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These seedlings are all healthy, dormant evergreens from Montana's leading containerized seedling nursery. All seedlings are 6 to 12 inches tall and ready for planting. So plan for your spring planting now for home beautification, Christmas trees, woodlot regeneration, or to protect your home from nature's windy chills in winter and blistering heat in summer.

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Alpine Nursery

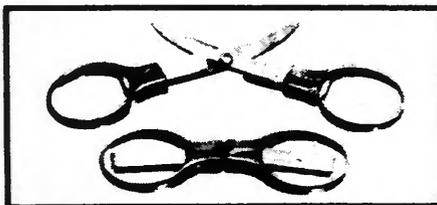
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Healthy, Wealthy and Wise!

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



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

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

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

- Disability Income Protection • Major Medical Protection
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- Catastrophic Hospital Coverage • Life Insurance
- Basic Hospital Coverage with Maternity Coverage

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

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

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

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

- Income Protection Hospital Life
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Omaha, Nebraska



Douglas Darby

cooperatives affiliated with Soyland, went to Washington, D.C., on March 19. While there, they took part in a prepayment ceremony in which Soyland prepaid its debt to the Federal Financing Bank, an agency of the U.S. Treasury.

This will reduce Soyland's interest rate from about 11.5 percent to about 8.5 percent, and will save Soyland about \$9 million a year in interest rates. Members of FMEC will share in those savings.

Joseph J. Fellin, president of Soyland, presented the prepayment check to Harold V. Hunter, administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). E. H. Williams, Soyland manager said, "This debt refinancing is sensible and fair. It will extend the benefits

of today's lower interest rates to rural electric generation and transmission cooperatives which had previously been denied this opportunity. This advantage has proven to be a tremendous benefit to urban consumers as investor-owned electric utilities refinanced more than \$10.9 billion in high interest debt during 1986."

He praised the efforts of Congressmen Bob Michel (R-18th District), Richard Durbin (D-20th District), and Edward R. Madigan (R-15th District), for their efforts in negotiations with the REA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Treasury.

As noted at the meeting, your board and staff do not expect a rate hike in 1987, but we will probably have a 3-5 percent boost later on as a result of the nuclear Clinton Power Station going on line. The plant is now in the low-power testing stage.

Director Douglas Darby, director of corporate energy coordination for John Deere Company, was the featured speaker at the meeting. "Ever-rising energy costs are of interest to all of us," he said, as he traced the history of how the United States had reached today's energy situation. Using a slide presentation, Darby related how the nation has become increasingly dependent on foreign oil in the years following World War II.

Darby said the nation faces a major power supply problem by the mid-1990s because of a combination of factors. He said no utilities are planning to build new nuclear power plants, which historically have much lower operating costs than coal-fired plants. Darby said many older and cheaper to operate coal plants are nearing the end of their useful life and must be replaced. New coal-fired plants will be quite expensive to build and operate, especially if federal acid rain legislation pending is approved, he said, adding that the acid rain legislation would hasten the closing of many of the older coal plants and significantly increase the costs of new replacement plants.

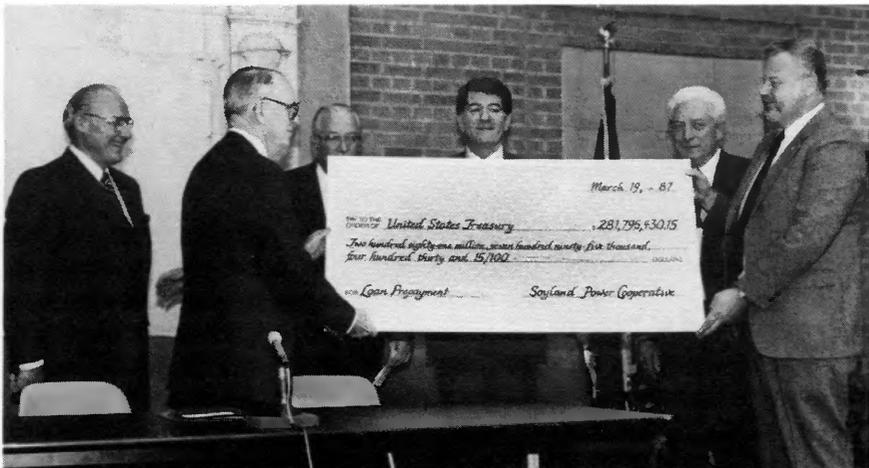
During the election of directors, three members won reelection to three-year terms on the board, while a fourth member was elected to complete an unexpired three-year term. Darby, Robert Hannon of Geneseo and James Holevoet of Atkinson were reelected. Madsen was elected to serve the last year of the unexpired term of Willard Sammons, who resigned from the board.

