" mode. It operates until outside temperatures drop low enough to reduce the heat pump's efficiency enough to make it advantageous to switch automatically to oil. This past winter, relatively mild, saw them consume about one-third the oil they had used before the heat pump installation. And, the heat pump provided them with clean, safe electric heat that, at the cooperative's final rate block of five cents, cut their overall heating bill considerably.

Dillard, who is Director of Labor Relations for Southern Illinois University/Carbondale, says, "I believe in the heat pump and I believe in what you (the cooperative) are trying to do," referring to the concept behind the cooperative's add-on heat pump program.

Egyptian's program operates this way:

If you heat with gas or oil and are going to replace your central air conditioning system or are considering installing central air in your home, the add-on heat

continue to energize the transformer and low voltage will result on those circuits tied to the phases that have been lost. In most cases, we are able to determine rather quickly from the incoming calls that we have a problem at a substation and we will send a serviceman there first to verify that the problem is in the station. If the problem should occur outside of regular working hours and the substation is some distance from one of the offices, it could take anywhere from a half hour to an hour to get to the substation to take remedial action.

If we have an abnormal voltage condition on the system for up to an hour or more, in all likelihood a number of motors are going to try to start or run during that time period. In most cases no damage will result because either the motor will not start or the motor's thermal protection will protect it from damage if it should run during low voltage conditions. However, it is always a good idea to unplug your motor

type loads during times when you know that we are experiencing problems on the system and you are readily able to observe that you are experiencing voltages considerably below the normal operating level. The usual household motor loads that would start by themselves and would need to be unplugged would be refrigerators, freezers, well pumps, furnaces, air conditioners and other small appliances that do not require manual starting. You would, of course, want to turn off any motors that you had started manually. If plugs are not readily accessible, such as a refrigerator outlet behind the unit, you might trip the breaker in the main panel that controls the circuit feeding the refrigerator. You could, of course, trip your main panel breakers and interrupt the power to your entire house, but then you would not know when the voltages were back to normal unless you tripped the breakers back on to check the voltage levels.

## Kevin Liefer is new director



Liefer



Hayer

Kevin L. Liefer of rural Red Bud was chosen April 22 to complete the unexpired term of A. C. "Bert" Hayer on the board of directors of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association.

Liefer and his wife, Kathy, farm with his father in the Prairie du Rocher/Ruma area. Their operation involves some 100 sows and about 1,150 acres of crops.

Liefer, 32, is treasurer of the Randolph County Pork Producers, serves on the Red Bud Rural Fire Board and is a member of St. John's L.L.L. Men's Club. He holds an associate of arts degree in liberal arts from Belleville Area College, and his hobbies are bowling and reading.

The Liefer family has three children: Kirk, Kent and Kara.

The board and staff welcome Liefer to the board of directors family and wish him many pleasant years of association with all those in the rural electrification program.

The newly appointed director replaces an Egyptian Electric member who served on the board of directors

for more than 17 years. Hayer and his wife, Lucille, live near Sparta. The retired farmer was appointed to the board in February 1970 and retired this past March 10.

Hayer served your electric cooperative as secretary-treasurer for 12 years and was a director on the board of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in Springfield for 10 years, from 1976 until 1986. Hayer also was chairman of the AIEC nominating committee for officers from 1981 until his retirement from the AIEC board.

The Hayers have four daughters: Mrs. Melinda Ahdoot of Los Angeles, Mrs. Pat Wallarab of Fairfield, Iowa, Mrs. Ruth Gilmour of Sparta and Mrs. Janice Wall of Sparta; and six grandchildren.

We wish the Hayers well as Bert retires from his active career as a director, and the board expresses its deep appreciation for his service.

# Egyptian Messenger

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

## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



It may seem like poor timing to be talking about heat pumps and home heating when the temperatures are around 90 degrees, but now is the time when many people think about replacing their central air conditioning unit or may be considering the installation of central air conditioning in their home. That being the case, now is the time to be considering a heat pump if you are in one of those situations. Elsewhere in this section is an article about one of the members who took advantage of the cooperative's rebate program with regard to add-on heat pumps, and I think you will be interested in this member's comments about the type of heat put out by the heat pump and the efficiency of the unit.

I have on a couple of other occasions mentioned that I have separate meters on the heat pump in my home, and I would like to share some of the figures with you now that the heating season is over. For those of you who are not familiar with a heat pump: It has four basic energy-consuming components, which are the compressor, the first-stage back-up electric heater strips, the second-stage electric heater strips and the fan. In my home, I have meters on the compressor and the two heater stages. In my particular installation, the fan is wired through the first stage heater, so that meter also recorded all of the usage used by the fan when the unit was supplying heat to the house.

Under normal conditions and temperatures above 5 degrees, my compressor can usually keep up with the heat requirements of the house and the back-up heat is not needed. Since that was the case for most of this past winter, the first-stage heater was not called on very often and most of the usage on that meter was due to the fan because the fan does operate when the compressor operates. The second-stage heater does provide tempering air to the ducts when the compressor is in the defrost mode to avoid having cold air coming out of the registers when the compressor restarts, so some usage is registered for that reason. Without having to provide tempering air, the second-stage would pro-

bably not be needed and it is about half the size, in wattage, of the first-stage heater.

During the period of November 2, 1986, to May 2, 1987, I recorded the following kwh usage for my heat pump heating system:

Meter No. 1 — 330 (fan and first-stage heater)

Meter No. 2 — 234 (second-stage heater — tempering air)

Meter No. 3 — 2,306 (compressor)

Totals 2,870

If my house had been on the cooperative's lines and I had heated at the final block price of 5.0 cents per kilowatt-hour, it would have cost \$143.50 to heat my house last winter. Granted that it was a fairly mild winter, but that is not a lot of money for one heating season and I sure wouldn't want to have to cut and haul very much wood for that amount of money, especially when you consider the safety and cleanliness of electric heat and the fact that wood is not free considering all of the costs involved in getting it to a wood burner.

Whether it be a regular heat pump, such as the one I have, or an add-on type with fossil fuel backup, I believe the efficiencies are such that they merit your consideration if you are installing a new heating system. If you are installing a new central air unit and have a fossil fuel type of furnace, you ought to seriously consider an add-on unit. The cooperative will give you a \$300 rebate for such an installation if it meets our requirements, and you will have the flexibility to use the most-efficient heat source at a given temperature. We are betting that once you install an add-on heat pump it will be the heating system of choice for most of the winter temperatures we experience in this area. We believe you will find that heat pumps provide safe, clean heat with little temperature variation in your home and it will do so at an efficient cost.

### LOW VOLTAGE

From time to time we have situations develop on the system where voltage levels fall below the normal delivery level and we receive a number of calls reporting the situation. Whenever voltage levels dip to the point where it is noticeable because lights are barely glowing and motors do not want to start, the problem is usually in a substation and most likely one or two of the phases feeding the transformer have been lost due to a transmission problem or a high-side fuse blowing. In such an event, the remaining phase will

## Check that appliance — save a service call

You may save the bother and cost of a service call by making a few simple checks. It has been estimated that as high as 25 percent of the appliance service calls result from causes other than faulty performance of the product.

