

Egyptian Messenger

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

From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



Outage calls

Since this is the first column of 1989, it is probably a good time to talk about outage calls again. Because we man the outage phone with employees during the non-working hours and we have outage numbers to call at both Steeleville and Murphysboro, it does result in some confusion with the member sometimes concluding that we do not take outage calls. In the past the standard procedure for anyone reporting an outage was to call the office closest to him and if he did not receive an answer, he would then call the other office. Which office would answer the call would then depend upon which employee had the outage duty for that week. Unfortunately, some members, after not receiving an answer at the first number dialed, do not make that second call and conclude that we do not answer the outage phone.

During the past year, we have been able to make a partial solution to the problem with the utilization of call forwarding at the Murphysboro office. Thus, anyone calling the Murphysboro office to report an outage would either have his call answered by an employee on duty at Murphysboro or would have his call automatically forwarded to an employee on duty at Steeleville. Utilizing this system, the necessity for making the second call is eliminated and anyone calling the Murphysboro number will have his call answered on the first try.

While the call forwarding out of the Murphysboro office has worked fine, we have not been able to install it at the Steeleville office because the Percy exchange is not equipped for call forwarding. We have, however, been able to purchase a new piece of equipment called a call diverter and it is supposed to function in the same manner as call forwarding. If it works as advertised, all future calls to either outage number will either be answered at the location called or be automatically forwarded to the number where an employee is on outage duty. We will pick up the toll charges from the office dialed to the number to which the call is forwarded; so you should always call the of-

fice nearest you when reporting an outage.

Assuming that everything works as planned, we believe that the outage call answering system will be greatly improved. Bear in mind, however, that the telephone system is also susceptible to lightning and water damage during periods of storms and sometimes electronic equipment will fail without our being aware of it. Thus, if you try to report an outage and the phone rings and you do not get an answer, it is always a good idea to try the other number. We always have someone on duty to take outage calls, so if you do not get an answer you are dialing the wrong number. Both numbers are published each month somewhere in this center section, so please make a note of both numbers and keep them handy where you can find them without a lot of searching in the dark.

One common complaint we get is that the outage number is always busy, so consequently we must have taken the phone off the hook. That is absolutely not the case and you must keep in mind that during times of storms or a major outage, such as loss of a substation, hundreds of members are trying to call in at one time. A good case in point is the outage we experienced in the Pyatt substation on Christmas Eve, probably one of the worst times of the year to have an outage. A cat crawled on top of a voltage regulator inside the substation and caused a major arc to start and subsequently blew two of the 69,000-volt fuses that protect the substation transformer. As a result, we had several hundred members out of service and the phone rang continuously. If you were trying to call, the odds of getting through were slim. A good rule of thumb in such situations is that if you can see that service is out in your general area and the phone is busy, we most likely are aware of the problem and you do not need to call. However, if your neighbors have service or if their service was restored and yours was not, you should call because there may be a problem at your service location. At times when we are experiencing a lot of problems or have a major problem we would ask for your patience because we are doing everything we can to take your calls and to restore your service.

Youth to Washington

Elsewhere in this section we are again listing the rules for winning a trip to Washington, D.C. If you have a son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter who is a junior in one of the high schools listed, please make them aware of the contest. This is an opportunity to win an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital and

is certainly worth the effort of doing a little research and writing an essay. As I mentioned last month, I personally paid the cost for my son to make the trip four years ago and I feel that it was a worthwhile investment in his education and we are now offering the opportunity for two students in our service area to make the same trip at the cooperative's expense. It is a well-planned and chaperoned trip, so no parent should be concerned about their child participating in the program.

Logo

As I reported several months ago, the cooperative has adopted a new logo that was designed by our national association as the new common ID logo for electric cooperatives. Because of existing stock, switching over to the new logo has been a slow process but you will begin to see the new signs on the trucks shortly and some of our mailing material will also carry the

new logo. Eventually, all mailings will carry the new logo, but it will be several more months because we carry some large stocks in some envelopes and form letters. As with any new logo, some will like it and some will not. I feel that it grows on you and it represents a more modern and clean design. As to what the logo represents, the best way to visualize it is electricity flowing across the countryside. It is supposed to represent a few other things also, but I will let you use your own imagination as to what it means to you.

Office closing

Our offices will be closed on Monday, February 13, for Lincoln's Birthday, and Monday, February 20, for Washington's Birthday.

Statement of nondiscrimination

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

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

"Any person who believes himself, or any specific class of individuals, to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Act and the rules and regulations issued thereunder may, by himself or a representative, file with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or the Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250 or the organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed not later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Rural Electrification Administration extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purpose of the rules and regulations."

Electronics and electrical disturbances

You can protect your home computers and other sophisticated, electronic equipment from the kind of routine electrical interruptions you wouldn't even have noticed a few years ago.

There are two main kinds of protection: power enhancement and power synthesis devices.

Power enhancement equipment simply improves the incoming power. Power synthesis equipment uses incoming utility power to create an isolated supply of electricity.

Power enhancement systems reduce or eliminate the effects of electrical "noise," transient surges or spikes and voltage variations.

Surge or spike suppressors are the least costly enhancement devices that can be used, ranging from \$20 to \$40. They protect equipment from high-voltage impulses. However, they do not provide protection from long-term "overvoltage."

Another enhancement device is a power conditioner, which consists of a voltage regulator, an isolation

transformer and a spike suppressor combined into one unit. A power conditioner can also regulate voltage levels and control noise. These units range in price from \$200 to \$1,000.

Power synthesis devices can provide complete protection against all types of power disturbances.

A motor generator is a synthesis device that uses an electric motor powered by the utility that in turn operates a generator to provide power for electronic equipment. These devices provide effective protection from noise and voltage transients but do not protect against power outages.

Uninterruptible power supply systems are synthesis devices designed to provide continuous protection from all types of power line disturbances and interruptions. Critical equipment is protected by a system of batteries, inverters and rectifiers that directly provide power to the computer's power supply. Although uninterruptible systems offer the ultimate in protection, they can be expensive.

'Youth to Washington' Contest

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association will sponsor two high school juniors, who write winning essays, on an expense-paid bus tour of Washington, D.C., June 16-23, 1989.

RULES OF CONTEST

Eligibility—Any high school junior (11th grade) attending one of the following high schools is eligible to enter: Red Bud, Sparta, Chester, Trico, Pinckneyville, Carbondale, Carter Gorham, Murphysboro, Elverado, Marissa, Steeleville, and Coulterville—and sons or daughters of EECA members attending any other school.

Members of the immediate families of any director or full-time employee of Egyptian Electric (or any other electric cooperative) are not eligible.

One trip winner will be selected from each of the following categories:

(a) Students whose parents are member-owners of Egyptian Electric.

(b) Students whose parents are not member-owners of Egyptian Electric.

Awards—Two first-place: An all-expense paid eight-day bus tour of Washington, D.C.

Two second-place and two third-place prizes will also be awarded.

The eight-day tour will be June 16-23, 1989, and will include approximately 60 essay contest winners from other participating electric cooperatives in Illinois. Chaperones will accompany the tour group.

In addition, the six semi-finalists will receive a one-day trip to Springfield, on April 11, 1989, on "Illinois Electric Cooperative Youth Day to Springfield."

In the event the first-place winner is unable to make the trip, the first prize will be awarded to the second-place winner of that category.

Subject of essay—Each contestant will write his or her essay on the subject "Cooperatives: Building a Better America."

Essays should contain information on the cooperative principles and the cooperative's role in American business.

Essay form—Essays must be typed on 8 ½ x 11-inch paper, double-spaced, one side only, and must not exceed 1,000 words. Assistance in editing the essay, i.e., grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, spelling, etc., is permissible. Contestant's name must not appear on the essay, only on the official entry form that should be attached to the essay. Contestant's name will be numbered for judging purposes. This procedure will maintain judge impartiality. All entries meeting the above requirements will be submitted to the judging panel. Entry forms must include parental/legal guardian permission to take the trip if the contestant is declared a winner.

Resource material—Egyptian Electric will furnish a packet of resource material to each student that indicates their desire to participate in the contest. The last day for requesting a resource packet is February 20, 1989.

Contestants may also secure information from other sources. Rural people, extension and farm advisors, teachers, electric cooperatives directors and employees, agribusinessmen, magazines and newspaper articles are usually good sources of information.

Contestants may visit their local Cooperative office for additional information. Please call in advance for an appointment.

Last day for essays—Essays must be received on or before March 10, 1989, at either office of Egyptian Electric (P.O. Box 38, Steeleville, 62288, or Route 2, Box 171, Murphysboro, 62966).

Please direct all inquiries about the contest to:

Bryce Cramer, District Office Manager

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

Route 2, Box 171

Murphysboro, IL 62966

Phone (618) 684-2143

I am interested in the Youth to Washington essay contest. Please send me an official entry form.

Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Complete and return to Egyptian Electric Cooperative, RR 2 Box 171, Murphysboro, IL 62966

What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

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

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

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

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

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

Satellite TV services available to members of Egyptian Electric

Call toll-free 1-800-44RURAL (447-8725)



HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP

HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828

PREMIUM SERVICES

A - PT 24	WABC - New York	F2-04
\$4.00	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12
B - SELTV	Selectv	S1-09
\$9.95	Selectv	S2-09
C - WTBS	Superstation TBS	G1-18
\$1.70		
F - SKYLINE	WWOR - New York	G1-15
\$3.00	KTLA - Los Angeles	F4-16
	WSBK - Boston	F4-17
G - HBO	HBO - East	G1-23
\$7.95	HBO - West	G1-01
H-CINEMAX	Cinemax East	G1-19
\$7.95	Cinemax - West	F3-23
I-DISNEY	Disney East	G1-04
\$7.95	Disney West	G1-24
J - NETLINK	KDVR - Denver	F1-20
\$5.95	KWGN - Denver	F1-14
	KRMA - Denver	F1-12
K -	KUSA - Denver	F1-02
L -	KCNC - Denver	F1-04
M -	KMGH - Denver	F1-06
O - SEN	Starion Entertainment	
\$9.95	Network	T3-19
	Any 2 Combination of G-H-I	\$14.95
	Any 3 Combination of G-H-I	\$20.95

BASIC SERVICES

#1 - RTV	WGN	G1-03
\$9.50	WPIX	F4-19
	KTVT	F4-03
	TNN	G1-02
	CNN	G1-07
	Headline News	G1-08
	ESPN	G1-09
	CBN	G1-11
	USA - E	G1-21
	USA - W	F3-10
	Weather Channel	G3-13
	Lifetime - E	F3-17
	Lifetime - W	G3-20
	Nichelodeon - E	G3-19
	Nichelodeon - W	G3-22
	Country Music TV	G1-13
	Nostalgia Chnl.	F4-21
	Learning Chnl.	F3-02
	Travel Chnl.	F3-16
#2 - RTV II — RTV Minus ESPN		
\$9.00		
#3 - RTV + — RTV Plus KDVR, KWGN & KRMA Denver		
\$14.50		
#4 - RTV + II — RTV + Minus ESPN		
\$14.00		

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1988

We have closed the books on 1988 and for the most part, it was a good year for your cooperative. Wholesale power purchases from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative increased about 5 percent over the previous year, and that is a substantial increase for any one year. After looking at all the other data, I personally believe that most of the increase was weather related because of the hot summer and a winter that was slightly colder than the previous one.

While we are growing slightly in total number of members, that growth is not enough to account for anything near a five percent increase in kwh usage. One factor that might be adding to the increased usage a little is that some people may have tired a little of cutting wood and have gone back to using their electric heating systems a little more. Since our rates have been basically stable for five years, the real cost of electricity has gone down almost 20 percent during that period, if you assume an average inflation rate of 4 percent a year.

This reduction in terms of real purchasing power, and the fact that in many cases you do not save a lot of money when you burn wood, has probably resulted in some increased sale for electric heat. I know that many will claim that they save a lot by burning wood, but if you really consider all your costs in obtaining the wood and the cost of the smoke and ash in your house, you are probably working pretty cheap in most cases. I have used 1,600 kwhs in my heat pump system between November 25, 1988, and January 25, 1989, and at our final block price, that is about \$80 over a two-month period. Even if you were able to cut that figure in half by burning wood, you are talking about \$20 per month without figuring any cost at all for the wood. I personally would not have the smoke and the ash in my house for that amount of money.

The one area of 1988 that was rather disappointing was the fact that the number of new builds dropped from nearly 300 in 1987 to 216 in 1988. That is a signifi-

cant drop in terms of percentage and is disappointing from the standpoint that it probably reflects the economic activity in our service area. Without additional new jobs in the area, we just are not going to have the new home construction in the rural areas and only limited activity in the subdivisions we serve in the areas around the larger towns in our service area. Most studies you see do not project any population increases in the counties we serve in the next 10 to 20 years and our construction activity seems to bear out those projections. Lack of growth will eventually impact all of us because growth does help to offset increasing costs and without it rates will eventually have to be increased.

One area of operations that has remained stable is the number of hours required to restore service after an outage. This stability in outages is due in large part to our right-of-way and pole maintenance programs and is something that we are continually working on. Even though we had increased electrical storm activity this past summer over the previous few years, the outage hours were about the same, so we think we are on the right track. There are always a few areas that seem to be snakebitten in that they will experience a number of outages for a variety of unrelated reasons, but overall the outage record is reflecting our efforts to get the right-of-way in shape. Getting the brush cleared has required a lot of time and effort and a considerable amount of expense, but it was something that absolutely had to be done and we have received tremendous cooperation from the membership in getting the job done.

JANUARY BILLS

Many of you were probably surprised by the amount of your January bill because December seemed fairly mild and January was exceptionally mild. I personally was also surprised by how much we had used, but I guess the Christmas season had a lot to do with it. As I already related, my heat pump system used only 1,600 kwhs from November 25 to January 25, but for 37 days over the Christmas holiday season our total usage was 3,706 kwhs. Thus, while the heating system was using around 25 kwhs a day, our overall usage was over 100 kwhs a day. It is hard to pinpoint exactly why we used so much electricity for purposes other than space heating, but when you think about all the Christmas lights, the baking, all the kids being home, their friends and our friends visiting, the house lights being on all hours of the day and night, and practically every appliance known to man being used, I guess it's pretty

easy to use a lot of electricity. So, if your bill was high, you were not alone and your meter is most likely right. Up until the first of February, our winter peak, thus far, occurred on the 16th of December, so that will give you some idea as to when the cold weather occurred

in December. For those of you whose meters we read, most of that cold weather would show up in your January bill because it occurred after we read the meter for the December bill.