Members also approved a series of bylaw changes proposed by the board relating to membership, voting and director qualification.

Secretary-treasurer Darwin Mann of Geneseo reported that total revenue was \$1,561,248 in 1986, with purchased power accounting for \$1,265,656 of the cooperative's expenses. Average monthly kilowatt-hour usage by members increased to 946 in 1986 from 925 in 1985, he said. Total taxes paid in 1986 were \$78,347. The cooperative had a deficit of \$123,175 in 1986, he added.

Following the meeting, the board met in a reorganizational session and reelected officers: Larson, president; Darwin Knudtson of Geneseo, vice president, and Mann, secretary-treasurer.

In addition to the officers and elected directors, other FMEC members who serve on the governing board are: Charles Ashley of Geneseo and James Dwyer of Atkinson.



Joseph J. Fellin, right, president of Soyland Power Cooperative, and Manager E. H. Williams, second from right, present a prepayment "check" to Harold V. Hunter, second from left, administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration. Looking on are, Congressman Bob Michel, left, Richard Lyng, secretary of agriculture, third from left, and Congressman Edward R. Madigan, center.

FMEC News



Farmers Mutual Electric Co.

Phone 944-4669

Geneseo, Illinois



The board of directors and manager of FMEC are pictured above, just after the annual meeting. Seated from left are Eldon Larson, Darwin Knudtson, Darwin Mann and Robert Delp, manager. Standing from left are James Holevoet, James Dwyer, Douglas Darby, Charles Ashley and Robert Hannon.

Your annual meeting

It looks as though we've finally reached a point where our rates have stabilized, as we told those of you who attended your cooperative's annual meeting last month.

In his report at the meeting, Eldon Larson, board president, said, "Your board is confident that wholesale power costs have stabilized and should remain relatively constant through the rest of this century.

"We ought not to see the energy price increases of the 1970s and early 1980s again. This is particularly good news, as 73 percent of all cooperative revenue goes to pay the monthly wholesale power bill. You can rest assured that we are striving to control wholesale power costs and energy supplies, and maintain a lean, yet adequate staff of professionals to keep the energy flowing 24 hours per day, 365 days per year."

Manager Robert Delp remarked that our power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative, had been working for the past 15 months to get federal government approval to refinance its debt associated with its ownership share of the nuclear Clinton Power Station. Well, the long hours of work have paid off. Soyland was able to refinance \$282-million of its Clinton debt.

Murray Madsen and Delp, along with many other representatives of

properly cared for it's a renewable resource. It ought to be cherished and protected from wind erosion and water erosion, expansion of metropolitan areas and all the rest.

RENS: Will the decrease in the number of farmers hurt them politically?

Will: Very important that the first event in the presidential selection process is in Iowa. Because it does give a kind of interesting twist. Second, not all states are farm states but every state has farmers in it, which means that there are 100 senators to whom the farm constituency is not negligible. In politics, the way we do it in this country, you don't just count noses. It's intensity. And the farmers are organized, attentive and intense.