So, before calling your appliance dealer for service, make the following checks:

Is the appliance connected? You'd be surprised how often a serviceman calls, only to find the plug is loose or has been pulled from the outlet.

Is the appliance getting power? If the appliance is plugged in but does not operate, the difficulty may be in the outlet receptacle, a blown fuse, or a tripped circuit breaker. Check this by connecting a lamp or some other appliance. If you get no response, check the fuse or circuit breaker. If appliance is plugged in and there is electricity at the outlet make the following specific checks:

Is food storage area too warm, or too cold? Check the control dial. It may have been moved by mistake.

Does food dry out? Frozen food dehydration is caused by improper packaging; fresh food dehydration is caused by placing foods in the fresh food storage area without covers.

If water will not enter washer, the supply line water faucets may be closed. Check them.

If water and suds overflow, check to be sure right amount of low-sudsing detergent is being used.

If oven doesn't heat properly, make sure that both oven heaters are securely "plugged in." They are removable for easy cleaning and if they are not properly replaced, electrical contact may not be established.

If oven or appliance outlet doesn't heat at all, make sure that the stop control knob of automatic timer has been pressed in to restore oven to manual operation. Make sure fuse is in tight and that it is not burned out.

If rack doesn't go completely into oven, make sure the round bar (utensil stop) at rear is always "up" and the round bar at front is always "down."

If the dishwasher floods, sometimes a sudsing-type detergent is the cause.

If the machine won't start or stops in the cycle, check to see if silverware or some other object has fallen from the washing rack and has jammed the propeller. Then push to reset thermostat button.

For additional information check your care and use book.

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## President's budget still targets a phase-out of REA

In keeping with the annual ritual of trying to dismantle the Rural Electrification Administration, President Reagan has again proposed that the federal lending program be phased out by 1990, a suggestion that traditionally has met with failure in Congress. The 100th Congress will consider the proposal, which comes as part of the President's \$1.024 trillion budget for fiscal year 1988. The budget includes \$50.7 billion for agriculture — a cut of \$5 billion from the current fiscal year.

The budget proposal, released January 5, calls for REA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agency that lends money to the nation's rural electric cooperatives, to receive no allotment for guaranteed loans in 1988 or in any fiscal year after that for rural electric cooperatives. In a new twist to the Administration's repeated attempts to destroy REA, the budget proposes instead that the lending program be picked up by the private sector, and says that REA will guarantee 70 percent of those private loans, up to \$766 million, if they are made to co-ops with "the greatest financial need." The private sector guaranteed area slated to increase to \$1.26 billion in 1990 and remain at that level for at least three years.

Rural electric systems serving urban, suburban or recreational areas will not be eligible for the guarantees, even if the urban, suburban or recreational parts of the utility are small or seasonal and other parts are ex-

tremely rural. The budget offers no standards for determining what is suburban and what is rural.

The USDA also has asked Congress to rescind \$441 million of the \$813 million authorized for electric co-op loan guarantees for fiscal year 1987, which ends the last day of September.

For "insured loans" from the REA Revolving Fund, the White House wants \$258 million for the electric program in fiscal year 1988, down from the \$622 million in fiscal year 1987. Insured loans would be phased out by 1990. President Reagan also hopes for a \$185 million rescission of funds in the insured loan program for fiscal year 1987.

Until the insured loan program can be phased out under the Administration's plan, the budget proposed that the interest rate on those loans should rise from 5 percent to the cost of Treasury borrowing (currently about 7.5 percent) plus 1.8 percent. The interest rate on hardship loans would be increased from 2 percent to 5 percent. There would be no funding for new power plants.

The REA makes loans from its Revolving Fund for extending electric and telephone service. Every year, between 250,000 and 500,000 new consumers move onto rural electric lines. The Revolving Fund is a self-sustaining account that replenishes itself with loan repayments. REA also guarantees loans to build power plants and transmission lines. Most guaranteed loans are made by the Federal Financing Bank to build power plants and transmission lines, and are 100 percent guaranteed by REA.

—Rural Electric News Service

ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

# What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143.  
AFTER OFFICE HOURS: STEELEVILLE AREA — Call 965-3437 first. If there is no answer call 684-2144.

MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call 684-2144 first. If there is no answer call 965-3437.

THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.

5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

## Nominating Committee appointed

### To: Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Cooperative and in compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Electrification Administration Revised Bulletin 20-19, notice is hereby given to the members of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association that the Cooperative will hold its 49th annual meeting of its members on Thursday evening, July 30, 1987, at 7:30 p.m., in the Steeleville American Legion meeting room located on the west side of town and a block south of Broadway.

Notice is further given that the terms of office of directors Harold I. Dycus, Carbondale; Archie Hamilton, Ava, and Ray Mulholland, Marissa, will expire at said annual meeting.

Notice is further given that the board of directors of the Cooperative have appointed the following named persons as a nominating committee:

Orville Bigham	Pinckneyville
Lawrence Dietz	DeSoto
Raymond Leinicke	Rockwood
Melvin Paul	Marissa
Irvin Phoenix	Ava
Leonard Priebe	Campbell Hill
Steven Tindall	Makanda
Richard Winter	Pinckneyville

Notice is further given that the above nominating committee will meet at the Steeleville office of the

Cooperative, located at the west edge of Steeleville, Illinois, on Monday June 1, 1987, at 8 p.m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for election to the board of directors, and that all members interested may attend said meeting and participate.

The by-laws also provide that the nominating committee, upon making their nominations, shall prepare and post at the office of the Cooperative, at least 30 days before the annual meeting, a list of nominations for directors.

The by-laws further provide that any 15 or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signature not less than 25 days prior to the meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.

The by-laws provide that each active member shall be entitled to one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at the meeting of the members and that proxy voting is prohibited.

A member having questions regarding the above proceedings may contact any officer or member of the board of directors for clarification or further information.

Copies of the by-laws of the Cooperative are available and can be obtained at the Cooperative offices located at Steeleville and Murphysboro, or mailed to you upon your request.

Respectfully submitted,  
John E. Steele, Secretary



## MEMORIAL DAY

The offices of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe holiday.

## Truck, trencher for sale

1971 Ford Model C760F Tilt Cab and Chassis

1965 Ditch Witch Model V30 Trencher with Trailer

Both pieces of equipment are located at the Steeleville office and may be inspected during regular working hours or at other times if prior arrangements are made.

The equipment will be sold by sealed bids and all bids must be submitted to the Steeleville office by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 1987. Egyptian Electric reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The equipment will be sold "as is" and terms of payment are cash.

of directors and management felt that the financial condition of the cooperative would permit a general retirement of capital credits to the membership, but equity levels have reached a point where it was felt that a limited amount could be refunded.