Put your fire safety I.Q. to the test

Knowing the answers to these questions from the U.S. Fire Administration could keep costly, even tragic accidents from happening in



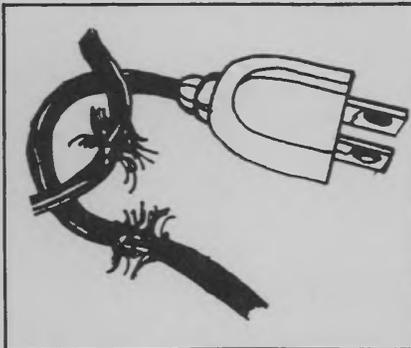
your home. Take a few minutes to test your fire safety know-how; then share the quiz with your family and friends.

True or False?

1. It is safe to use extension cords and multi-outlets to increase your electrical capacity.
2. Four plugs in a socket is average.
3. Frayed electrical cords can be made safe by wrapping the exposed area with electrical tape or duct tape.
4. Fire extinguishers belong in the kitchen.
5. Matches/lighters should be stored in a child-safe place.
6. Smoke detectors are unnecessary luxury items.
7. Damp clothing is easily dried when draped over an electric space heater.
8. On a farm or ranch, there should be at least 50 feet of open space between buildings.
9. Feed and seed driers should be packed full every time they are used.
10. It is important to let static electricity from a tractor "bleed" before refueling.
11. Protection against lightning fires isn't really necessary.
12. Deadwood (trees and branches) should be left on the ground because it breaks down into mulch, a natural fertilizer.

Answers

1. **False.** It is extremely hazardous to overload electrical circuits by using extension cords and multi-plug outlets. Electrical fires spread quickly and are dif-

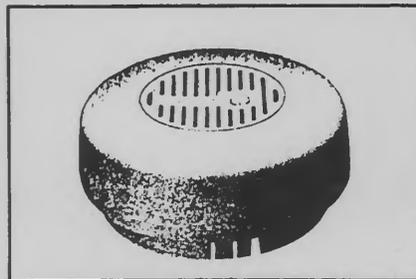


ficult to control. Use extension cords only when absolutely necessary and then use heavy duty ones. Avoid using multiple outlets.

2. **False.** One or two plugs in a socket is the maximum—four is dangerous. But even one appliance, like an iron, can overload some sockets. It depends on the current draw vs. the capacity of the circuit. Get some professional advice if needed.
3. **False.** Taping does not make

frayed electrical cords safe. Frayed cords should be replaced immediately.

4. **True.** Kitchen fires are often fueled by cooking oil or electrical appliances, and can't be put out with water. A 10-pound dry chemical fire extinguisher placed in a handy spot saves lives. A heavy pot lid can work too.
5. **True.** A leading cause of death for toddlers is playing with matches and lighters.
6. **False.** Smoke detectors are not expensive luxury items. Models are available in the \$5-\$20 price range at hardware stores, home



centers and department stores. And having one or more working smoke detectors in your home doubles your family's chances of surviving a fire.

7. **False.** Clothing should never be dried on an electric space heater. All combustible objects should be kept well away.
8. **False.** As a general rule, there should be at least 100 feet of open space between buildings to prevent fire from spreading.
9. **False.** Feed and seed driers should never be packed full, as this contributes to spontaneous combustion. Make sure your machines are large enough to handle the workload.
10. **True.** Allow several minutes for the static electricity in your tractor to "bleed" into the atmosphere before refueling because the electricity can spark and cause an explosion.
11. **False.** Your home (including barn, outbuildings, etc.) should definitely have a lightning protection system, which should be checked regularly for breaks, worn spots and corrosion, especially at ground connections.
12. **False.** Both deadwood and mulch are very flammable. Remove deadwood as it piles up. A neat yard is a safer yard.

What to do if the power goes off

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2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
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A - PT 24	WABC - New York	F2-04
\$4.00	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12

B - SELTV	Selectv	S1-09
\$9.95	Selectv	S2-09

C - WTBS	Superstation TBS	G1-18
\$1.70		

F - SKYLINE	WWOR - New York	G1-15
\$3.00	KTLA - Los Angeles	F4-16
	WSBK - Boston	F4-17

G - HBO	HBO - East	G1-23
\$7.95	HBO - West	G1-01

H-CINEMAX	Cinemax East	G1-19
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	KRMA - Denver	F1-12

K -	KUSA - Denver	F1-02
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L -	KCNC - Denver	F1-04
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M -	KMGH - Denver	F1-06
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O - SEN	Starion Entertainment	
\$9.95	Network	T3-19

Any 2 Combination of G-H-I	\$14.95
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	Headline News	G1-08
	ESPN	G1-09
	CBN	G1-11
	USA - E	G1-21
	USA - W	F3-10
	Weather Channel	G3-13
	Lifetime - E	F3-17
	Lifetime - W	G3-20
	Nichelodeon - E	G3-19
	Nichelodeon - W	G3-22
	Country Music TV	G1-13
	Nostalgia Chnl.	F4-21
	Learning Chnl.	F3-02
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From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



As I write this column, we are wrapping up February and the first two months of the year have been anything but predictable from a weather standpoint. January was unusually warm and the power usage on the system reflected the warm weather. In terms of wholesale purchases from the power plant, our actual purchases were about 18 percent below what I had budgeted, so my crystal ball must have been a little cloudy when I made the January estimates. February, on the other hand, was a lot colder than January and my guess for the month will probably be a lot closer to the mark. We won't have the actual substation readings for a few more days, but I am guessing that February will match December fairly closely and that will make the budget figures pretty close. We are a winter peaking system, so sales lost in January are rather difficult to recover during the rest of the year, but it did mean lower heating bills for the members. The lower bills for the members is the good news, but it also means that Egyptian Electric required about 2,500,000 pounds of coal less for its electrical needs in January and that is not good news for the coal industry. When you look at the entire electrical industry and the number of coal-fired boilers, there has been a substantial impact on the usage of coal and that impact will be felt in the coal industry sooner or later.

ACID RAIN

It appears that president Bush is committed to the passage of some kind of acid rain legislation during his presidency, so I think that we can expect that we will be affected in some way. If I had to guess as to what will finally come out of congress, I would expect something that will require the larger generating units to limit their sulfur dioxide emissions and that the cost to make the modifications will be spread among all utilities in some form or another.

We, in the Southern Illinois Power Co-operative group, would have two primary concerns about any legislation that is passed. First, we would hope that the very small units would be exempt because it probably

is not economically feasible to retrofit our small generating units with scrubber equipment. Secondly, we would hope that any legislation that spreads the costs among all utilities would account for the fact that we have spent millions to equip our largest unit with a wet scrubber to remove sulfur dioxide. It would hardly seem fair that we should pay the total cost for our own unit and then have to help someone else pay for equipping their units.

I do not know if requiring scrubbers on power plants will solve the problem or not because there are a lot of other contributors to the problem. The 100 million plus vehicles we drive every day certainly are a large part of the pollution equation and we all know that the EPA is not going to take our cars away from us. Scrubbers will probably help, but if our Canadian friends are going to insist that we install them, then we ought to insist that they do the same to their power plants. Our neighbors to the north probably have some legitimate complaints, but I believe we should bear in mind that they have a lot of hydroelectric capacity and the potential to build a lot more and the one thing they lack is a market. They have a vested interest in shutting down our power plants in order that they can export electrical power to this country. It could turn out to be another situation where we send out money and jobs to another country and our people are expected to make a living selling hamburgers to each other.

The one thing that everyone should keep in mind, no matter what your feelings are on acid rain, is that whatever steps are taken to reduce it, someone is going to have to pay. While utilities will put up the initial construction money by borrowing the necessary funds, you can guess who is going to furnish the money to repay the loans. There is no free ride and the only place a utility can get money is from the man with the meter and that is you.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT

While I am on the subject of pollution I will touch on a subject that received a lot of ink this past summer because of the heat and drought. I don't claim to understand all that the various scientists are talking about, but I believe the general idea is that as we produce certain gases that escape into the air. These gases tend to trap heat close to the earth and thus are causing a gradual increase in the earth's average temperatures. One of these greenhouse gases is carbon dioxide and is a by-product of burning coal. Since utilities are the

biggest users of coal, we would be considered to be a major contributor to the greenhouse effect.

A couple of weeks ago I had an opportunity to hear a speaker who would be considered to be somewhat of an expert in the field and he presented some figures that I thought were of interest. While I can not recall his exact speech, I can repeat some of the figures close enough to give you a good idea as to the major point he was trying to make. He stated that 20 years ago, the United States contributed about 42 percent of all the greenhouse gases being produced in the world. That figure is now down in the 20 percent range and in another five years or so will be down around 15 percent. The reduction in percentage doesn't mean we are doing a better job, it just means that more of the world is improving its standard of living and becoming industrialized and thus is contributing a bigger percentage of the total greenhouse gases.

He pointed out that if you take into consideration countries, such as China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the rest of the Asian countries, you are talking about at least two billion people. These countries have a low standard of living in comparison to ours and if they achieve any significant increase at all, the need for electricity will increase tremendously. If we look at this country where almost every household has a refrigerator, and many have two, and if you tried to reach a third of that level in the countries mentioned, the need for power plants would be huge and you are talking about only one appliance. Since China and Russia have the largest coal reserves in the world, it is not reasonable to expect that they will not burn their coal to improve the standard of living of their people and that scenario will be repeated in every developing country in the world.

What does all that mean to this country and to us as individuals? It means that if we get to the point where we are 15 percent or less of the total problem, no matter what we do in this country it will have an

insignificant impact on the total problem if the other countries do not do likewise. We can spend all the billions of dollars we want to try to reduce greenhouse gases in this country and if the other countries do not do likewise, all we will have accomplished is to make our industries even more uncompetitive in the world market. Undoubtedly someone has to provide leadership, but we as a nation had better make sure someone is following before we commit ourselves to spending precious resources where they will do absolutely little good. We have to recognize that we are not the only player or even a major player in terms of total world greenhouse gases and we cannot solve the problem ourselves. We no longer can afford wasteful projects in this country and we should resist being stampeded into single-handedly trying to solve a problem that must be solved on a worldwide basis.

While the speaker addressed the economic and statistical realities of the problem, he did not try to assess the global warming problem itself. I suppose you could ask 100 scientists their opinion and you would probably get 100 different assessments as to whether there was a problem and the degree of the problem. It is something that is very difficult to measure and you simply cannot use one hot summer as a yardstick. One robin does not mean spring is here, and one hot summer does not mean they will be growing bananas in North Dakota very soon. Yesterday was my mother's 80th birthday and when I talked to her last night, the forecast for her part of North Dakota was 15 degrees below zero. I probably would have a hard time convincing her that the earth was getting warmer, and what's more, she probably would have been all in favor of it.

Office closing

**Our offices will be closed on Friday, March 24,
in observance of Good Friday.**

Waterlogged pumps may waste power and increase costs

Does the pump on your pressure water system start almost every time you run water? If it does, then the pressure tank is probably suffering from a common ailment known as "waterlogging." In other words, it is too full of water.

It is necessary to have a cushion of air above the water. The air is compressed as water is pumped into the tank and expands as water is withdrawn. The larger the air cushion, the more water the tank can deliver between any given extremes of pressure. Most farm water systems have pressure switches adjusted to start the pump when the pressure drops to 20

pounds and stop it when it reaches 40 pounds. A 42-gallon pressure tank, the size used in many farm water systems, can deliver about seven gallons of water between pressures of 40 and 20 pounds.

The size of the air cushion will not remain constant. Water absorbs the air, so eventually the air cushion becomes so small that by even drawing a very small amount of water, it will cause the pump motor to start and stop.

Manufacturers have devised various methods to solve this problem. One method is to have an air valve controlled by a float inside the pressure tank. When the water

level in the tank rises too high, the float opens an air valve and permits the pump to "sniff" the air, which is carried into the tank with the water.

Should the valve core begin to leak, do not replace it with an auto tire valve core. The auto tire core has a much stronger spring and the pump cannot suck air through the water. Frequent starting and stopping also causes undue wear on the pump and motor.

Allowing the water pump to operate in a waterlogged condition means an unnecessary maintenance expense and a much higher electric bill.

Your lifestyle can make a difference!

You know, you have complete control over how you use your electricity. You choose the ingredients that are necessary for you to maintain your standard of living.

The way you live and the way you use your electrical appliances have a greater impact on your consumption of electricity than the number of appliances you have.

We in Illinois have relatively good lifestyles, and we tend to use more energy than the national average. This applies to all forms of energy, not just electricity.

Let's take a look at some of these "lifestyle considerations" that can make your electric bill appear to be higher than "normal."

Family size

Let's face it, there is a direct relationship between the number of people living at home and the amount of energy that is used. That's especially true if you have teenagers at home. In addition, if friends and relatives are visiting, you can expect to use more energy for cooking, baking, laundry, and hot water.

Space heating & cooling

From a comfort standpoint, most of us prefer to be relatively cool in summer and warm in winter. Others prefer temperature extremes. In Illinois, humidity plays an important part in our year-round comfort, too. If we operate dehumidifiers in summer (and, to

a lesser degree, humidifiers in winter), this contributes to our household energy consumption because they tend to run continuously. Portable space heaters, air conditioners, and fans in such places as the garage and basement also contribute to our energy consumption.

By taking a look at our "comfort" lifestyle in terms of maintaining relative humidity and temperature, we can use energy wisely in many ways. These range from adding insulation, weatherstripping and caulking to simply turning down the heat and turning off the air conditioning in rooms not used.

Water heating

About 15 percent of the energy used in the average American home is for water heating. Hot water plays a very important role in everyone's lifestyle — but many lifestyles require substantial quantities of hot water, and that results in higher energy use.

Ask yourself some of the following questions ...

"When I take a bath, do I use hot water sparingly, or is the tub completely full of water?"

"Do I take short showers, or do I stay in the shower until the hot water gets cold?"

"Do I repair leaky faucets, or simply let them drip and waste hot water?"

"Do I operate automatic washers

and dishwashers with a full load, or just whenever it's convenient? (like with a pair of jeans or just a few dishes)?"

Appliance Use

We have a host of time and labor saving appliances available to help us do our work whenever we need their service. As you work through this guide, you may notice how many more electrical servants you have than you expected. These appliances work for you around the clock, whenever you choose to use them. But wise use of appliances can have a positive effect on your energy consumption.

For example, ask yourself questions like these ...

"Do I turn off lights when a room is not in use, or do I leave them on?"

"Does my television set entertain the entire family, or does it entertain an empty room?"

"Do I leave the oven on 'warm' for an extended period of time, or do I cook many dishes at once and then turn the oven off?"

