

Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

In the December issue of the Illinois Rural Electric News we provided information on assistance programs available for those families unable to pay their electric energy bills.

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Your cooperative has adopted a procedure which, when implemented, limits the amount of electricity which can be used during the period December 1 through March 31. When installed at a member's premises, it allows the use of electricity for necessary heating equipment and limited other use of electric appliances. The "limiter" is utilized in lieu of disconnecting electric service for non-payment during the four winter months.

The service limiter adapter restricts the amount of power which may be consumed. It is a shallow plug-in adapter that is inserted between a standard electric meter socket and a plug-in type meter. The unit comes equipped with an external reset button that allows the member to restore service if the breaker is tripped due to overloading.

The limiter is installed on accounts that are subject to disconnection because of non-payment when the temperature has been forecast to be 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below during a holiday or weekend. The unit will be installed on all residential meters that are subject to collection each month.

We believe the use of service limiter adapters meets or exceeds the recommendations of any governmental agency in Illinois and also provides for the health and general welfare of all cooperative members.

Should any cooperative member have questions or comments with reference to the adapters, please feel free to contact the cooperative office.

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Robert P. Burris of Petersburg was promoted to journeyman lineman on December 1, 1986, after completion of a four-year apprentice program

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Earl L. Pillsbury of Petersburg observed his 20th anniversary as special services coordinator for your cooperative on January 1, 1987.

Dwaine E. Heyen of Petersburg, was promoted to second-year apprentice lineman on January 2, 1987.

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Valve problems

Honeywell Manufacturing has recalled certain combination valves made in 1966-72 and installed on LP heating systems. They could cause an explosion or fire if they fail.

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Windmills aren't efficient electricity producers according to a Nebraska Power Association study. It reports that under today's regulatory and economic conditions, the best system would have to operate for over 100 years to pay back the money spent to buy and install it, even though most wind generators have only a 20-year life.

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Infrared sensations

Standard Oil researchers have developed the "Scheduler," a device that you point at a corn plant and it tells you whether water is needed, cost of which is in excess of \$4,000.

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Help for the dislocated

Programs authorized by the Job Training Partnership Act are an important source of help for displaced farm families trying to land new jobs. These programs are run at the state and local level and tailored to local situations. Displaced farmers are eligible for such assistance and some states also allow those suffering severe financial stress but still farming in a limited way, to participate (AG-RURAL Electric Letter).

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Cooperative members who use electric heat as their prime heating source of their residence should find an accompanying article to be of value.

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An old timer is one who remembers when a pie was set out to cool, not to thaw.

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We are gathering some interesting statistics from cooperative members with ground water heat pumps for heating and cooling. The results to date show signs of being exciting.

The advanced billing for accounts on Schedule A-S, Seasonal Service, will be submitted on the billings rendered January 31.

Board meeting report

The regular monthly board of directors meeting was held on Monday, December 22, 1986. The meeting was called to order by board president Morris Bell at 8:30 a.m. Roll call showed those present as: president Bell, vice president Dale Lepper, secretary Meredith Worner, treasurer James Graff, and directors Robert Zook, Carroll Cline and Robert Brauer. Absent was director Edward Allspach. Also present were attorney C. K. Smith and manager Dorland W. Smith.

On approval of the agenda for the meeting the minutes of the November 27 meeting were read. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Manager Smith presented the operating report and balance sheet for the month of November. Manager Smith commented that the operating deficit of \$240,000 this month as compared to a budgeted margin of \$100,000 was due to the fact that the cooperative had paid the full amount of the equity funding to Western Illinois Power Cooperative (WIPCO) as per the November board action. Manager Smith also commented on the operating report that kilowatt-hour purchases and sales were approximately one million dollars behind the same date last year due to the mild fall and mild early winter. The outage summary showed fewer outages for the month of November as compared to the same month last year; however, year-to-date outages and outage hours exceed the year-to-date figures of 1985. Safety report: there were no recordable accidents or injuries for the month of November.

Manager Smith then reviewed with the board two statistical reports, one from REA showing a profile of Menard Electric as compared to the other co-ops of similar size and type, and also CFC's key ratio analysis that is very similar. Manager Smith then reviewed the results of the sick leave bonus program with the board and the board elected to continue said program with the employees for the year 1987.

Motion was made, seconded and carried that the officers be authorized to execute the amending loan agreements with CFC for the two notes that have been converted from a fixed interest rate to a variable interest rate.

Manager Dorland Smith then presented a proposed resolution to the board requesting that WIPCO approve a plan for the paying of the deferred equity funding over the next ten years. WIPCO adopted a resolution at their last board meeting that allows the member distribution cooperatives to present a deferred payment plan for the deferred equity funding. Also, their new assessment schedule allows for such a payment plan. Motion was made, seconded and carried to adopt the resolution as presented.

Director Meredith Worner gave a report of the irrigation committee meeting that was held earlier in the month. The irrigation committee planned a meeting

with the irrigators on Monday, January 12, in Mason County. Also, the committee recommended that the irrigation rate for 1987 and the irrigation groups remain the same as they were this past year.

Director James Graff gave a report on the building committee meeting that was held earlier in the month in regard to its appraisal of the property east of the current headquarters.

Special services coordinator Earl Pillsbury then attended the meeting and presented the board a new electric heat promotion program and electric heating bonus package. After some discussion the motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the program as presented by special services coordinator Pillsbury and authorized him to implement the same retroactive to December 1, 1986.

Pillsbury also reviewed with the board the upcoming insurance costs for the year 1987.

Attorney C. K. Smith then reviewed for the board some suggestions on changes to the Not-for-Profit Corporation Act in regard to director liability and the board authorized attorney Smith to pursue investigations and to see if some changes in this Act could be made reducing the liability of directors of not-for-profit corporations.

President Bell then presented to the board the final report of the Illinois Farm Bureau Utility Study Committee. He reviewed in part the recommendations of the Committee and after some discussion the board suggested a letter be sent to the Illinois Farm Bureau thanking them for their efforts, soliciting their help where they have offered help and making several comments as to their recommendations.

President Bell then reported on the activities of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Zook then reported on WIPCO activities, some of which had been discussed earlier with regard to the repayment of deferred equity.

The board approved the list of uncollectible accounts in the amount of \$1,773.90. There were no agreements for electric service to be approved at this meeting, however, the inventory of work orders for October 1986 and the payment of bills for the month of November were approved.

Membership applications for the month of November were accepted as presented and the directors' special occasion vouchers were also approved.

Under other business the board was reminded there was to be a WIPCO district meeting January 8, 1987, at the Blackhawk Restaurant in Jacksonville.

The time for the January board meeting was discussed and it was decided the board will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 26.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

More electricity during winter months?

Why do we use more electricity during the winter months?

That is a question we often receive this time of year; and although we have some ideas as to why one's usage may be higher than usual, we do not know specifically why a particular individual's electric energy usage is up. We do not know because we are not the ones who used the power. Even though the individual asking the question is the one using the power, he does not always know where he used it either. This is because we use electricity for so many things so many times a day we take it for granted and are not really conscious of the fact that we are using it.

For those who may be questioning why their electric energy usage is up in the winter months, we will list some of the easily overlooked uses for this time of year:

1. Holiday (Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day) cooking and baking.
2. More use of lighting because of the shorter

Members with electric heat will get special rate

Members of Menard Electric Cooperative who use electric heat as their primary source of residential heating will qualify for a rebate on kilowatt-hours used over 1,000 during the months of December, January and February.

To qualify for the residential electric space heating rebate, the member must be using a permanently installed electric heating system as their primary heating source for their residence.

A rebate to members with all electric homes will be 4.4 cents per kilowatt-hour on all kilowatt-hours over 1,000 per month used for the three winter months.

If your home is heated electrically and you have not notified the cooperative office, we suggest that you contact the office of the cooperative immediately.

In addition, the cooperative will grant to cooperative members who install a closed-loop heat pump with a SEER rating of 10 or better an amount of \$333 per ton during the year 1987.

The cooperative will also grant to members who install an air-to-air heat pump with a SEER of 10 or more (new installation and/or add-on heat pumps to fossil furnaces) \$250 per ton.

Cooperative members who install baseboard or ceiling cable heat in a residence as the prime source of heating will be allowed a grant of \$50 per room with a maximum of \$300 per residence (bathrooms may be excluded).

The above programs are in effect for 1987 and should cooperative members have questions with reference to the above, please feel free to contact the cooperative office at your earliest convenience.

daylight period.

3. Most heating systems require the use of electric power and run almost continuously during extremely cold periods.
4. Many use space heaters here and there in their homes and buildings.
5. Stock tank heaters and fountains are in use.
6. Engine heaters are being used for cars and tractors. In some known cases as many as five engine heating units are being used at the same time.
7. Electric blankets and heating pads are being used more.
8. Clothes dryers are used more, and those in unheated rooms use more energy.
9. Forgetting to shut a light or an oven off and discovering it several hours or a day or two later.
10. Christmas tree and outdoor lights are left on during the evening.

An ode to the lineman

Up on the storm-swept cross arm,

Where the winds blow wild and free,

A cowhide belt and a chip of steel

'Twix him and eternity.

When the thunder peals o'er the tree tops

And the lightning gleams on the hills,

It's then his work is awaiting him,

And he gets plenty of thrills.

Then folks in houses cringe and shake

Before the storm has passed,

He handles death at his fingertips

To make the hot wires fast.

There's time he holds in his very hands

The life of a pal he loves,

And prays that he fails not in his trust

By a flaw in his rubber gloves.

But for all of that he's a common guy

And very much carefree,

And he'll stick to you through everything

The best pal you ever did see.

So sometimes in a thunderstorm,

When everything goes black,

Just think of the poor guy working hard

To get those hot wires back,

Author Unknown

How long is a kilowatt-hour?

Quantities designated by familiar measures — such as the foot, pound or cup, are easily appreciated because they can be seen.

Not surprisingly, few people can appreciate the quantity designated by the measure called a kilowatt-hour. The commodity is invisible.

In order to visualize a kilowatt-hour (kwh), let's relate to the amount of work done by a person.

In a home, a person would have to beat a batter mixture at an incredible speed, steadily, for 10 hours to generate energy equal to one kwh.

Using an old-fashioned treadle sewing machine, a person would have to pedal at top speed for 13 hours to generate energy equal to one kwh.

A person shoveling a foot of snow off a driveway 10 feet wide does about 23 footpounds of work per shovelful (*assuming one cubic foot of snow equals six pounds per shovelful*). The person would have to clear a driveway two miles long to generate energy equal to one kwh.

Imagine a 150-pound person climbing a 1,000-foot flight of stairs. He would have to climb the stairs nearly 18 times to generate enough energy equal to one kwh.

Using these comparisons, it becomes obvious that whatever we pay for a kwh of electricity, it is still far and away the biggest bargain in anybody's budget. But electricity, like everything else today, still costs money and is certainly something to use wisely.

Vacation will not cut much from bill

We get many calls each and every month from members who have "been gone for two or three weeks," and return to find that their electric meter has registered almost as much usage as when they're home. At first this doesn't seem possible. However, there are many reasons why this can happen.

First of all, your refrigerators and freezers continue to stay cold and defrost on schedule (unless you've emptied them and unplugged them). In fact, they may run more if the house is closed up and allowed to get hotter than normal.

The water heater (if left on) will continue to maintain hot water in the tank. True, there would be less water used while you are gone, but did you bring home two weeks of laundry? Turn the breaker off if you're going to be gone.

The air conditioner didn't run while you were gone (if it was turned to off or unplugged). However, it probably had some catching up to do the first day home.

In the winter, setting the heat back to 55 degrees can fool you. If the temperature gets down to 25 degrees, the heating system must raise the temperature 30 degrees or two-thirds of the way to normal. Also, there are no warm bodies, light bulbs, TVs and other appliances to help heat the house while you're gone. The furnace must do it all.

Next time you're going to be gone for a few days (or longer) stop and think before you leave. You possibly could save money on your electric bill. It's too late to do anything when you return.

**Our New Year's
resolutions
aren't new!
We promise,
as always. . .**

- To work as diligently as we can to provide adequate, reliable electric power for our community — striving constantly to keep quality of service high and costs as low as possible.
- To search out and pass along to you ideas and information on efficient energy use.
- To be open and forthright with you, our members. If there's something you want to know about our activities or policies, tell us; we'll pay attention.

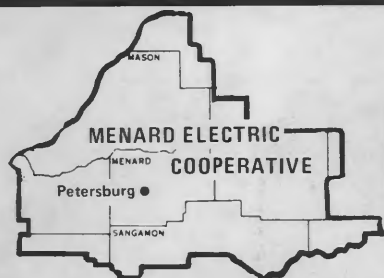
We wish you a healthy, comfortable and prosperous New Year.

Portable space heaters

Looking for a safe, affordable solution for that cold workshop or hard-to-heat room? Your member-owned electric cooperative suggests an efficient portable electric heater.

With an electric heater, you can increase the comfort level without turning up the thermostat. And while you're saving in comfort this winter, you and your family will be free of the mess, moisture buildup and potentially dangerous fumes that come with some other portable heaters.

There are many different types of portable electric heaters on the market today. Some will heat an entire room, while other radiant-type heaters are designed to keep people warm. For more information about today's modern electric space heaters, or help to properly size a heater for your room, contact your electric cooperative.



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Although spring is not far away, it is still not too late to install weather stripping around doors and windows to ward off cold winds.

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Professional ice cream taster, John Harrison of Oakland, insured his taste buds for \$250,000.

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Researchers for Cornell University have determined that neckties do indeed cause "impaired mental functioning" and a host of other ills for white collar workers.

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Looking for a safe, affordable solution for a cold workshop or hard to heat room? We suggest an efficient, portable electric heater. They increase the comfort level without turning up the thermostat and there is no mess, moisture build-up or potentially dangerous fumes.

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In addition to Valentines Day and Presidents Day, February is also American Heart Month, American Music Month, Black History Month, International Friendship Month, National Cherry Month, Potato Lovers Month and National Children's Health Month.

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The assistance of all Cooperative members is requested in allowing our meter reading contractors and Cooperative personnel to have access to Cooperative facilities, meters, etc., by keeping the area around the meter free and clear of debris, junk and attack dogs. In addition, private lanes with pot holes are a handicap to Cooperative personnel who need access to the Cooperative's facilities from time to time. The cooperation of all members is requested and will certainly be appreciated.

* * *

If your primary heat source is electric and you have not notified the Cooperative office please do so at your earliest convenience. You will be glad you did.

* * *

James G. Graff of Middletown will complete 15 years of service as a director of your Cooperative on February 19. Graff replaced the late Homer Brown as a director at the 1972 annual meeting.

Michael Carls to replace Davis

Michael E. Carls of rural Virginia was appointed by the board of directors to complete the unexpired term as director of the Cooperative in District 3, formerly represented by Alvin R. Davis of Beardstown.

Carls is a graduate of Triopia High School and the University of Illinois with a degree in animal science. He farms in partnership with his father, Milton Carls of Arenzville. The Carlses farm approximately 1,200 acres of land, market 700 head of cattle and 1,500 head of hogs annually.

Carls has served on the Soil Conservation Board of Cass County for the past eight years and currently is serving as chairman. He is a member of the Cass/Morgan County Farm Bureau and a member of the Cass County Pork Producers Association. Carls is a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Arenzville and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Carls of Arenzville.

Carls will represent cooperative members living in the Beardstown, Virginia, Arenzville and Jacksonville areas until the next annual meeting of the Cooperative which will be held in June of 1987. He was recommended to the board of directors by a committee of Cooperative members who reside in District 3.

Snowmobilers — Beware!

Your Cooperative has thousands of poles and guy wires located on hundreds of miles of right-of-ways in our service area. The right-of-ways are cleared areas so very important to good electric service. But remember, this right-of-way belongs to property owners. We are granted only easements to build and maintain our lines, but the property still belongs to the property owner. Check with them before you trespass. Secondly, stay alert when traveling these right-of-ways. There are poles, guy wires, metal enclosures and pedestals along these areas. Guy wires, for example, need special attention as they can be on several sides of a pole and more difficult to see.

STAY ALERT! There are these and other objects along the many hundreds of miles of power lines. Be certain to watch for hazards at all times, day or night.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 26, 1987, the meeting being called to order at 8:30 a.m. by president Morris Bell. Present were directors Bell, Meredith Worner, Carroll Cline, Robert Brauer, and James Graff. Absent were directors Dale Lepper and Edward Allspach. Also present were manager Smith and attorney C. K. Smith.

After approval of the agenda, special services coordinator Earl Pillsbury presented to the board of directors the action and recommendations of the Director Search Committee for District 3. It was the recommendation of the member committee that Michael E. Carls of Virginia be appointed to the board to fill the vacancy of retired director Alvin Davis. Upon the recommendation of the committee the board approved the appointment of Michael E. Carls and seated him as the director for District 3 to fill the term of Alvin Davis.

Minutes of the December 22, 1986, meeting were approved as presented.

Attorney Jerry Tice then attended the meeting and reported on the FRIER litigation with the board. Discussed was the rulings by the Sangamon County circuit judge and the possible actions that could be taken by WIPCO, Soyland and/or Menard Electric.

Manager Smith then reviewed with the board the operating statement for the month of December 1986. Since it was year end, he also reviewed year-end figures for the operating statement and balance sheet with the board. The annual ratios are well within REA and budget guidelines with the Cooperative ending up with operating margins of approximately \$448,000. The outage summary was reviewed for the board. Outages for the month were slightly less than the same month last year, however, the number of outages and outage hours for the year were higher than normal due to the severity and extreme number of storms occurring during the summer months.

The safety report indicated one recordable non-lost time accident for December and a total of six accidents for the year; one being lost-time with 35 work days being lost. The manager's report was approved as presented and the board also passed a resolution certifying the manager's compliance with the CFC loan requirements.