The bylaws of the cooperative permit the board of directors to make retirements of capital credits to the estates of deceased members if, in their opinion, such retirements would not adversely affect the financial condition of the cooperative. In 1985 a decision was made that a limited amount of money could be refunded on an annual basis and a program of retirement of capital credits to estates was started. To date, approximately \$60,000 has been returned to the heirs

of former members and a few new applications are received each month.

The normal reaction to an estate retirement program probably is, "It's not much benefit to me if I have to die to get it," but bear in mind that it is a benefit you do not receive when you receive service from an investor-owned company. I sign all of the estate refund checks and I see that many are written to widows and I am sure that they appreciate receiving a check for simply having taken service from a cooperative. Returning funds to members or patrons, rather than stockholders, is unique to cooperatives and is the cooperative way of doing business.

## Your employees



**Bollman**

### **Donald Bollman**

Donald L. Bollman, mechanic with your cooperative, has been an employee of Egyptian since June 1977.

Bollman lives on Route 2, Rockwood, with his wife, Beverly, daughter, Melissa, and son, Tim.

Bollman enjoys hunting,

fishing, camping and tinkering in his shop at home.

### **Claude P. Husband, Sr.**

Claude P. Husband, Sr., is a mechanic for Egyptian, responsible for care and maintenance of all vehicles, equipment and tools. He has been with the cooperative since October 1974.



**Husband**

He and his wife, Laura, and four children, Linda, twins Claude Jr. and Edie and Emma Jo. live on Route 1, Steeleville. Laura works for the Steeleville Ledger.

Husband restores old pickup trucks and old tractors as a hobby.

## How to estimate capital credits

Total margins of \$1,425,913 for 1986 have been allocated on the books of Egyptian Electric Cooperative. You may estimate the amount allocated to your capital account as follows:

- Step 1. Add up the total amount paid for energy charges only. Do not include taxes or late payment charges. \_\_\_\_\_
- Step 2. Multiply total kwh used in 1986 by \$.04917260 \_\_\_\_\_
- Step 3. Subtract Step 2 from Step 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Step 4. Multiply Step 3 amount by .40347811 \_\_\_\_\_

The amount computed in Step 4 represents the total amount of capital credits allocated to your account. To determine the amount of operating margins allocated due to Egyptian Electric's operations, multiply the amount in Step 4 by .53535520. By subtracting this answer from Step 4, the balance represents the amount of capital credits allocated for SIPC margins.

# Egyptian Messenger

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

## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### Annual meeting

While it seems that we just finished with an annual meeting, it is that time of year again where we start the process of planning the next meeting. The board of directors has set July 30, 1987 as the date of the 49th annual meeting and it will be held in the Steeleville American Legion Meeting Hall. We are just starting the process of putting the program together, but I anticipate that this year's meeting will be similar to the other four meetings I have been involved with as your general manager. One new feature that we are planning for at this year's meeting is a member's bargain table where you will be able to purchase small appliances and 130V light bulbs at an attractive price. The bargain table is provided by our statewide association and they provide the merchandise that is offered for sale. We plan to print a list of the items being offered for sale and the selling prices at the time we publish the official notice of the meeting in this magazine, so be watching for your July issue of the IREN magazine.

### Capital Credits

Elsewhere in this month's center section we are publishing the formula whereby you can compute the amount of capital credits that were credited to your account for the calendar year 1986. If you will refer to this notice, you will note that total margins in the amount of \$1,425,913 were allocated on the books of Egyptian Electric Cooperative for the year 1986. Of this amount, \$650,268 was due to margins allocated to Egyptian Electric by Southern Illinois Power Cooperative and does not represent cash received by Egyptian Electric.

While most of our members are aware that Egyptian Electric is a cooperative, many do not fully understand the financial differences between an investor-owned utility and a cooperative, and the matter of capital credits is rather confusing to them. At the risk of bor-

ing those that are fully familiar with capital credits, I will briefly explain what they are and how they are handled on the books of the cooperative.

The basic difference between a cooperative and an investor-owned company with regard to finances is the manner in which money is raised and how profits are distributed. An investor-owned company raises money through borrowing and the sale of stock, while a cooperative's primary source of funds is borrowing. A cooperative may charge a membership fee and raise some equity money in that manner, but such funds are usually a very small part of the capital funds needed to get a business going and to finance future capital improvements. Once the business is a going concern and earning a profit, most investor-owned companies and cooperatives find it necessary to invest part of the profits back into the business for capital improvements and expansion of the business. The balance of the profits not invested in the system are either retained as operating capital or distributed.

In the case of investor-owned companies, profits that are distributed are paid to stockholders in the form of dividends. Usually, an investor-owned company will make quarterly dividend payments to the stockholders on the basis of an amount set by the board of directors for each share of stock issued. Cooperatives differ in this regard in that any money that is distributed is returned to those who used the service or product. Cooperatives do not have any stockholders and thus do not pay dividends to anyone. Cooperatives are owned by those who become a member by using the services or products of the cooperative and any excess of revenue over expenses is allocated to each member in proportion to his patronage.

In the case of this cooperative, we allocate to each member's account his proportionate share of the margins, based on the number of kilowatt-hours he purchased during the year allocated. We normally wait until the auditor has completed his audit before we make the allocation to avoid having to make any adjustments after the audit is completed. Thus, it is usually April or May before we are able to publish the formula for computing one's share of the total margins of the cooperative during a given year. Over the years, margins earned by your cooperative have been retained and have been invested in the system in the form of new lines and other improvements. Total margins, or equity, have never been such that the board

Horizontal loop

Vertical loop

# Using the earth to heat and cool



**Q. What is a water-source heat pump?**

A. A water-source heat pump is an electrically powered device that uses the natural heat storage ability of the earth and/or the earth's groundwater to heat and cool your home or business.

**Q. How does it work?**

A. Like any type of heat pump, it simply moves heat energy from one place to another. Your refrigerator works using the same scientific principle. By using the refrigeration process, water-source heat pumps remove heat energy stored in the earth and/or the earth's groundwater and transfer it to the home.

**Q. How is heat transferred between the earth and home?**

A. The earth has the ability to absorb and store heat energy. To use heat stored energy, heat is extracted from the earth through a liquid medium (anti-freeze solution) and is pumped to the heat pump or heat exchanger. There, the heat is used to heat your home. In summer the process is reversed and indoor heat is extracted from your home and transferred to the earth through the liquid.

**Q. You mentioned heating and cooling. Does it do both?**

A. One of the things that makes a heat pump so versatile is its ability to be a heating and cooling system in one. You can change from one mode to another with a simple flick of a switch on your indoor thermostat. In the cooling mode, a

water-source heat pump takes heat from indoors and transfers it to the cooler earth through either groundwater or an underground loop system.

**Q. Does the underground pipe system really work?**

A. The buried pipe, or "ground loop," is the most recent technical advancement in heat pump technology. The idea to bury pipe in the ground to gather heat energy began in the 1940s. But it's only been in the last few years that new heat pump designs and improved pipe materials have been combined to make water-source heat pumps the most efficient heating and cooling systems available.