These are prime considerations that affect the amount of electricity you use to maintain your lifestyle. All Americans are part of the residential sector, and spirited energy management consciousness is likely to start at home.

The effects of a home and farm energy management program can pay big dividends!

Fire prevention

The death rate from fires is higher in rural America than anywhere else in the world. But you can help change those grim statistics.

According to the Fire Administration, factors contributing to the fire danger in rural areas include the fact that fewer rural homes have smoke detectors; there is a greater share of woodburning stoves; homes are farther from the fire department; there tends to be less



enforcement of building and fire codes, and rural fire departments have less time and fewer resources to spend on fire prevention.

Rural fire deaths are the fastest growing of all fire fatalities.

If you think there is a fire on the

other side of a closed door, you should first feel the door.

In escaping from a room filled with smoke, the safest breathing air is located near the floor.

The best immediate treatment for burns is to apply cool water.

The best way to put out a small grease fire in a pan is to cover the pan with a lid.

A home should have a smoke detector on each floor, especially outside the bedrooms.

A fire escape plan should be planned and reiterated frequently.

Never smoke in bed.

If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop and roll.

What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

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

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HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP
HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828

PREMIUM SERVICES

A - PT 24	WABC - New York	F2-04
\$4.00	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12
B - SELTV	Selectv	S1-09
\$9.95	Selectv	S2-09
C - WTBS	Superstation TBS	G1-18
\$1.70		
F - SKYLINE	WWOR - New York	G1-15
\$3.00	KTLA - Los Angeles	F4-16
	WSBK - Boston	F4-17
G - HBO	HBO - East	G1-23
\$7.95	HBO - West	G1-01
H-CINEMAX	Cinemax East	G1-19
\$7.95	Cinemax - West	F3-23
I-DISNEY	Disney East	G1-04
\$7.95	Disney West	G1-24
J - NETLINK	KDVR - Denver	F1-20
\$5.95	KWGN - Denver	F1-14
	KRMA - Denver	F1-12
K -	KUSA - Denver	F1-02
L -	KCNC - Denver	F1-04
M -	KMGH - Denver	F1-06
O - SEN	Starion Entertainment Network	T3-19
\$9.95		
Any 2 Combination of G-H-I		\$14.95
All 3 Combination of G-H-I		\$20.95

BASIC SERVICES

#1 - RTV	WGN	G1-03
\$9.50	WPIX	F4-19
	KTVT	F4-03
	TNN	G1-02
	CNN	G1-07
	Headline News	G1-08
	ESPN	G1-09
	CBN	G1-11
	USA - E	G1-21
	USA - W	F3-10
	Weather Channel	G3-13
	Lifetime - E	F3-17
	Lifetime - W	G3-20
	Nichelodeon - E	G3-19
	Nichelodeon - W	G3-22
	Country Music TV	G1-13
	Nostalgia Chnl.	F4-21
	Learning Chnl.	F3-02
	Travel Chnl.	F3-16
#2 - RTV II — RTV Minus ESPN		
\$9.00		
#3 - RTV + — RTV Plus KDVR, KWGN & KRMA Denver		
\$14.50		
#4 - RTV + II — RTV + Minus ESPN		
\$14.00		

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ICE STORM

After dodging the bullet most of the winter when we had rain with temperatures in the thirties, we were caught with some ice on Sunday, March 5. While the ice buildup was extremely heavy and it was not uniformly spread over the system, the combination of ice and wind did cause us some problems on Sunday and Monday. Most of our problems were not due to the actual weight of the ice on the lines, but were a result of severe conductor galloping. In some areas it was probably the worst galloping we have ever encountered.

For those of you who may have never witnessed galloping conductors, it is a situation where the conductors may bounce up and down as much as four or five feet. As they bounce around, they place tremendous stress on the poles and supporting structures and you have contact between the conductors as well. At a minimum, there will be breaker operations every time two conductors contact, but there might also be conductor burndowns at the point of contact or the poles or structures may simply fail after prolonged stress. Considering the galloping conditions, we feel that the system stood the conditions very well and we did not lose any substations and had only one burndown on a major three-phase line. There were, of course, a number of outages on smaller single-phase lines, but the outages were limited to smaller groups of members than would have been the case of we had encountered major substation or feeder problems.

Galloping is caused by the right combination of ice buildup and wind and can actually occur with very little wind involved. Under normal conditions, wind on a conductor will not cause galloping because the conductors present a uniformly round surface and the wind pressure on the conductor is equal on all sides. When ice forms, however, the surface is no longer uniform and the wind will exert different pressures on various segments of the conductor. It is the same principal that

enables an airplane to fly. The wing of an airplane is shaped so that as air flows over the wing, the pressure on the upper surface is reduced as compared to the bottom surface of the wing and this produces the lift to get the plane off the ground. As ice forms on a conductor, it will take a shape similar to a wing and as the wind blows across it, the conductor literally wants to fly. Since each span is tied to a pole at both ends, it cannot go anywhere and simply flies up and down between spans. The results can be pretty spectacular, but they are a utility operator's nightmare.

We had a number of calls reporting blinking on the system, but there really was not a thing we could do about it. Not only was our distribution system galloping, but the transmission system feeding the substations was also galloping severely and the power cooperative experienced hundreds of breaker operations on the transmission system. Every time a transmission breaker operates, it can affect several substations and thousands of members and the only alternative to the blinking is to take the lines out of service and put everyone out of service. That is really not an alternative as far as we are concerned and we just rode it out until the wind died down and the ice finally fell off.

Looking back, we were really pleased that automatic reclosing equipment operated without a failure through those many operations and the system as a whole stood the stress very well. The fact that we had very few pole failures and very few trees in the lines is an indication that the maintenance work that we have been doing on the system is showing results. From a personal standpoint, I happened to be in North Dakota helping my mother celebrate her eightieth birthday when all of this was going on, so I missed out on most of the storm activities. I did, however, have the chance to experience the thrill of landing at St. Louis right after they opened the airport following the big snow Monday morning and it is something I really do not care to repeat. They had to sand the runway for us in order to have enough braking and after the one wheel bounced three times and bounced high, I thought the runway looked rather short and narrow.

SPRAYING

We are planning to do a considerable amount of ground spraying the right-of-ways this summer and hope to cover a considerable amount of the system. It is our plan to operate a spraying crew out of the Steeleville and the Murphysboro office and spray from

mid-May to around the first of September. I realize that some members are personally opposed to the use of chemicals to control brush, but it is an effective and economical means of maintaining right-of-ways and a tool we must use if we are to maintain reliable service in a cost effective manner. We do, of course, use only those chemicals that are EPA approved and we try to be as careful as possible in their application. As we mechanically and chemically remove brush on the system, grass will eventually take over the right-of-ways and the need to cut brush or use chemicals will be greatly reduced and so will be the cost of maintenance. Cost considerations aside, our main objective in any maintenance program is to improve the reliability of service because we believe that is what the membership wants.

Most people who are opposed to cutting, removing or spraying brush usually think in terms of the trees or brush that is on their property or in their immediate area. Most do not realize the extent of the problem we face in operating the system that delivers power to their meter and it is not simply a matter of only the brush or trees that they see. We operate nearly 2,000 miles of line and about 1,700 of those miles are overhead lines. Our system extends from just south of New Athens to the Illinois 148 and I57 interchange, south of Chester and across to the Pomona area. Anyone who is familiar with some of these areas knows that they

encompass some rough terrain and a lot of trees and brush. If we are not able to maintain clear right-of-ways, we certainly cannot provide the kind of service you expect.

Underground power lines are always mentioned as an alternative to overhead lines and cutting trees and brush, but underground lines are very costly to install and to prematurely retire overhead lines would mean that the membership would, in effect, have to pay for two systems. Also, underground has its own unique maintenance problems and outages are much longer because of the time required to find the problem and then to fix it. Underground conductor installed in the past 20 years are now failing at a much faster than expected rate and much of it will have to be replaced much earlier than anticipated. The failures are primarily due to poor quality insulation in earlier cables and supposedly that problem has been corrected, but I would hate to spend the money required to replace overhead lines with underground and then find out 15 years from now that there are other problems. I plan to be retired by then and it would not affect me personally, but as your manager I try to make system additions that are going to be good for 30 to 40 years. Although overhead lines have their disadvantages, we are pretty well stuck with what we have, but that is not all bad because we know what the problems are and we know it works and will last a long time.

Look out . . . and live!

A close pass at your field's edge may net you a few more rows, but extended farm

implements can also snag a power pole guy wire. The result is a harvest of hazard. During the busy planting season and the rush of harvest — at all times — use care around electric lines and equipment. Look out...and live to see another crop grow.



Test your electrical Safety Knowledge

Electricity's many conveniences outweigh what hazards it may pose. CAUTION is the watchword when dealing with this vital power source.

True or false?

1. Power lineman can be injured if posters for garage sales and political candidates are tacked to a utility pole.
2. Overhead power lines are always fully insulated and safe to touch.
3. Climbing a tree that has grown into power lines could risk an electrical shock.
4. A downed power line can be safely moved by using a wooden pole or dry wood.
5. Unlike overhead power lines, household current is not strong enough to cause permanent injury.
6. If fallen power line lands on your car, you are safe as long as you stay in the vehicle.
7. If fire or other danger forces you to leave the car, jump clear of the vehicle and don't touch the car and ground at the same time.
8. Many electrical accidents can be avoided by following the rule: "Look up and live."

OR

Answers

1. **True.** Tacks, nails and staples stuck in utility poles can cause climbing hooks to slip. They can also tear protective equipment.
2. **False.** There is NO insulation on overhead lines. The bare wire is extremely dangerous.
3. **True.** Before climbing or trimming a tree, make sure that no tree limbs are touching power lines.
4. **False.** Though it seems dry, a piece of wood may contain enough moisture to conduct electricity, sending a current through the wood to you.
5. **False.** Household current can kill. Use cords that aren't frayed and don't overload plugs. Don't operate electric appliances near water or with wet hands.
6. **True.** You are safe in the car because the tires serve as insulators.
7. **True.** You can leave the car safely by jumping away so you **don't touch the car and ground at the same time.**
8. **True.** Many common outdoor items—a TV antenna, a grain auger, irrigation pipes—can become lethal if they touch electric lines.

What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

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

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HIGHWAY 142 EAST

DAHLGREN, IL 62828

PREMIUM SERVICES

A - PT 24	WABC - New York	F2-04
\$4.00	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12

B - SELTV	Selectv	S1-09
\$9.95	Selectv	S2-09

C - WTBS	Superstation TBS	G1-18
\$1.70		

F - SKYLINE	WWOR - New York	G1-15
\$3.00	KTLA - Los Angeles	F4-16
	WSBK - Boston	F4-17

G - HBO	HBO - East	G1-23
\$7.95	HBO - West	G1-01

H-CINEMAX	Cinemax East	G1-19
\$7.95	Cinemax - West	F3-23

I-DISNEY	Disney East	G1-04
\$7.95	Disney West	G1-24

J - NETLINK	KDVR - Denver	F1-20
\$5.95	KWGN - Denver	F1-14
	KRMA - Denver	F1-12

K -	KUSA - Denver	F1-02
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L -	KCNC - Denver	F1-04
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M -	KMGH - Denver	F1-06
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O - SEN	Starion Entertainment Network	T3-19
\$9.95		

Any 2 Combination of G-H-I	\$14.95
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All 3 Combination of G-H-I	\$20.95
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	TNN	G1-02
	CNN	G1-07
	Headline News	G1-08
	ESPN	G1-09
	CBN	G1-11
	USA - E	G1-21
	USA - W	F3-10
	Weather Channel	G3-13
	Lifetime - E	F3-17
	Lifetime - W	G3-20
	Nichelodeon - E	G3-19
	Nichelodeon - W	G3-22
	Country Music TV	G1-13
	Nostalgia Chnl.	F4-21
	Learning Chnl.	F3-02
	Travel Chnl.	F3-16

#2 - RTV II — RTV Minus ESPN	
\$9.00	

#3 - RTV + — RTV Plus KDVR, KWGN & KRMA Denver	
\$14.50	

#4 - RTV + II — RTV + Minus ESPN	
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YOUTH TO WASHINGTON

Elsewhere in this center section is additional information on the Youth to Washington essay contest winners, but I did want to take this opportunity to again congratulate Martha Ann Ferguson and Brice Charles Nelson on their winning essays and to thank all students who participated. One of our primary goals in sponsoring this type of contest is to educate our youth as to what a cooperative is and how it works to serve those who make up the cooperative and judging from the entries we received, I believe we are accomplishing that goal.

It is our plan to continue this type of program next year and beyond, so if you have a son or daughter that will be a high school junior next fall, please keep it in mind. While we hope to involve as many high schools in our service area as possible on a class project basis, any student can enter on an individual basis if his school chooses not to participate. This contest does offer the opportunity to win an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital and it can be both a fun and educational experience.

ADD-ON HEAT PUMPS

Since we are about to enter the air conditioning season, I do want to remind the membership that we are still offering a \$300 rebate to anyone that installs an add-on heat pump in conjunction with a fossil fueled central heating system. If your central air-conditioning unit should fail and need replacement, you ought to consider an add-on heat pump if you are heating with gas or oil. The rebate will cover most of the cost differential between the cost of a conventional central air unit and an add-on heat pump and you will then have two heating systems and will be able to make an economic choice when deciding how to heat your home. You will also have the ability to choose between heating systems based on cleanliness, safety and uniformity of inside temperatures.

If you have any questions about the program or

would like to have an energy audit performed to evaluate how much it would cost to heat and cool with a heat pump, please call one of our offices. Bryce Cramer at our Murphysboro office handles all such inquiries and if he is not available at the time you call, he will return your call as soon as possible. There is, of course, no charge for any audits that we perform to evaluate your home's heat loss characteristics.

ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM

The cooperative has exhausted all of the funds that we were allocated this fiscal year by the State of Illinois, but there is a possibility that we may receive some additional funds from a balance of funds that will not be used by other electric cooperatives in the state. We do not know how much it will be at this time, but we may be able to process a few more grant applications. Applications are already coming in and we will probably have quite a few more applications than we have funds, but we are optimistic that the program will be funded for next fiscal year and we will have a comparable amount of money for next year as we had this year. Unfunded applications for this year will be put into next fiscal year, if the funds are made available, and we should be able to process about 100 grant applications. Thus far this year, we have processed grants in the approximate amount of \$130,000 and the two-year total is in excess of \$200,000. We think that money is doing a lot of good for our members and we intend to support the program as long as it is available.