RENS: Some of our power-generating cooperatives face severe financial problems as a result of beginning power plants 15 years ago, then watching construction costs go up and the demand for energy go down. Is that anybody's fault? Could the co-ops have been more foresighted?

Will: Look at the price of oil in 1972. And look what it's gone up to, and come down from. No one predicted 15 years ago that OPEC was going to become the power it did and no one predicted the Yom Kippur war that started it all. No

one predicted the collapse of OPEC. No one predicted the Iran-Iraq war. You have one of the major wars of modern times occurring as we talk because some lunatic in Iraq decided to take a bite out of Iran. So it's hard for me to blame people who had to make very difficult, very important decisions involving huge assets based on energy use projections. I do think one huge, clear blame attaches to the antinuclear lobby. They have used the courts, and Congress has passed laws enabling them to use the courts, not just to restrict nuclear growth, not just to insist on safety, but really to confiscate property. That's what they've done with some of these plants. They've just said we'll seize the investment and make it meaningless. And I think it's an outrage.

RENS: Where are we now in terms of programs such as the Rural Electrification Administration and other New Deal programs?

Will: Ronald Reagan for six years now has proposed the elimination of many programs. I'm not sure he's killed any. They have survived the wave of conservatism and they're ready to grow again when an Administration comes in more sympathetic to their growth. If you kill a program it's hard to start it up again. But if you leave it there it's easy to increase the funding. And that's why the so-called Reagan revolution is not all it's cracked up to be.

RENS: How do you personally react to that?

Will: It doesn't bother me. I'm a strong government conservative. The American people want the post-New Deal style of government. They want a welfare state. Second, the welfare state was invented in Europe by conservatives: Bismarck in Germany and Disraeli in Britain, for impeccable conservative reasons. They said, if you're going to make people tolerate the uncertainties of a free market, of a dynamic enterprise economy, with all that implies about uncertainty of outcome, you'd better have a safety net. You'd better understand you've got to take the sting out of freedom. And that's what the welfare state tries to do and I don't find it morally objectionable or politically dangerous — within reason.

— Rural Electric News Service

“So it's hard for me to blame people who had to make very difficult, very important decisions involving huge assets based on energy use projections.”



Will

Two Grown Men Can't Pull It Apart! Zoysia Saves Time, Work & Money



So deep-rooted is Amazoy... it grows into practically indestructible turf.

Amazoy is the Trade Mark Registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Z-52 Zoysia Grass.

By John T. Jackson

Every year I see people pour more and more money into their lawns. They dig, fertilize and lime. They rake it all in. They scatter their seed and roll and water it. Birds love it! Seeds which aren't washed away by rain give them a feast. But some seed grows, and soon it's time to weed, water and mow, mow... until summer comes to burn the lawn into hay, or crabgrass and diseases infest it. That's what happens to ordinary grass, but not to Amazoy Zoysia.

"MOWED IT 2 TIMES," WRITES WOMAN

For example, Mrs. M. R. Mitter writes me how her lawn "... is the envy of all who see it. When everybody's lawns around here are brown from drought ours just stays as green as ever. I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in... Last summer we had it mowed (2) times. Another thing, we never have to pull any weeds — it's just wonderful!"

LAWN WATERED ONLY ONCE

And from Iowa came word that the state's largest Men's Garden Club picked a Zoysia lawn as the "top lawn — nearly perfect" in its area. Yet this lawn had been watered only once all summer up to August!

NO NEED TO RIP OUT PRESENT GRASS

Plug Amazoy into old lawn, new ground or nursery area. Just set Amazoy plugs into holes in ground like a cork in a bottle. Plant 1 foot apart, checkerboard style.

When planted in existing lawn areas plugs will spread to drive out old, unwanted growth including weeds — from part shade to full sun. Goes off its green color after killing frosts. Begins regaining its green color at the time when the temperature in the spring is consistently warm. This, of course, varies with climate. Easy planting instructions with order.

FREE! UP TO 900 PLUGS!

CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS

Thick, rich, luxurious, established Amazoy grows into a carpet of grass that chokes out crabgrass and weeds all summer long.

FOR SLOPES, PLAY AREAS, BARE SPOTS

End erosion of slopes with Amazoy. Perfect answer for hard-to-cover spots, play-worn areas.

NO SEED, NO SOD!

There's no seed that produces winter-hardy Meyer Zoysia. Sod of ordinary grass brings with it the problems of seed: like weeds, diseases, burning out, other ills. Save time, work, money. Plug in Amazoy.

CUTS YOUR WORK, SAVES YOU MONEY

Your deep-rooted, established Amazoy lawn saves you time and money in many ways. It never needs replacement... ends re-seeding forever. Fertilizing and watering (water costs money, too) are rarely if ever needed. It ends the need for crabgrass killers permanently. It cuts pushing a noisy mower in the blistering sun by 2/3.

YOUR OWN SUPPLY OF PLUG TRANSPLANTS

Established Amazoy gives you Zoysia plugs to plant in other areas as desired!



FREE PATENTED STEP-ON PLUGGER WITH ORDERS OF 600 PLUGS OR MORE.

Amazoy exclusive! No one else can offer you this patented 2-way plugger. Saves bending, time, work. Light, rugged, invaluable for transplanting. Cuts away competing growth as it digs plug holes.

WEAR RESISTANT

When America's largest University tested 13 leading grasses for wear resistance, such as foot scuffing, the Zoysia (matrella and japonica Meyer Z-52) led all others.

Your Amazoy lawn takes such wear as cookouts, lawn parties, lawn furniture, etc. Grows so thick you could play football on it and not get your feet muddy. Even if children play on it, they won't hurt it — or themselves.

Amazoy thrives in porous, sandy soil, "builder's soil" — even salty beach areas! Beauty is but one advantage of Zoysia Grass. It's also so vigorous and rich it thrives in soils where lesser grasses have failed you repeatedly. Start your Amazoy lawn this Spring, and never re-seed your lawn again!

Meyer Z-52 Zoysia Grass was perfected by U.S. Gov't.: Released in cooperation with U.S. Golf Assoc. as a superior grass.

Order guaranteed Amazoy now, get your bonus plugs FREE. Your order will be delivered at earliest correct time for planting in your area.

We ship all orders the same day plugs are packed, shipping & handling charges collect via most economical means. For credit card orders shipping & handling costs will be charged to your account.

EVERY PLUG GUARANTEED TO GROW IN YOUR AREA • IN YOUR SOIL

- **AMAZOY WON'T WINTER KILL** — has survived temperatures 30° below zero!
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Your plugs are shipped to you not cut all the way through, so as to insure maximum freshness and viability. To plant, separate all plugs completely with grass shears or a knife. Any plug failing to grow in 45 days replaced FREE.

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<input type="checkbox"/> 600 PLUGS Plus 180 FREE with FREE Plugger	<input type="checkbox"/> 1500 PLUGS Plus 450 FREE with FREE Plugger	SPECIAL OFFER! <input type="checkbox"/> 3000 PLUGS Plus 900 FREE with FREE Plugger	
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(Our 32nd Year)			

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Report of FMEC nominating committee

The nominating committee of Farmers Mutual Electric Company met Monday, January 19, 1987, at the cooperative office to name four persons as nominees for election to the board of directors at the Cooperative's annual meeting March 9, 1987.

The committee placed the names of Douglas Darby, Robert Hannon and James Holevoet on the ballot for election to three year terms on your board. The three, all of rural Geneseo, are incumbent board members seeking reelection. The committee also placed the name of Murray Madsen on the ballot for a one-year

term, to fill out the unexpired term of Willard Sammons, who resigned last year.

Members of the nominating committee for this year's election were:

Norman Hutchinson, chairman	Robert Lyons
Ronald Reiling	Harvey Misfeldt
Mike Weston	William Marchese
Wendell Larson	James Cassens

We thank these members for their interest in their cooperative and for serving on the nominating committee.