**Q. What is a closed-loop system?**

A. The term "closed-loop" is used to describe a water-source heat pump system that uses a continuous loop of special buried plastic pipe as a heat exchanger. The pipe is connected to the indoor heat pump to form a sealed, underground loop through which an anti-freeze solution is circulated.

**Q. Where can this loop be located?**

A. That depends on land availability and terrain. Some closed-loops are trenched horizontally in yards and adjacent to the home — others are placed in vertical holes that are backfilled with sealing material.

**Q. How long will the loop last?**

A. Closed-loop systems should only be installed using high-density polyethylene or polybutylene pipe. Properly in-

stalled, these pipes will last 25-75 years. They are inert to chemicals normally found in soil and have good heat conducting properties. PVC pipe should not be used under any circumstances.

**Q. Will an earth loop affect my lawn or landscape?**

A. No. Research has proven that loops have no adverse effect on grass, trees or shrubs. Most horizontal loop installations use trenches about six inches wide. This, of course, will leave temporary bare areas that can be restored with grass seed or sod. Vertical loops require little space and result in minimal lawn damage.

**Q. Can I install an earth loop myself?**

A. It's not recommended. In addition to thermal fusion of the pipe, good earth-to-coil contact is very important for successful loop operation. Non-professional installations may result in less-than-optimum heat pump performance.

**Q. I have a pond near my home. Can I put a loop in it?**

A. Yes, if it's deep enough and large enough. A minimum of six feet in depth at its lowest level during the year is needed for a pond to be considered. In pond loops, copper, polyethylene or polybutylene pipe can be used.

# Board considering TV package

Over the past several months, you may have read about a proposed program that would extend the benefits of telecommunications into rural areas not served by cable television. A new national cooperative, organized by two Washington, D.C., rural electric groups, has been formed to ensure that high-quality and affordable telecommunications are made available to rural America.

Your electric cooperative board has taken an interest in the efforts of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), formed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, to develop and deliver telecommunications services, including programming available by satellite, to rural people.

The board has authorized the staff to explore the possibilities of Egyptian Electric Cooperative becoming a member of the NRTC and offering to its members the services that would be available. We are printing a coupon below that we ask you to complete and return to the office. The responses we receive will be important input into the decision-making process necessary to determine whether Egyptian Electric moves forward with the program and makes the services available.

The program under consideration is a concept that would provide a package of satellite television programming at a relatively low monthly cost for participants.

We've emphasized the terms "high-quality" and "affordable" to convey what the board sees as important considerations in its decision and your possible decision. While the costs are not yet established, the cooperative would offer to its members a high-quality programming package of premium channels for as low

a price as possible. The board believes that the monthly fee will be many times lower than fees of others who may offer such service.

One firm offering similar services to satellite dish owners has monthly fees that range from \$40 per month up to more than \$70, on top of equipment costs. Although definite arrangements have not been made with all of the premium channel companies, the NRTC has agreements in principle with about one dozen channels and plans to offer an attractive variety of channels for a price of possibly as low as \$12 per month. This low monthly fee makes this a promising entertainment, news and information package for rural residents.

While a number of Egyptian members already have satellite receiver systems installed, the scrambling of certain signals has already reduced their viewing selection. Some of the stations or television services that are now scrambled or will be scrambled soon have suggested some high monthly costs for use of the signal. What the NRTC proposal calls for is a comprehensive programming package of news, entertainment and information available to rural consumers at a low monthly cost.

Just as rural electric cooperatives took the lead back in the 1930s to take electricity to the countryside, this new plan embodies some of the same pioneering spirit and in many ways is reminiscent of the early days of rural electrification.

Your cooperative board is very interested in this proposal. However, the directors want to make sure enough of the members see this as something they want before launching such a program.

Please take time to complete the coupon below and return to the office in Steeleville.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in a package of premium channels at a low monthly cost.

Complete and return to Egyptian Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 38, Steeleville, IL 62288 or telephone (618)965-3434.

per month, approximately \$10 of your bill is used for that purpose. For some of the larger users, that amount would be in the range of \$30 to \$50 per month.

### **\$16.92 per month**

In 1986 there were 37,876 members of the three distribution cooperatives that make up Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. During that year, the combined average cost to members over the total system was \$16.92 per month. If you were an average consumer, that is what it would have cost you on a monthly basis for your share of costs associated with cleaning up the stack emissions at the Lake of Egypt power plant. One other way to look at it is to consider, that for every kwh you use in excess of 500 kwh per month, approximately 20 percent of what you pay for energy in excess of that amount goes to pay for environmental costs.

My purpose in giving you these figures is not to say

that we should not make the effort to clean up the environment. We are willing to do whatever the public demands in this area, but we think that our membership should know what impact various laws have on them. Many times businesses are required to raise prices because of laws that were passed, but that message doesn't seem to get to the consumer. As a result, criticism is given for something over which the business had no control and, in some cases, was a direct result of what the consuming public had demanded from their legislators. Every consumer should bear in mind that every business must recover its costs from the ultimate consumer of its product and that is you and I. If we are going to insist on things that are going to impact the cost of that product, we can expect that we will have to dig into our pockets for those costs because there is no one else to pay the bill.

## **Your employees**

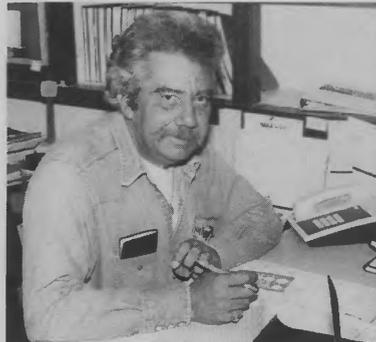
### **LARRY HARTMAN**

Larry Hartman, staking engineer, is nearing 20 years of service with Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association. Hartman, who lives in Steeleville, began work for the cooperative on August 16, 1967.

His wife, Shirley, works at Spartan Printing. Hartman enjoys fishing, hunting, bowling and golf.

### **AARON SCHUSTER**

Aaron Schuster, system engineer, has more than 15 years of service with your electric cooperative. Schuster, who lives



**Larry Hartman**

in Murphysboro, began work for the cooperative September 1, 1971.

He is married, and his wife, Mary, works for City National Bank in Murphysboro. They



**Aaron Schuster**

have two sons: Duane, a student at the University of Illinois, and Wade, who is in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. Schuster's hobbies include reading, fishing and hunting.

## **Be careful using portable generators**

A portable generator or alternator, used at home as an emergency power supply source, can be a wonderful device in times of power loss.

However, even the most useful device can cause serious problems if not used correctly.

One of the most common misconceptions about portable generators is that they can be plugged directly into a house's circuitry and be used to substitute for the loss of power during an outage. Plugging such a power source directly into your home's circuits can cause serious electrical problems, including burned out and badly overloaded circuits, creating a fire hazard.

Portable power units are designed and rated to handle specific power loads, which should be carefully adhered to at all times. Trying to operate an entire

household circuit system on a portable unit is asking for trouble. In addition, when power is fed into your household circuits from a portable unit it is also being fed into your outside lines, energizing otherwise "dead" lines during outages. Such action can lead to severe damage to the system, as well as create a serious safety hazard.