ANNUAL MEETING

While it hardly seems possible that another year has already gone by, we are in the process of getting ready for this year's annual meeting. The meeting has been set for Thursday, July 27, 1989, and it will be held at the Steeleville Legion Hall as it has been for the last several years. We are tentatively planning to have Derry Brownfield of the Brownfield Radio Network, as our guest speaker, so mark your calendars and plan to spend a couple of hours with us. For those of you who may not have attended an annual meeting for several years, the hall is air-conditioned and quite comfortable and we keep the business session and the facts and figures reports to a bare minimum.

Office closing

Our offices will be closed on Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.

Nominating Committee appointed

To: Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Cooperative and in compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Electrification Administration Revised Bulletin 20-19, notice is hereby given to the members of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association that the Cooperative will hold its 51st annual meeting of its members on Thursday evening July 27, 1989, at 7:30 p.m., in the Steeleville American Legion meeting room located on the west side of town and a block south of Broadway.

Notice is further given that the terms of office of directors W. Dean Bame, Ava; Kevin Liefer, Red Bud, and Edward C. Timpner, Pinckneyville, will expire at said annual meeting.

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

Homer Bunselmeyer	Rockwood
John Edgar	Ava
Vernold Feiste	Carbondale
William C. Heisner	Tamaroa
Stuart Langrehr	Evansville
Melvin Paul	Marissa
Michael Peterman	Carbondale
Everet Rodewald	Campbell Hill
Richard Winter	Pinckneyville

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

Cooperative, located at the west edge of Steeleville, Illinois, on Monday, June 5, 1989, at 8 p.m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for election to the board of directors, and that all members interested may attend said meeting and participate.

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
John E. Steele, Secretary



The two area high school students who will represent EECA on the 1989 "Youth to Washington" tour are pictured at left above with the manager and president of the cooperative. From left are Harry Kuhn, manager, Martha Ann Ferguson, Brice Charles Nelson and W. Dean Bame, president. Ferguson and Nelson are both students at Carbondale Community High School. They will join more than 45 other students from Illinois for the week-long tour of the nation's capital. In the photo at right above, Bryce L. Cramer, district office manager, hands out Egyptian Electric caps, while Bame looks on. The winners were selected at Egyptian's essay banquet Wednesday, April 26, at the Days Inn in Carbondale.



Five extraordinary area students participated in the "Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day" activities in Springfield April 11. The students, sponsored by Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, toured the State Capitol, Governor's Mansion, Lincoln's Home and neighborhood, the Old State Capitol, State Museum and Lincoln's Tomb. From left are: Brice Charles Nelson, Carrie Berkey, Anthony Chou and Martha Ann Ferguson, all students at Carbondale Community High School; Shelley Maxey of Murphysboro High School and chaperone Bryce Cramer. The Egyptian Electric contingent was part of a group of more than 100 students from across the state participating in "Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day" activities.

Nelson, Ferguson win Washington trip

Six semi-finalists were chosen in the "Youth to Washington" tour sponsored by Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association. The semi-finalists were juniors at area high schools. Each of the students wrote an essay on the subject "Cooperatives: Building Better America."

The finalists were Scott McPherson, Brice Charles Nelson, Carrie Berkey, Anthony Chou and Martha Ann Ferguson, all from Carbondale Community High School, and Shelley Maxey of Murphysboro High School. The six semi-finalists toured the State Capitol and other sites in Springfield during "Rural Electric Youth Day" to Springfield activities on Tuesday, April 11.

Of these students, the top two will be selected for an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., with nearly 50 students representing cooperatives across the state. The top two participants will be selected at an essay banquet on Wednesday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m., at the

Carbondale Days Inn. The judges will be John Freitag, Youth Tour Director at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives; Dr. Owen Smith College of Agriculture, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; and Charles Willman, Randolph County Extension Agent.

High school juniors attending Red Bud, Sparta, Chester, Trico, Pinckneyville, Carbondale, Carterville, Gorham, Murphysboro, Eldorado, Marissa, Steeleville or Coulterville high schools—and sons or daughters of any Egyptian Electric members who attend other high schools—were eligible to participate in the program.

The 1989 "Youth to Washington" tour will be held June 16-23, 1989.

For information about the Youth Tour, contact Bryce Cramer, District Office Manager at Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, RR 2 Box 5, Murphysboro, IL 62966, or phone 618/683-2143.

What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

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

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

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

THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS. 5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

Satellite TV services available to members of Egyptian Electric

Call toll-free 1-800-44RURAL (447-8725)



HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP

HIGHWAY 142 EAST

DAHLGREN, IL 62828

PREMIUM SERVICES

A - PT 24	WABC - New York	F2-04
\$4.00	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12

B - SELTV	Selectv	S1-09
\$9.95	Selectv	S2-09

C - WTBS	Superstation TBS	G1-18
\$1.70		

F - SKYLINE	WWOR - New York	G1-15
\$3.00	KTLA - Los Angeles	F4-16
	WSBK - Boston	F4-17

G - HBO	HBO - East	G1-23
\$7.95	HBO - West	G1-01

H-CINEMAX	Cinemax East	G1-19
\$7.95	Cinemax - West	F3-23

I-DISNEY	Disney East	G1-04
\$7.95	Disney West	G1-24

J - NETLINK	KDVR - Denver	F1-20
\$5.95	KWGN - Denver	F1-14
	KRMA - Denver	F1-12

K -	KUSA - Denver	F1-02
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L -	KCNC - Denver	F1-04
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M -	KMGH - Denver	F1-06
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O - SEN	Starion Entertainment Network	T3-19
\$9.95		

Any 2 Combination of G-H-I	\$14.95
All 3 Combination of G-H-I	\$20.95

BASIC SERVICES

#1 - RTV	WGN	G1-03
\$9.50	WPIX	F4-19
	KTVT	F4-03
	TNN	G1-02
	CNN	G1-07
	Headline News	G1-08
	ESPN	G1-09
	CBN	G1-11
	USA - E	G1-21
	USA - W	F3-10
	Weather Channel	G3-13
	Lifetime - E	F3-17
	Lifetime - W	G3-20
	Nichelodeon - E	G3-19
	Nichelodeon - W	G3-22
	Country Music TV	G1-13
	Nostalgia Chnl.	F4-21
	Learning Chnl.	F3-02
	Travel Chnl.	F3-16

#2 - RTV II — RTV Minus ESPN
\$9.00

#3 - RTV + — RTV Plus KDVR, KWGN & KRMA Denver
\$14.50

#4 - RTV + II — RTV + Minus ESPN
\$14.00

Egyptian Messenger

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

From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



ANNUAL MEETING

The 51st annual meeting is about a month away, so it is time to mark your calendars. The meeting is set for July 27 and will be held at the Steeleville Legion Hall. Derry Brownfield, of the Brownfield radio program, will be the guest speaker, so why not plan to spend a couple of hours with us that evening. The meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m. and we usually adjourn shortly after 9 p.m. As most of you know, the hall is air conditioned and quite suited to our needs, so come out and join us.

SPRAYING

We are operating a spray crew out of each office this summer, so if you see activity in your area, it is probably one of our crews. In order to try to keep the lines in service in the most efficient and economical manner, we utilize trimming crews, a hydro-ax machine and chemical control. Of the three methods, spraying is the most cost effective and quickest. Not only is spraying the cheapest in first-time costs, but once the brush is killed it does not grow back.

Of the three methods, trimming by hand is the most costly and we try to limit that type of control to residential shade trees. Since trees will regrow in a few years after they are trimmed, trimming them is an ongoing and costly process and there is no way we could trim all the brush on the system at a cost you would be willing to pay. Thus, we have to ask your cooperation in letting us remove all those trees under or near the lines that are not needed for shade or aesthetic purposes.

The hydro-ax mowing machine is much more cost effective than trimming, but it has the drawback that we get tremendous regrowth once the trees are cut and the ground and stumps are subjected to full sunlight. Thus it does not take too many years before we have a stand of brush that is thicker than before we mowed. It is our plan to follow up behind the machine with chemical applications to control the regrowth and

hopefully in a few years grasses will take over and the need for any type of control will be greatly reduced.

When talking about spraying, I hate to put everything in terms of dollars and cents because I realize that there are some people who do have concerns about the use of any chemicals, whether it be in brush control or food production. I, as manager of your cooperative, have to look at how we can provide the kind of service you want without raising your rates any more than necessary. In that light I have to use the chemical option. I know that some will say that they are willing to pay more for electricity if spray is not used, but you only have to look in the daily paper to see that rate increases by utilities are not a popular item. The general public does not really perceive that, as additional costs are placed on utilities by various governmental laws and rules, these costs will eventually trickle down to them. The basic law of economics is that costs for services or products will be borne by the ultimate consumer, and that is you and I. Businesses have no magic hat from which to draw out funds, and any cost incurred must be recovered from those who patronize that business. If you want your cooperative to use the least efficient methods of maintaining right-of-ways, you must then be willing to pay the additional costs, whatever they may be.

METER CHECKING

I am sure that by now most of you have noticed that we have an ongoing program of check reading meters and we have been coming to your place periodically. In the course of making these check readings, we are also looking over the system and, if we notice something that we consider a hazard, we take steps to correct it. On occasion, our corrective action is less than appreciated by a member.

Probably the area that causes us the most problems with a member is our practice of not allowing a member to place equipment on a primary line pole that carries conductors energized at 7,200 volts. A specific example is not allowing a member to place his own security light on our primary pole. When we become aware of a member-owned light on one of our primary poles, we notify the member in writing that we are going to remove the light, and we also request that he not try to maintain the light before we remove it.

What's wrong with member equipment on our primary poles? The simple fact is the member runs the risk of serious injury or loss of life if he climbs a pole. I know that you are all careful and you all know the

risks and you would always stay below the transformer or neutral wire, but you would be surprised at some of the things that we find that you would never do. Because we have more than 11,000 meters and it is always the other guy, we simply cannot keep track of the other guy. The only way we can maintain control is to allow no member equipment on our primary poles. That means wires, lights, antennas and whatever else someone might dream up that he believes needs to be mounted in the air.

In most cases facilities are placed on our poles because the individual installing them was not aware of the risk he was taking. In the case of security lights, the usual incentive for a member to install his own light is to save the \$6 a month rental charge. Most do not realize, however, that the rental light is probably the best bargain around if you need a light. If you furnish your own light, you are going to pay us at least \$4 a month for the electricity and you have to buy the light, install it and maintain it. For \$6 a month we furnish the light, electricity and maintenance. Where can you get a better deal for less than two dollars a month or about a nickel a day? I know everyone who has installed their own light never had a lick of trouble in 10 years, but I can tell you that it does not always work that way.

We rent more than 2,600 lights, and every time an electrical storm rolls through, we hear from many of you.

I really did not mean to get off on security lights, except to make the point that whenever you decide to climb one of our poles, you are taking a life threatening risk. Usually the reason for doing so is to avoid spending some money for either a pole of your own or renting a light. I value my life more than that and I value your life more than that. Thus, no matter if I make you mad or not, if we see you placing something on our poles that is a danger to you or to our men that have to climb those poles, it is coming off the poles. Regardless of whether or not you may have made a payment in aid-of-construction or whatever, the cooperative does retain ownership of all poles on its electrical system and as such has exclusive right to determine what goes on those poles. Also, even though we may have missed something in the past, a hazard does not diminish with age and we correct them as we find them.

Office closing

Our offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Don't let your vacation cause a billing problem!

Vacation time is here for many of us, and we would like to remind our members of two problems we have had over the years.

The first and most frequent problem is that, in the excitement of going on that long-awaited vacation, many members forget to make arrangements to have their electric bill taken care of, whether it be by not paying the bill before they leave or by forgetting to make some arrangements with a friend or relative. If one or both of these arrangements could be made, it may help reduce the amount of payments made after the due date and may also save you a 10 percent late charge.

The second problem we have had is that many of our

members, in an attempt to keep their bills as low as possible while they are gone, will shut certain things off. But when they return and find that there has been little change or maybe there was not the kind of change they were expecting, they begin to wonder why. They call to find out and after listening and restesting everything they have tried, many times we find that they have forgotten to unplug one or two of the items they wanted to turn off. So, in an effort to avoid this, your Cooperative asks that, before you go, please recheck all of the items you want to be shut off.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Cooperative office for more information.

The storm has passed, but danger lingers on

While we understand the urgency of restoring electric power to all of our consumers after a severe storm, we consider hazardous conditions created by the storm to be our first priority. That means the detection and repair of downed overhead power lines, and we need your help.

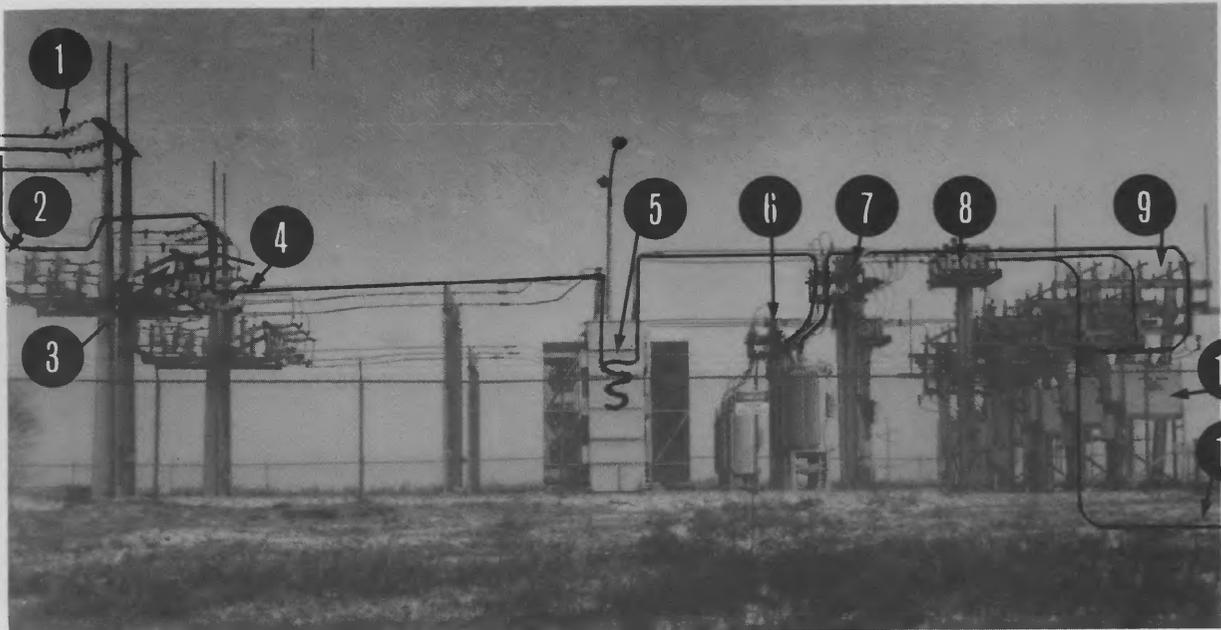
Power lines which have been

snapped or pulled down as the result of a storm present a serious, even deadly danger. If you come across a downed wire, stay completely away from it. Don't touch the lines, the pole to which it is attached, or anything else in contact with the wire. Call us immediately—don't assume someone else will. We

want to know about downed wires immediately so we can send our trained linemen to make the needed repairs.