The board considered the annual contract for right-of-way clearing service with Burton Tree Service and it was approved.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of the 1987 operating budget. Manager Smith invited the members of the staff to attend the board meeting at this point and each explained their departmental budgets to the board and answered questions that were presented to them by various board members. Manager Smith then reviewed the overall budget with the board that consolidated all of the departmental budgets, power purchases and estimated revenue receipts.

Expenses for the Cooperative are approximately the same as 1986, projected revenues, because of no rate change, will be approximately the same as 1986 and with the debt restructuring of WIPCO the power cost for 1987 should be approximately the same as 1986, therefore, providing margins to the Cooperative that are ample to meet REA operating ratios. The budget was approved.

As requested at the last board meeting the board began a review of the operating policies of the Cooperative and allotted an amount of time at this board meeting to begin this review. Reviewed at this meeting was the Statement of Ideals. The board moved that at the next meeting another section of the policy be presented for review.

President Bell reported on the AIEC activities and its recent board meeting.

As director Zook had to leave after approval of the budget, manager Smith reported on the WIPCO activities. This included developments on the restructuring and operating statistics status of the Clinton plant.

Report of the activities of the special services coordinator Earl Pillsbury was presented and approved.

Agreements for electric service were approved as presented. Inventory of work orders for November 1986, and the payment of bills for December 1986, were approved.

Membership applications for December 1986 were accepted as presented and the director's special occasion vouchers were also approved.

Under "Other Business," since director Zook will not be attending the national meeting in Dallas in February, the board appointed as alternate delegate to the NRECA meeting and CFC meeting, manager Smith. Smith then discussed with the board the upcoming NRECA seminars for directors; one to be presented at the AIEC in March and also the annual Director's Update Conference to be held March 30 through April 2.

The time for the February board meeting was discussed and it was decided the board will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, February 23.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.



William McCoy retires

William L. McCoy of Kilbourne retired as an employee of the Cooperative on February 1. Bill was hired on November 10, 1960. He served as a forestry journeyman, groundman and truck driver for over 26 years.

Prior to his employment with the Cooperative, he was self-employed and had spent several years as a truck driver.

Bill indicated that he was looking forward to his retirement and plans to continue living in Kilbourne. He and his wife, Iris, have been married for nearly 40 years and plan to spend some time remodeling their home.

During his years of service, McCoy has seen the Cooperative grow in membership, as well as a substantial increase in miles of distribution line. One of the highlights which occurred during his employment was the ice storm of 1978 which he remembers vividly.

A source of pride for McCoy was always working and driving in the safest manner.

We congratulate Bill on his retirement and wish he and Iris well during the years ahead.



Rural Electrification Right Then, Right Now!

Fifty years ago, hardy determined rural people began to organize rural electric systems like ours. Their efforts literally lit up the countryside. Many celebrated by burying the kerosene lantern, and many a tear of joy was shed when rural families saw emancipation from a life of near-drudgery marching up the road in the form of utility poles.

Things are different today. Most families in the countryside enjoy the benefits of electricity. And electricity has helped to make American agriculture the most productive in the world.

But the job of rural electrification is never finished. There's always one more pole to set, one more substation to be improved, one more new consumer to be hooked up, one more meeting of our consumer-members to assess the past and face the future.

Rural electrification...it was right then, it's right now.



From left, McCoy, Mrs. McCoy and Terry Entwistle, line superintendent.

Electric water heater load management program

The Cooperative Load Management program has been implemented with the intent and purpose of reducing the KW demand during the months of January, February, July, August and December. A control device on the water heater circuit will allow the water heater to be shut off for periods of no longer than four (4) hours. Members with a control device on the water heater circuit will be allowed a reduction on their energy bill of three cents per kilowatt-hour per month, with a maximum monthly credit of \$12. If you are interested in participating in the electric water heater load management program please complete the information requested and return this coupon to the Cooperative.

Please place my name on the waiting list to have a control device installed on my electric water heater. I understand if I later request the removal of the same, the Cooperative will disconnect the control device and any monthly credit allowed me will cease at that time.

Date _____

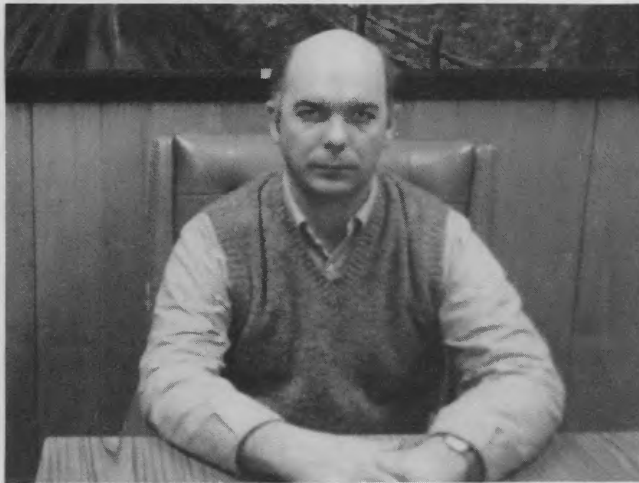
Phone Number _____

Signature of Member _____

Address _____

Member's Account No. _____

Jerry Hedberg is new staff assistant



Jerry Hedberg

Gerald E. (Jerry) Hedberg has been named staff assistant for your Cooperative and began employment on January 23.

Jerry began his career in Rural Electrification with Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative in Aitkin, Minnesota, 16 years ago. He was the manager of office services for that Cooperative and had responsibilities for the billing department activities and coordinated all of the computer operations of Mille Lacs.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Jerry is a veteran of the United States Navy and is a lifelong resident of Aitkin, Minnesota. Jerry will assist the Cooperative manager on special projects and will work with the Data Processing Department, act as safety coordinator and assist other members of the staff and cooperative employees in the general operation of the Cooperative.

Jerry's wife, Chris, is a registered nurse and the Hedbergs are looking forward to meeting Cooperative members as they begin participation in the Cooperative as well as being acclimated to central Illinois. We wish both Jerry and Chris the very best and welcome them to the Cooperative family.

Moving forward: the only thing to do

A generation ago the beginning of a mighty revolution in rural life in central Illinois was initiated by men and women who organized Menard Electric Cooperative. They blazed a new trail, broke with the old "kerosene lantern" way of life. They were a people of vision. They accomplished a great thing when they organized this electric cooperative.

Now what they did was fine for their generation, but a new generation — we fear, one that isn't too reverent of the past — is with us. This generation has its own plans, hopes and ambitions.

We appreciate what was done 50 years ago. The people who organized your Cooperative were restless, aggressive people. A lot of the old timers shook their heads at what our founding fathers proposed to do over a half century ago.

As we reflect back on the official beginning of your Cooperative on September 9, 1936, we note that soon thereafter the Cooperative secured approval of a loan in the amount of \$135,000. A major milestone in the Cooperative's history came February 26, 1937.

On that date, a group of farmers and officials from various state and federal agencies gathered near a pole ready to be placed in a hole near the Tipton School about one mile west of Sherman. This was followed some five months later when electricity flowed through the first section of electric line for Menard Electric members.

So, we at your Cooperative are thinking young, that way we will do a better job for you, our members and owners. We are determined to keep moving forward.

It is the only thing to do.

Security lighting

Your Cooperative has the high pressure sodium security light available, in addition to the mercury vapor security light which has been popular for many years.

Recent studies by your Cooperative indicate that the H.P.S. light creates less KW demand and uses fewer kwhr's in comparison to the mercury vapor light.

H.P.S. lights are available for \$5.25 per month and the mercury lights are \$7 per month.

If you would like a security light installed, or if you

wish to replace an existing mercury light with a H.P.S. light, please complete the information requested below.

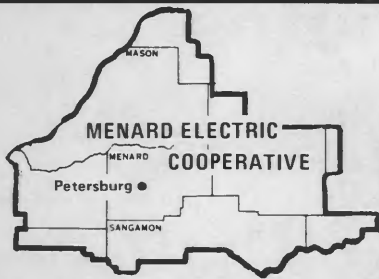
I would like to have a security light installed.

I would like to change the mercury vapor security light to a H.P.S. security light.

Signature of Member _____

Address _____

Member's Account No. _____



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The board of directors of your Cooperative has authorized area meetings to be held during March 1987. The first meeting will be held on or about March 16 and will include Districts 2 and 3, represented by directors Dale Lepper and Michael Carls. The second district meeting will encompass director districts 1 and 4 represented by directors Carroll Cline and Robert Brauer. Other meetings will be scheduled on March 24 and March 26. Members residing within a given director district will receive an invitation to attend an area meeting located within their general area.

The purpose of the area meetings will be to allow Cooperative members to ask questions and offer suggestions to the Cooperative, realizing that by doing this all of us can work together as a family and thus, be more apt to succeed. In addition, Cooperative personnel will provide the latest information available as to the restructuring of the WIPCO debt, the startup of the Clinton plant, the effect of load management on Menard Electric Cooperative, as well as listening to the ideas and suggestions from the Cooperative membership.

If, by chance, you are unable to attend the meeting in your area, please feel free to attend one of the other meetings scheduled this month. We look forward to seeing all of you at an area meeting.

The 50th annual meeting of your Cooperative will be held on June 13 at the Porta High School in Petersburg. Why not mark the date now and plan on attending and participating in this historic annual meeting.

Nearly 300 members have requested that a load management control device be placed on their electric water heater in an attempt to hold the electric demand of the Cooperative to a lesser level. The control device during this past winter was implemented on seven occasions for periods of one and one-half hours to four hours. The control device will not be activated prior to July 1 of 1987 and then will be subject to interruption during July and August. However, the reduction in kilowatt-hour cost will continue. Members who have a control device on their water heater will note that the rate code on their monthly billing has

been changed to Rate J, (in lieu of Rate A) which is the load management rate.

Terry L. Cutright of Petersburg, a leadman for your Cooperative, completed 15 years of service on March 13.

Be very careful when cutting trees

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

Board meeting notes

February

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 23, 1987, the meeting being called to order at 8:30 a.m. by president Morris Bell. Present were directors Bell, Meredith Worner, Edward Allspach, Michael Carls, Robert Brauer, Dale Lepper and James Graff. Absent were directors Carroll Cline and Robert Zook. Also present were manager Dorland Smith and attorneys C. K. Smith and H. J. Tice.

After approval of the agenda, attorney Tice reported to the board on the current status of the FRIER litigation. He discussed with the board the filings made by the other cooperatives and informed the board that at the present time Menard Electric Cooperative need not take any further action and he would apprise them should the need arise for any action.

Minutes of the January 26, 1987, meeting were approved as presented.

Manager Smith then reviewed with the board the operating statement for January 1987. General comments were that the operations for the first month were well within the budget guidelines and operating ratios for the past 12 months were within the predicted goals. Several directors questioned how the operating ratios were calculated and manager Smith furnished the board with a work sheet defining TIER (Times Interest Earned Ratio), debt service coverage and the plant revenue ratio, which are used to measure some of the financial goals of the Cooperative. Manager Smith also reviewed the outage summary with the board and commented that due to the mild January, the number of outages and the duration of the outages was far less than the same reporting period for 1986. The safety report indicated no recordable injuries or illnesses for the past month.

Manager Smith then requested the board to consider expensing the conversion fee on the two CFC notes, converted to variable interest rates in 1986, as an expense for the year 1986. The board approved this request.

Smith reported on the material inventory and reconciliation for the year 1986. The board approved the adjustments made.

Manager Smith requested the Cooperative enter a memorandum of agreement in regard to the payment of the deferred equity funding with Western Illinois Power Cooperative. Said memorandum of agreement was in accord with the resolution passed at the December 22 board meeting requesting WIPCO's approval of said deferred agreement. Board approved entering into a memorandum of agreement with WIPCO.

At this time system engineer David Crosnoe attended the meeting and presented to the directors a policy on handling a PCB spill. He presented in detail the

plan for handling a PCB spill and requested the board adopt said plan as a part of the operating policies of the Cooperative. President Bell advised the board this would be considered the first reading for the PCB Spill Contingency Plan and recommended it appear on the agenda for adoption at the March 1987 board meeting.

President Bell and director Allspach reported on the NRECA annual meeting. Each gave a detailed report of the special panel sessions they attended which varied from marketing to telecommunications.

As was requested at the December board meeting, the board continued their plan of reviewing part of the Cooperative's operating policies. Approximately 15 minutes was given to the review of the Statement of Objectives in the current policy.

The board then discussed holding district or area meetings throughout the director districts. It was then decided that at least four and possibly five area meetings will be held in the later part of March with several districts being combined for meeting purposes. The board then decided the Farm Bureau board in the respective districts should be given a special invitation to attend these meetings along with the members in those districts.

President Bell then reported on the activities of the AIEC and the February AIEC board meeting.

President Bell then discussed the upcoming Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C., with the board. The Legislative Rally will be held the last week in April 1987. The board approved the attendance at the Legislative Rally of president Bell and manager Smith to represent the Cooperative.

It was decided that the April board meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Daylight Savings Time.

As director Zook was absent, manager Smith reported on WIPCO activities. Currently WIPCO is trying to achieve restructuring of their long-term debt and it appears they are very close to achieving this restructuring and it should be finalized sometime in March. The WIPCO annual meeting will be held Wednesday, March 11 and Robert Zook was elected as the chairman of delegates to represent Menard Electric Cooperative at this annual meeting.

The board then discussed the proposed by-law amendments to be considered at the WIPCO annual meeting and it was the general consensus that the Cooperative should support the amendment providing for alternate directors on the WIPCO board.

Director Lepper then commented on the upcoming election of the Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative and the Illini Electric Cooperative consolidation. Discussion indicated this is a possible viable solution in reducing or helping to reduce costs and Menard Electric Cooperative should keep these avenues open with

adjoining cooperatives if the opportunity arises.

Inventory of work orders for December 1986 and membership applications for January 1987 were approved.

Payment of bills for January 1987 as represented by list of checks was also approved.

Directors' special occasion vouchers were approved. The board was reminded of the upcoming seminar for directors to be held March 3 and 4 at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, the WIPCO annual

meeting to be held March 11 in Jacksonville, and the Legislative Breakfast to be held Wednesday morning March 25. Manager Smith also reminded the board that as the annual meeting is approaching the board should be considering members to serve on the Nominating Committee. The time for the March meeting was discussed and the March board meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., March 23.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Standby generator needs double throw switch

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 outage. 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. It is definitely better to be safe than sorry!

It's tornado season in Illinois

Illinois ranks eighth in the nation for the average number of tornadoes reported each year. Advanced weather forecasting and early warning systems have helped reduce tornado fatalities since the 1950s. Knowing what to do when a tornado approaches can mean the difference between life and death.

Tornado watch means tornadoes are expected to develop.

Tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted.

When a tornado warning has been issued, you should take shelter, listen to local weather forecasts and postpone outside activities.

The safest place to be when a tornado strikes is in an underground shelter, such as a basement or storm cellar. But a sturdy piece of furniture can provide some protection. Often, getting under a sturdy table could save a life.

In schools, the best tornado shelter is an interior hallway on the lowest floor.

When a tornado approaches, you should keep windows slightly open, but stay away from them. Opening windows can equalize the pressure in a building and may help to deter damage.



Questions and Answers about Menard Electric

A recent letter from a member requested that we publish member questions and the Cooperative answers in this section of the Illinois Rural Electric News. The first question that has been posed is in regard to the retail rates of Menard Electric Cooperative after the commercialization of the Clinton Power Plant.

Question: At the 1986 annual meeting, manager Smith stated that the Cooperative rates would be stable through 1987. What is going to happen to the Cooperative rates when Clinton Power Station is put on line?

Answer: Menard Electric Cooperative retail rates are designed to provide revenues necessary to operate the Cooperative, meet their debt requirements and, of course, pay the wholesale power bill which is part of the operating costs. Menard Electric Cooperative's retail rates are not set on the advent of Clinton Power Station being made commercial. Many rumors have circulated that rates would increase drastically at the time Clinton

Power Station would be made commercial, and this is true for the consumers of Illinois Power Company. The Illinois Commerce Commission has authorized Illinois Power to increase their rates approximately 9 percent at such time as the plant is made commercial. Western Illinois Power Cooperative over the past few years has increased their wholesale cost with the use of equity funding so that their rates would be at a level necessary to maintain their financial condition at such time that WIPCO would put the commercialization of Clinton into their rate base. Therefore, as Clinton is made commercial this year, no changes will be made in the wholesale power cost from WIPCO to Menard and there **will be no need for Menard to increase their rates.**

For those members who have a question for which they would like to see an answer published in this section of the Illinois Rural Electric News, please send your questions to Menard Electric Cooperative, Attention: Questions and Answers.

The heat pump advantage could be for you

Are you thinking about building a new home or replacing an inefficient, old central heating and/or cooling system?

If you are, you owe it to yourself to investigate the efficiencies of a closed-loop earth coupled heat pump. In general, earth coupled heat pumps are as much as three times more efficient than gas or oil fueled furnaces.

The principle of the earth coupled system is to use the deep ground temperature to provide efficient heating in the winter and cooling during summer.

Unlike conventional fossil fuel furnaces that burn fuel to produce heat, a heat pump uses the principles of refrigeration to draw heat from the earth, intensify it, and "pump" it into your home. In the summer, a reversing valve flips the system around, allowing you to cool your house and transfer heat outside. The only energy used is electricity to power the heat pump's compressor and fans.

The earth coupled system is highly efficient because it draws heat from a fluid being circulated underground. The temperature of the earth 8 to 10 feet below the surface is approximately 50 degrees all year long. And, during summer, the ground temperature is cooler than the outdoor air. This temperature differential permits highly efficient heating and cooling.

In fact, for each unit of electricity going into the heat pump, as much as three and one-half units of heat are delivered. Fuel burning furnaces can't come close to this level of efficiency, because no fuel can give up more heat than it contains. The best a fuel burning furnace can achieve in a controlled test is 90 percent efficiency. A more realistic estimate is 65 percent efficiency.

Air-to-air heat pumps are also being installed in many homes today. Air-to-air heat pumps pull heat in from the outside air and transfer it to the air which heats your home.