Double-pole switches installed at the meter box can prevent power from a portable source from entering incoming lines, reducing the potential for serious problems.

If you own such a unit or are planning on purchasing one, make sure you know the operating limits of the device. If you are not sure, always consult an expert.

# Egyptian Messenger

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

## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### Acid rain

During the past few years, the subject of acid rain has gotten increasingly greater attention and some sort of acid rain bill will probably be passed by Congress at some time in the future. We are, of course, greatly concerned about what might be passed because it could have serious consequences with regard to our ability to continue to generate power with all of the generating units at the Marion power station. As I have mentioned in the past, we do have a wet scrubber on the newest and largest unit and we expect to be able to operate that unit under the rules of any new law. The three small units are another matter, however, since they were built without scrubbers and are of such a size that it would probably not be economically feasible to retrofit them. We do not think it is in our members' financial interest to abandon these units before the end of their useful life and we would hope that any new law would make allowances for small units that cannot be economically retrofitted.

While most of us are in favor of clean air and clean water, there usually is a cost associated with cleaning up the discharge of power plants and other industrial plants. While the cleaning up of the discharges may be a necessary or desirable undertaking, the consumer of the products produced by those plants should recognize that part of the price that he pays for that product goes to cleaning up the environment. The management of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative has put together some cost data for the Marion power station at Lake of Egypt and I think they may be of interest to the membership of Egyptian Electric because they are paying their share of those costs. Since the new unit with the scrubber went commercial in 1978, the cost figures have been compiled for the years of 1979 through 1986.

### Increasing percentage

The following is a breakdown on a percentage basis

of the comparison of environmental costs to total production operating costs at the Lake of Egypt plant:

1979	14.0%
1980	16.0%
1981	17.0%
1982	19.3%
1983	19.9%
1984	19.4%
1985	19.0%
1986	21.3%

As you can see, in 1986 the cost of cleaning up emission from the power plant reached 21.3 percent of the total cost of production. Other than the size of the production costs absorbed by environmental considerations, the disturbing fact is that the percentage is increasing. This is partially due to inflation, but the primary reason is that the scrubber is a high-maintenance piece of machinery and, as it ages, it gets more expensive to operate. Whenever you combine water and sulfur, the result is pretty corrosive and components must be constantly maintained and replaced. It can mean a lot of dollars over a period of years.

To look at it another way that is more relevant to your monthly bill, the following is a breakdown of what environmental costs are on a kilowatt-hour basis. For this comparison, total environmental costs were divided by the total kwh's sold to the three member cooperatives and the following results are stated on the basis of cents per kwh:

1979	.535
1980	.722
1981	.886
1982	.910
1983	.955
1984	1.003
1985	1.006
1986	1.058

As you can see, the cost per kwh has been increasing just as the percentages in the preceding comparison were increasing. If we were experiencing any significant load growth, the average increase would be tempered somewhat. However, since load growth has been relatively flat for a number of years, the increasing costs have to be spread over the same base and the average has nowhere to go but up. What the foregoing figures mean to you as a consumer is that for every kwh you use, approximately one cent of what you pay goes to cover environmental costs. If you use 1,000 kwh's

# Your employees

## ALMA BOUCHER

Alma Boucher, secretary, receptionist and cashier at the Egyptian Electric office in Murphysboro, is a long-time employee, having come to work almost exactly 28 years ago, on April 24, 1959. She and her husband, Fred, live in Gorham. They have two sons, Freddie and Gary, both of Gorham. A daughter, Jeanne, lives in Norfolk, Virginia. Fred works for the Kinkaid-Reed Conservation District.

She is the only full-time secretary at the Murphysboro office. In addition to secretarial duties, she handles incoming telephone calls and radio communications between the office and work crews. Alma is also the person most people talk to about connects and disconnects in the Murphysboro area.

Alma is a member of the First Baptist Church of Murphysboro and serves as supervisor of Sand Ridge Township.



Alma Boucher

Her hobbies include baking, cooking and, when possible, camping.

## DIANE MAXWELL

Diane Maxwell, receptionist-cashier and switchboard operator, works out of your cooperative's Steeleville office. She has been employed there almost 21 years. While her job title outlines several responsibilities, there's more. She opens electric payments, prepares bank deposits and types the correspondence for the billing department, purchasing agent and accountant. She also does some computer work for the staking



Diane Maxwell

department and helps out elsewhere as needed.

Her husband, Jim, is a truck driver for Beelman Trucking. They have two sons, Glen and Randy; two daughters, Angie and Beth, and seven grandchildren ranging in age from 15 months to seven years old.

Diane serves on the advisory board of her church, Corner Stone of Faith in DuQuoin, and enjoys flower gardening, landscaping and being out in the summer sun. She took up oil painting this winter, and now has lessons in her kitchen for several painting enthusiasts.

## Add-on heat pump information

If you heat with gas or oil and are going to replace your central air unit or are considering the installation of central air in your home, you should consider an add-on heat pump. Egyptian Electric is offering a \$300 rebate to those members who install an add-on heat pump unit in conjunction with their gas or oil furnace. The rebate is also available to new home builders where an add-on heat pump is installed with a gas or oil furnace.

Perhaps you believe your heating system should have provided more heat for the hard-earned money you spent on fuel this past winter. Or maybe you're thinking about installing or replacing your central air conditioner before summer. In both cases take a look at the efficient add-on electric heat pump. Only the heat pump can provide year-round living comfort, supply-

ing nearly 80 percent of your home heating needs and all of your cooling requirements.

The heat pump does not produce heat. It simply transfers it. In the winter the pump extracts heat from the cold outside air and pumps it into the house. And it does it efficiently, too. For every kilowatt-hour the pump requires to operate, it produces the equivalent of anywhere from one to three kilowatt-hours in heat, depending upon conditions. That 100 percent to 300 percent efficiency is the highest of any heating system available, well above the 65 percent seasonal efficiency of the average oil furnace in use.

During the cooling season, the heat pump reverses its cycle and pumps heat outdoors like a conventional air conditioner. And the advantage of its "reverse" is that you don't have to buy a separate unit for cooling.

# Replacing poles aids reliability

There are two things your board and employees consider to be the most important things they can provide for members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative — quality electric service and a reasonable, affordable price.

Your rural electric system's first lines were energized in March 1940. Since then, when 95 miles of line served 224 members, the system has grown to include almost 2,000 miles of energized line and more than 10,000 meters and provides electric power for a wide range of consumers, from homes to farm to businesses to industries.

Considering its age, the electric distribution system is in very good shape. Poles set in 1940 still stand, responsible for supporting conductor throughout the service area.

Weather and the elements have taken a toll on the poles, however, and it is during the cold fall and winter months when your cooperative's crews turn their attention to pole inspection and replacement rather than new construction.

Egyptian tries to inspect its complete system at least once every seven years, looking for poles and other equipment that, although no problem exists yet, should be replaced in the best interest of the members.