Take some time today to teach your children about the dangers of downed electric wires. Instruct them to tell you or another adult as soon as possible about the problem and to warn other children away.

Never, never assume a wire is harmless. Let us make the determinations and the repairs. Together we'll continue to keep our community safe from electric accidents.



1. Incoming 34.5KV or 69KV Transmission Line
2. Switch
3. Lightning Arresters
4. Fuses
5. Transformer converts 34.5

- or 69KV to 7.2/12.5KV
6. Regulators to maintain constant voltage
7. Metering
8. Switch
9. 7.2/12.5KV Buss for Distri-

- bution Circuits
10. Breaker
11. Underground three-phase feed out to poles and distribution system

What is a substation?

We see them often—in town or in the country. They all look alike—high, chain link fences; warning signs; gray shapes behind the fences; lots of wire going in or coming out; sometimes a slight hum can be heard if we stop and listen. But what are they?

Well, substations serve two purposes. They change the voltage of the electricity and they route it. They change or transform the voltage from a higher (69,000 or 138,000 or 345,000 volts) to a lower voltage (7,200). Electricity is

cheaper to transport at higher voltages and costs more to transport at lower voltages.

In the picture, the high voltage enters the substation from the left, goes into the top of the transformer (1) where the voltage is lowered to 7,200 volts. From the transformer it flows to the voltage regulator (2). The regulator ensures that the voltage is constant and true.

It leaves the regulator to flow to the distribution center (4) where it is split into three or more circuits that travel along highways and

streets to a transformer near a house. Here it is changed from 7,200 volts to 240 volts and then flows into the home to be distributed through the fuse or breaker box.

That's what they are and that's what they do. We need a new one when a circuit serving a particular area gets too many members connected to it. The new one then serves the area with three or more circuits instead of one.

How to estimate capital credits

Total margins of \$2,363,872.15 for 1988 have been allocated on the books of Egyptian Electric Cooperative. You may estimate the amount allocated to your capital account as follows:

Step 1. Add up the total amount paid for energy charges only. Do not include taxes or late payment charges.

Step 2. Multiply total kwh used in 1988 by \$.044452226.

Step 3. Subtract Step 2 from Step 1.

Step 4. Multiply Step 3 amount by .538801077.

The amount computed in Step 4 represents the total amount of capital credits allocated to your account. To determine the amount of operating margins allocated due to Egyptian Electric's operations, multiply the amount in Step 4 by .647.

What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

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

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HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP

HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828

PREMIUM SERVICES

A - PT 24	WABC - New York	F2-04
\$4.00	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12
B - SELTV	Selectv	S1-09
\$9.95	Selectv	S2-09
C - WTBS	Superstation TBS	G1-18
\$1.70		
F - SKYLINE	WWOR - New York	G1-15
\$3.00	KTLA - Los Angeles	F4-16
	WSBK - Boston	F4-17
G - HBO	HBO - East	G1-23
\$7.95	HBO - West	G1-01
H - CINEMAX	Cinemax East	G1-19
\$7.95	Cinemax - West	F3-23
I - DISNEY	Disney East	G1-04
\$7.95	Disney West	G1-24
J - NETLINK	KDVR - Denver	F1-20
\$5.95	KWGN - Denver	F1-14
	KRMA - Denver	F1-12
K -	KUSA - Denver	F1-02
L -	KCNC - Denver	F1-04
M -	KMGH - Denver	F1-06
O - SEN	Starion Entertainment Network	T3-19
\$9.95		
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BASIC SERVICES

#1 - RTV	WGN	G1-03
\$9.50	WPIX	F4-19
	KTVT	F4-03
	TNN	G1-02
	CNN	G1-07
	Headline News	G1-08
	ESPN	G1-09
	CBN	G1-11
	USA - E	G1-21
	USA - W	F3-10
	Weather Channel	G3-13
	Lifetime - E	F3-17
	Lifetime - W	G3-20
	Nichelodeon - E	G3-19
	Nichelodeon - W	G3-22
	Country Music TV	G1-13
	Nostalgia Chnl.	F4-21
	Learning Chnl.	F3-02
	Travel Chnl.	F3-16
#2 - RTV II — RTV Minus ESPN		
\$9.00		
#3 - RTV + — RTV Plus KDVR, KWGN & KRMA Denver		
\$14.50		
#4 - RTV + II — RTV + Minus ESPN		
\$14.00		

Egyptian Messenger

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Invitation from the board of directors to the annual meeting



Bame

On behalf of the board of directors of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, I extend a personal invitation to attend your cooperative's 51st annual meeting. The meeting will be held at Steeleville's American Legion Hall on Thursday, July 27, 1989. The hall is air-conditioned and has been very comfortable the last six annual meetings in spite of the summer heat.

Registration will begin at 6 p.m., and each member registering will receive a rain gauge and a coffee mug as attendance gifts. All members registered by 7:30 p.m. will be included in the drawing for 10 "early bird" prizes, which will be \$20 credits to be applied on an electric bill. At the conclusion of the meeting, all members present will be eligible for the drawing of other attendance prizes as well as the two grand prizes of a \$100 credit to be applied to an electric bill. There will also be a drawing for a 51st Anniversary prize, which will be a VCR.

As in the past few years, we are planning a very short business meeting to conduct the necessary business affairs of the cooperative, and we will conclude the meeting with Derry Brownfield as our guest speaker. Additional information on Mr. Brownfield is included elsewhere in this section. His presentation has been well received by many annual meeting groups, and I believe you will also enjoy him.

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

**W. Dean Bame, President
Board of Directors**

Official Notice

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

**51st Annual Meeting
July 27, 1989 7:30 p.m.**

**American Legion Hall
South Chester Street
Steeleville, Illinois**

Action will be taken on the following matters:

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

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

Minutes of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee, in compliance with the by-laws of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, met in Steeleville, Illinois, in the office of the Cooperative, on June 5, 1989, at 8 p.m., to nominate candidates for the office of director of the Cooperative to serve for a three-year term and to be voted upon by the membership of the Cooperative in its annual meeting to be held on July 27, 1989, in the Steeleville American Legion Hall.

Attorney Paul H. Nehrt opened the meeting by stating that the purpose of the Nominating Committee is to nominate candidates for the office of director of the Cooperative and that the terms of Mr. W. Dean Bame, Mr. Kevin Liefer, and Mr. Edward C. Timpner were expiring this year.

A roll call of the members of the Nominating Committee was taken, and all members were present.

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

Mr. John Edgar was duly selected as chairman of the Committee, and Mr. Paul H. Nehrt was selected as secretary of the meeting.

The chairman requested the secretary to read the minutes of the last year's Nominating Committee

meeting.

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

Mr. John Edgar nominated Mr. W. Dean Bame, Mr. Stuart Langrehr nominated Mr. Kevin Liefer, and Mr. Richard Winter nominated Mr. Edward C. Timpner for the office of director of the Cooperative. Mr. William Heisner moved that the nominations be closed and that they be nominated by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Paul, and was unanimously carried, and that their names be placed on the ballot to be voted upon at the annual meeting of the members on July 27, 1989.

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

John C. Edgar Chairman

Stuart J. Langrehr
Homer Bunselmeyer
Everet Rodewald
Melvin L. Paul

Vernold K. Feiste
Mike Peterman
Richard D. Winter
Wm. C. Heisner

Derry Brownfield is guest speaker at annual meeting



Brownfield

Derry Brownfield was born in 1932 and grew up during the Depression. He is a farmer and a broadcaster. Derry attended the college of Agriculture at the University of Missouri where he received his B.S. and M.S. degrees. He taught vocational agriculture several years before going to work as a marketing specialist with the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Derry served as Director of the Kansas

City Livestock Market Foundation at the Kansas City Stockyards prior to establishing himself in farm broadcasting.

In 1972 Derry and his partner established a radio network that now serves 150 radio stations via satellite. The Brownfield Network broadcasts farm news and market information daily from a satellite system located on the Brownfield farm.

Annual meeting registration instructions: last name please

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

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

51st Anniversary prize — VCR

Early Bird Prize

10 Credits for \$20
on Electric Bills

Grand Prizes

Two \$100 Credits
on Electric Bills

Free Gift

Rain Gauge & a Coffee Mug
to Each Registered Member

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



Two area high school students were among the 45 outstanding high school students who represented the Electric Cooperatives of Illinois in Washington, D.C., June 16-23. Brice C. Nelson and Martha A. Ferguson, both of Carbondale, represented Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association on the annual "Youth to Washington" tour. The students left the Springfield headquarters of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) June 16 and are shown at the U.S. Capitol. From left are Nelson, Ferguson and John Freitag, tour director for the AIEC.

From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



ANNUAL MEETING

Your attention is directed to the official notice of the annual meeting, which is included in this section of the magazine. The meeting is scheduled for July 27, 1989, and will be held in the large meeting hall of the Steeleville American Legion hall. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 6 p.m.

As those of you who have attended one of the last six meetings know, the hall is air conditioned and suits our needs quite well. We plan to conduct the meeting as we have in past years and should be able to adjourn the business meeting in about an hour. We do have

Derry Brownfield scheduled as the guest speaker after the business meeting, and based on past meetings, the whole program should be completed around 9:15 p.m.

This is your meeting and opportunity to participate in the affairs of the cooperative, so mark your calendars and spend a couple of hours with us on the 27th. While we would like to think that everyone reads the magazine each month and will see the official notice, we know that word of mouth helps to get people out to the meeting. So, remind your friends and neighbors about the meeting because they may have missed seeing the notice or may not have had a chance to read this month's issue.

We will be having the drawings for the usual attendance prizes and will again offer a large grand prize in addition to the two \$100 credits on electric bills. This year's top prize will be a VCR. Last year we also had a 50th anniversary cake along with refreshments and, while it won't be a birthday cake, we will again serve cake and refreshments after the meeting. Come out and join us. Your attendance makes the meeting.

What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

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

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

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Call toll-free 1-800-44RURAL (447-8725)



HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP
HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828

PREMIUM SERVICES

A - PT 24	WABC - New York	F2-04
\$4.00	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12

B - SELTV	Selectv	S1-09
\$9.95	Selectv	S2-09

C - WTBS	Superstation TBS	G1-18
\$1.70		

F - SKYLINE	WWOR - New York	G1-15
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G - HBO	HBO - East	G1-23
\$7.95	HBO - West	G1-01

H-CINEMAX	Cinemax East	G1-19
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\$5.95	KWGN - Denver	F1-14
	KRMA - Denver	F1-12

K -	KUSA - Denver	F1-02
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L -	KCNC - Denver	F1-04
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M -	KMGH - Denver	F1-06
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O - SEN	Starion Entertainment Network	T3-19
\$9.95		

Any 2 Combination of G-H-I	\$14.95
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\$9.50	WPIX	F4-19
	KTVT	F4-03
	TNN	G1-02
	CNN	G1-07
	Headline News	G1-08
	ESPN	G1-09
	CBN	G1-11
	USA - E	G1-21
	USA - W	F3-10
	Weather Channel	G3-13
	Lifetime - E	F3-17
	Lifetime - W	G3-20
	Nichelodeon - E	G3-19
	Nichelodeon - W	G3-22
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Egyptian Messenger

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From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



ANNUAL MEETING

The 51st annual meeting is now history and, in my opinion, we had another good meeting. There were 288 members registered for the meeting and while that is somewhat less than the 318 we had register for the cooperative's 50th meeting, it is still considerably

above attendance of previous years. On behalf of the employees, the board of directors and myself, I want to again express our appreciation to those who attended the meeting for their support. It takes quite a bit of planning and preparation to put on a meeting and it is rewarding to have a good crowd on hand.

This year's speaker was Derry Brownfield, of the Brownfield Radio Network, and judging from some of the comments I heard and the crowd's reaction, he was well received. Finding a good speaker is always a challenge and I am always looking for recommendations or suggestions. If you have heard someone speak who you thought was really good and would fit our audience, drop me a note and I will check it out. I generally look for someone who has some humor,



Members work their way through the registration line.



Three members were reelected to the board of directors. With manager Harry W. Kuhn (right) are, from left, Edward C. Timpner of Pinckneyville, W. Dean Bame of Ava and Kevin Liefer of Red Bud.

Guest

Scenes from your annual meeting

maybe a little bit of a message and makes a presentation that is suitable for a family type of audience.

RATES

As was reported to those in attendance at the annual meeting, the cooperative is continuing to do well and current rates will be in effect until at least October of 1990. We mail billing packets to the self-billed members in September and those billing supplies are good for one year, so the earliest we would make changes is in the September 1990 mailing.

I am sure the news that rates will remain stable for another year is welcome news to each of you. The fact that the cooperative is doing well and has been able to maintain stable rates for six years is due in large part to fuel economies and outside sales at the Lake of Egypt power plant. The spot coal market has remained soft

and while we expect that fuel costs to Egyptian will increase approximately \$300,000 in 1990, we believe that we can live with that and still make the margin necessary to meet mortgage requirements and operate the system in a sound financial manner.

While fuel costs have been the big factor in maintaining stable rates, the cooperative continues to grow at a slow rate in terms of kilowatt-hour sales and in terms of number of meters served. This past year we exceeded 11,000 active meters for the first time and we also had an all-time high in terms of sales. While the growth in these areas has not been spectacular, any growth helps to offset the rise in other operating costs exclusive of wholesale power costs. Just as you see increases in the cost of gasoline, automobiles, supplies and services, the cooperative experiences those increases. The only difference is that the cooperative

experiences some of the increases on a much bigger scale and any growth that we have in sales tends to offset those increases somewhat.