Having your telephone number handy during times of electrical outages, and at other times when we need to communicate with you, can benefit both you and

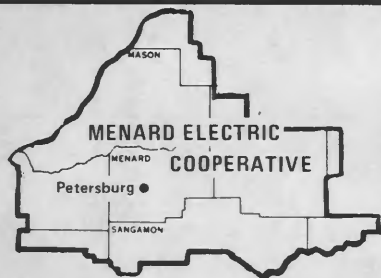
your cooperative's employees.

Although we have telephone books, we are never sure we'll pick the correct name. And sometimes the number shown is not the one for the location where you receive service from the cooperative.

What we'd like to have is the telephone number at the location where you receive service from the cooperative. If you have several service locations, we want the one where you live.

Please take a minute to write the appropriate phone number on the next statement stub you return, and we'll add it to our records so it will be available for ready use in our operations department.

Thanks for your help; we appreciate it.



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

Smoke detectors have become an absolute necessity in the home. A smoke detector gives you a chance to save your life, your property or the life of a loved one. Whether a fire is electrical, a form of spontaneous combustion or started by other means, the smoke will be detected. This gives you a chance to escape by warning your family at the earliest possible moment. Keep in mind that if the detector is operated by battery that you maintain a fresh battery in the smoke detector.

The detector must be able to sample room air and is usually mounted on a ceiling or wall. Avoid placing the detector in a corner or near light fixtures. You should allow at least six inches from the wall when mounting on the ceiling and for best results should be placed close to the center of the ceiling. If you are mounting the detector on a wall, place it four to six inches from the ceiling and never install it below six inches from the ceiling.

Menard Electric Cooperative does not endorse nor recommend a particular insurance company.

If a salesman contacts you about medical insurance claiming affiliation with Menard Electric Cooperative or NRECA, ask for proof or contact your Cooperative office.

Since the Clean Air Act of 1970, there has been a 40 percent reduction in factory and utility pollution, but as sulphur dioxide emissions decrease, nitrogen emissions are increasing. The new 100th Congress is considering spending up to \$115 billion further regulating emissions from utilities, industries and motor vehicles. **Is anybody listening?**

The 50th annual meeting of your Cooperative will be held on Saturday, June 13. Why not mark your calendar and plan on attending this annual business session of your Cooperative.

LOAD MANAGEMENT

Directors and employees of your Cooperative realize

Members who have electric heat as their primary source of heat and have not notified the Cooperative should do so not later than May 31 in order to claim their rebate for the past winter.

that today's energy costs are higher than we would like. To help make electricity more affordable and encourage members to use more safe and clean electricity, a series of load management incentive programs have been developed or are in progress. The purpose of these programs is to hold the demand for energy during the Cooperative's peak periods to as low a level as possible while at the same time encouraging an

(Continued on page 12d)

Informational meetings

Recognizing the need for communication with members of Menard Electric Cooperative, the board of directors held four informational meetings during March. All began at 7 p.m., starting on March 16 in Virginia for Districts 2 and 3. The second meeting was held on March 19 in Petersburg for Districts 1 and 4, the third meeting on March 24 in Havana for Districts 5 and 6, and the last meeting on March 30 in Williamsville for Districts 7, 8 and 9.

The board of directors and management staff discussed a number of important topics concerning Menard Electric Cooperative with the members in attendance. Information was given about Menard Electric Cooperative's involvement in the Crime Watch program and the load management opportunities being offered to the members. These load management opportunities involve installation and control of electric water heaters, electric heat rebate, installation of heat pumps and security light conversion to high pressure sodium.

Menard Electric Cooperative's non-involvement in litigation brought on as a result of the Clinton power plant cost overruns was discussed, as well as, the stability expected for future electric rates of Menard Electric Cooperative members.

The office of the Cooperative will be closed on Good Friday, April 17, and Memorial Day, May 25.

As simple as it might sound, if you keep your body from becoming part of an electrical circuit, you prevent electrical shock and possibly save your life.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 23, 1987. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by president Morris Bell. Present were directors Bell, Meredith Worner, Edward Allspach, Carroll Cline, Michael Carls, Robert Brauer, Dale Lepper and Robert Zook. Absent was director James Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, attorney C. K. Smith and special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury. After the agenda was read and approved the minutes of the regular board meeting of February 23, 1987, were approved as they had been presented.

The manager's report was submitted by manager Smith, in which he reviewed the operating statement for February 1987. There were no outstanding items on the operating report to dwell on, except the manager did point out that even though we were following close to the budget, both for receipts and expenses, kilowatt-hour purchases were down again for the month of February due to the warm weather. He also commented on the safety report, with no recordable accidents for the month and reported that due to the good weather the number and duration of outages were less than previous averages. Manager Smith also stated that the IEC Crime Watch program had been implemented the early part of the month and that already several incidents happened in which our people have been involved in requesting emergency assistance. Manager Smith also discussed with the board the negotiations and status of requests for installation of underground service to several subdivisions that were developing within the Cooperative's territory.

At this time manager Smith asked R. L. Quint, certified public accountant, to attend the board meeting. He introduced Quint to the board and asked him to review the 1986 audit report that had been completed by R. L. Quint Auditors. Quint also reported that the records of the Cooperative were in excellent condition and that the staff and personnel were doing a very commendable job in the handling of the financial status of the Cooperative. He also commented that the Cooperative as a whole was in a commendable financial condition.

At the conclusion of Quint's presentation he departed from the board meeting and manager Smith stated he would like for the board to consider the retaining of R. L. Quint Auditors for the 1987 audit. After some discussion it was approved that R. L. Quint Auditors would be retained to audit the Cooperative's books for the year ending December 31, 1987.

The board reviewed and considered the policy on PCB spill contingency that had been presented for first reading at the February meeting and was up for adoption at this board meeting. The board adopted said

PCB spill plan policy.

The board took under consideration the revision of the policy on "bad check processing." This review is its first reading and it will be considered at the April meeting for adoption.

The board then reviewed the Cooperative's policy as to active member requests for information. Attorney Smith discussed at great length this policy with the board. After consideration, attorney Smith was instructed to make appropriate changes in the policy and present this policy for consideration at the April board meeting.

Manager Smith then informed the board that WIPCO had revised its by-laws at its recent annual meeting and under which the Cooperative now is authorized to have an alternate director on the WIPCO board. After discussion as to the duties and requirements for the alternate director, Carroll Cline's name was put into nomination for Menard's alternate director to WIPCO. With no further nominations, the nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast for Carroll Cline as alternate director. The board then discussed the necessity for the alternate director to acquaint himself with the business activities of WIPCO and the board approved the per diem and expenses of the alternate director to attend such WIPCO board meetings as he felt were necessary to adequately acquaint him with the WIPCO operations.

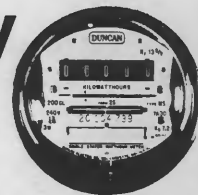
President Bell reviewed and discussed the cooperative director/district area meetings that have been held in the previous weeks prior to this board meeting. It was the general opinion of the board that the meetings had gone well, however, attendance was not as large as expected, but they felt it was a good forum and the members in attendance gained additional information about the Cooperative.

Special services coordinator, Earl Pillsbury reviewed with the board a proposed by-law amendment to Article IV, Board of Directors, Section 4, Nominations. This by-law amendment would provide for changing the number of days between the time the nominating committee would meet prior to the annual meeting and the days for posting these nominations and also the number of days prior to the annual meeting that nominations could be made by petition. After review by the board, it was decided that the proposed by-law amendment would be presented to the membership for their consideration at the Cooperative's 50th annual meeting to be held June 13.

President Bell then reported on the activities of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. As one of the items, he mentioned that the Job Training and Safety Department had developed a program for presenting electrical safety to rural fire departments. After some discussion it was the board's decision that

Amazing accuracy, day after day

Your electric meter is probably the most accurate instrument in your daily life.



What is the most scientifically accurate device on your premises? No, it's not your oven, which may not heat to the exact specified temperature; nor is it your refrigerator, which may not cool to the exact specified temperature; and no, it's not even your home's thermostat.

And unless you surround yourself with thousands of dollars' worth of nuclear testing equipment, the answer is your electric meter.

Yes, our electric meter is probably more accurate than a natural gas or water meter, as well as a gasoline pump.

Furthermore, if something is wrong with your elec-

trical system, your electric meter may be able to signal that a problem exists.

Few things are perfect in this world, but your electric meter comes as close as anything in your daily life.

UNEXPLAINED HUGE INCREASES

If, all of a sudden, you notice that your monthly electric bill has increased by a huge amount, and you have not added any large appliances to your home, then a problem may have developed in an existing appliance or some other electrical equipment in your home. This situation should be checked by a professional, and you may wish to call your electric cooperative for advice.

Let the earth help you heat and cool

If you are considering replacing your present heating or cooling system, remember the following points about earth-coupled water source heat pumps:

1. You can save money! Operational costs are substantially lower than most conventional heating/cooling methods.
2. The ground is a more stable source of heat than outside air, so the heat pump can provide 3.0 to 4.0 units of energy for every unit of energy needed to operate.
3. Water heating costs can be reduced by circulating water from the water heater through the heat pump.
4. The heat pump is located indoors, protected from the weather.

5. A heat pump doesn't produce extreme temperature variations that can make a room feel "drafty" while the furnace is not producing heat.
6. It's easy to keep a comfortable humidity level in your home, since heat pumps remove less moisture than other systems.

The initial cost of a water source heat pump is higher than most conventional heating/cooling methods, but the operating costs are much lower. Consequently, these systems are becoming the choice of many energy-conscious consumers. For the average new home, a payback period of four to six years can be expected with a water source heat pump. An older home may have a longer payback period, depending on the existing duct work.

management proceed to provide this rural electric safety program to the fire departments within the Cooperative service area.

Director Zook in reporting on the activities of WIPCO, discussed the annual meeting of WIPCO, which was held on March 11 and indicated that the debt restructuring was proceeding, not as fast as we would like but it looked like it could come to a conclusion in the near future.

The board reviewed the delinquent accounts that have been uncollectible and these accounts were approved to be written off as presented.

The inventory of work orders for January 1987 were also approved.

Payment of bills for February 1987 as represented by the list of checks was also approved.

Membership applications for February 1987 were approved as represented.

Under other business, manager Smith discussed with the board the recent M.J.M. annual meeting and also reminded the board of the upcoming IAA Legislative

Breakfast to be held in Springfield on March 25.

President Bell also reminded the board that the time was approaching that the board should be considering members to serve on the nominating committee from each of their districts. Director Zook announced to the board that he would not be a candidate for re-election from his district as a director to Menard Electric Cooperative at the upcoming annual meeting. After discussion by the board it was determined that it would be necessary to appoint a member search committee to propose to the nominating committee a member to be nominated as a candidate for director from District 8. The special services coordinator was directed to compose a search committee from members of District 8 and organize said committee. The meeting for April was discussed again and the board was reminded again that the April meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, at 7 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

Member Service/Power Use Position Available

Entry-level position for energetic person with agricultural or agricultural engineering background. Must have good communication skills. Interest or background in marketing helpful. Associate or bachelor's degree preferred. Good working environment, with benefits. If interested, send resume to: Box 279, Attn: "P", Petersburg, IL 62675, on or before April 27, 1987.

Water heater control can save you money

Your Cooperative has implemented a Load Management Program designed to reduce the kw demand during the months of January, February, July, August and December. A small control device on the water heater circuit allows the water heater to be shut off for periods of no longer than four hours in any day during the above months. This does not occur on a daily basis, and during the most recent three-month period of December through February, the control devices were shut off a total of seven times totaling approximately 20 hours of off time.

Members with a control device on the water heater circuit are allowed a reduction on their energy bill of 3.0 cents per kilowatt-hour in the rate use block of 600 to 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month with a maximum monthly credit of \$12 or a maximum annual benefit of \$144. If you are interested in reducing your electric bill with a maximum reduction of \$144 per year, please complete the information requested and return this coupon to the Cooperative.

By allowing your water heater to be controlled, in addition to the savings listed above, your Cooperative can reduce its wholesale power cost by approximately \$150 per year.

Please place my name on the waiting list to have a control device installed on my electric water heater. I understand that if I later request removal of the same, the Cooperative will disconnect the control device and any monthly credit allowed me will cease at that time.

Name and address

Members account number Telephone number

Today's date

Co-op Comments

(Continued from page 12a)

increase in the overall sales of electricity.

The demand created on the Cooperative's system is expensive to all members. By reducing peak demand collectively we can all help reduce the Cooperative's overall cost. In other words, you can help yourself and all Cooperative members by having peak awareness by shifting some of your electric usage to off-peak periods.

We are all creatures of habit. Many of us wake up at the same time every day, shower, cook, eat breakfast and begin our work day. In the evening, members come home, use electric appliances, hot water, lights, turn up the electric heat in the winter or turn down the air conditioner in the summer. All of these things happen about the same time, and when the greatest use of electricity occurs, we hit a demand peak for that day, week, month or for the year.

Electricity costs more than it used to, but so does most everything else. We cannot tell you that your energy costs are going to decrease, but we can tell you that your board of directors is confident that wholesale power costs have stabilized and that we should not see the energy price increases of the past several years.

Security lighting

Your Cooperative has the high-pressure sodium security light available, in addition to the mercury vapor security light which has been popular for many years.

Recent studies by your Cooperative indicate that the H.P.S. light creates less KW demand and uses fewer kwhr's in comparison to the mercury vapor light.

H.P.S. lights are available for \$5.25 per month and the mercury lights are \$7 per month.

If you would like a security light installed, or if you wish to replace an existing mercury light with a H.P.S. light, please complete the information requested below.

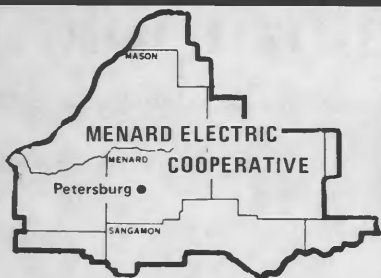
- I would like to have a security light installed.
- I would like to change the mercury vapor security light to an H.P.S. security light.

Signature of Member

Address

Member's Account No.

Phone number



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

A major milestone in Menard Electric Cooperative's history occurred on February 26, 1937. On that date, a group of farmers and officials from various state and federal agencies gathered near a pole ready to be placed in the ground near the Tipton School about one mile west of Sherman.

Many Cooperative members will recall the above occurrence and look forward to the 50th annual meeting of Menard Electric Cooperative which will be held on June 13, 1987, at the PORTA High School, located at the west edge of Petersburg.

Three directors of the cooperative board will be elected at the annual meeting and all members of the Cooperative are invited to attend the free pork chop dinner which will be served prior to the annual business meeting.

The Cooperative will have a bargain table at which light bulbs, extension cords, work lights, smoke detectors, heating pads and other small appliances will be offered for sale at reduced prices to Cooperative members. Why not mark your calendar now and plan to join your friends at the 50th annual meeting of your

Cooperative on Saturday, June 13.



Christopher Hinton, accountant for your Cooperative, completed five years of service on May 3, 1987.



Congratulations are extended to retirees Roy McDaniel of Mason City, who retired as a journeyman lineman on March 1, 1977, and to Glen Worth, former assistant manager of your Cooperative, who retired on May 1, 1972.



If you need to remove a meter for any reason, please call the Cooperative office before breaking the meter seal. First and foremost, the seal is utilized for your safety. If a meter is removed and then reinstalled improperly, there could be serious injury. Second, the meter seal is the key to the Cooperative's cash register.

Meter seals, when removed without the permission of the Cooperative, may subject the Cooperative member to additional charges. If it is necessary to remove the meter, just call the Cooperative office and the necessary arrangements can be made. This also applies to electricians which you may hire to do electrical work at your premise.

Area meter readers

Contractual meter readers of your Cooperative visit all meters in the Cooperative service area each month normally centered on the 19th of each month. The greatest obstacle to the meter readers, as well as Cooperative employees, appears to be dogs that are chained at or near the electric meter or are in an enclosed area surrounding the meter.

It is imperative that Cooperative employees and contractual meter readers have safe access to Cooperative facilities at all times so that their job may be accomplished in the shortest and safest time possible. We do not believe that our request that dogs be restrained during the meter reading period each month is out of line and we ask your cooperation.

Members with dogs who attack and/or injure Cooperative employees and/or meter readers may be subjecting themselves to medical bills and/or other charges. Please cooperate with the contractual meter readers each month. Should you request a schedule of meter reading dates, the same will be provided by return mail.



Ronald W. Ingram (left) resigned his position as staking engineer and meter technician with your Cooperative on February 28, 1987. Ron has accepted a management position with B&B Electrical Contractors in Springfield. We wish Ron the very best as he pursues other goals in the electrical industry. Manager Dorland Smith offers best wishes to Ron on his last day at work.

Satellite television descrambling

During the past several months you have read about a proposed program that would extend the benefits of telecommunications into the rural areas not served by cable television.

The National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative was formed with the intent to insure that high quality and affordable telecommunications are made available to rural America. The program under consideration is a concept that would provide a package of satellite television programming at a relatively modest monthly low cost.

In the Cooperative service area, a good number of satellite receiver systems have been installed, however, due to scrambling of certain signals, the viewing selection of those Cooperative members has been reduced.

The NRTC is working on a comprehensive programming package of news, entertainment and information which would be available to rural consumers.

If you believe that your Cooperative should be involved in launching such a program, please take time to complete the coupon below and return it to the Cooperative office in Petersburg.

I am interested in a package of premium television channels at a reasonable monthly cost.

_____	_____
name	telephone number
_____	_____
address	
_____	_____
city/state	account number

Please complete above information and return this coupon to:

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
P.O. Box 279
Petersburg, IL 62675

No rate increase

Regardless of Illinois Power's proposed rate increases, reports from the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources news releases, Western Illinois Power Cooperative is looking at basically stable rates, tracking at or near the rate of inflation for the next several years.

This means that Menard Electric Cooperative rates will remain relatively stable for the next several years. Retail electric rates of your Cooperative are set by the board of directors, and the rate increases that we read about coming to Illinois Power customers have absolutely no impact on the Cooperative rates.