Co-op's size is opportunity, challenge

The relatively small size of the cooperative provides several advantages for the board and staff. Just as members are never very far away from the headquarters, neither is the cooperative work force very far away from the members.

We are sure many of the members of Farmers Mutual Electric Company have noticed employees checking the lines on the system. While it is an employee's responsibility to always be alert for problems along the system regardless of the reason for being in the area, we have a special program under way to help FMEC implement its current policy of emphasizing maintenance rather than construction.

We have launched an operations and maintenance survey, a comprehensive look at the entire system. This survey began at the metering point near Atkinson on the 34,500-volt transmission line and will include a visual inspection of every foot of visible conductor, switching and protection devices, and other equipment responsible for getting electricity to your homes, farms and businesses.

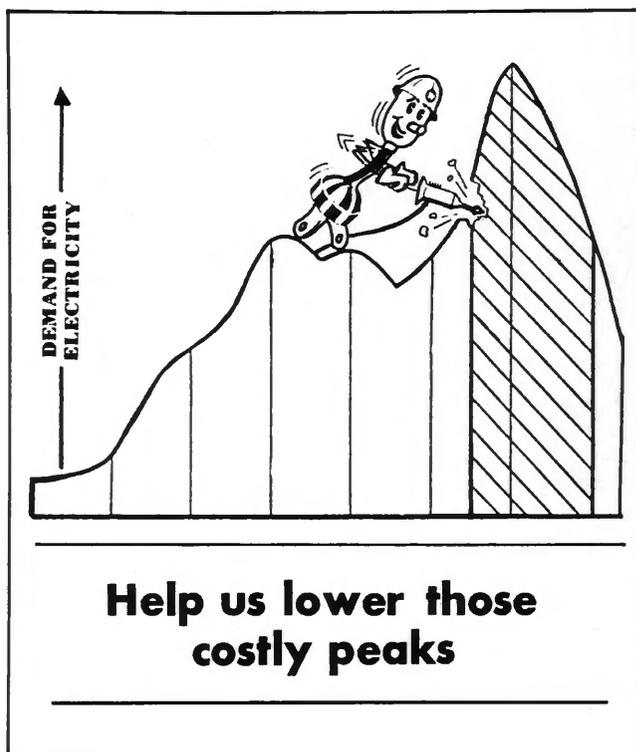
As the smallest electric cooperative in Illinois, FMEC has its unique advantages. Last summer, during the hot weather, a plan implemented by the board and employees made a significant cut into the cooperative's demand charges from its supplier. While a larger supplier of electricity may have the financial capability to purchase and install technical devices that help control peak demand, FMEC found it appropriate to employ a more passive approach to cutting into this peak, which can cost tens of thousands of dollars if not managed properly.

FMEC employees, anticipating weather conditions that could drive the peak up, called upon a network of members to launch a calling campaign to encourage friends and neighbors to curtail their use of large, heat-producing appliances that could force their air conditioners to work harder and build the demand. Members were asked to conserve on the use of electricity between

the hours of 4 and 8 p.m.

As we said in a newsletter in December, the benefits were tremendous. Through this program of phone calls and voluntary load management by members, the cooperative saved about \$46,000 in power costs. That's an average of about \$38 per member.

We face the same peak demand problems in the winter months and we urge members to voluntarily control large appliance use during the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. when the temperatures drops and your furnaces are running nearly full time. Saving the \$46,000 didn't take much time or money. Employees can reach nearly all the members without using long-distance lines, and the members who form the network provide an invaluable service.



FMEC News



Farmers Mutual Electric Co.

Phone 944-4669

Geneseo, Illinois

An invitation that only YOU can accept

FARMERS MUTUAL ELECTRIC CO.