As I reported at the meeting, the major factor that we see affecting rates in the future is what will come out of Congress in terms of a clean air bill. President Bush is on record as favoring tougher legislation with regard to emissions, so I believe that some new laws will be forthcoming. We do not know how they will impact us, but all that we can hope for is that we can continue to operate our generating units, that we will get credit for the \$25 million we have already spent on pollution equipment and that the new law won't shut down the coal industry in Southern Illinois. Shutting down the coal industry in this area would be especially devastating because it would mean loss of jobs, loss of money to the economy of the area and loss of an economical coal supply. Most of the effects of new legislation will not be felt immediately, but they will eventually hit those who eventually must pay the bill and that is you and I.



er Derry Brownfield



The large turnout packed the meeting room at the American Legion in Steeleville.

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ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM

During the past two years we have distributed in excess of \$200,000 in the form of grants for energy saving home improvement projects. These grants were a part of a three-year program that is being funded by the State of Illinois out of the oil overcharge fund and is available only to members of electric cooperatives. We have been notified of our allocation of funds for the third and final year of the program and we will have approximately \$80,000 to distribute in the form of grants.

The rules for qualifying for a grant are about the same as the previous years. The income guidelines have changed slightly and the rules for renters and owners of mobile homes have changed somewhat. Renters will have to have written permission from the property owner to make the improvements and will have to agree to live at the residence a specified period of time. Mobile home owners will also have to meet certain residency requirements in order to qualify for a grant.

Assuming a member meets the income guidelines, the number one requirement for a home improvement project to qualify for a grant is that the project must produce energy savings over a ten-year period that would equal the amount of the grant. Thus, a new efficient heating system that costs \$1,500 would have to save at least \$150 a year in order to qualify for a grant. In order to compute the potential savings, we would perform an energy audit of your home and calculate the estimated savings with an energy saving project in place.

We perform the energy audit and assist with the application without any charge to the member. We believe that it is really a good program for our lower income members and will help them to lower their energy costs for many years to come. If you have an interest and believe that you may have some home improvement projects that may qualify for a grant, please contact one of our offices. We will mail you

information as to the income guidelines and if you determine that you qualify and want to proceed further, we will arrange for Bryce Cramer to meet you at your home to perform the energy audit. It is a requirement that you get bids from contractors to perform the work, but there is no expense on your part in submitting an application, other than some car expense you might incur in contacting contractors to obtain bids.

As we have done in previous years, we will log requests as they come in and do the audits on a first come, first served basis. Once the audit is performed and you are tardy in getting your bids and putting your applications together, you run the risk of not getting funded because someone else was more timely. Based on the previous years, we expect that we will exhaust our allocation in a couple of months and that will be the end of the program unless we get some small amount of money at the end of the fiscal year because of a reallocation of funds that were not used by other cooperatives.

SUMMER LOADS

After all the hue and cry of global warming after last summer's heat wave, this summer has been rather normal this year as far as the utility business is concerned. If anything, it is probably going to be a little less than what I had budgeted and my budget is based on what we have experienced during the past 10 years. Energy usage in July was about 2 percent over budget, but the system peak demand was under budget for the month. That basically means that we had the warm days we usually get in July, but we did not have any extremely hot days or did not have really hot days occur for many days in a row. Because of the rather mild weather we experienced during a couple of weeks in August, I would rather doubt that energy sales will meet budget levels for the month. My August budget did not anticipate daytime temperatures in the low to mid eighties and nighttime temperatures that were more like fall for a few evenings. While the last couple of weeks have been fairly warm and very humid, it appears at this point that the system peak summer demand occurred on Saturday, August 5. We do not usually peak on weekends because some commercial accounts are shut down on weekends, but it was rather hot on that particular weekend and the demand for cooling was enough to set the summer peak.

Practice electrical safety

When you think of how many times a day you flip a switch or plug in an appliance, you realize how important electricity is in modern life. But you should also consider its potential for harm. Hundreds of people are electrocuted each year, and about 15 percent of all home fires are caused by electrical problems.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has been active this year promoting electrical safety. Part of this campaign is a home safety audit, a checklist for identifying and removing electrical hazards. The following tips can help prevent electrical accidents at home.

- Check the wattage of all bulbs in your light fixtures. A bulb of too high wattage can lead to fire through overheating. Be especially sure to check bulbs in hooded lamps that can trap heat. If you don't know the correct wattage for a fixture, use a bulb no higher than 60 watts.

- Check all lamp extension cords. Make sure they're not in traffic areas; aside from the obvious tripping hazards, a cord that is stepped on can become frayed, leading to a fire hazard. Also make sure furniture is not resting on cords. Replace any cords that are cracked or frayed. Cords should not be wrapped around themselves, nor should they be attached to walls with nails or staples.

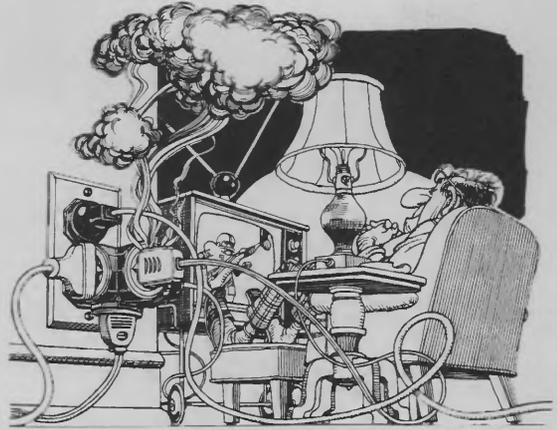
- Extension cords that are not in use should be equipped with safety covers so children or pets won't be shocked. Don't overload extension cords; check the rating of both the cord and the appliance to make sure they're compatible and remember, extension cords should **only be a temporary measure**.

- Check heating equipment. All heating appliances should bear the label of a recognized testing agency, such as Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL). Keep heaters on a stable surface so they won't tip over, and make sure they're away from drapes and other combustibles. If the heater has a three-pronged plug, don't defeat the purpose of the ground by snipping it. Attach the adaptor's ground wire or tab to the outlet.

- Check kitchen appliances. Countertop appliances should be unplugged when not in use, and placed so that cords will not come in contact with water or any source of heat. Large appliances should operate without excess vibration or movement; if they vibrate, have them checked. Keep combustibles from your stove-top range.

- Check your bathroom. All electrical appliances, including hair dryers, curling irons and razors should be unplugged when not in use. They should be used near water as little as possible—even a **switched-off appliance can cause electrocution if it falls into water while plugged in**. Don't use portable heaters in a bathroom. The combination of water and many grounded surfaces make a bathroom a risky place to use a heater.

- Check your bedrooms. If you have an electric blanket, make sure it is free of cracks or breaks in



wiring, plugs and connectors. Check for charred spots on both sides of the blanket—these indicate that there is a problem. Nothing should be covering an electric blanket that is in use, nor should it be folded back; this can cause overheating.

- Check your garage, basement and workshop. All your power tools should be equipped with three-pronged plugs or be double-insulated to minimize the chances of electric shock. Consider replacing older tools that don't have these safety features.

- Check your wall outlets and switches. All of them should be working properly, and any not in use should be equipped with safety covers. All outlets and switches should fit snugly; a loose plug can cause overheating.

- Check television sets, radios and other entertainment equipment. They should all be placed where the cords are away from traffic and where the air can circulate freely around equipment. Make sure the cords are in good condition and placed well away from any leakage or sources of water.

- Check your fuse box or circuit breaker box. Make sure fuses are the right size. If you have circuit breakers, "exercise" them periodically by turning them on and off about a dozen times. It's a good idea to have ground fault circuit interrupters to prevent electrocutions, and they are required for some interior locations according to GFC codes. If you have GFCIs, test them periodically, following manufacturers' instructions.

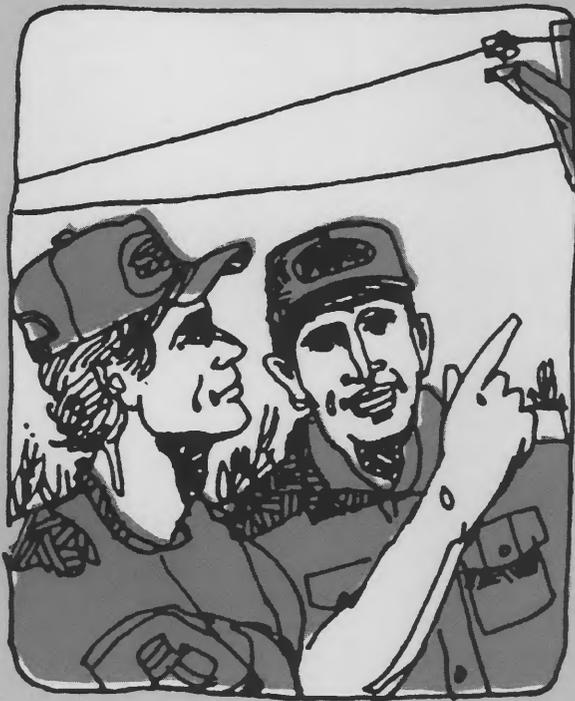
- Check outdoor receptacles. Each receptacle should have its own waterproof cover. Current building codes require GFCIs on outdoor circuits. If your house was built before these codes took effect, consider having GFCIs installed as a safety measure.

- Check lawn and garden tools. All cords should be in good condition. Have cracked or damaged cords replaced. Any equipment that operates erratically or abnormally should be repaired or replaced. When using extension cords outdoors, make sure they are rated for this use. Tools that are equipped with three-pronged plugs should be used only with extension cords made for three-pronged plugs. Don't bypass this safety circuit.

Think 'safe'

Responsible electric accident control today

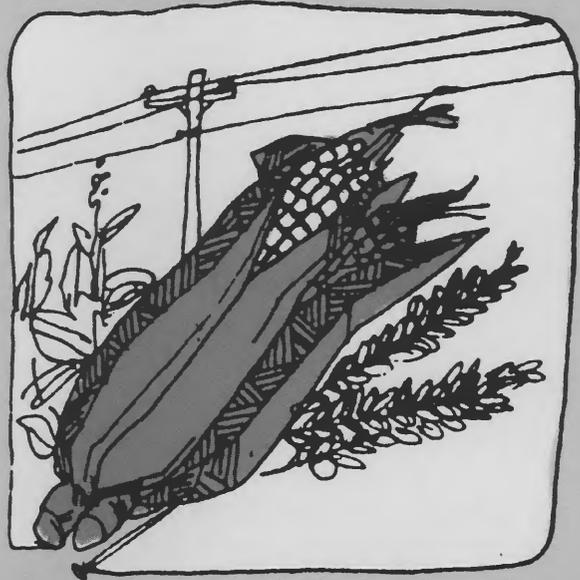
The accident you avoid
is as important as the ones that really happen



No scene depicts the character and success of the United States quite as well as that of modern farm equipment harvesting an abundant crop of wheat or barley or corn. The technology and ingenuity of those machines has helped the American farmer continue to enjoy bountiful harvests to feed our nation's population and a great portion of the world's population as well. When you move into your fields to tend your crops, please exercise Responsible Electric Accident Control Today (RE-ACT) to make your harvest as safe as it is rewarding.

Modern farming requires the use of large, complex machinery. Each year a tragic number of accidents are caused by careless handling of farm equipment around electric power lines. Your power supplier urges you to use caution at all times — to watch for overhead power lines and utility poles and to avoid any contact with this potentially lethal power equipment.

Insist that hired hands and family members alike learn to survey their working areas carefully before engaging farm equipment in work activities. Have every worker assure himself that the equipment he is using will not come into contact with power lines or power support equipment.



What to do if the power goes off

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LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

The cooperative does maintain a registry of members who are on life support equipment in order that those members can receive priority consideration in the event of an outage. We do not, however, have any way of knowing that a member is utilizing this type of equipment unless he lets us know. Therefore, it is very important that you let us know what your needs are so that we can take appropriate action in the event of an outage or can contact you in the event we have to do maintenance on the system and have to interrupt the power. If we do place someone on the registry, it is much appreciated if they will let us know when they are no longer using the equipment and no longer need priority consideration. In the event of widespread outages, we would not want to spend time on restoring someone's service who is no longer on life support equipment to the possible detriment of someone who requires such equipment.

WINTER HEATING BILLS

By the time you read this article, we will not be that far from the time when it will be necessary to start putting heat into your homes again. I do want to remind the members at this time, as I have been doing other years, that it is our policy to make winter cutoffs for non-payment in those cases where the member refuses to work with us or will not seek assistance on a timely basis. If you have trouble paying your winter heating bill, do not avoid seeking help and above all else, do not ignore our notices on the hope or belief that we will not disconnect during the winter months. In fairness to those who struggle but pay their bill each month, we take a firm stance and have little patience with those who either ignore us or will not live up to agreed upon terms. It is rather late to think about seeking assistance when the serviceman is at the door to make the disconnect, so talk to us early to avoid those situations.

PLANNED OUTAGES

From time to time I do remind the members that we do maintain a telephone register whereby we call members when we plan to interrupt the power. While we can not call everyone on the system, we do try to call those whose businesses or operations might be greatly inconvenienced by a surprise interruption. If you utilize a personal computer in your business or utilize other equipment whereby an advance warning of an outage may avoid problems, let us know and we will place you on the calling register. All we ask is that you have a legitimate need to be notified in advance.

BILLING PACKETS

The billing packets have been mailed to those members who read their own meters, so if you read your own meter and have not received your packet, contact one of our offices. The main problem we have with undeliverable packets is that we do not have a current address for the member, and it is very important to let us know if the post office changes your address for some reason during the year. We do not always receive those changes, and it causes problems during packet mailing time. Some carriers know many of the patrons on their route and will deliver the mail even if the address is not quite correct, but a new person or substitute mail carrier may not, and that is why you need to check the label on this magazine to make sure the address is entirely correct. We mail around 8,000 packets, so your help in holding down returns will be greatly appreciated.

CUTTING TREES

It is that time of year again when the fall days are pleasant and the woodcutters head for the woods with their chain saws. Unfortunately, it is also the time when we can expect that these same woodcutters will drop trees through our power lines. The number one rule in dropping a tree should be to make sure you have a clear drop area in all directions from the tree, both in the air and on the ground. I know that everyone who owns a chain saw can drop a tree just where he wants it to fall, but to be on the safe side, look in all directions and look up to see if there are any power lines around. Don't overestimate your ability to fell a tree in the right direction and don't underestimate the height of a tree. Bad things can happen when trees are

(Continued on page 14d)

Stephenie Hurst does a lot of the bookwork at Research Mannikins and helps with other chores as needed. The Oregon firm ships orders from east of the Rockies from the Ava location.

Moose trumpet, bears roar, deer scrape, fish leap and birds take flight, but there is no noise. No mating calls, no angry challenges, no drumbeat of rapidly retreating wings, and no splashes. The animals, in all their poses, are foam.

After a while in the hands of a skilled taxidermist, they'll look as lifelike as you can imagine, and the proud hunter or fisherman will have "everything but the sound."