As those employees who are responsible for the inspection process report conditions that require pole replacement, work is scheduled to replace poles in an orderly manner. Using a systematic method, crews are

able to minimize the time required to change out poles that are no longer suitable for use on the lines.

While replacing a substandard pole prevents a possible outage, it is usually necessary for Egyptian Electric to shut off the power in the area while the actual changeout is taking place. This is usually about 15-30



Egyptian employees, from left, Jim Grothaus, Norman Quillman and Jim Beattie "frame up" the pole. This job was located near Shiloh Hill along the Randolph-Jackson county line.



Moving pole into place

minutes and we try to do this work during daytime hours. It is possible, as most of you know, that crews can do "hotline" work to avoid shutting off power during such operations. However, such work is not without risks and we consider the safety of your cooperative's linemen to be utmost among our concerns.

From time to time, a member or two may complain about this type of outage, but this brief period of de-energization of the immediate system is quite short when compared to the time an unplanned outage may require if substandard equipment fails. Sometimes an outage caused by failure of a pole or crossarm or insulator that should have been replaced can last for several hours.

We think the brief outage is much more desirable than an outage at 3 a.m. that might last well into the late morning.

## OFFICE CLOSING

Our offices will be closed on Friday, April 17, in observance of Good Friday.

valve that doesn't work can create a situation that you won't soon forget.

## BILLING PERIOD

None of us like to receive big utility bills, especially those that are much bigger than expected. However, before you become convinced that your meter has gone bad or we made a big mistake, take a few minutes to check the days in the billing period. Also, recall what the weather was like and how your living style might have been different during the billing period. Families being home for Christmas, Christmas baking and other holiday activities can add to your electrical usage in more ways than you would think at first glance. We

usually find that when we get high bill complaints that everyone's usage is up and it is primarily due to weather. We do, on rare occasions, run across a problem on the member's side of the meter where power is going to ground. Thus, if high readings do persist without any logical explanation, we generally recommend that the member try shutting off the breakers in his main panel, one at a time, until he finds the ones that really slow down the rotation of the meter's disc. When you find such a breaker, that will tell you where much of energy is going. If you turn off the panel's main breakers and the meter disc continues to turn when there is no other load on the metering point, a problem exists and should be investigated.

## Be careful around lines

Power lines are present in our lives today. They are everywhere because they carry the electricity which is such an indispensable feature of modern life.

Because electricity is so commonplace, we sometimes fail to respect this awesome power that flows along power lines.

Electricity, for all practical purposes, is no different from lightning. Its flow is ordinarily controlled, of course, and is entirely safe when used with proper precautions.

But, just like lightning, electricity constantly seeks a path to the ground. That is why wiring has insulation — to prevent the current from taking a direct path to the ground rather than through our electrically powered machinery and appliances.

When a human body becomes a direct link between a power line and the earth, the result can be

disastrous. Note the following warnings:

### Flying kites or model airplanes —

When kite strings or metal guy wires touch live power lines, they can provide a path to the ground electricity seeks, making the final part of the journey through the body of the person holding the string or wire.



**Tree climbing** — Youngsters are always climbing trees. But where power lines run between limbs or touch parts of the tree, innocent fun could turn to tragedy.

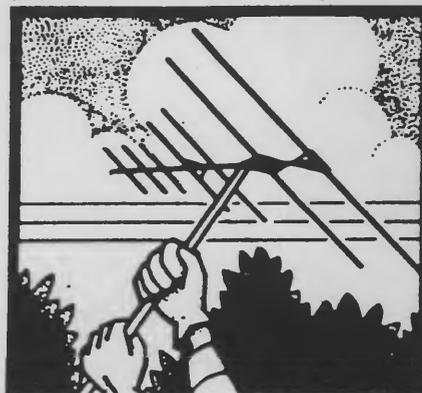
**Farm equipment** — When using farm equipment, be especially careful not to let it come in contact with overhead wiring. Should this happen while you or someone else

is touching the equipment, you could again provide that lethal link to the ground for electricity.

**Ladders** — Be particularly careful when moving a ladder near a power line. It can easily tilt into a live wire and electrocute its holder.

**Antennas** — Being cumbersome and hard to control, antennas are especially dangerous to move about near an electric line. Use caution when installing or replacing an antenna.

To be safe, keep all objects at least 10 feet and **never** attempt to raise or move an electric line. Call your Cooperative for assistance in dealing with live electric lines.



## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143. AFTER OFFICE HOURS: STEELEVILLE AREA — Call 965-3437 first. If there is no answer call 684-2144.
5. MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call 684-2144 first. If there is no answer call 965-3437.

THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.

Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

# Egyptian Messenger

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## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### JANUARY BILLS

We received a number of calls in January with regard to high bill complaints, so perhaps it might be beneficial to discuss why the readings were high for January. I, like many of you, was rather surprised when I received my January bill because it was for one of the highest amounts of electricity we had used in the nearly eight years we have owned the house. My initial reaction was probably like yours in that I thought we couldn't have used that much considering how mild the winter had been up to that point. However, after looking at the bill a little more and thinking back over the billing, I concluded that we could indeed have used what the bill indicated.

The first thing that I noticed on the bill, after seeing how much we had used, was that the bill was for 33 days and this is one item that many people tend to overlook when comparing bills. We read about 25 percent of the meters on the system and the balance are self-read by the members. While we try to do all of our meter reading by the 15th of the month, it does not always work out that way because of weekends and weather, so billing months do vary somewhat in length. The self-readers can, of course, vary their reading dates considerably. So unless you are one of those people who always reads his meter on the same day each month, your billing months will vary somewhat in length. During low usage months, the difference in the length of the billing month does not make a big difference. However, in a month where usage might approach or even exceed an average of 100 kilowatt-hours per day, a difference of three or four days in the billing period can make a bill increase considerably over the previous month or the same month last year.

### THE WEATHER

The other big factor in the size of bills is, of course, the weather. We all are in agreement that this winter seems to have been relatively mild to date, but just how

mild has it really been? I usually watch the evening weather report on a St. Louis television station and I pay particular attention to the highs and lows for the day. Although we did not have the real low temperatures, on a number of occasions the weatherman did make note of the fact that the daily highs were below the normal that could be expected for January. Therein, I believe, lies the reason for the higher than expected January usage. While the low temperatures were usually in the high teens or low twenties, the daily highs were in the lower thirties on many days when the normal high is the upper thirties. In those daily temperature ranges, a lot of heat input into houses is needed, especially if the day is overcast or windy. As a consequence, electrical usage increases considerably even though the days were what we would term "pretty nice" for January.

