

Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

Todd Cloninger and Delana Henry both of Chandler-ville were married November 4. Todd is a second-year apprentice lineman for your Cooperative and will be promoted to third-year apprentice lineman February 1.

Congratulations

On November 15, James and Phyllis Haddick celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. Jim works for your Cooperative as a groundman-truck driver.

Phyllis and Melford McCoy celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary December 24. Phyllis is a records clerk for your Cooperative.

Wayne Jones completed 10 years of service with

Menard Electric Cooperative November 12. Wayne is the Cooperative office manager.

On January 1, Evelyn McLaughlin celebrated her 20th year as a Cooperative employee. Evelyn is a secretary for your Cooperative.

On January 14, Jessie and Norman Fricke celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Jessie is the radio dispatcher for the Cooperative.

Dwaine Heyen was promoted from fourth-year apprentice lineman to journeyman lineman January 1.

The Rural Home Energy Grant Program is still available to Menard members who qualify. If you are interested, please contact the Cooperative office at your earliest convenience.

Water heater program is back in 1990!

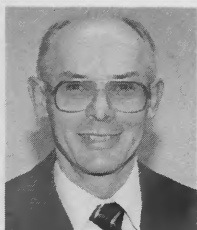
Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors has agreed to continue the electric water heater program for 1990. Many of our members have already taken advantage of this program, and others will be pleased

to know that they have an opportunity this year. If you are not familiar with the program, here is how it works:

Any member who either replaces a faulty water

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In Memoriam



Lepper

Dale R. Lepper, 64, a former director of Menard Electric Cooperative, died at Passavant Area Hospital in Jacksonville, on January 9, 1990. Dale had been a patient at the hospital for quite some time. Mr. Lepper was elected to the board of directors on March 4, 1961, and served until June 11, 1988, retiring after 27 years, 3 months, 4 days of service to fellow Cooperative members.

Mr. Lepper served as vice president of the board of directors from February 27, 1965, to March 9, 1968, and from June 4, 1983 to June 13, 1987. He was also president of the board of directors from March 9, 1968, to February 27, 1971.

He represented the Cooperative on the WIPCO board of directors on two different occasions:

from 1965-1966 and 1987-June 1988.

A native of Adams County, Mr. Lepper spent most of his life farming south of Prentice in Morgan County. He was a member of the Berea Christian Church, Morgan County Farm Bureau and was active in civic affairs of the community for many years. In addition he was a faithful and devoted director and member of your Cooperative. Mr. Lepper was an innovator in his farming operation and in service to his fellow man.

His progressive attitude, innovative ideas and sound advice, blended with common sense and a friendship seldom experienced, will long be remembered by all who knew him. Mr. Lepper is survived by his wife, Ruth; his mother, Mrs. Marie Lepper; one son, Gregory Dale Lepper; one daughter, Mrs. Galen (Carolyn Sue) Foat; four grandchildren; and two sisters.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its monthly meeting December 21, 1989, in the offices at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Director Warren D. Goetsch was absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved and the minutes of the November 27, 1989, meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board. Also the minutes of the Executive Session of the October board meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of November 1989. In his review of the kilowatt-hours purchased and sold, he brought attention to the board that approximately 1,500,000 kilowatt-hours were purchased and sold over budget. These added kilowatt-hour sales in the month of November bring the year-to-date margins approximately \$400,000 over budget. The Outage Summary for the month of November indicated approximately one-half the number of outages as compared to the same period in 1988. Year-to-date average consumer outage hours are approximately 30 percent lower than they were for 1988. The Safety Report for the month of November showed one recordable incident with a minor electric shock, with no lost time. After some general discussion and questions, the Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Manager Smith reviewed with the board the Policy on the Sick Leave Bonus Program. He indicated it was another successful year with almost all of the employees receiving bonuses for additional sick leave being accrued. The board approved the continuation for another year of the Sick Leave Bonus Program.

Manager Smith requested the board approve the physical inventory adjustments of the inventory which had been completed on November 30, 1989. The board approved the inventory adjustment.

Attorney Smith then reviewed with the board the various items of litigation and the status of the same.