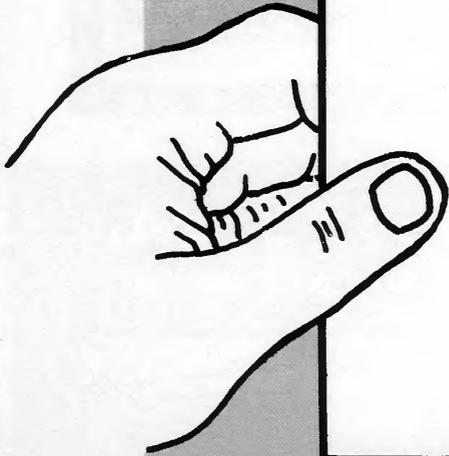
Geneseo, Illinois

**Your rural electric cooperative
requests the honor of your
presence at your annual meeting**

Monday, March 9, 1987

**J. D. Darnall High School Auditorium
Geneseo, Illinois**

Registration starting at 6 p.m.



**Attendance prizes
Entertainment
Business Meeting
Election of Directors
Business Reports
Refreshments**

**Guest Speaker — Director Douglas Darby
The Harmony and Stage Band
and the
Geneseo High School Jazz Ensemble
Refreshments after meeting
Equipment Displays**

Annual meeting set for March 9

The annual membership meeting of Farmers Mutual Electric Company will begin at 8 p.m. on Monday, March 9, at the J.D. Darnall High School Auditorium in Geneseo.

Registration begins at 6 p.m. with entertainment by the Geneseo High School Harmony and Stage Band and the Jazz Ensemble. Members attending will hear reports of the officers and directors, elect three officers to the board of the cooperative for full three-year terms, and elect one to fill out the unexpired term of Willard Sammons, who resigned. They will also act on any other business which many come before the meeting.

There will be an equipment display at the meeting, to enable interested members to see the equipment their co-op uses to bring them reliable electrical service, and employees will be present to answer any questions you may have.

Annual meeting notices will be mailed to each

member several days before the meeting. On the back cover of the notice will be your registration card for the meeting. This card also serves as a proxy for those unable to attend the meeting. Therefore, if you cannot come, be sure to sign your proxy and give it to a member who is coming or return it to the office.

Those members who want to vote proxies and who wish to save time in the registration line may come into the office during the week of March 2-6, between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., to preregister their proxies. There will be an express registration table at the meeting for those who have pre-registered their proxies, or who are not voting any.

Attendance prizes will include two fully processed hog halves, which will be purchased especially for the occasion, and three \$50 electric bill credits.

Coffee, soft drinks and refreshments will be served after the meeting.

MISSING



HEATHER ANN GURLEY

LAST SEEN: 5/18/86 EYES: Brown
 FROM: Herrin, IL HEIGHT: 4'6"
 DOB: 4/16/75 WEIGHT: 65
 WHITE FEMALE HAIR: Brown



DONEL JACOBY MINOR

LAST SEEN: 12/20/84 EYES: Brown
 FROM: Inglewood, CA HEIGHT: 20"
 DOB: 10/8/84 WEIGHT: 10
 BLACK MALE HAIR: Brown

If you can identify these or any other missing children, call The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at:

1-800-843-5678

(sightings only)

This message is brought to you as a public service by Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, in cooperation with National Child Safety Council.

-Safety Tip of the Month-

Make a mental note of the clothes your child wears EVERY DAY. Avoid putting your child's name on the outside of clothes or books. Children may respond to a dangerous person who calls them by name.

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If you want to personally help end this national tragedy, or need additional information, please call:

1-800-222-1464

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in your life! If you don't, you'll get your money back. You've got to try it to believe it. For a long-lasting spray can just send \$5.95 plus \$1 post. and hdg. Save more order 2 cans \$10.00 plus \$1.50 post. and hdg. Save even more 4 cans \$19.95 post. FREE! Send Check or Money Order today. Master Card & Visa orders welcome. Send card # and exp. date.

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