### WHILE YOU ARE GONE

Another complaint we get quite often during the winter, especially with students going home on semester break, is that "I was only there for a week or two out of the month. There is no way my bill could be that high." Unfortunately, most people seem to think that if they turn the thermostat down they have stopped using electricity to heat. Granted you won't have quite as much heat loss at a lower temperature setting, but it is still going to heat to maintain the thermostat setting whether or not anyone is living in the dwelling. If you are so sure that your residence does not require any heat while you are gone, the surest way to avoid any usage is to turn off the breakers to the heating equipment. Most people, however, are not willing to risk frozen water lines and other problems, so they will leave the heat turned on and the potential to use a considerable amount of energy is there, whether you are or not. When we are going to be gone from our home for a period of time, I do turn down the thermostat and I turn off the power to the water heater. As a result, I probably save a little on the heating bill and I am not heating water for an empty house. Water heaters will lose heat, whether water is being used or not. So it is a good idea to turn off the power to the heater while you are gone for an extended period of time. I do not turn off the water to the heater because, if I should turn the electricity back on and forget to turn on the water, a combination of a lot of electricity and a little bit of water in a water heater with a safety

# What to do if the power goes off

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## Statement of non-discrimination

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Electrification Administration that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Agriculture issued thereunder to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, sex, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program and the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color, sex, or national origin in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including rates, conditions and extension of service, use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of

beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization.

Any person who believes himself, or any specific class of individuals, to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Act and the Rules and Regulations issued thereunder may, by himself or a representative, file with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or the Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250, or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Rural Electrification Administration extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the Rules and Regulations.



### NEW FORMAT

As you read this, you notice we've expanded our monthly communications. There's a lot going on around Egyptian Electric Cooperative, and it's impor-

tant that you be aware of your cooperative's activities. Beginning this month and continuing each month, we will feature two of your cooperative's employees, and we plan to do a number of articles on Egyptian members, energy efficiency and safety, etc.

# Your employees

Charles H. Guetersloh is a long-time employee of Egyptian Electric, having come to work for your cooperative February 23, 1962, almost exactly 25 years ago. He has been a line foreman since September, 1969, working out of the office at Murphysboro, where he lives with his wife, Sharon.

The Gueterslohs are the proud parents of three sons and a daughter. Son Mark is a graduate student at SIU, Tom is employed by a trucking company, and Christopher is a police officer for the City of Murphysboro. Daughter Kari is in the eighth grade at Murphysboro Junior High. Charles and Sharon are the proud grandparents of Aleesa, 1.

Guetersloh, who received a wristwatch at the co-op's Christmas party in recognition of his 25 years of service, is a man of several hobbies: besides coaching a little league team, he



Beattie

also keeps busy with hunting, fishing and gun repair.

E. James Beattie came to work for Egyptian Electric in November, 1957, and has completed more than 29 years. He works out of the Steeleville office and has been a line foreman for the past 13 years. He supervises a three-man crew in the construc-



Guetersloh

tion, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electrical facilities.

He and his wife, Brenda, live in Steeleville. They have two sons, Jim and Tim, and two grandsons, Justin and Jim.

He keeps busy in his spare time by playing music, fishing, camping and traveling.

## Be careful cutting around lines



Cutting trees is serious business which demands attention to safety measures. You can avoid needless tragedy by observing some simple rules.

Put on work gloves to protect your hands, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from flying chips, wear a properly fitted hard hat to protect your head from falling branches, and step into steel-toed boots to protect your feet from mishaps with the saw or axe. Now, think you're set to start cutting? **THINK AGAIN!**

Some of the most serious accidents while cutting trees occur because no attention is paid to the presence of electric power lines. A careful surveillance of the vicinity is essential before you begin any tree work.

Look overhead and to all sides of your cutting site. Be very sure your tree will not come into contact with

any power line when it falls.

Wood can be a conductor of electricity. Each year several deaths and serious injuries are reported involving trees falling into power lines. Don't become another statistic — take a few minutes to survey your cutting site.

Above all, if you do cause a tree to fall into a power line or you come across a tree which has fallen into a line, do not — under any circumstances — attempt to remove the tree. Stay clear of the tree and the line.

Call your cooperative as soon as possible. We will see that the problem is taken care of right away.

Never attempt to remove loose limbs from power lines. We will take care of it for you.

Exercise responsible electric accident and control today. Trees and electric power lines don't mix.

**THINK AND LIVE!**

is the fact that we really do not have a lot of control over their occurrence. We can, of course, trim trees and replace bad insulators, but a great deal of contacts are going to occur, no matter what we do.

I would venture to guess that we are probably experiencing less breaker operations today than we did a few years ago because we have spent a great deal of time and effort to clear right-of-ways. However, we now have digital clocks to tell you each time a breaker operates, where in the past most of our members did not even notice that an operation had occurred. While resetting your clocks can be annoying, please bear in mind what the cause might be and if it happens too often, let us know. For the most part, we do not know

when or how often blinks occur and if you do not tell us, we have no way of knowing what is going on. It would be most helpful to us if you would note the times of day and possibly the weather conditions when frequent blinks are occurring because it might help us to narrow down the possibilities. Just simply telling us that the line blinks a lot does not help too much because a lot could mean two times to some people while it might mean 20 times to other people. We want to limit line blinks to the fewest number possible, but in many cases it will take your help and a certain amount of luck. We also know that in a certain number of cases the problem will take care of itself and we will never be able to determine the cause.



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# Egyptian Messenger

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

## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



## Blinking 'outages'

This is a subject that I have written on in the past, but I believe it is worth repeating because we are getting an increasing number of complaints from members because they have to reset their digital clocks due to "outages." In most cases, what the member perceives as an outage is actually an automatic breaker operation that interrupts the power for only a second or two and we do not consider this to be an actual outage. Outages, in our view, are those power interruptions where service is not restored immediately and a serviceman must be dispatched to determine the cause of the outage and to take action to restore service.

Regardless of what you call them, however, light blinks can be an annoyance to those with digital clocks and they can drive us up the wall trying to find the cause. Our job is made difficult for the reason that we have approximately 2,000 miles of primary lines and services spread over less than 50 substation circuits. Thus when we do have a problem with a line blinking, we may have to search over 40 miles of line to find the problem and in many cases the problem may be due to something that is not readily visible to the eye from ground level. The problem may also be compounded by the fact that the blinks are not occurring on a frequent basis and about the time we are made aware of them and try to find the cause, the blinks stop for awhile. This really puts us in a quandry because without the blinks occurring, we cannot get a reading on the counters of our automatic breakers and thus cannot isolate the problem to a relatively small area.

### How equipment works

Before I go any further, perhaps I should explain again as to just how our equipment works and what you are seeing when you notice a quick blink of the lights. To start at the beginning, any time a short circuit, or fault as it is called in the electric industry,

occurs some device or fuse must clear the fault or damage will occur to the electrical system. Our system works exactly the same as your house wiring and our automatic breakers perform the same function as the breakers or fuses on your main house panel. Your breakers or fuses operate to interrupt a short circuit in your house and our breakers operate to clear a short circuit on our primary power lines. The only real difference between the two is that once your breakers or fuses operate you must reset the breaker manually or replace the fuse. In the case of our automatic breakers, they are set to reclose on the short circuit three times and to lockout on the fourth trip if the fault has not cleared. Thus, if your lights blink three times in rapid succession, the odds are pretty good that you will be in the dark in the next few seconds. Once a breaker locks out, we have to dispatch a serviceman to find the trouble and to reclose the breaker manually.