Manager Smith reviewed the current status of the

Corn Belt/Menard discussions and the results of their recent trip to Washington, D.C., to discuss with REA their proposals.

Staff assistant Hedberg presented a proposal for board consideration to upgrade the Data Processing System. After discussion the board approved the recommendations.

The 1990 budget, which had been mailed to the board earlier in the month, was presented for consideration. A review of the staff recommendations presented at the November meeting was made, questions answered and the 1990 budget was approved.

President Bell appointed the Labor Committee for 1990, which consists of director Cline, chairman, Worner and Brauer, with Allspach being an alternate.

Earl Pillsbury reported on the activities of the Annual Meeting Committee and indicated that the suggested date for the Cooperative's 53rd Annual Meeting was Saturday, June 9th at the PORTA High School. The board approved the Annual Meeting Committee's report setting the date as suggested.

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

Director Carls gave an abbreviated report on Soyland activities as they had no board meeting since the Cooperative's last regularly scheduled board meeting.

The board then approved Agreements for Electric Service and the Inventory of Work Orders for November 1989.

The board approved payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. Membership applications were approved per the list mailed with the notice of the meeting.

The Special Occasion Vouchers of the directors for the month of November were approved.

Under "Other Business" president Bell reminded the directors of the upcoming Director's Workshop to be held at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and recommended that members of the board attend this workshop.

Discussion was held on the time of the January board meeting. The meeting was set for January 22, 1990, at 6 p.m. Central Standard Time.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

(Continued from page 12a)

heater or changes from a fossil fuel water heater to an electric water heater will receive a one-time payment of \$150 from the Cooperative. The water heater must have a minimum storage capacity of 40 gallons in order to qualify for the program and must meet the ASHRAE 90 standards.

Before the member can receive the rebate, the member must first provide the Cooperative with the

sales receipt from the dealer. The receipt should contain the size, type, brand, model number and number of heating elements. A Cooperative employee will then be sent to visually verify the installation of the heater and that the heater does meet ASHRAE 90 standards. If you have any questions about this program or have recently installed a new electric water heater, please contact the Member Services Department of your Cooperative.



Youth to Washington Essay Contest

Menard Electric Cooperative will sponsor two high school students on all-expense-paid tours to Washington, D.C., the week of June 15-22.

An essay contest (see rules below) will determine the two winners of the trip to Washington.

The winning students from Menard Electric Cooperative's area will join winners from other Cooperatives for the bus trip, which will be under the supervision of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Rules of the Contest

1. Who May Enter: Any high school student enrolled in his 11th year (junior) and enrolled in a high school serving, or substantially serving, the same area as Menard Electric Cooperative. (Members of the immediate family of any board member or employee of Menard Electric Cooperative are not eligible.)

2. Subject of Essay: Contestants will submit an essay consisting of at least 500 words, but not exceeding 1,000 words, on the subject, "The Past and Future of Electricity in Rural America." Exact title may be of the student's own choosing.

3. Form of Entry: Essays should be typed on 8½ by 11 paper, double spaced, one side only. Name of the contestant must not be in the text.

4. Entry Mailing: Entry must be mailed to Menard Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 279, Petersburg, IL 62675, no later than March 10.

5. Judging: (a) Not less than three judges will be selected by Menard Electric Cooperative to review and select the semi-final essays for final judging. The selection of the semi-finalists will be based on: originality of essay, accuracy of facts, composition and content. **Note:** If sufficient interest is shown in the contest, essays for boys and girls will be judged separately. Decision of sufficient interest is up to preliminary judges.

(b) The semi-finalists will be guests of the Cooperative at the "Rural Electric Youth Day" in Springfield, scheduled for April 18.

(c) Final judging of the semi-finalists will be done by a panel of judges. Each of the semi-final contestants will be interviewed by the judges and will be questioned on their knowledge of the rural electrification program.

(d) The decision of the judges will be final in all cases.

(e) Final judging will be completed by May 4.

If you would like to participate or if you have a son or daughter that would like to participate, please complete the following and return it to your Cooperative office.