The debt restructuring proposal between WIPCO and REA recently announced will resolve WIPCO's financial condition without rate increases to its member systems.

Congressman Robert Michel's announcement from Washington, D.C., during the week of April 11 was extremely good news to Cooperative members in west central Illinois. It is indeed unfortunate that the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources issued a news release on or about April 17, a week after Michel's announcement, that Cooperative rates could escalate substantially. DENR admits that its study was made prior to Michel's announcement and that it was based on outdated material.

Don't burn treated wood or old poles for heating

Pressure treated wood with chromatid copper arsenate (CCA) or other preservatives are a very common treatment for building material used in constructing decks, walkways, sill plates and other building components exposed to weather elements or soil. In addition, used electric poles have been treated with creosote or penta treated. Treated lumber can release toxic or poisonous chemicals in the smoke and ash when burned in a stove or fireplace.

Please do not burn chemically treated lumber or lumber scraps in a fireplace or wood stove. Dispose of them by burying or hauling them to a landfill.

Request for bids

The Cooperative will accept sealed bids until 10 a.m. on June 1, 1987, on the following:

1. 1982 three-quarter ton Chevrolet, 350 engine, cab chassis with LP gas (123,000 miles)
2. 1982 one-half ton Ford pickup, 302 engine with LP gas (82,000 miles)

The above items are available for inspection at the Cooperative office from 8 a.m. til 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Members of the Cooperative are invited to submit bids on the above and the Cooperative reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Electric heat promotion

Members of the Cooperative who install electric heat during the year 1987 in a residence served by the Cooperative, will be eligible for a one time cash rebate. The electric heat must be the prime heating source of the residence.

Members who install a water source (closed loop) heat pump will receive \$333 per ton. Units should have an EER rating of 9 or greater.

Members who install an air to air heat pump will receive \$250 per ton. Units should have an EER rating of 9 or greater.

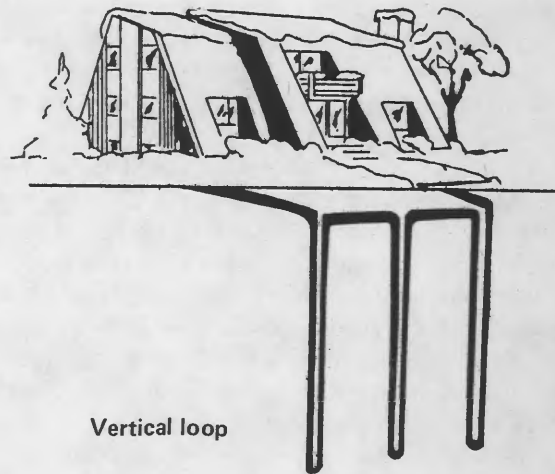
Members who install baseboard or ceiling cable electric heat will receive \$50 per room, with a maximum rebate of \$300 per residence. (Bathrooms may be excluded.)

For the next two winter seasons (December, January, and February) members who have electric heat as their prime heating source will receive a 4.4 cents per kilowatt-hour rebate for kilowatt-hours used over 1,000 during each of the above months.

If your central air conditioning unit needs to be

replaced, install a new heat pump, even if your furnace is fossil fuel.

Should you have questions relative to electric heat, please contact the Cooperative office.



Vertical loop

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 installed, 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.

The water source heat pump

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

Menard Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its monthly meeting on Monday, April 20, 1987. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Morris Bell. Present were directors Bell, Meredith Worner, Edward Allspach, Carroll Cline, Michael Carls, Robert Brauer, Dale Lepper, Robert Zook and James Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, and attorney Charles K. Smith.

After the agenda was read and approved, the minutes of the regular board meeting of March 23, 1987, were approved as presented. The manager's report was submitted by manager Smith in which he reviewed the operating statement for March 1987. He reported that monthly revenues, cost of power and other expenses were very close to the amount budgeted for the month of March. The year-to-date figures for the first quarter of 1987 were running very close to the budgeted amounts. A few extra minutes were spent discussing how several of the trend indicators were calculated, and the board then requested that a few of these items be discussed in greater detail at future meetings. Manager Smith commented on the safety report, indicating that there were two days of lost time for the month of March. These days were sustained by the area serviceman, who had been indirectly involved in a vehicle accident and had strained his right knee. The outage summary for March was discussed, and manager Smith indicated that the number of outages was approximately the same as for the March 1986. Total outage hours for 1987 have been 80 percent less than for the same date last year.

The board granted the request of attorney Smith to attend a legal seminar sponsored by NRECA May 4-5.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury and manager Smith then discussed with the board the possibility of the 401(k) savings plan. No action was taken at this time and the board requested that further information be provided at the next meeting.

Pillsbury reviewed with the board the actions of the annual meeting committee, and after some discussion the board approved the bid of Mason County Pork Producers to serve the meal for the annual meeting. He reported that the general format of the meeting will not be changed, and there will be a sale of light bulbs and small appliances to members attending the meeting.

The revised "bad check processing policy" was adopted as presented by manager Smith.

The revision to the "member request for information policy" as suggested by attorney Smith at the March board meeting was accepted.

A committee on nominations consisting of nine Cooperative members was appointed. The nominating committee will meet on April 27th to submit nominations for Director Districts 3, 7, and 8.

Systems engineer David Crosnoe attended the meeting to discuss the two-year work plan, as developed by the consulting engineers, D. Ralph Young and Associates. Crosnoe presented the methodology D. Ralph Young had used in determining system improvements for the years 1987-88. At the conclusion of Crosnoe's presentation, a number of questions presented by the board were answered, and the Board accepted the work plan as presented.

President Bell reported on the activities of the AIEC, with particular emphasis on several bills that had been introduced in the Illinois Legislature. He commented on those the Cooperative needed to pay close attention to and support with their legislators.

Director Zook reported on WIPCO activities. He mentioned that at the recent board meeting the restructuring of the cooperative debt appeared imminent. The Cooperative has received word since that board meeting, that REA has approved the debt restructuring, which will mean a savings of approximately 50 percent of the principal and interest payments due on WIPCO's long-term debt for the ensuing 30-40 years. Director Zook also reported that the Pearl plant had been operating at full capacity for the month of March and that predictions are that this plant will be operating at full production through September of this year.

The special services coordinator's report was accepted as presented.

The board then reviewed the delinquent accounts that are uncollectible at this time, and these accounts were approved to be written off.

The inventory of work orders for February 1987 was also approved.

Payment of bills for March 1987 as represented by the list of checks presented was also approved.

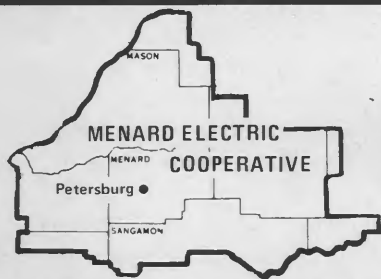
The board approved agreements for electric service as presented and also the membership applications for March 1987.

Special occasion vouchers for the board were approved as submitted to the secretary.

Under other business, manager Smith reviewed with the board the activities of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative and its activities in soliciting programming with the satellite communications.

President Bell asked for comments from the board on the recent area meetings that were held and it was a consensus that even though attendance was not as great as we would have liked, the directors felt the meetings were worthwhile.

The date of the May board meeting was discussed since the fourth Monday is a holiday, and it was decided to hold the May meeting on Wednesday, May 27, at 7 p.m. There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

It's best to look up and be safe! This time of year most people are outside enjoying the nice days — cleaning up the yard, making home repairs, working in the field and garden.

Whatever takes you outdoors this summer, remember to look up and be safe. Overhead electric lines can be dangerous.

If you are using a ladder to work on a roof, clean out the gutters or make repairs to your home or out-buildings, be extremely careful near power lines.

The employees of Menard Electric Cooperative want you to be safe around power lines. Electricity is a wonderful, often taken for granted, servant. Remember not to take those overhead lines for granted — they can be dangerous to your health.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Bertram of rural Beardstown will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on June 22. Alvin is the area serviceman in the Mason City/Mid-dletown/Lincoln area.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Horn of rural Petersburg celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary on May 27. Alan is the staking engineer for your Cooperative.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 27. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by president Morris Bell. Present were directors Bell, Meredith Worner, Carroll Cline, Michael Carls, Robert Brauer, Dale Lopper, Robert Zook and James Graff. Absent was director Edward Allspach. Also present at the meeting were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury and attorney Jerry Tice.

After the agenda was read and approved, the minutes of the regular board meeting of April 20, were approved as presented. Manager Smith submitted the manager's report to the board and reviewed the monthly operating statement for April 1987. He pointed out that revenue and expenses for the current month

The time, temperature and humidity do have an effect on how and when we use electricity and they do have an effect on your electric bill.

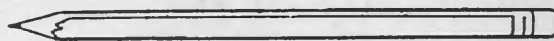
Anything you, as an individual member, can do in July and August during the peak demand periods which normally occur between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. daily, will be of benefit not only to yourself, but to all Cooperative members.

The peak demands established in July and August are two of the months that are used in calculating your Cooperatives share of the fixed cost charged in the wholesale power billing from our supplier.

If you have not inspected and cleaned the condensing coils of your refrigerator, freezers and air conditioners, now would be a good time to do it. Always disconnect the appliance first, use a soft-haired brush to loosen the dust and then vacuum thoroughly. When the job is completed, don't forget to reconnect the electricity.

If you have a questions about your energy bill, whether you make contact with the Cooperative in person or by phone, it is always a good idea if you read the meter prior to contacting the office.

To entertain some people all you have to do is listen.



and year-to-date were close to the budgeted amounts for the corresponding periods. He did make particular note that the budgeted kilowatt-hours purchased and kilowatt-hours sold were also running very close.

Smith reviewed with the board a new set of graphs that picture the various items on the report including rates of return, operating expenses, line loss, power costs, and TIER. Comments on the outage report indicated that, partly due to nice weather, there was very little outage time in April. The safety report showed no recordable injuries or illnesses for the month of April.

Manager Smith then presented to the board for its review and consideration a revised operating and financial budget for the balance of 1987. This budget

was revised as to the cost of power due to the change in the assessment schedule from WIPCO. The WIPCO/Soyland budget had been revised in May due to the restructuring of WIPCO's debt and the refinancing of Soyland's long-term debt. The revised budget should provide Menard Electric Cooperative with adequate operating margins for the year and with close supervision as we proceed through the year we should end up with a satisfactory operating TIER.

The board then considered the request for a capital credit refund of an estate of one of the former Cooperative members. After some discussion the board denied the request of refunding an individual estate at this time.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury then reviewed with the board the plan of the annual meeting committee for the upcoming annual meeting.

Attorney Tice then presented to the board a request of the FRIER group asking the board to take formal action requesting Soyland and WIPCO not to be realigned as plaintiffs in the FRIER suit. After discussion, the board passed a resolution stating that both WIPCO/Soyland and the FRIER group had common interests in litigation against Illinois Power, and therefore, suggest that Soyland/WIPCO and the FRIER group cooperative to the fullest extent in pursuing the litigation against Illinois Power.

Manager Smith then reported to the board on recent discussions with WIPCO and REA in regard to the deferred equity funding. REA has suggested that the Cooperative apply for a discretionary loan for a period of 10 years to satisfy the deferred equity funding. The board authorized the manager to go ahead with the loan application to REA for a discretionary loan.

The board then viewed a video tape of the substation fire at WIPCO's east Lanesville intertie with Illinois Power that occurred on April 30. The transformer shorted out and created a spectacular fire that destroyed the transformer. The substation will be out of commission for some time.

A video tape presentation of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative report on its progress with providing a descrambled service to rural members was reviewed. No action was taken on the NRTC study at this time.

The board then reviewed the request of CFC to have a portion of this year's CFC capital credits to be invested in the CFC integrity fund. The board approved the request.

President Bell then reviewed with the board the report of the labor committee and indicated that negotiations with the union would be forthcoming within the next month.

A proposed revision to the security deposit policy was reviewed. The policy will be considered next month.

The board authorized operating superintendent Terry Entwistle to attend the Utility Equipment Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky early this fall.

President Bell reported on the activities of the AIEC, with particular emphasis on the current legislation in regard to director liability. Illinois House Bill 1312 was passed and it is now in the Senate and will be in one of the Senate committees in the next few weeks.

Director Zook reported on the WIPCO activities. In addition to general comments as to the operation of the plant, he mentioned that the WIPCO board held its last meeting at the Pearl plant, at which time they did an inspection of the plant. They authorized some painting and additional maintenance work that is needed at the site. As the long-term debt for WIPCO has been restructured and the final phases of this are being worked out, he reported that the WIPCO/Soyland budget had been revised accordingly. The WIPCO board did adopt a new assessment schedule which reduced the Cooperatives wholesale rate to approximately 72 mills per kilowatt-hour with the payment of the deferred equity funding. This is the same cost as 1986.

The agreements for electric service were approved as presented, also an agreement for underground electric service was approved.

The inventory of work orders for March 1987 was also approved.

Payment of bills for April 1987 as represented by a list of checks presented was also approved.

The board approved the membership applications for April 1987.

Special occasion vouchers for the board were approved as presented to the secretary.

Manager Smith noted that Menard Electric Cooperative would be the host at the next WIPCO district meeting. The district meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, at the Blackhawk in Jacksonville.

The date for the June board meeting will be June 22 at 7 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 a.m.

Office closing

Menard Electric's office will be closed on Friday, July 3, 1987.

July 4, 1776 — the day that changed the entire course of human history. It was All-American. The Declaration defied all convention, all tradition, all laws — all history. The authors were bold, shocking, radical — dangerous. They were revolutionary beyond belief in

an age of kings despots and aristocrats who for centuries had assumed a "divine" right to rule and exploit their fellow men. The promise is for individual liberty, opportunity, justice, and equality before the law. Democracy is no stronger than the hopes, dreams intellect, and the ability of its people to appreciate and wisely use their basic freedom. Rural Louisiana, July 1968

Update heating system and earn rebate

Gain the safety, comfort and convenience of electric heat when you install the high-efficiency heat pump or other electric heating system. If you've been planning to upgrade your home's comfort conditioning system, now is the time. Earn valuable cash rebates on your investment and start enjoying the safety and convenience of "electric living."

Rebates can be earned for any qualifying electric heating equipment installed.

Rebate

Groundwater heat pump (closed system)
\$333.00 per ton

EER of 9.0 or greater

Air-to-Air Heat Pump \$250.00 per ton
EER of 9.0 or greater

Baseboard or ceiling cable \$50.00 per rm.
(Bathrooms may be excluded) \$300 maximum

If your central air conditioning system needs to be replaced, install a heat pump. Not only will you enjoy the air conditioning, you will be eligible for a rebate on kwhr's used for heating during the next two winters.

(To ensure that you qualify for any rebates, be sure to contact Menard Electric before beginning any work on your electric heat additions.)

Menard security lighting program

In 1986 Menard Electric adopted a long-range program to convert regular security lights to a new type of lamp known as high-pressure sodium. The reason for the change was a substantial savings of energy and a reduction of kw demand on the cooperative system.

Each watt-hour of energy saved in such a program is a watt-hour that can be used in other areas without generating additional power. In addition to reducing power consumption, the lamps also provide increased illumination.

The following comparison illustrates the increase in illumination per watt:

Lamp type	Lumens per watt
Incandescent	23
Mercury	55
High pressure sodium	140

The comparison reveals that the high-pressure sodium lamps, which emit a soft golden glow, provide more than twice as much light as mercury lamps. The sodium lamp has a life expectancy of more than 24,000 hours.

If you would like a security light installed, or if you wish to replace an existing mercury light with a high-pressure sodium light, please contact the Cooperative office. The annual savings to you with this light is \$21 per year over the cost of a mercury light.

Budget billing

Do your electric bills fluctuate from month to month so you never know just how much money to set aside in your budget? If so, now is the time to get your electric bills on a more stabilized basis. We would urge you to consider levelizing your payments through our budget billing plan.

The plan is based on the period of June through the following May. Levelized payments are based on your past 12 months history or an estimated amount if you have had service with us for less than a year. We review

these accounts at least twice during the year and make or suggest necessary adjustments.

Should you enter into a levelized payment plan after June, the monthly payments are increased to make up for the fewer months remaining the in budget billing period. The outstanding balance is due with the May bill payment, so we try to set monthly payments and make adjustments during the year, if necessary, so that the outstanding balance, if any, which is due in May, will be as small as possible. If you believe such a plan would be a benefit to you and you would like to participate, please contact the Cooperative at your earliest convenience.

Help lighten our load

Your electric cooperative must provide adequate electrical capacity to meet energy demands when electric use hits a peak. As peaks get higher, more power plants are needed to generate enough electricity to meet this expensive peak demand required by consumers. On the hottest days when everyone turns on their air conditioners, you can help your electric cooperative control its peak demand by turning your thermostat to a warmer setting.

Shifting electric energy use to off-peak periods helps

make the most efficient use of existing generating capacity, delays the need for more power plants and helps limit future rate increases. Help your electric cooperative control summer peaks — and save money on your electric bill, too.

You can do something about higher costs by limiting the use of your heat producing appliances on hot summer days. It will help your electric cooperative reduce its peak load at times when electricity use is highest (4-10 p.m.) and save your cooperative purchased power costs.

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.

Is too much frost forming (on models other than frost-free)? It may be caused by (a) higher-than-normal humidity; (b) uncovered dishes in the food storage area (put covers on dishes); (c) infrequent defrosting (defrost regularly).

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.