### Most are temporary

Most faults or short circuits on power systems are temporary in nature and can be cleared with one or two breaker operations. Examples of such faults are squirrels contacting the pole top and phase wire, hawks carrying their prey to a pole top and it touches both the wire and pole top, tree branch contacts, debris being blown into the line and faults due to lightning arcing over to ground from the phase wire. Once lightning arcs over, short circuit current from the power source will continue the arc until a breaker operates to break the arc. We record the monthly operations on

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**Any time a short circuit occurs, some device must clear the fault or damage will occur.**

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each substation breaker and we find that the summer months are by far the most active with regard to breaker operations and most of them are probably due to lightning strokes hitting the line. While all electrical systems do experience breaker operations, a rural system has a lot more exposure to the elements and we have more operations on rural lines than we do on lines that are in the more protected urban areas. Most breaker operations have one thing in common and that

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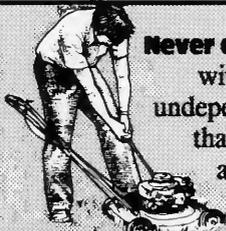


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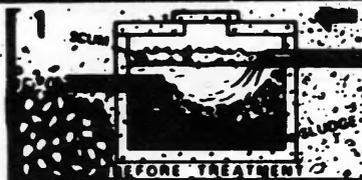
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ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

areas of general liability and workmen's compensation and although this cooperative's claim experience in these two categories has been good during the past few years, the industry's overall record is not good and we pay accordingly. The insurance companies claim, of course, that they are experiencing the lawsuits and the big awards, but it is hard to understand why any business needs the kinds of increases that the insurance business has instituted during the past couple of years.

As far as workmen's compensation insurance is concerned, it is simply a matter of what the law allows and the claims that the commission will award. Our workmen's compensation premium increased approx-

imately 56 percent for the coming year and would have been even higher if we had not received a premium discount and a discount based on our claim experience during the past year.

It is difficult to know what is fair and right with regard to workmen's compensation, but leaving the fairness issue out of it, it is not hard to see why business would think twice about locating in Illinois. If you look at what the costs are in some neighboring states, you come to the conclusion that we are not in a very competitive situation and we are going to have a difficult time attracting new jobs to Illinois without big concessions from state and local governments.



## Business at home workshop schedule

Each year, more people harvest the benefits of the nation's fastest growing cash crops — goods and services from homebased businesses. Homebased businesses offer the opportunity to work at home, remain involved with the family, and expand a hobby or interest into a profitable enterprise.

Designed to address the interests of these entre-

preneurs, *Businesses at Home . . . Opportunities '87* is scheduled February 18, 1987 at the Mt. Vernon Ramada Inn.

Workshops will be offered on topics such as *Business Basics*, *Will My Idea Work?*, *Marketing Your Business*, *Working With Your Spouse*, and others. Also, the conference will help attendees examine the pros and cons of owning a homebased enterprise.

In addition to workshops, an opportunity fair will be held. The opportunity fair will feature organizations which offer assistance to small businesses, companies interested in doing business with homebased enterprises, and an opportunity to talk with workshop presenters.

Sponsors of *Businesses at Home . . . Opportunities '87* include the U.S. Small Business Administration, University of Illinois, Cooperative Extension Service, Foresee, Inc. Graham-Pierce Printers, and the Small Business Development Centers of Illinois Eastern Community College, Kaskaskia College, Rend Lake College, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

Registration Information: The attendance fee is \$35 and includes continental breakfast, lunch, conference materials, and access to the opportunity fair. Registration will start at 7 a.m., February 18 with the General Session convening at 8 and adjourning at 4:30 p.m.

Checks should be made payable to the University of Illinois, Jefferson County Cooperative Extension office, and mailed to that office at Rte. 3, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143. AFTER OFFICE HOURS: STEELEVILLE AREA — Call 965-3437 first. If there is no answer call 684-2144.

MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call 684-2144 first. If there is no answer call 965-3437.

THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.

5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

# Egyptian Messenger

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

## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



As I write this column, we are approaching the end of 1986 and this has been a rather routine year for your cooperative. Although the monthly usage pattern did not quite fit my budget projections, we are ending the year very close to budget estimates on an overall basis. We started the year off with relatively mild winter months, so my budget estimates were off target at the very outset, but July and a couple of the fall months were better than expected and we will probably end the year a percentage or two over the budget in terms of kilowatt-hour sales.

The cost estimates in the budget are turning out to be very close to the actual figures for the year, so we did not have any big surprises during the year, other than fuel costs. Fuel costs were lower than anticipated and as a result, your cooperative is having a relatively good year financially and this was the primary reason we chose not to increase rates this past fall.

Our projections for 1987 do not look quite as good as the 1986 results, but at this point we will let 1987 take care of itself and wait and see what happens as the year develops.

### ADD-ON HEAT PUMPS

As we have announced on several occasions in this column and in the letter we mailed to every member in October, we do have an incentive program to promote the installation of add-on heat pumps where the member has oil or gas as a backup heating system. In order to be able to evaluate the program and determine whether or not the \$300 incentive payment is an appropriate amount to offer, we have installed meters on five of the heat pump compressor units.

The members have been submitting the monthly readings to us and thus far it appears that they are using very little electrical energy to heat their homes. We do not know at this point whether or not they have used their backup heating systems, but the temperatures since the first of November have been ideal for a heat pump and we would expect that they would operate

very efficiently. From the readings we have thus far, it would appear that the add-on units have used between 500-600 kilowatt-hours during the past two months.

Based on our final block price of 5 cents per kilowatt-hour, it would appear that these members have heated their houses for between \$12 and \$15 per month for the last two months. This, of course, assumes that they did not operate their backup system during this period. At the end of the heating season, we intend to survey those members who are participating in the metering of their add-on units to determine how much they utilized their backup systems and what their opinions are of the add-on heat pump.

We will be passing this information along to you because we believe a heat pump is very efficient and if you are presently heating with gas or oil, you should consider an add-on unit the next time you have to replace your central air unit.

### SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOP

I usually do not give other groups or organizations space in the column, but once in awhile I receive a request that I think merits space and will be of interest and benefit to the members. On the right is an announcement on a small business workshop that will be held in Mt. Vernon.

In view of the general economy and the interest and desire of some people to start their own business, I thought it might be of some help to those of you who might be contemplating starting a new small business. We do not endorse this workshop, but are simply passing along the announcement for your consideration.

### INSURANCE COVERAGE

As I have mentioned on other occasions, we are getting increasingly concerned about the cost of insurance and ultimately whether or not we will be able to get certain types of coverage at all. We just received the renewal notice for a portion of our insurance needs for 1987 and the premiums have been increased from approximately \$103,000 to approximately \$150,000 per year. We have not been informed as to the premiums for the balance of our insurance coverage, but we assume that we will probably see similar increases.

We do not know who is to blame or what the problems are in the insurance industry, but we certainly cannot afford to pay increases such as this if this is going to be an ongoing process.

The big increases in premiums are occurring in the

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