Research Mannikins, a rural Murphysboro firm, makes it all possible, with lifelike taxidermist forms. While many people mistakenly believe Research Mannikins is the birthplace of the dummies that are placed in cars and driven to destruction, such is not the case, notes Randy Hurst, who manages the six-person shop.

"Not too many years ago", Randy says, "taxidermist mannikins were just roughly shaped like the animals they were supposed to represent and if the taxidermist wanted to make them look really lifelike, he had to do a lot of extra work.

"We decided to build each form as much like the actual animal as possible, with individual muscles already in place, and it took a lot of research into



Mannikins

animal anatomy to do it. For example, when an animal turns its head, certain muscles work and stick out more. When he lifts his head, some others come into play.

"We were really careful to get them just right, for each position we have the molds in. I guess you could say we chose the name 'Research Mannikins' because we did our research before we started making mannikins."

The firm, which is headquartered in Lebanon, Oregon, was doing a booming business, when a quick look at the shipping map showed that many of the orders were coming from the Midwest, the South and the East Coast. It didn't take a great deal of research to figure out that a centralized location could cut down on shipping costs and the time in transit.

"We'd pretty much settled on a four-state area," Randy says, "and my wife, Stephenie, and I started looking for nice places to locate. We liked the area here, the fact that Murphysboro was about the same size as Lebanon, and the people were friendly. The country was similar to what we were used to, too. Since ours is mostly a catalog operation and United Parcel Ser-

vice goes about anywhere, we didn't need a high-traffic location, so we set up out in the country. The place had a couple of good-sized Morton buildings, and we moved right in. It's worked out really well."

The local shop, he notes, is not just a shipping point for Oregon. Many of the forms are made here, and locally purchased plywood is used as a base for each one.

"There are people at the main plant who make the actual molds," Randy says, and we pour polyurethane foam into them to actually make the forms. We sell archery targets, too, but we don't make them here."

He says the plant makes and ships a surprisingly large number of elk and moose forms. "I was surprised at first," he says, "because I knew there weren't any moose or elk around here, but there's obviously a large number of hunters who go out West, or to Maine or Canada. I was surprised at how big the deer around here are, too." he says.

Those dedicated taxidermists who manage to wend their way to the plant's location are often pleased at the diversity of the selection, Randy notes, and the

Randy Hurst shows one of the firm's carefully sculpted mannikins. The molds are made in Oregon from forms built by top wildlife sculptors, and the mannikins are made from locally purchased materials.



local shop has different-sized parts for virtually every bird, fish or animal a person might want to take to a taxidermist.

"We have teeth, eyes, tongues, ears—really a complete line of taxidermy supplies," Randy says, "and sometimes when a taxidermist comes in here they're like other people are when they go to a good shopping mall. They just enjoy browsing around looking at all the nice things."

Research Mannikins was the first in the industry, he says, to build mannikins with jaws installed. "We sell them either way," he remarks, "but with the teeth, tongue and roof of the mouth already in place, it saves the taxidermist time, and that's money to him. We offer

'detailed' sets, installed or not, that have the tartar around the teeth, like a real animal would have."

The research and attention to detail is paying off. The operation, which is now bursting at the seams of its present 2,800 square foot building, is getting ready to move into a 7,000 square foot structure nearby, one of the barns that was already on the farm.

"We came here a year and a half ago," Randy says, "and we really got into production about a year ago. We filled 6,000 orders last year, and we expect to double that this year. Since we moved here, UPS has put a bigger truck on the route, and we're trying to get them to do two pickups a day. We'll probably have a couple more employees soon, too."

Satellite TV services available to members of Egyptian Electric

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HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP
HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828

Basic services

No. 1-RTV \$9.50	WGN	G1-03
	WPIX	S3-09
	KTVT	S3-05
	TNN	G1-02
	CNN	G1-07
	Headline News	G1-08
	ESPN	G1-09
	CBN—Family Channel	G1-11
	USA-E	G1-21
	USA-W	F3-10
	Weather Channel	G3-13
	Lifetime-E	F3-17
	Lifetime-W	G3-20
	Nickelodeon-E	G3-10
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	Learning Channel	F3-02
	Travel Channel	F3-16
	Discovery Channel	G1-22
Superstation TBS	G1-18	
Arts and Entertainment	G1-12	

No. 2-RTV II—RTV Minus ESPN \$9.00

No. 3-RTV + —RTV Plus KDVR, KWGN and KRMA
Denver \$14.50

No. 4-RTV + II—RTV^s Minus ESPN \$14.00

Premium services

PT24	WABC-New York	F2-04	
\$4.00	WBBM-Chicago	F2-02	
	WXIA-Atlanta	F2-12	
\$5.50	Stardust Theater	G2-02	
SeITV	Selectv	S1-09	
\$9.95	Selectv	S2-09	
WTBS	Superstation TBS	G1-18	
\$1.70			
Skyline	WWOR-New York	G1-15	
\$3.00	KTLA-Los Angeles	S3-15	
	WSBK-Boston	S3-03	
HBO	HBO-East	G1-23	
\$7.95	HBO-West	G1-01	
Cinemax	Cinemax East	G1-19	
\$7.95	Cinemax West	F3-23	
Disney	Disney East	G1-04	
\$7.95	Disney West	G1-24	
Netline	KDVR-Denver	F1-20	
\$5.95	KWGN-Denver	F1-14	
	KRMA-Denver	F1-12	
	KUSA-Denver	F1-02	
	KCNC-Denver	F1-04	
	KMGH-Denver	F1-06	
SEN	Starion Entertainment		
\$9.95	Network	S3-19	
SSN	F1-07	F1-10	F1-11
\$7.95	F1-24	S3-21	F4-22

Any 2 Combination of Disney, HBO or Cinemax for \$14.95—or get all three for \$20.95.

(Continued from page 14a)

dropped across a power line and we do not want them to happen to you. If you should drop a tree across a line and it is either on the line or has torn the line down, stay away from it and immediately have someone call one of our offices. Do not assume that the line is dead or that wood is a good insulator and bet your life by trying to remove the tree yourself. We have trained men and equipment to do that kind of work, and you should contact us immediately so that we can avoid any

injuries and restore service as soon as possible.

If you have a tree that is close to the line, we would much rather drop it for you, rather than have to put the line up after you drop a tree through it. If the tree poses a threat to the line, we will drop it for you and there is no cost to you. Obviously, we can not go around and drop all the trees that people want down for various reasons, but if they are close to our lines we will look at them and help you out if it is in everyone's best interest to do so.

Egyptian Messenger

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

From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



BILLING PACKETS

As I reported to you last month, the billing packets were mailed to the self billed accounts in early October. We mailed slightly over 8,000 packets and to date we have had less than 15 returned by the post office, so it appears that the membership is doing a good job of keeping us informed as to address changes. Judging by the number of calls and inquiries we received about capital credit retirements to the estates of deceased members, most of you did read my letter that was included in the packet. The same letter was also included with the October bill for those accounts where we read the meter and mail a bill each month.

At times we all tend to complain about slow mail delivery, but we were very pleased with the quick delivery on some of the packets. The packets left our Steeleville office after 4 p.m. and the next morning we were already receiving calls from the Marion-Carbondale area in regard to the capital credit retirements. Considering that the packets are not mailed as first class mail, that is very good service and is probably typical of most of the mail delivery service that we receive. Human nature being what it is, we tend to only remember the times a piece of mail was late or mislaid and forget about all of the mail that is delivered very quickly.

YOUTH TO WASHINGTON

The cooperative is again participating in the Youth to Washington tour and high school juniors in the cooperative's service area are eligible to compete for an all expense paid trip. We are presently in the process of contacting schools and teachers to enlist their support and we are hopeful that some of them will use the essay contest as a class project. However, if the school your son or daughter attends does not participate, they can still compete on an individual basis. All they need to do is contact one of our offices and we will send them the necessary information. It is a really worthwhile trip and only requires a few hours

on the part of the student to write an essay on the topic we assign. So, if you have a high school junior in your family and would like them to have an opportunity to win a free trip to the nation's capitol, give us a call. In most cases, a little prodding on the part of the parents will create a little initiative on the part of the student and if they are fortunate enough to win, they will thank you later.

DAMAGE CLAIMS

Every so often we will receive a claim from a member for damages to appliances and the cause will be stated as power surges, momentary power interruptions or problems due to a loose neutral connection. We of, of course, carry insurance and we turn all such claims over to our carrier, but the insurance company will pay only if the damage was due to negligence on the part of the cooperative or an error on the part of its employees.

Every year we have a few claims where an automatic breaker might have operated several times on the line and a member has a television set or some other appliance breakdown after one of the momentary interruptions. Invariably the repairman will cite power surge as the culprit and the repair bill is sent to us. Apparently the possibility of a faulty component or weak electrical insulation in the appliance itself is not a consideration because it is easier to blame the utility. The facts of the matter are that all electric systems utilize automatic circuit breakers and we experience literally thousands such momentary interruptions each year. If such momentary operations were destructive to appliances, we either could not operate as we do or you could not have any appliances. Neither alternative would be acceptable because without automatic reclosers, we would have a prolonged outage each time we had a momentary line contact or a lightning flash-over. That would make you very unhappy, almost as much as not having your appliances. I will admit that an electrical component that has shorted out can appear very burned and blackened, but it does not require an overvoltage to create that appearance. A short circuit at a normal 120 volts can create a lot of arcing and burning before a circuit protective device trips off line. So, if you have an appliance fail and the repairman says it was a power surge, ask him how he arrived at that conclusion and why he ruled out a defective component.

If our insurance carrier does decide that a member is entitled to payment for damages, please bear in mind

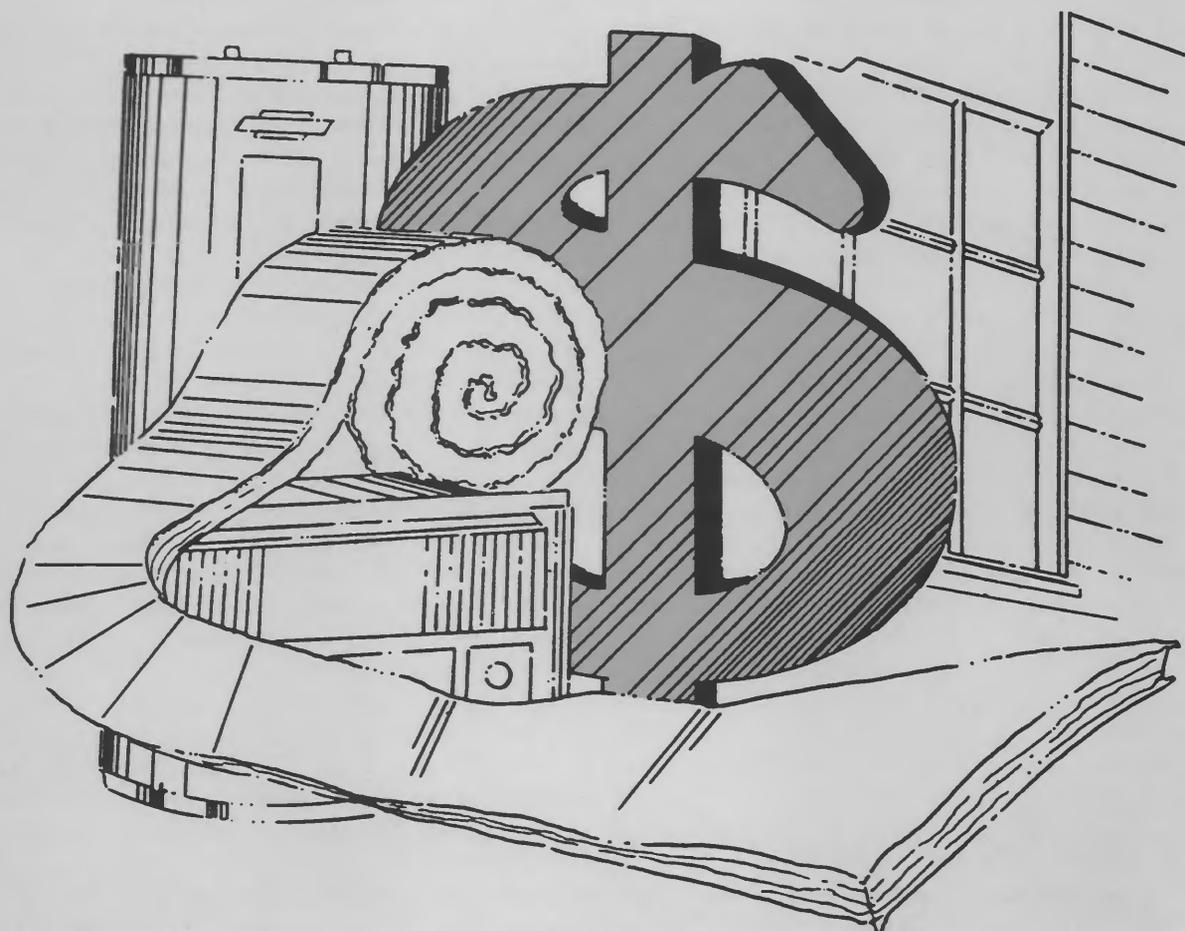
that all insurance is alike in that it will not replace a ten year old appliance with a new one. If you wreck your car and it is a total loss, your insurance company will pay only the book value of your car and will not give you a new car for your old one. While it may not seem quite fair that you may have to buy a new appliance at a time when you may not be prepared to do so, you will be compensated for the value of your old appliance. With the foregoing in mind, I would caution against running out and buying a new appliance on the supposition that the cooperative is liable and you will get new appliances for old ones.

The bottom line is that if the cooperative is negligent or an employee makes a mistake and causes damage to a member's equipment, we expect our insurance carrier to make it right with the member. On the other hand, if the damage is weather related or due to something that is beyond our control, we do not expect

that our carrier should have to pay. In any event, I always suggest that a member submit a claim to their own homeowner's insurance company because they may be obligated to pay the claim. Just because an insurance company believes that a utility is at fault is no reason that they should not pay a claim. Their responsibility is to their insured and they should pay any claims covered by the policy and then take action to recover those damages from other parties that they believe to be responsible.

Office closing

Our offices will be closed Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24, 1989, for the Thanksgiving Holidays.



Home weatherization grants

—find out if you're eligible!

Grants of up to \$1,500 for home weatherization or energy conservation are again available to eligible moderate- and low-income members of Egyptian Elec-

tric Cooperative Association. This marks the third and final year of the Rural Home Energy Program offered through the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural

Resources (ENR).