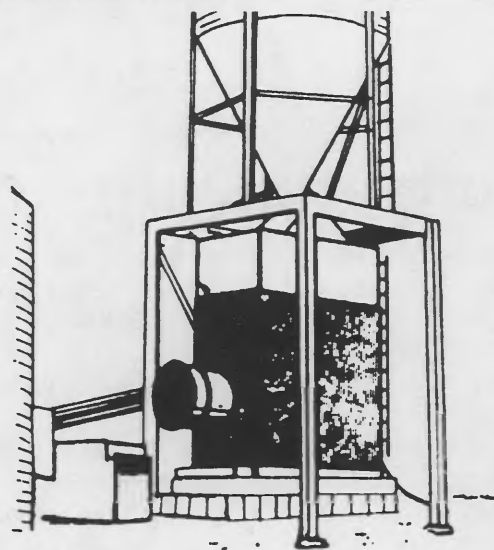
For additional information check your care and use book.

Crop drying reminder

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

Many times what you, the member, perceive as a small addition can lead to changing out poles, transformer and wire to meet your drying requirements. Occasionally it may require rebuilding a line from single-phase to three-phase. An improvement of this nature takes a considerable amount of time to engineer and then to construct.

Proper planning by you can eliminate last-minute problems. The Engineering Services Department is ready to assist in any changes in your service, be it crop drying or any other type of installation.



Don't let your vacation cause a billing problem

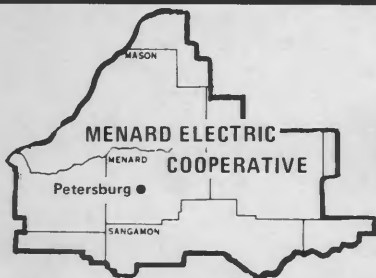
Vacation time is here for many of us and we would like to remind all of our members to make arrangements for paying their bills if they are planning to be away from home. Energy bills are mailed on the last work day of each month, and payments must be in the Cooperative office not later than the 21st day of the following month to avoid paying a late charge.

Please make arrangements with a relative or

neighbor for your bill payment or contact the Cooperative office for information regarding your energy bill.

Safety tip

As simple as it might sound, if you keep your body from becoming part of an electrical circuit, you prevent electrical shock and possibly save your life.



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

You can help reduce the Cooperative's peak electric demand and wholesale power cost by limiting your use of heavy electrical appliances between the hours of 4 and 9 p.m. during July and August.

A substantial part of your cooperative's power costs are based on the peak electric demand which occurs in July and August. By voluntarily reducing your use of electricity during these peak demand times, your cooperative will pay lower wholesale power costs.

Peak times usually can be identified when the temperature is 90 degrees or above. We ask for your assistance in holding our peak demands to as low a

level as possible.

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Energy bills which will be rendered on the 31st of July, August and September 30 will reflect your cooperative's summer/winter rate. All kilowatt-hours used over 700 per month will be at 8.9 cents per kilowatt-hour.

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Marcel Verreault of rural Petersburg will complete 15 years of service with your cooperative on July 24. Marcel is a leadman for your cooperative.

•••••

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Squires of rural Tallula will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on July 25. Glenn is the area serviceman in the Petersburg area.

Check your service panel

One of the first things you should do when you move into a new home is to check out your service panel.

If you've lived in your home a long time, it might be a good idea to take another look at your service panel and familiarize yourself with it. The service panel houses the fuses or circuit breakers that control the individual circuits throughout the house.

First identify which fuse or circuit breaker controls each major appliance and mark then accordingly on the cover of the service panel or inside the door. Don't depend on the prior owner or occupant's marking for accuracy.

After all the major appliances are listed, then check the receptacle and lighting circuits and mark them according to the area they control.

Once you have done this "housekeeping" chore, you can quickly find the correct breaker or fuse should an emergency occur. However, you may need to take care of one other very important detail: If your service panel contains fuses, have an ample assortment of replacement fuses, including cartridge fuses.

Never replace a blown fuse with a fuse having a higher amperage. If you put in a fuse with higher amperage than the circuit can handle, the wires in the wall can overheat and start a fire.

Check EER before buying air conditioner

When it comes to summertime electricity use, no appliance has more impact than your home air conditioner. Air conditioning in a typical home uses an estimated 50 percent of all the electricity consumed during the summer months.

That is why it makes sense to have the most efficient air conditioning system possible in your home. If your system is already in place, you can improve efficiency by maintaining adequate insulation, keeping heat-producing appliances from operating during the hottest part of the day and keeping your thermostat set at 78 degrees or higher.

If, however, you are planning to purchase a new air conditioning unit or system, then you have much greater control over how efficiently it operates.

Because of federal regulations, air conditioning manufacturers are required to assign an EER, or Energy

Efficiency Ratio, to each unit or system they sell.

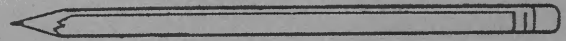
We recommend that when you get an air conditioner, you purchase one with an EER of 9.0 or higher.

The EER is actually determined by dividing the BTU output of an air conditioner by the wattage or power demand of the unit. For example, a 36,000 BTU unit with a demand rating of 6,000 watts would have an EER of 6. But a 36,000 BTU unit with a demand rating of 4,000 watts would have an EER of 9.

In the latter example, the unit is producing the same amount of cooling but is requiring less electricity. This means you would get more cooling for your money.

We urge you to think about efficiency when purchasing an air conditioner or any other appliance. It might cost you a little more to start with but the energy savings will far outweigh the higher initial cost in most cases.

Board meeting report



A special meeting of the board of directors of Menard Electric Cooperative was called to order by president Morris L. Bell on Saturday, June 13, 1987, for the purpose of electing officers and any other business that might come before the meeting. Present were directors Bell, Dale R. Lepper, James G. Graff, Meredith L. Worner, Robert I. Brauer, Warren D. Goetsch, Michael E. Carls, Edward L. Allspach and Carroll F. Cline. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith and attorney Charles K. Smith.

New director, Warren D. Goetsch, who was replacing retiring director, Robert F. Zook, was welcomed by the other members of the board.

The board appointed attorney Charles K. Smith to act as temporary chairman and temporary secretary for this re-organizational meeting.

Director Morris Bell was nominated and elected as president of the board for the ensuing year. Director Robert Brauer was nominated and elected to the position of vice president. Director Meredith Worner was nominated and elected to be the secretary for the next year. Director Carroll Cline was nominated and elected to serve as the treasurer of the Cooperative for the year 1987-88.

There being no further business the meeting was duly adjourned.

Menard Electric Cooperative board of directors held their monthly meeting on Monday, June 22, 1987, at 6 p.m. Present were directors Morris L. Bell, Meredith L. Worner, Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Dale R. Lepper, Warren D. Goetsch, and James G. Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, attorney Charles K. Smith, and special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury. After the roll call and approval of the agenda, the minutes of the May 27, 1987, meeting were approved as corrected.

Manager Smith then reviewed with the board the operating statement for May 1987. He commented that the monthly and year-to-date statements were generally in line with the budget, however, line loss was out of proportion, as well as the cost of purchased power. This being due to the month of May with a lot of kilowatt-hours used for irrigation and air conditioning. The board asked for a general explanation of the graphs on operating expenses, which were explained by Smith. He also commented on the outage summary for the month of May, which indicated about the same number of interruptions as the preceding year, however, year-to-date figures are well below those for 1986. The safety report indicated one recordable injury for a lost time accident for 1987 of one day. Manager Smith also commented that interest rates with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, (CFC) for the month of May has begun to rise from where they had been for the first few months of 1987.

The annual meeting committee, which consisted of Dale Lepper, Robert Brauer and Earl Pillsbury, reviewed the 50th annual meeting with the board. The committee also presented for approval the bill from the Mason County Pork Producers.

Manager Smith presented to the board for their consideration a revised Ten Year Financial Forecast. The financial forecast was approved as presented. The board adopted a resolution requesting a ten year discretionary loan with the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

The board discussed meeting dates and times for the board meetings for the 1987-88 year and it was decided that the board meetings for November, December, January and February would be day meetings beginning at 1 p.m. President Bell advised the board that it was necessary to select members to serve on various boards and committees. Elected as Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) board member were Morris Bell and alternate Michael Carls. Delegates to the AIEC annual meeting will Bell-delegate; Carls-alternate. The Region V National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and CFC delegate will be Warren Goetsch; alternate will be manager Smith. Delegate to NRECA and CFC annual meeting will be director Cline; alternate will be manager Smith.

Elected to the statewide power board was director James Graff.

President Bell appointed the board committees for the ensuing year. Annual Meeting Committee: Brauer, chairman; and Carls. Irrigation Committee: Worner, chairman; Lepper, Graff and Carls. Building Committee: Allspach, chairman; and Goetsch. Capital Credits Committee: Lepper, chairman; Cline, Graff and Allspach.

Labor Committee chairman, Ed Allspach, reviewed the actions of the Labor Committee with the board.

Special services coordinator Earl Pillsbury then reviewed with the board the proposed 401K supplemental savings plan, and the board adopted said plan.

The board reconsidered the request for capital credit refund of one of the cooperative's members, and after discussion the board upheld their decision of the May board meeting and denied the refunding to an individual estate at this time.

The board considered the request of a member for relief in his irrigation billing for 1987, due to the need to modify his system because of the loss of an existing well. The board granted this request and instructed management to contact Southern Engineering to comment on the impact of such a rate change.

The board adopted the revised Security Deposit Policy effective July 1, 1987.

Attorney Kim Smith reported on the legal Seminar I and II, which he attended last month. He commented that several things were presented at the seminar of

which the board needs to be cognizant.

The board reviewed the policy "Major Functions of the Board" and "Qualifications of Directorship."

President Bell reported on the recent AIEC board meeting. He informed the board that the budget for 1987-88 for the Association had been adopted. President Bell pointed out that the savings for Menard's members due to legislation passed a year ago, changing the utility tax from a 5 percent tax to a 3.2 mil tax was substantial. For all the cooperatives in Illinois the savings was over \$4 million. This can be attributed largely to the work of the Association.

It was necessary to select a board member to represent Menard electric Cooperative on the WIPCO board. Dale Lepper was elected to complete the term of Bob Zook on the WIPCO board. Alternate director Cline, reported on the activities of WIPCO. The Pearl plant has been taken off line for its annual maintenance. A district meeting of WIPCO member cooperatives will

be held on Wednesday, July 1 at Jacksonville.

The board authorized the manager to attend the annual Manager's Conference and for Dave Crosnoe to attend the NRTC's TVRO Workshop.

Agreements for electric service were approved as presented.

The accounts presented for write-off were approved as well as the inventory of work orders for April 1987.

Payment of bills for May 1987 as represented by a list of checks presented were also approved. The board approved the membership applications for May 1987 and the director's special occasion vouchers.

The board considered the request of a member for information. On advice of the cooperative's attorney, the request was denied as the cooperative is currently involved in litigation.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.



Employee Teena Ratliff helped distribute prizes.

Annual meeting marks 50th anniversary

Menard Electric Cooperative members celebrated more than half a century of service during the cooperative's 50th annual meeting June 13. More than 800 consumer-members and guests attended the meeting at PORTA High School in Petersburg.

Menard Electric officials reviewed some of the cooperative's highlights during those 50 years. Morris Bell, president of the cooperative, recalled some of

Menard Electric's early accomplishments. He noted that the cooperative's first pole was set February 26, 1937 near the old Tipton School, a mile west of Sherman. Later that year, on August 7, electricity flowed through the first miles of cooperative lines.

"Hundreds of people were thrilled with this bold new venture, while critics predicted the cooperative would come to a speedy end and that the idea was utterly ab-

surd," Bell said. "Our incorporators, however, clung to their vision, and our nation began to emerge from the worst depression in its history."

Bell noted that the cooperative's goal in 1937 was to provide electric service to the members "in the most reliable fashion at the lowest possible cost."

"Fifty years later, the goal is the same. The concept of cooperating is just as sound in 1987 as it was in 1937," Bell said.

Cooperative manager Dorland Smith informed the members about some of the measures that the cooperative has taken to lower the cost of energy and encourage the efficient use of electricity. He said Menard Electric's promotions of electric water heaters and load management devices, high pressure sodium

security lights, electric heat pumps and load controls on irrigation systems have provided the members with opportunities for savings, while increasing the use of electricity.

Smith said the cooperative has already installed 350 water heater controls, offering each member potential savings of up to \$12 per month. Last winter these water heater controls were interrupted for a total of 20 hours.

These programs are designed to trim Menard Electric's peak electric demand, while increasing the use of electricity during off-peak times. By lowering the cooperative's peak demand for electricity, all cooperative members can save, Smith explained.

The manager also emphasized that electric cooperative leaders have been working hard to control the rising costs of electricity.

"We realize that electricity costs more than it used to and I can't tell you that your energy costs are going to decrease," he said. "But I can say that your directors and employees are confident that wholesale power costs have stabilized and should remain relatively constant through the rest of the century."

"You can rest assured that we continue to strive to control our wholesale power costs and maintain a lean, but capable staff of dedicated employees to keep the energy flowing 24 hours per day all year long."

Smith and Bell recognized the contributions of Robert F. Zook of Athens, who retired from the Menard Electric board after 24 years of service.

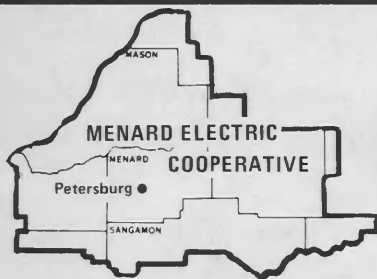
"Bob had devoted many, many hours and much energy with dedication seldom seen," Bell said. "His sound judgement and devotion to the cause of rural electrification have been significant contributions to you and me."

Zook will be replaced on the board by Warren D. Goetsch, Williamsville, who was elected unanimously along with incumbent directors Michael Carls, Virginia and James Graff, Middletown. The election to the board was the first for Carls, who was appointed to the board in February, filling out the unexpired term of Alvin Davis. Graff has served on the Menard Electric board since 1972.

Prior to the business meeting, members and guests were served a free pork chop dinner, prepared by the Mason County Pork Producers.



Counterclockwise from top: More than 200 persons had their blood pressure checked. The food line before the meeting. The Mason County Pork Producers prepared a pork chop dinner. Mike Dudley of rural Tallula, chairman of the nominating committee.



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

Robert P. Burris of Petersburg will complete five years of service with your Cooperative on August 23. Bob is originally from the Illiopolis area. He is currently serving as a journeyman lineman for your Cooperative.

* * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Root of rural Petersburg celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on August 12. John retired as manager of Menard Electric Cooperative in May of last year.

* * * * *

Approximately two miles of single-phase line along State Highway 29, north and south of the Andrew Road, is being upgraded during the month of August. Members living along Route 29 from Jefferies Orchard north may experience momentary outages due to the replacement of the existing single-phase line. We are

sorry for any inconvenience; however, the capacity of the line is being increased, which will benefit all Cooperative members in this area.

* * * * *

In the July issue of the Rural Electric News on Page 12c, Sue Freeland, a Cooperative employee, was shown handing out a prize won by a Cooperative member. Sue was incorrectly identified in the photo. We are sorry for this error.

* * * * *

Other pictures of the annual meeting occur on page 12c of this insert.

* * * * *

An underground rural electric distribution line has just been completed at the Townhouse Sites, Ltd. Sub-division, located within the confines of the Rail Golf Course. Several houses are currently under construction and it is anticipated when all lots are sold that approximately 40 homes will be located in the Townhouse Site, Ltd. area.

'Murphy's Law' influences farming operations

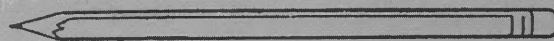


Murphy's Law is the backbone of agriculture. No farmer could practice without it.

Consider the evidence:

- The engine and the warranty always expire together.
- The bean market rises 20 cents on the day after you sell.
- Interchangeable ... won't.
- Unbreakable ... isn't.
- "Guaranteed" means "good luck."
- You end up with 11 rows left to plant with a 12-row planter.
- Nails only puncture the inside dual.
- Cockleburs only grow in the row.
- Implement dealers always lack just one part. Yours.
- The markets are good when you have nothing to sell.
- "Labor-saving" means at the factory.
- You have every size bolt ... except the one you need.
- The combine breaks down the last day of harvest.
- "Reworked" means "repainted."
- The cab air conditioner breaks down in July: the heater, in December.
- It always rains the day you load hogs.
- The wrong part comes in the right box.
- The right tool is never in the chest.

Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 27, 1987, at 6 p.m. Present were directors Morris L. Bell, Meredith L. Worner, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Warren D. Goetsch and James G. Graff. Absent were Dale R. Lepper and Edward L. Allspach. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, attorneys Charles K. Smith and Homer J. Tice and special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury. After the roll call and approval of the agenda, the minutes of June 22, 1987, meeting were approved as presented.

Manager Smith then reviewed with the board the operating statement for June 1987. His general comments included the fact that kilowatt-hour purchases for the month and year-to-date were exceeding the budget due to the unseasonably hot, dry weather. The outage summary indicated more outages for the same period as last year; however, the outage hours were approximately the same as June of 1986. Year-to-date they were running about 50 percent less than the outage hours for 1986. The safety report indicated no recordable lost time injuries or illnesses for the month of June.

At this point in the meeting a member who had requested to address the board attended the meeting. His request for release from the Cooperative service was presented by his attorney. After his presentation and answers to questions from the board they left the board meeting. The board, after deliberation and discussion, denied the request of the member for release.

Attorney Tice then presented to the board the current status of the law suit by the FRIER group vs. Illinois Power Company.

Manager Smith and attorney Kim Smith then presented to the board the request of the Tim Huey Corporation to be involved with the Cooperative as a small power producer or a co-generator. Attorney Smith indicated he had a letter-of-intent from the Tim Huey Corporation. The letter-of-intent was unsigned and he recommended the board take no action at this time and that formal action be delayed to a later meeting and he would return the letter to the Tim Huey Corporation.

Manager Smith discussed with the board the notice

from the Environmental Protection Agency of a possible involvement with PCB contamination from a transformer repair and manufacturing company in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

The labor committee presented the union contract for consideration by the board. The contract was approved.

The board went into executive session and attorney Tice, manager Smith, and special services coordinator Pillsbury left the meeting.

After the board reconvened in open session, president Bell reported on the activities of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

The board approved payment of the AIEC dues for fiscal year 1988. The rest of the report centered around the upcoming AIEC annual meeting.

Manager Smith reported on the activities of Western Illinois Power Cooperative for the month of June. WIPCO has been able to obtain the refinancing of its FFB debt in conjunction with the Rural Electrification Administration to further strengthen the debt restructuring.

In addition to his formal report, special services coordinator Pillsbury reported on a recent meeting with the Economic Development Committee in Manito. The Cooperative's economic development rate had been presented and the Cooperative's willingness to assist the Manito committee in their endeavors expressed.

The board approved the inventory of work orders for May 1987 and approved the payment of bills by the list of printed checks submitted to the board. The board approved membership applications for the month of June and the director's special occasion vouchers were also approved.

Under "other business," manager Smith discussed with the board the meeting for August, which has been set for Monday, August 31, with the meeting beginning at 6 p.m. Special services coordinator Pillsbury requested the board make an amendment to the retirement agreement with NRECA and amendment was passed by the board.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

By-law amendment

An amendment to Article IV, Section 4, of Menard Electric Cooperative's by-laws entitled "Nominations," was made during the 50th annual membership meeting held on June 13, 1987. The changes provide a more workable process of electing directors. An insert reflecting the changes in by-laws was mailed with the July electric bill. We hope you have placed the glue-coated insert on page 9 of your copy of the by-laws. If additional or replacement copies of the insert are needed, please contact us.

The office of Menard Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, September 7, for Labor Day.





Annual meeting photos

Counterclockwise from left: The blood pressure checking station quite busy; more than 200 persons took advantage of this service. An employee hands out one of the attendance prizes. Teena Ratliff (right) was Terry Entwistle's helper for the prize drawing; in the background is Rhonda Satorius.



Water heater control program

Our hats are off to those members who have chosen to have load-control devices installed on their electric water heaters. It's through the aid of concerned members, like yourselves, that your cooperative will be able to lower its wholesale power cost, and pass these savings on to its members.

To date, over 350 members have elected to have these controls installed. That calculates to a possible savings of around \$90,000 on our wholesale power bill!

If you would be interested in having a load-control device installed on your electric water heater, please complete the form below and return it to your cooperative office, or contact the office for more information.

There is no charge for the installation, and you may have the control removed if not satisfied.

Remember, it's through people helping people that results are achieved. With innovative ideas like load management, and the assistance of its member-owners, your cooperative hopes to combat the high cost of electricity.

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Account no. _____

Phone no. _____

Think Snow!

Well, maybe not yet. . .

But at least start preparing for those icy winds.

Weatherize your home now and save energy dollar\$.



Dear dog owner:

Reading your electric meter is our job. We like our work and try to do it well. We're an important link in the operation of your cooperative, so we're out on the job no matter what kind of weather.

Security Lighting

Your Cooperative has the high-pressure sodium security light available, in addition to the mercury vapor security light that has been popular for many years.

Recent studies by your Cooperative indicate that the H.P.S. light creates less KW demand and uses fewer kilowatt-hours in comparison to the mercury vapor light.

H.P.S. lights are available for \$5.25 per month and the mercury vapor lights are \$7 per month.

If you would like a security light installed, or if you wish to replace an existing mercury light with a H.P.S. light, please complete information requested below.

____ I would like to have a security light installed.

____ I would like to change the mercury vapor security light to a H.P.S. security light.

Signature of Member

Address

Member's Account No.

Phone No.

We really could use your help though. If your dog is kept outside and doesn't like strangers, we may not be able to read the meter. Many members make arrangements with us to enable us to safely read the meter where they have a guard dog. It would be much easier to make such arrangements than for you to have to go to the expense of having

your meter relocated to a location safe from your dog.

If you have a guard dog that is unfriendly toward strangers, please let the cooperative know what kind of arrangements we can work out. We work for you, and it's in your best interest for us to get our job done safely. Thank you.

— your meter reader

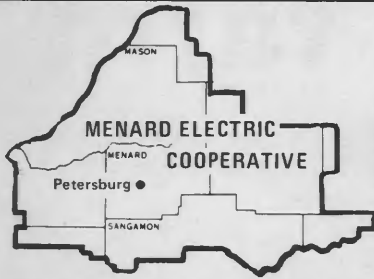


Security lights for sale

Due to the tremendous response of the new High Pressure Sodium light, we now have a surplus of Mercury Vapor security lights.

Your Cooperative has two styles in stock and are offering them to our members in limited quantity for a very reasonable price of \$5.00 or \$10.00 depending on the type chosen.

Lights may be purchased at the Cooperative office, located on the square in Petersburg, Monday thru Friday between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

Mark Bradley of rural Petersburg completed 15 years service with your Cooperative on September 11, 1987. Mark is a crew leader for your Cooperative.

James Haddick of Petersburg will complete five years of service on September 20, 1987. Haddick is a ground-man truck driver for your Cooperative.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Lepper of rural Ashland will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on September 21, 1987. Dale is a director for your Cooperative in District 2.

Horse sense is that added sense a horse has that keeps him from betting on people.

The add-on heat pump concept is one that should be considered by those members who are thinking about changing their present central heating/cooling system. If you are planning on adding central air conditioning to your home, you should also consider installing an add-on heat pump to your present fossil fuel (gas or oil) heating system.

The highly efficient heat pump heats the house by extracting heat from the outside air until it is unable to provide sufficient heat for the house. At a calculated temperature, usually around 30 degrees Fahrenheit, the heat pump is automatically turned off and the existing fossil fuel furnace automatically furnishes the heating requirements for the home.

The major advantages of the add-on heat pumps are that the existing system can be utilized, the efficiency of the heat pump can be taken advantage of with milder weather, and the fossil fuel system can be utilized during colder weather.

The heat pump is very efficient at temperatures above freezing due to the extraction of heat from the outside air. Contrary to belief, there is heat in the outside air even in cold temperatures. In most instances, the heat pump is able to provide two to three units of heat energy for each unit of energy used by the heat pump.

A significant feature of the add-on heat pump is the

air conditioning factor. With the add-on heat pump, you have an air conditioning system, as well as a heating system.

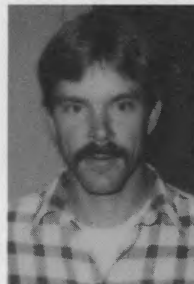
Your Cooperative is paying \$250 per cooling ton to members who install a heat pump in their home during 1987. This usually makes the heat pump a less expensive buy than a standard central air conditioning unit.

Co-op personnel



Whitehurst

John H. Whitehurst of Petersburg was promoted to the engineering department of the Cooperative on September 1, 1987. John has been the storekeeper for the Cooperative for several years and is now being trained as a staking engineer. We congratulate John and he is looking forward to meeting many of the Cooperative members as he devotes full time to the engineering department.



Cloninger

William Todd Cloninger of rural Chandlerville began employment with your Cooperative on August 3, 1987. Todd attended Southern Illinois University and most recently had worked for Hodgerson, Inc. Todd enjoys boating, hunting, fishing and golf. He is currently working in the warehouse for your Cooperative. He hopes to begin an apprentice lineman program in the near future. We welcome him to the Cooperative family.

Facts about the add-on heat pump

1. Utilizes existing forced air system.
2. Increases efficiency of heating system.
3. Provides air conditioning for summer.
4. Does not add to system peak.
5. May qualify for reduced kwhr cost.

Safety on the farm

No other place exists where a person should be more safety conscious than on a farm. As soon as you step on a farm, safety must be on your mind especially in situations that involve electrical wires and equipment.

Take a moment to go through this checklist to see if your farm is safe. Answering "No" to any of these questions means you should take action now to avoid an electrical accident.

1. The Service Pole and Service Entrance

- * Do farm family members and farm hands know where and how to disconnect power in the case of an electrical emergency?

- * Is the grounding wire intact at the service entrance? Are the grounding wires on utility poles intact?

- * Are disconnects, especially main breakers, regularly turned off and turned back on to ensure free action and good contact?

- * Are wires at the top of the pole properly insulated with no bar wire exposed?

- * In case of fire, can the electricity be shut off to that particular building on fire without shutting off electricity to the water pump?

- * Are all disconnects and breakers labeled to show what they control?

2. Animal Housing (Barns, Farrowing House, etc.)

- * Do animals enter a building or drink at the stock tanks without hesitation?

- * Is the water piping and service entrances of buildings properly grounded?

- * Are you using an industry-made electric fencer?

- * Are heat lamps hanging by the cord only? In case of drop, are there guards on the fixture?

- * Are the buildings adequately lighted?

- * Are the lights enclosed in globes and guards?

- * Is the wiring suitable for wet conditions (humidity from animals' respiration)?

- * Does all wiring appear to be in good condition and free of rodent damage?

- * Are switches located so that animals cannot reach them?

- * Is hay that is stacked outdoors away from overhead electrical lines?

3. Machine Shed

- * Is it adequately lighted?

- * Is the grounding bayonet on drop cords, power tools, etc., intact?

- * Is the service entrance properly grounded?

- * Are all receptacles in use properly grounded?

- * Are drop cords in good condition with no sign of insulation damage?

- * Are drop cords of adequate size for the appliance or machine it is serving?

- * Are drop cords put away after use so machinery can't run over them?

- * Are power tools such as circular saws, table saws, drills, jig saws, etc., left unplugged when not in use so that a child couldn't accidentally turn them on?

4. Grain Handling Equipment

- * Are overhead lines out of the way of augers and winged-type farm equipment?

- * Is electrical equipment tested prior to harvest season?

- * Are drying fans and other motors protected from the elements when not in use? Are they totally enclosed motors?

- * Do all motors have correctly sized overcurrent protection?

- * If magnetic starters are used, are heater coils of the proper size?

5. General

- * Is the farm adequately lighted?

- * Do children know whom to call in case of an electrical emergency?

- * Do family members know first aid for electrical shock and/or burns?

- * Are GFI's installed where required?

- * Are safety precautions listed in owner manuals of electrical appliances read by user?

- * Do appliances function satisfactorily without giving a tingle to user when turned on?

- * If lightning protection is installed, are all wires leading to ground?

- * Are all electrical fittings on the gas pump of explosion-proof type?

- * Before trees are planted, has proper siting been provided to avoid nearby overhead and underground power lines?

- * Are trees free and clear of overhead electrical lines?

- * Before new buildings are constructed, have the buildings been cleared of nearby overhead and underground power lines?

- * Can tractors equipped with end loaders be raised to the most upper position and clear all overhead electrical lines?

**Support Your Rural
Electric Cooperative**

It is not them and us!

It is you and me!

It is a Cooperative!

Cooperative launches water heater program

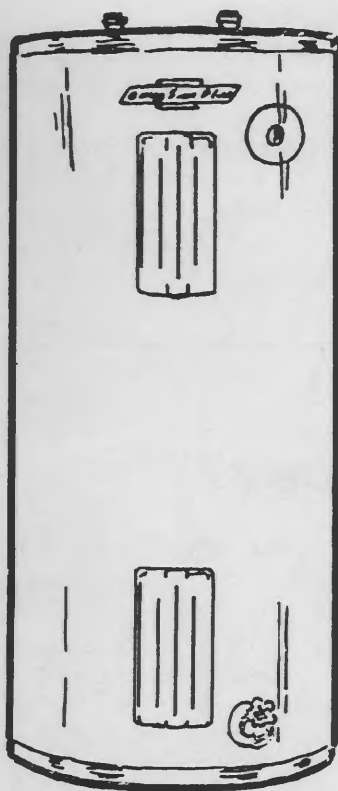
Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors has adopted a new water heater promotion program.

Here is how the program works: Any Cooperative member who either replaces an existing water heater that has become faulty or converts a fossil fuel water heater to an electric model will receive a one-time payment from the Cooperative of \$150. The minimum size water heater necessary to be installed to qualify for this program must be a 40-gallon size or larger and must meet the ASHRAE 90 standards.

Members who install an electric water heater in 1987 will receive the payment listed above upon providing the Cooperative with the proper sales information

and/or receipt from their dealer which would indicate the size, type, brand and certification that the water heater meets the ASHRAE 90 standards. Cooperative personnel will determine that the heater is installed in a residence on Cooperative lines, and the members will be entitled to the one-time payment. The coupon provided below should be completed and returned to the Cooperative at the time of the purchase.

In case the member requesting the payment is a tenant, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to participate with the Cooperative on the purchase agreement.



TO: Menard Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 279 (Water Heater Program)
Petersburg, IL 62675

I have installed a new Electric Water Heater in a residence served by Menard Electric Cooperative, which meets ASHRAE 90 standards.

The water heater has a capacity of _____ gallons. (Minimum of 40 gallons)

The new water heater replaces: _____ Electric with Electric

_____ New Installation

_____ Gas with Electric

Please send a representative to my home to verify the installation. The best time to find someone at home is _____

I am the homeowner and am entitled to the one-time payment for installing an electric water heater.

Name _____

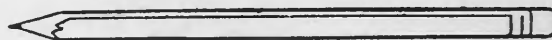
Address _____

Account No. _____ Phone No. Account _____

Signature of homeowner _____

(Please submit a copy of the sales receipt, showing dealer, size, type, brand and certification that heater meets standards)

Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 31, 1987, at 6 p.m. Present were directors Morris L. Bell, Meredith L. Worner, Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Dale R. Lepper, Warren D. Goetsch, and James G. Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, attorneys Charles K. Smith and Homer J. Tice, and special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury. After the roll call

and approval of the agenda, the minutes of July 27, 1987, meeting were approved as presented.

Manager Smith, in his report to the board, reviewed the operating statement for July 1987. He said that expenses for the month and year-to-date were in line with the budget. However, operating margins for the Cooperative were still in the red as operating revenue was falling behind budgeted revenues. The manager reviewed the outage summary with the board. Year-to-

date outages were about one-half of what they were a year ago. The safety report to the board show no lost time injuries or illnesses for the month of July.

Office manager Wayne Jones presented a new procedure in handling delinquent accounts. The board considered and adopted the changes as presented.

System engineer David Crosnoe presented a report on his attendance at the NRTC-TVRO Conference. The board decided the Cooperative would not take action in further involvement with the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative.

Attorney Tice then reported to the board the current status of the litigation by the FRIER group vs Illinois Power Company. After discussion, the board passed a resolution requesting WIPCO to call a special meeting for the purpose of indemnifying the WIPCO directors.

Manager Smith reported to the board the involvement of Menard Electric Cooperative with the Environmental Protection Agency complaint of contamination at the Missouri Electric Works site. The board approved retaining Warren D. Krebs of Indianapolis, Indiana, to assist our attorneys in filing the necessary information with EPA.

The Labor Committee reported to the board on wage adjustments, which was approved.

Manager Smith advised the board that the City of Virginia has requested three-phase service and has petitioned the Illinois Commerce Commission for a hearing. The board recommended that manager Smith and the attorneys discuss this with the City of Virginia and

see if a solution can be found without extensive hearings before the Commerce Commission.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury reported to the board on the status of the cooperative's director liability insurance and was authorized to apply for a quote from additional insurance companies.

Pillsbury recommended a water heater promotion whereby the Cooperative would provide an incentive of \$150 rebate to any member purchasing a new electric water heater in 1987. The board approved this promotion.

Board president Bell reported on the AIEC activities and its annual meeting, which was held in August.

Director Dale Lepper, along with manager Smith, reported on the activities of Western Illinois Power Cooperative for the month of July.

The uncollectible accounts were approved for write-off as presented.

The inventory of work orders for the month of June was approved by the board and payment of bills by the list of printed checks submitted to the board was also approved.

The board approved membership applications for the month of July, and the special occasion vouchers for the directors were approved.

The board discussed the starting time for the meeting on September 28 and it was decided the meeting would begin at 6 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

NRTC update

Negotiations between the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative and TV programmers has progressed but not to the extent that most people expected. The movie channel programmers are not too interested in joining the NRTC in providing a group rate for channel viewing. The movie channels apparently would like TV communications established in the rural areas and then want to contact each member individually to provide channel viewing at their own individual rates.

At this time, it appears that any rural programming package would really not be of substantial value. We are hopeful, however, something can be worked out during the next year. We will attempt to keep you advised in this regard.

Please help us help you

Having your telephone number handy during times of electrical outages, and at other times when we need to communicate with you, can benefit both you and your cooperative's employees.

Although we have telephone books, we are never sure we'll pick the correct name. And sometimes the number shown is not the one for the location where you receive service from the cooperative.

Rural insurance???

Menard Electric Cooperative has learned from several members that they have received information about medical insurance through the mail from a firm identifying itself as "a national association of rural cooperative members."

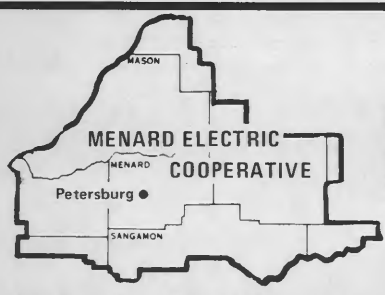
The information seems to imply that this insurance is available through, or sponsored by Menard Electric.

We want to know that we have not made any such insurance available to members through the cooperative or through any other organization.

What we'd like to have is the telephone number at the location where you receive service from the cooperative. If you have several service locations, we want the one where you live.

Please take a minute to write the appropriate phone number on the next statement stub you return, and we'll add it to our records so it will be available for ready use in our operations department.

Thanks for your help; we appreciate it.



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

Electric energy used from the September meter reading to the October meter reading will be billed on October 30 under the spring and fall rate. The spring and fall rate will be in effect on the October and November billings, as well as the March, April, May and June billings.

Now is a good time to replace the filters in your forced-air furnace. It is also a good time to plan your weatherization needs for the coming winter or you will miss some of the benefits which you could reap.

As a rolling stone gathers no moss, neither does a caring person reap loneliness. One is lonely when concerned only for oneself.

Most people realize that planting trees directly under overhead power lines is asking for trouble as the trees mature. Likewise, the consequences of planting or building over underground electric cable can be very troublesome.

If you have underground electric wires, make sure to locate the wires path through the yard to the transformer serving your site before doing anything to the land.