Are you qualified? A grant of up to \$1,500 is available to any Egyptian Electric member whose household income is 80 percent or less than the median income of the cooperative's service area. (See below for median income guidelines.) This is a total grant, with no matching funds required by the applicant.

A 50 percent matching grant, with the member paying 50 percent of the project's cost, of up to \$1,000, is available to members whose household income is 80 to 120 percent of the area's median income. (Again, see below for median income guidelines for Egyptian Electric.)

What projects can you do with the grant money? This list of projects eligible for funding through this program are varied and numerous:

- Insulation projects for walls, ceilings, attics, foundations, crawlspaces, floors, basement walls or ceiling, water pipes, air ducts, underpinning and mobile home undercarriage;

- New, energy-efficient water heaters; (They must meet ASHRAE 90 Standards required by Illinois law, however.)

- Heat pumps for heating and cooling (with a SEER rating of greater than 8.6);

- Furnace load management systems and furnace efficiency modifications;

- Furnace flue modifications and electronic ignition systems;

- Storm doors and thermal doors are eligible for a grant of up to \$150 maximum per entrance;

- Replacement central air-conditioners (with a SEER greater than 10.0) or room air conditioners (with an EER greater than 8.6) are eligible only for medical reasons. A medical doctor's certification is required.

- Furnaces with an AFUE rating of 90 or better are also eligible. In some cases, other heating systems with lower rating may be eligible, but prior approval from ENR must be obtained.

If you are interested in a Rural Home Energy Program grant, there are several steps you must take:

1. Contact Egyptian Electric and we will send you an information packet;

2. Applicants must have an energy audit completed on their home. Consideration for the grant depends on this energy audit. Egyptian Electric will do energy audits for its members at no cost. After receiving the packet, if you feel you qualify, contact Egyptian Electric for an energy audit. Your name will be added to the audit list and you will be contacted at a later date to schedule the audit.

3. After the audit has been completed, you must fill out the application and obtain written bids from at least two contractors for the proposed projects you want done. These bids must contain model numbers and efficiency ratings for heating systems, and cost estimates.

4. Please submit all applications and accompanying energy audits and bids to Egyptian Electric Cooperative. The application will first be reviewed at the cooperative and then forwarded by the cooperative to ENR for final review and approval. ENR has the final decision on all Rural Home Energy Program grant applications.

If your application is approved by ENR, a check is prepared payable to the member and the cooperative. The cooperative will then endorse the check and either mail or hand deliver it to you for payment.

Each approved applicant must certify to ENR that the installation of materials or equipment funded through this program is complete. Inspection of the completed work will be done by ENR at a later date.

All projects must show a proven 10-year payback in energy savings to the member and members who have previously received the maximum grant amount under the program in the previous two years are not eligible for further grant monies.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative will help you with all the details. Contact the cooperative office at 965-3434. If you just want to apply, leave your name with whomever answers the phone, and we will mail you the information.

Rural Home Energy Grant Program Income guidelines for Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

100% Subsidy up to \$1,500:

If your family income is less than the figure listed below your family size, then you are eligible for a grant up to \$1,500 for energy conservation measures in your home, with no matching funds required.

FAMILY SIZE:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
TOTAL FAMILY INCOME:	\$16,498	\$18,848	\$21,197	\$23,559	\$25,016	\$26,513	\$27,983	\$29,453

50% Subsidy up to \$1,000:

If your family income is between the figures listed below, then you are eligible for a grant of 50% of the cost of any eligible conservation measures, up to a total of \$1,000.

FAMILY SIZE:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	\$16,498-	\$18,848-	\$21,197-	\$23,559-	\$25,016-	\$26,513-	\$27,983-	\$29,453
	24,747	28,271	31,795	35,339	37,524	39,769	41,974	44,179

What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143. AFTER OFFICE HOURS: STEELEVILLE AREA — Call 965-3437 first. If there is no answer call 684-2144.
5. MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call 684-2144 first. If there is no answer call 965-3437. THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

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HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828

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	CNN	G1-07
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	CBN—Family Channel	G1-11
	USA-E	G1-21
	USA-W	F3-10
	Weather Channel	G3-13
	Lifetime-E	F3-17
	Lifetime-W	G3-20
	Nickelodeon-E	G3-10
	Nickelodeon-W	G3-22
	Country Music TV	G1-13
	Nostalgia Channel	F4-21
Learning Channel	F3-02	
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WTBS	Superstation TBS	G1-18
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	WSBK-Boston	S3-03
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\$7.95	Disney West	G1-24
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\$5.95	KWGN-Denver	F1-14
	KRMA-Denver	F1-12
	KUSA-Denver	F1-02
	KCNC-Denver	F1-04
	KMGH-Denver	F1-06
SEN	Starion Entertainment Network	S3-19
\$9.95		

SSN	F1-07	F1-10	F1-11
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Any 2 Combination of Disney, HBO or Cinemax for \$14.95—or get all three for \$20.95.

Egyptian Messenger

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



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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Harold I. Dycus
Archie Hamilton
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Dale A. Smith
John E. Steele
Edward C. Timpner
Paul Nehrt, Attorney

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Scot Alms
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Josephine Bayer
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Alma Boucher
Brenda Cleland
Bryce Cramer
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David Sickmeyer
JoAnn Simmons
Jim Smith
Richard Stein
Roger Stuva
Kay Taylor
Gerald Thies
Judy Wolters

Energy-saving tips

from your Member Services Department

By Bryce Cramer

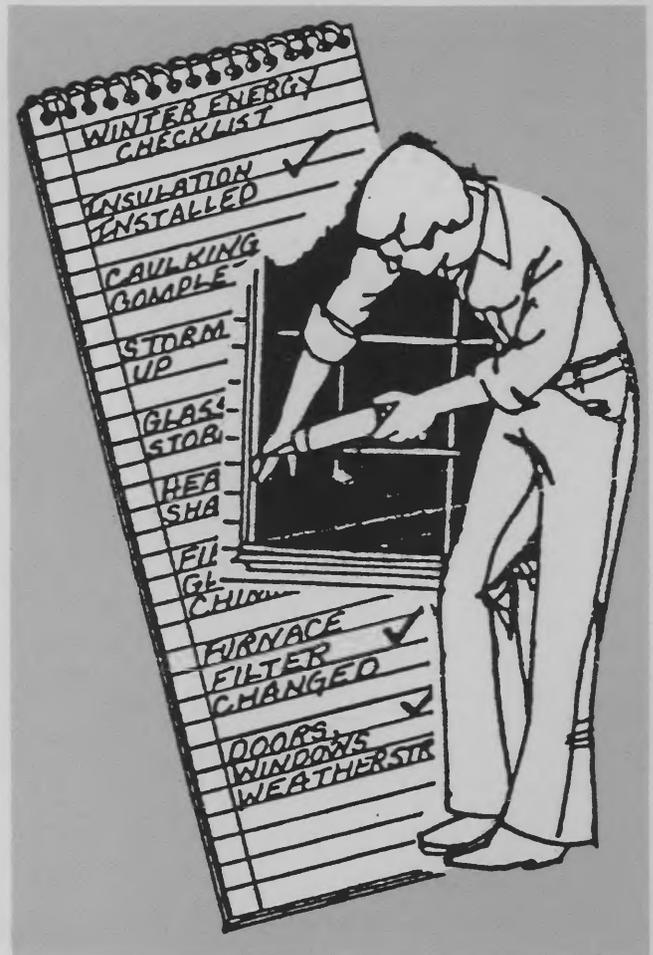
With "old man winter" showing his blustery face once again, chances are you've had your car checked and prepared on for the on-coming cold weather.

But have you ever stopped to realize that your house needs checked and prepared for winter also? Most of us take our residence for granted because it just sits there. (How many times have you ever had to kick it because it wouldn't start on a cold, snowy morning when you were already late for work?) But if our residence is not ready for winter, it too can cause problems and cost us money. So to get you ready for winter, we've prepared a check list of low cost/no cost items that you'll want to look at to make sure you're ready for winter.

1. Check your heating system (or have a professional to, if you do not feel qualified).

- Make sure filters are clean. A dirty filter restricts air flow, causing your system to work longer and harder to maintain the desired temperature.
- Check belts on blower motors. Loose belts should be tightened properly, (slipping belts will lower the air flow through the system) and worn belts should be replaced (you may have a hard time finding a replacement on New Year's eve).
- Oil blower motor bearings, if they are not the permanently sealed type, (check your owner's manual for instructions).
- Wash your heat pump. Pick a warm day and wash down the outside unit with a garden hose, (disconnect unit from the power supply). Your heat pump gets heat from the outside air, dirt that accumulates on the coil acts as an insulator and lowers the efficiency of your unit. Also make sure leaves and debris are removed from the vicinity of the unit and that neighboring shrubs and bushes have not grown so large that they restrict air flow around the unit.
- Baseboard heaters. Whether electric or hydronic, these units work by radiation and convection. Try to leave the area in front of the units open from furniture, allowing the heat to radiate out into the room. Also, make sure the unit is clean and free of obstructions. As air around the heater is warmed, it rises, being replaced by cooler air, that is in turn warmed. Dirty fins slow the transfer of heat to the air and the air movement through the heater.

2. Make sure storm windows are all in place. This may sound elementary, but several years ago, I discovered that one of my storms was not down in the middle of January (after the window developed a half inch of ice on the inside one night). Repair broken panes.



Many lumber yards and hardware stores offer this service.

3. Make sure all windows are locked. Sash locks not only provide your home with security, they are an invaluable part of your weatherization arsenal. Sash locks pull the sash rails together and force the sashes against the window sill, lowering the amount of air infiltration around window edges.

4. Make sure doors are weather-stripped. A one-eighth gap around a standard entrance door is comparable to a hold four inches by eight inches. (Surely you would close a hole this size up!) Check with your home center for different types of weatherstripping available. And don't forget the bottom of the door while you're at it.

5. Heat tapes and pipe insulation. Heat tapes should be checked periodically to be sure they are in good working condition and installed properly. Check on a warm day to make sure they are not stuck in the on position and also on a cold day that they are operating. Make sure the heat tape does not overlap itself, as this can cause the heat tape to short out,

causing failure and possibly a fire.

6. Attic vents. If your attic is properly insulated, you should not close attic vents in the winter. As the air inside a residence has a higher level of moisture vapor than cold, dry air outside, moisture vapor tries to equalize itself by escaping through walls and ceilings. A closed-off attic can cause this moisture to become trapped in the attic, lowering the R-value of your insulation and possibly causing problems.

7. Attic central air-conditioning units. If your house has an air conditioning system separate from the heating system and the unit and duct-work is in the attic, close all diffuser vents for the winter. Also, cover the return air register with plastic. If you have a combination air return/filter box, the easiest way is to cover a filter with plastic and replace the old filter with it. This will stop warm, moist air from rising into the cold duct-work that is in the attic. As the air rises, it forces cold air out of other registers, and the moisture in the warm air also condenses in the duct-work, causing potential problems down the road.

8. Caulking. Check exterior caulking at window/door frame and siding joints, at siding corners and joints,

chimney and siding joints and chimney and roof joints (to prevent water leaks). Also, check all perforations of the building exterior, such as water hydrant and utility entry points. If your residence has a crawl space or unheated basement, seal floor perforations (water and drain lines and at floor registers of forced air heating systems). You can also caulk the interior, using a small bead of caulk and some of the new clear caulks available. Caulk window and door frame mouldings and ceiling mouldings (if ceiling and walls are of different materials and there is a crack or seam where they meet). This is especially critical in mobile homes.

9. Add insulating jackets to water heaters. These jackets can save you from \$4 to \$12 yearly on water heating costs. Although savings are not high, neither is the cost. At \$10 to \$15, jackets have an exceptional payback period. Remember, on gas fired heaters though, do not insulate the top or around the gas valve and control area.

This list will help you get ready for winter, and many of the items will help you conserve energy.

Next month I'll talk about how changing your lifestyle can influence the amount of energy you use.

Rural Small Business Energy Program

The Rural Small Business Energy Program was authorized by the Illinois Legislature in 1986 by passage of Public Law 84-1452, the same legislation that created the Rural Home Energy Grant Program. The RSBEP is a one-year program for the 1989-90 state fiscal year.

Energy grants are available to qualifying small businesses on a matching basis up to \$5,000. Any business served by an Illinois electric cooperative that meets the following requirements is eligible:

1. The business must employ no more than 12 people on a full-time basis.
2. The gross income of the business must be less than \$1.5 million.
3. The business must transact the majority of its

business within the State of Illinois.

4. The owner(s) of the business must reside in the State.
5. The owner(s) must obtain at least 30 percent of their income from the business.

Although the list of specific eligible measures is too lengthy to list in this article, they range from insulation, to storm windows, to heating system improvement/replacement, to load management systems and to electric motor efficiency modifications. All measures must have a simple energy cost payback of ten or less years as determined by an energy use analysis of the structure of equipment.

If you would like more information about the Rural Small Business Energy Program, please contact one of our offices.



Office holiday closing schedule

Egyptian Electric Cooperative's holiday schedule for Christmas and New Years is as follows:

The offices will be closed on:

Monday, December 25, 1989

and

Monday, January 1, 1990

In the event of emergencies and/or power outages, please call 965-3437 or 684-2144. Our telephones are manned 24 hours, regardless of the holidays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our members!



THE STORY OF SAINT NICHOLAS

The most well-known saint in Christendom is probably Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, whose good deeds have become legendary.

Our custom of gift-giving takes its origin, in part, from the tradition of charity which Saint Nicholas lived and encouraged. He was a very rich man who spent his money to help the needy.

Once, in order to save a poor family, he threw three bags of gold down their chimney. It is said that the money landed in stockings hung by the fireplace to dry. To this day we hang stockings, hoping to find them filled with goodies and treats!

Because he also had a special love for children, he became their patron saint. And so began the custom of giving gifts to children on December 6th, the day on which his feast is celebrated.

As his fame spread across western Europe, his figure developed into the person we know as Santa Claus, which comes from the Dutch for Saint Nicholas—Sinte Kloas.

According to legend, he rode the sky on a white horse, landing on rooftops to descend chimneys and leave treats in the stockings of good children. Some even believe he placed the Tannenbaum, or Christmas tree, in each home.

The story of Saint Nicholas was first brought to America by Dutch settlers. His final transformation from bishop-saint to folk figure came in 1823 when Clement C. Moore wrote his famous poem "The Night Before Christmas."

Today we call him by a different name, but one thing remains the same. Saint Nicholas, our present-day Santa Claus, is a symbol of unselfish giving—the *TRUE meaning of Christmas!*