Do not plant shrubs or trees over the cable or build a deck, swimming pool or any other type of structure because the cable may have to be disturbed so that repairs can be made in the future.

Rhonda Satorius of Springfield completed 15 years of service with your Cooperative as secretary on October 1.

Avoid this hazard

Please be mindful of the location of overhead (and underground) power lines when locating a satellite dish near your home. Avoid installing a dish near any power lines. If any energized line makes contact with a dish antenna, electricity could have a direct line of travel inside your house and TV set.

When deciding on that "perfect" location for television reception, please stay clear of your overhead and underground power lines.

Let's blame the meter!

The electric meter is often accused of inaccuracy, but it is very seldom the culprit of a high bill. The meter is a finely calibrated, highly accurate device used to measure only the electricity that is used. Reliable data shows that more than 99 percent of the time the electric meter is accurate.

Assumptions are often made that an older or dirty meter will tend to run fast. However, in the very rare case that a meter might be dirty, it is much more likely that it will run slow rather than fast.

Remember: the electric meter only records the electricity you use. High bills are almost always traced to another cause.

Fire prevention

While Fire Prevention Week was held October 4-10, we believe every week should be Fire Prevention Week.

Did you know that people living in rural places run the highest risk of dying in a fire? Rural areas are prime targets for residential fires because many homes do not have smoke detectors or have potentially hazardous heating sources, such as wood stoves and gas space heaters. The death rate from fires is higher in rural America than anywhere else in the world.

Fires kill more Americans than all other natural emergencies. While the national trend in fire deaths have been downward, small towns and rural areas have seen large increases.

We ask you to become familiar with the fire dangers where you live and work. Buy and install smoke detectors and learn and practice fire safety tips and escape plans. In some areas it is the law to have smoke detectors in your home.

Mobile homes widely used in rural areas are a special fire problem. According to the United States Fire Administration, fire deaths are 2 times greater and property loss is 3 times greater from fires in mobile homes. Please remember to practice fire safety every week of the year.

Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular meeting on Monday, September 28, 1987, at 6 p.m. Present were directors: Morris L. Bell, Meredith Worner, Edward Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Warren D. Goetsch and James G. Graff. Also present were: manager Dorland W. Smith, attorneys Charles K. Smith and Homer J. Tice and special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury. After the roll call and approval of the agenda, the Minutes of August 1987, were approved as presented.

The manager reviewed the financial report for the month of August. He pointed out that revenue was above budget figures and the total operating costs less cost of power was below budget figures for the year to date. He indicated that the increased revenue was due, in part, to 18 consecutive days of 90-plus degree temperature in late July and early August. The manager reviewed the outage summary for the month of August. He said that there were no reportable accidents on his safety report. Smith also reviewed the results of load management and its effect on the cost of power for the Cooperative, in addition to the advantage of the interruptible loads on the Cooperative system. He also reviewed the key ratio trend analysis that had been provided by CFC.

Attorney Tice gave a report on litigation dealing with FRIER and the Kruger cases.

A report on the EPA claim dealing with the Missouri

Electric Works PCB condition was given by manager Smith, as well as a report on ESA case 246 with the City of Virginia.

Staff assistant Jerry Hedberg reported on a conference which he had recently attended entitled, "New Member-New Age."

The building committee gave a report to the board. The proposed policy on phone service for area servicemen, received its first reading, by the board.

Director Goetsch reported on Region V NRECA and District 5 CFC meetings he had recently attended.

Manager Smith reported on recent WIPCO activities in the absence of director Lepper.

The board authorized the Cooperative manager to cause a rate study to be made by Southern Engineering Company.

The uncollectible accounts were approved for write-off as presented.

The board approved agreements for electric service as presented, along with the inventory of work orders for the month of July.

The board approved payment of bills per the list of printed checks presented, membership applications, and directors special occasion vouchers.

Manager Smith announced that a WIPCO district meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 7, at Jacksonville.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

"Ten commandments" of business

1. Handle the hardest job first each day. Easy ones are pleasures.
2. Do not be afraid of criticism — criticize yourself often.
3. Be glad and rejoice in the other fellow's success — study his methods.
4. Do not be misled by dislikes. Acid ruins the finest fabrics.
5. Be enthusiastic — it is contagious.
6. Do not have the notion that success means simply money-making.
7. Be fair, and do at least one decent act every day.
8. Honor the chief. There must be a head to everything.
9. Have confidence in yourself, Believe you can do it.
10. Harmonize your work. Let sunshine radiate and penetrate your relationships.

Blinking digitals

Ever get a bit angry when the power to your digital alarm clock starts blinking 12:00 or your VCR timer turns off and fails to record something?

Reliable electric service, for all the planning and

careful maintenance that goes into today's systems, does involve automative switching that can sometimes cause a momentary break in power supply. That's when your microwave oven timer may go bananas, along with your clock and VCR — or even your computer. These momentary interruptions in the electric supply have always been with us, but we just didn't notice them until we got all these new sensitive electronic timers. There are now backup options available for these devices that can be purchased at local hardware or electronic stores — and let you forget about those blinking 12:00's — **From a radio commercial by Paul Harvey.**

Support Your Rural Electric Cooperative

**It is not them and us!
It is you and me!
It is a Cooperative!**

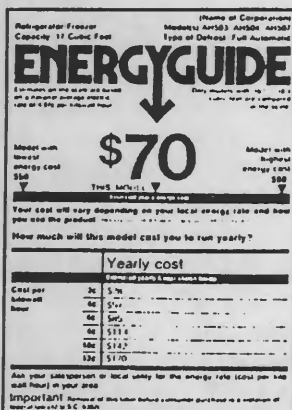
Where your electricity comes from

	Coal	Petroleum	Natural Gas	Nuclear	Hydro	Other
1987 Jan.-Feb.	56.8%	5.3%	7.9%	18.3%	11.2%	.5%
1986 Jan.-Feb.	58.9%	5.0%	7.9%	16.8%	10.9%	.5%
1977	46.4%	16.8%	14.4%	11.8%	10.4%	.2%

This chart shows the latest Department of Energy figures for energy sources used to generate electricity during the first two months of 1987, for the same period of the previous year, and for the

entire year ten years ago. "Other" includes geothermal, wood and waste. Total electric sales in the first half of 1987 increased 1.6 percent from 1986. — *Rural Electric News Service*

Use the Energy Guide tag



When shopping for a major appliance, such as a refrigerator-freezer, you concern yourself with looking for the best buy. But beware; some models with lower prices might cost you more to own in the long run. They might be energy guzzlers.

You want to find the most energy-efficient model. To help you, federal

law requires that all major appliances display the black-and-yellow Energy Guide tag. You can use it to estimate the overall operating cost of each model.

How do you read the tag to make the energy-efficient choice? The bar scale rates operating energy costs for appliances in the same class or capacity size. The closer to the left the cost-indicator pointer appears, the more efficient the appliance.

The energy cost itself is based on a national average. Your own yearly cost is based on the rates you pay now.

Pick the best long-range investment. Compare models of roughly equal size or capacity. Then look at the energy cost of each. Take two 14-cubic-foot, frost-free, refrigerator-freezers for example:

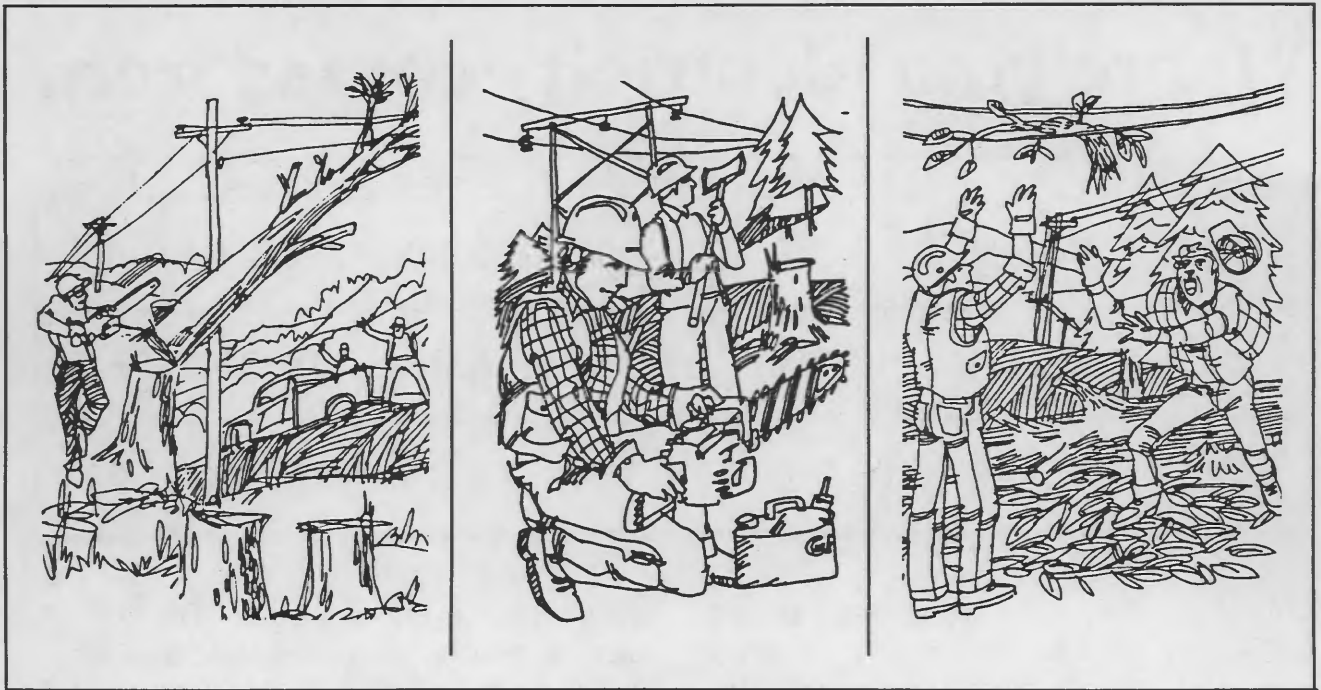
	Model A	Model B
Purchasing Price	\$520	\$478
Energy Cost	\$192	\$220

Model A may cost more today, but it will cost less to run tomorrow. The lower the energy cost, the cheaper the refrigerator will be to use. In a few years, its efficiency will make up for the difference in price. To calculate the time it will take to save you the difference in price, use this formula:

1. Subtract the lower from the higher purchasing price. $\$520 - \$478 = \$42$
2. Subtract the lower from the higher energy cost. $\$220 \text{ per year} - \$192 \text{ per year} = \$28 \text{ per year}$
3. Divide the purchase price difference (step 1) by the energy cost difference (step 2). $\$42 \div \$28 = 1.5 \text{ years}$

In 1.5 years Model A will justify its higher price by saving you energy and money. Over the refrigerator-freezer's 20-year life expectancy ($\$28 \times 20 = \560) you will save \$560 by buying Model A instead of Model B. As energy costs increase, the savings will be even greater.

**Office closing
November 11,
Veterans Day**



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 that 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.

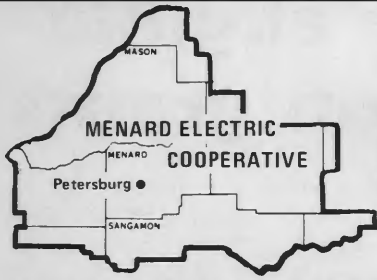
Overhead power lines are so prevalent in both urban and rural areas today that, unfortunately, it is all too common for people to start cutting before taking a moment to visually inspect their site for power lines and other hazards.

Always call MEC 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.



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

On August 2, 1987, the Soyland/WIPCO power pool registered a 506 megawatt peak demand. (The peak demand does not include any reserve margins.)

The system load is calculated by measuring the 60-minute average demand at the 260 metering points throughout the Soyland/WIPCO member Cooperative service area. The system peak occurred between 5-6 p.m. on Sunday, August 2.

The Clinton Power Station has completed its 100-hour warranty run and has met its design characteristics by production 985 megawatts of electric power and provided 950 megawatts into the electric power grid.

The plant is currently shut down for a scheduled 35-day maintenance operation and will be in full production again during late November.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Lynn of Tallula will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary on November 25. Mrs. Lynn (Orene) is the assistant data processing operator for your Cooperative.

Your Cooperative is continuing to install electric water heater control switches free of charge and the member realizes a three cent per kilowatt-hour reduction in kilowatt-hours used monthly from kilowatt-hour 600 through 1,000 with a maximum reduction on the energy bill of \$12 per month.

If you have an electric hot water heater, why not request the Cooperative to install a load management device on the water heater that would be implemented only during the months of July, August, December, January and February while the credit would continue month after month.

Your Cooperative is continuing its \$150 rebate through the end of this year to members who install an electric hot water heater of 40 gallon or larger capacity in a residence served by the Cooperative. In many cases, this rebate pays for a majority of the cost of an electric hot water heater.

Contrary to rumors that may be circulating, the Cooperative does not anticipate a large rate increase in the foreseeable future. While we are uncertain as to how rumors of this type originate, they are detrimental to each Cooperative member. **Please**, if you have a question with reference to the Cooperative rates, now or anticipated rates in the future, please contact the Cooperative. Rumors certainly do not benefit anyone.

Menard Electric Cooperative is continuing a rebate program for members who install electric heat in their residence. By installing a ground loop heat pump, the rebate is \$333 per cooling ton, for installing an air to air heat pump, the rebate is \$250 per cooling ton.

If you contemplate replacing a central air conditioning unit, please consider the adding of a heat pump to your existing furnace. You will be glad you did.

If you will be leaving your home for an extended period of time this winter, please contact your Cooperative office and advise us of the address to send your monthly energy bill.

Put a little security in your night — rent a security light from your Cooperative.

We currently have several copies of the updated Wiring Specification Books that are available to Cooperative members. The Wiring Specification Book is prepared to establish a standard set of wiring specifications for all members of rural electric cooperatives. It is updated periodically in an effort to keep current with all minimum specifications required to ensure safe electrical installations.

Menard Electric Cooperative, its agents, employees, or members, nor those participating in its activities accept any liability resulting from compliance or non-compliance with the provisions contained in the specifications book. Circulation of this booklet by the Cooperative or its contents are not to be interpreted as an assumption of responsibility or duty to inspect or for the adequacy of electrical work done by a member, his agents, employees, or independent contractors.

Cooperative members eligible for energy conservation grants

The Illinois Legislature passed Public Law 84-1452, Article II, the Rural Energy Conservation Act. This act authorized the Department of Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) to provide financial assistance to low- and moderate-income individuals served by rural electric cooperatives for weatherization and energy conservation purposes.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

A. We are working with Menard Electric Cooperative members whose household income is less than 120 percent of the median income as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development.

B. Grant subsidies will be for measures with a simple energy cost savings payback of less than 10 years, as determined by an energy use analysis of the structure. Energy conservation measures will include the following:

- Caulking and weather stripping
- Furnace efficiency modifications
- Replacement of central air conditioners with units having a SEER greater than 8.6

- Replacement of electric domestic water heaters with units that meet the ASHRAE 90 energy efficiency standards
- Heat pumps with COPs of 2.5 or greater
- Ceiling, wall or floor insulation
- Water heater insulation
- Storm or thermal windows and doors

C. Menard Electric Cooperative will visit each applicant's home and (1) determine which measures qualify, (2) estimate the energy savings, (3) present member a written description of improvements so that member can get contractor estimates, (4) submit application to ENR, and (5) do a follow-up inspection when work is completed.

D. Grants will be on two levels: If the applicant's family income is less than 80 percent of the median income, they may qualify for a 100 percent grant subsidy up to \$1,500. If their income is between 80 and 120 percent they may be eligible for a 50 percent grant subsidy up to \$1,000.

Income guidelines for Menard Electric Cooperative members:

100% Grant Up to \$1,500		50% Grant Up to \$1,000	
Family Size	Family Income	Family Size	Family Income
1	less than \$16,956	1	\$16,956 - 25,433
2	less than \$19,372	2	\$19,372 - 29,058
3	less than \$21,794	3	\$21,794 - 32,692
4	less than \$24,222	4	\$24,222 - 36,333
5	less than \$25,739	5	\$25,739 - 38,608
6	less than \$27,250	6	\$27,250 - 40,875

The above is only a shortened outline of the complete program — as of this writing ENR has not sent us a final contract, applications, and other details. We anticipate that the grant subsidies will be available sometime in November.

In the meantime we are taking requests and making preliminary field visits. If you think you have a need and could qualify, contact the Menard Electric Cooperative office.



Happy Thanksgiving

In America, the gathering of the crop has been climaxed traditionally by prayers and a feast of Thanksgiving.

As this season's harvest draws to a close, let us pause and give thanks for the many fine blessings and everyday joys of our lives. The directors and employees of Menard Electric Cooperative wish you and yours a happy and pleasant Thanksgiving.

The Cooperative office will be closed on Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, for the Thanksgiving holidays.

New smoke detector law in effect

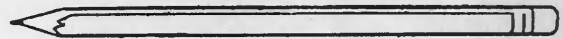
Public Act 85-0143 "Smoke Detector Act" became law this summer. Under the act, all existing homes and apartment buildings have until July 1, 1988, to comply with the new law. New or substantially remodeled dwelling units are required to have detectors in place on the first day they are occupied effective January 1, 1988.

Battery-operated or AC-powered smoke detector units are acceptable for existing structures. However, new or substantially remodeled units are required to have only detectors that are AC-powered.

In view of this new law, your board of directors has demonstrated its concern for the welfare of Menard Electric Cooperative members by offering a battery-powered smoke detector at the total price of \$5. Your Cooperative currently has on hand a reliable smoke detector device at this special price. This is a significant bargain when compared to similar models being offered at retail prices from \$10 to \$20.

Remember: All residences must have smoke detectors installed not later than July 1, 1988.

Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular meeting on Monday, October 26, 1987, at 6 p.m. Present were directors Bell, Allspach, Carls, Cline, Brauer, Goetsch, Lepper and Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, attorneys Charles K. Smith and Homer J. Tice, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury. After the roll call and approval of agenda, the minutes of the September 1987 meeting were approved as presented.

The manager reviewed the financial report for the month of September and pointed out that the total operating costs were \$158,000 greater than budget for the year-to-date. He also pointed out that operating revenue of the Cooperative was \$435,800 above budget for the first nine months of the year. Smith also indicated that the total kilowatt-hours purchased year-to-date was 7 percent greater than for a corresponding period of 1986.

Manager Smith reported no reportable accidents on the safety report. He also reviewed the outage report for the month of September, which reflected a significant reduction in outages for the month as well as for the year-to-date.

Smith reported on the EPA claim dealing with the Missouri Electric Works PCB. He indicated that a significant number of additional electric suppliers throughout the states had been identified as potentially responsible parties.

The manager reported that a meeting had been held with the Mayor of Virginia with reference to ESA Case 246.

The board was provided with an updated policy manual, which contained the revision of all policies of the Cooperative through the month of September. The report of the manager was approved.

Attorney Tice reported on the status of the FRIER litigation and indicated that the hearings scheduled for October had been postponed until later in the year. He also reported on the Kruger litigation and indicated to the board that the case had been dismissed by the Circuit Court of Menard County.

Attorney Smith reviewed with the board the recent

opinion of the Appellate Court in the case of CILCO vs. the City of Springfield. He also discussed with the board recent legislative developments dealing with the passage of legislation relieving directors of individual liability for actions taken in good faith by non-profit corporations.

The board passed a resolution dealing with co-generation of electricity by small power generators under the PURPA Act.

The policy dealing with phone and phone expense was presented for a second reading and was approved.

The requirement that new adoption agreements be adopted for the retirement program for Cooperative employees was presented by Pillsbury. After a discussion the adoption agreements were approved. He also presented information dealing with the Rural Home Energy Program for electric cooperative members which will be administered by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources of the State of Illinois. The necessary agreements between the state and the Cooperative were presented and adopted by the board.

The board authorized the sale of smoke detectors to Cooperative members at a price of \$5 each. In addition, a membership in the National Food and Energy Council was approved. The board also adopted the participation of the Cooperative in the Gatekeeper Program, sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging. This will provide community support for the elderly within the Cooperative service area as Cooperative employees and members of the Cooperative are encouraged to watch neighborhoods for persons who need any type of assistance.

After discussion a committee consisting of Brauer, Graff and Allspach was appointed to review the Cooperative by-laws and make recommendations for amendments, if any, to the board at a later meeting.

President Bell reported on recent AIEC activities and pointed out the recent legislative successes which had been sponsored in part by rural electric cooperatives in Illinois as well as the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Lepper reported on the recent WIPCO meeting. He indicated that representatives of Menard

Electric Cooperative on the WIPCO board had little success in expediting the permanent appointment of a manager for WIPCO. He indicated that the generating plant at Pearl had been running at nearly 100 percent capacity and that maintenance work was being done at the diesel plants located at Pittsfield and Winchester.

The report of the special services coordinator was presented and approved.

The board approved three agreements for electric

service; approved the inventory of work orders for the month of August in the amount of \$43,800; and approved the bills as presented. The special occasion vouchers were approved as well as membership applications presented.

The board discussed the revival of the member services committee and determined the date of the next board meeting to be November 23 at 1 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

New employee



Walter R. (Casey) Duncheon, Jr., of Oakford began employment with your Cooperative on October 1, 1987.

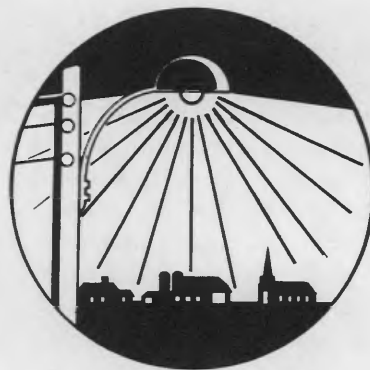
A native of Oakford, Casey is a graduate of PORTA High School where he was an outstanding basketball and baseball player during the late 1960s and early 1970s. He graduated from Quincy College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree after an outstanding

Duncheon career on the basketball court.

Casey and his wife, Patricia, have two children, Ryan and Shelley.

Casey will be working in the warehouse at the Cooperative and we welcome him to the Cooperative family.

Rent a Menard Security light



Now that Daylight Savings Time is in its "winter mode," it gets dark very early. A security light can add to one's peace of mind and safety, as well as serving as a protective tool. Today's high-pressure sodium lights are brighter and more efficient than ever, and since they turn on at dusk and off at dawn, they represent an efficient use of electricity.

The cost to rent a high-pressure sodium security light from your Cooperative is approximately 17 cents per day. It saves you the burden of purchasing, installing and maintaining a security light of your own. At any rate, "There's no place like a home with a security light."

Take this fire safety quiz

Every week should be Fire Prevention Week. So as a public service we'd like to ask you a question about fire safety. Knowing the right answer could save your life.

If your clothes catch fire, you should:

- A. Run for help
- B. Take off the clothes
- C. Look for a blanket to wrap around yourself
- D. Stop, drop and roll

The correct answer is D. Stop, don't run. Drop to the ground and roll to put out the fire. It could save your life.

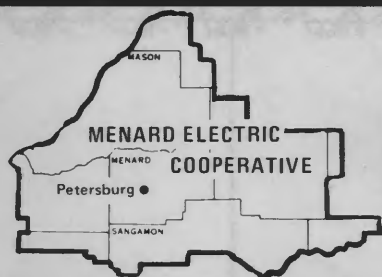
Working outdoors?



Look up!!

Avoid serious or fatal injuries from overhead power lines, tall antennas, ladders and grain augers which can all reach power lines. That is why we are asking you to take a few moments from your busy day — **Look up!!**

For farm workers it is important to take additional precautions when using tall equipment such as combines with whip antennas and portable grain augers that could easily contact high voltage lines. By looking up you could save your life.



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

Judith A. Powers of rural Petersburg completed 10 years of service with your Cooperative on December 1. Judy is a cashier-receptionist in the Cooperative office.

Mr. and Mrs. David H. Crosnoe of rural Petersburg will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary on December 22. Dave is the system engineer for your Cooperative.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Sams of Petersburg will celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary on December 23. Bud is a retired journeyman lineman for your Cooperative.

Consider adding an "add-on" air-to-air heat pump to your existing gas or oil heating system. Use the heat pump when it is most economical and your other system when it is the most economical. In addition, your Cooperative has a rebate of \$250 per cooling ton which will be paid to you upon installation of the "add-

on" heat pump in 1987.

Let us help you choose your heating and cooling system for your home. We believe you will be glad you did.

If your food freezer has a magnetic door closer, there are several things which you should do at least annually:

1. Freezer owners should check freezers frequently;
2. Freezers that have magnetic door closers should be checked periodically with a piece of iron or steel to be sure the closer has not lost its magnetism.

Don't be caught short and allow the freezer door to vibrate open by itself or you might be fighting foul freezer fumes from food that has been thawed and spoiled.

Collect telephone calls are accepted from Cooperative members when the call is to report an outage.

The procedure for placing collect telephone calls varies depending upon the area in which you live. Therefore, we suggest you consult the front pages of your telephone book for complete instructions on placing collect telephone calls that deal with an electrical outage.

Cold weather service termination

Termination of electric service to a residential member for non-payment of bills will not take place during the period of December 1 through March 31: (a) on any day when the National Weather Service in Springfield, Illinois includes a forecast that the temperature will be 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below during the following 24 hours, or (b) on any day immediately preceding a holiday or weekend when such a forecast indicates that the temperature will be 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below during the holiday or

weekend, unless the member has defaulted on one of the following arrangements: (1) a deferred payment arrangement with respect to payment of the past due amount of the energy bill; (2) a level or budget payment plan for future bills; (3) paying the minimum down payment required on the amount due and owing; (4) unless the member has refused to comply with conditions (1), (2) or (3) listed above.

If you have questions with reference to the above, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office.

Satellite television

A few Cooperative members have inquired about satellite programming availability in the Cooperative service area.

The rural areas of Illinois need a good communication system of this type. The lack of video broadcast coverage in their area could be expanded through satellite television in order to open additional education and entertainment possibilities.

NRECA has been working hard on this program and

we believe will ultimately succeed. We will keep you posted on the developments as they occur, and if they program looks like one that members of the Cooperative can benefit from, we certainly will attempt to find a way to offer the service.

It does not appear to be economically feasible for the Cooperative to pursue satellite television at this time. However, should any Cooperative member wish to become a part of the satellite network, your Cooperative will be happy to discuss the options that might be available from other sources.

Christmas ornament

As the story is told, there once was a colorful, red and green Christmas ornament that wanted very much to hang on a large Christmas tree. Not just any large tree mind you, but one in a large and wealthy home where it could be surrounded with other beautiful bulbs and lights.

As Christmas Day was fast approaching, this particular ornament would perch itself on the store shelf, so it could see everyone shopping in the aisle. By observing the way each customer was dressed, the ornament would speculate on the customer's wealth. If the customer was poorly dressed, the little ornament would roll backward and hide behind the tinsel. Now this game of hide and seek seemed to be appropriate strategy at first, but as the hours grew into days and the days into weeks, the ornament began to worry. Finally, it was the day before Christmas and the store was closing early. Clang, clang, clang — the 10-minutes-before-closing bell echoed through the almost-empty store. Silently and hopelessly, the little ornament began to cry.

The lights were being turned down as a raggedly dressed man shuffled deliberately down the aisle and began examining the remaining ornaments very deliberately. Out of habit, the little ornament retreated behind the tinsel. Yet the terrible thought of missing Christmas altogether caused the little ornament to roll back to its original vantage point. After what seemed to be an eternity, the poor man finally selected an ornament — red and green. Tenderly, he carried his choice to the counter.

On Christmas morning, the little ornament was hung outside on a small spruce tree near some railroad tracks. Looking around, the ornament could see that its dreams of being surrounded by other beautiful bulbs and bright lights were not to be. There were no other decorations in sight. Cold and disappointed, the little ornament began to cry when a loud chorus of Joy To The World diverted its attention to four hobos. They were gazing upon the red and green ornament and singing joyfully. Incredibly, as the hobos sang, the little ornament began to shine as it had never shone before. Because for the very first time, it realized that the true joy of Christmas was not in receiving, but in the giving of happiness.

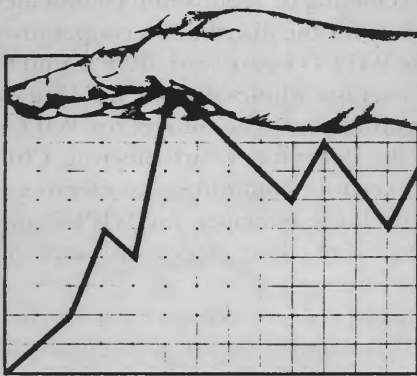


*"The best and most beautiful things
in the world
cannot be seen or touched
— but are felt in the heart."*

*May Christmas find a place
in your heart,
May your heart find a place
in His love.*

Office Closing

Our offices will be closed Thursday, December 24, and Friday, December 25, for Christmas, and Friday, January 1, 1988, for New Year's Day.



Load management

A way to level out peak electric use

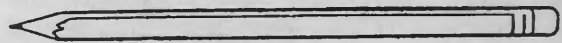
Your household and family members are consuming electricity at any given time. This is known as "load." And what we do is add up all of the electric consumption from all our consumer-owners at any given time to determine the load for the whole system.

There comes a time, every day, when the system reaches its peak. That's when all of you, all at once, are using the most electricity. And, of course, we must have enough power to meet these needs. It's also the time when it costs the most to provide that power. The way to help keep electric rates stable is to reduce this peak. It's what we call "load management." There are some things you can do at home that can help.

Since the late afternoon to early evening is the peak time for us, you can help by using major appliances, such as the washer and dryer, in the morning, or later on in the evening. When preparing dinner, remember that slow cookers and other small appliances consume less electricity. And, using energy wisely helps to reduce the need to invest in new power sources.

You can help promote load management at home. And we can help too. If you have any questions about load management and how we're doing, or you need more information about how you can help, just give us a call.

Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular meeting on Monday, November 23, 1987. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present were Robert I. Brauer, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Warren D. Goetsch, James G. Graff, Dale R. Lepper and Meredith L. Worner, in addition to president Bell. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, attorney Charles K. Smith, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, systems engineer David H. Crosnoe, and general foreman Terry W. Entwistle. After the roll call and approval of the agenda, the minutes of the October 1987 meeting were approved as presented.

Manager Smith reviewed the financial report for the month of October and pointed out that the monthly margins were less than had been budgeted. For year to date, revenue was about \$150,000 greater than budget. Smith also pointed out that we had a warmer-than-normal fall, and the crop-drying load had not developed in October. Total kilowatt-hour sales for the ten months ending October 31 was approximately 5 percent greater than the same period of 1986.

To supplement the manager's report, Smith called on Crosnoe and Entwistle to review for the board their departments' current and past year's activities. Smith reviewed the outage report for the month of October, which reflected a greater number of substation outage hours due to failure of the power suppliers transmission line. The safety report to the board indicated two minor lost-time accidents for the month of October.

He also reported on the status of the EPA claim dealing with the Missouri Electric Works and several Electric Supplier Act cases that are still pending. Warren

Goetsch reported on the recommendations of the building committee, which the board subsequently approved and directed the manager and attorney to proceed accordingly.

Dale Lepper, chairman of the capital credits committee, reported on the activities of the committee and made recommendations to the board in regard to capital credits. It was decided by the board that the refunding of capital credits would be deferred for 1988 and directed the manager to contact CFC and work with them in a capital credit and equity management plan, to be presented to the board later in 1988.

Pillsbury presented to the board a request for release of a prospective service to another power supplier. After deliberation, the board denied the release of this service. He presented to the board a request for release of a right-of-way easement, which the Cooperative no longer needed. The board authorized the release of the easement.

Robert Brauer, chairman of the by-law committee, reported recent activities of the by-law committee and presented suggested changes for board review and input at the December and January board meetings.

Pillsbury reviewed the increased insurance rates for the year 1988. The board directed management to continue to search the insurance field to see if adequate coverage could be provided at a lesser cost.

The board went into executive session to appraise the manager's performance for the past year.

After the board returned from the executive session, president Bell appointed the following to the labor committee for the year 1988: Robert Brauer, chairman, Carroll Cline, and Meredith Worner, with Warren

(Continued on page 10d)

(Continued from page 10c)

Goetsch being alternate.

Staff assistant Gerald Hedberg reported to the board some ideas for reactivating a member services committee or a reeducation program for Cooperative members. After discussion the board suggested Hedberg continue to review this project and report to the board at the December meeting.

President Bell reported on the recent activities of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Among which was the success of the recent director seminars and workshops, namely, Orientation for New Directors and a Director Looks at the Financial Statement. He commented on some of the litigation with which the association had recently been involved. He said several of the cases that had been ruled in the Cooperative's favor may be appealed.

Director Cline reported on the activities of the WIPCO board. Cline reported that the generating plant at Clinton had passed its 100 hours warrant run and was currently down for the scheduled 35 day maintenance,

at which time the plant would be brought back on line and be ready for full service until such time that it will be taken down for refueling in 1988. Smith commented that the wholesale rate for the distribution cooperatives had been set by the WIPCO board and there would be no change in the average wholesale cost for Menard Electric for the ensuing year. The budget for WIPCO will be acted on at the December board meeting. Cline indicated that the executive committee was meeting to continue the search for a manager for WIPCO and understood meetings were taking place at this time, for the WIPCO/Soyland merger.

The board approved the inventory of work orders for September 1987 and approved the payment of bills as presented in the list of checks.

Membership applications for the month of October were accepted as represented. The directors' special occasion vouchers were also approved. The board discussed the time and date for the next meeting, which will be December 28 at 1 p.m. There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Electric water heater advantages

Electric water heaters have many advantages over fossil-fuel water heaters. The electric heater may be placed anywhere without concern for flue to vent and the poisonous gases associated therewith.

An electric hot water heater can be located in a closet, near the central point of water usage, in the basement or elsewhere within the home. There are no flames, no burning, no explosive gases which need to be vented to the outside.

The electric water heater uses submerged resistance elements to heat the water. This means that the entire tank can be insulated. The tank will last longer because there is not direct heat placed on the metal tank. There is no pilot light to worry about. There is not soot or dirt produced by the water heater to discolor the walls and/or ceilings of your home.

During 1987 your Cooperative has provided a \$150 rebate for the purchase and installation of an electric hot water heater within a residence on the Cooperative

lines. In some cases, this pays for the entire cost of the electric water heater.

In addition, upon request of Cooperative members, a load management device may be installed on the electric water heater that would only be subject to implementation during a five-month period each year. A significant reduction in the cost of kilowatt-hours from kilowatt-hour 600 to 1,000 is a side benefit to members with electric hot water heaters. With the load management device, the water heater can be kept off of the Cooperative's system peak and thereby reduce the wholesale cost of electricity to the Cooperative.

We encourage you to request the Cooperative to place a load management device on your electric water heater. Just call the Cooperative office and we will make arrangements to install the device which will assist you in reducing the dollar amount of your energy bill each month.

Please note — we care!

From time to time, we are made aware that some of the members are very dependent on electric power for their health care or survival needs. We're never quite sure what, if anything, we can do during outages and the like. However, your employees are "just human enough" to want to try and we'd ap-

preciate your help in making us aware of who these members are. If you have special needs because of age or health (or know someone) please drop us a note. We will keep a file and if we can do something — we'll try. Your employees care!

Meter reader position open

Your Cooperative has a contractual meter reading position open in the Elkhart-Buffalo Hart area. Meters are generally read on the 19th, 20th and 21st of each month.

Applications are being accepted from Cooperative members and if you are interested, please complete the

form below and mail or bring it to the Cooperative office.

Name _____

Address _____

Account No. _____

Telephone No. _____