Name	Address	City/State
Telephone No.	Name of School	Grade in School
Please send to: Menard Electric Cooperative 122 South 6th Street Petersburg, IL 62675		

Meet your employees

Robert P. Burris

Robert P. Burris is currently a journeyman lineman for your Cooperative and has been employed at Menard Electric since August 23, 1982. Over the years he has become one of the most dedicated and respected members of our line crew.

Bob and his wife, Tamara, live at rural Petersburg and are extremely proud to be fellow members of Menard Electric Cooperative.

Bob loves spending time in the great outdoors, so it is no wonder that during his time off he puts hunting and fishing at the top of his list of things to do. Bob also enjoys boating and spending time training his two bird dogs. He enjoys all types of sporting activities and is an avid Chicago Bears fan.

As many of you may recall Bob and Tamara are newlyweds and everyone at the Cooperative wishes both of them many years of happiness together.



Robert P. Burris



Dwaine E. Heyen

Dwaine E. Heyen

Dwaine E. Heyen came to work for your Cooperative January 3, 1983. During the past seven years he has performed a number of duties, beginning as an unskilled laborer and working through the ranks to his current position as a journeyman lineman.

Dwaine and his wife, Rene', live at rural Petersburg with their two sons, Eric and Alex.

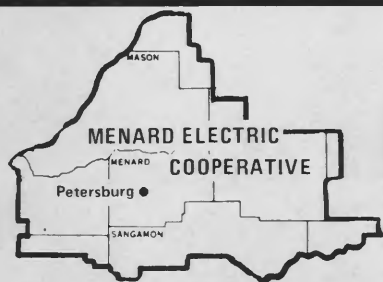
Dwaine thoroughly enjoys his work with the Cooperative, espe-

cially when he gets the opportunity to meet the members of Menard Electric.

During his time off, Dwaine enjoys spending time with his family, traveling and playing cards with his friends. He also enjoys volunteering his time to the local K.C. Hall. Dwaine is an avid hunter and fisherman who can't wait to take his two boys on their first fishing adventure next summer.



Annual service awards are given out to employees of Menard Electric Cooperative for their longevity and dedication. Pictured above left to right are Wayne Jones, 10 years of service; Randolph Avery, 15 years of service; Morris Bell, board president who handed out the awards, and John Whitehurst, 10 years of service. Not pictured is Don Riser, 10 years of service.



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Co-op Comments

The Department of Energy and Natural Resources has developed a new program called The Rural Small Business Program which allows matching grants of up to \$5,000 to qualified rural businesses throughout the state of Illinois. If you think you might qualify or would like more information, please feel free to contact your Cooperative.

As a reminder to all high school junior students and

parents throughout Menard Electric service territory, we are once again sponsoring our annual "Youth to Washington" essay contest. The two winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. If you are interested, please contact the Cooperative office for further details.

The Rural Home Energy Grant Program is still available to Menard members who qualify. If you are interested, please contact the Cooperative office at your earliest convenience.

Electric heat rebate continued in 1990

Your board of directors has approved the continuance of the Electric Heat Rebate Program. We are extremely pleased with this program, as are many of our members. With this program, members of Menard simply receive a rebate for installing one of the most efficient heating and cooling systems on the market today. This means that you can now pay less on heating and cooling bills because of higher efficiency, as well as paying less to have them installed.

The two systems we are talking about are the air-to-air heat pump and the geothermal heating and cooling system. In order to qualify, you must install an air-to-air heat pump that has a SEER of 9.0 or greater. When this requirement is met, the member will receive a \$250

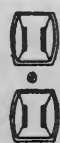
per ton rebate. In the case of a geothermal system, a member will receive \$333 per cooling ton, providing that the unit also has a SEER of 9.0 or greater. Remember that in most cases, both of these systems provide the member with a five to seven year return on their investment and with Menard's rebate, this return may be achieved in as little as three years. For those members who install ceiling cable or baseboard electric heat, Menard has also retained a \$50 per room rebate (bathrooms excluded) with a maximum of \$300 per household. If you have any questions concerning these rebates or would like to find out more about these systems, please contact the Cooperative office.

Smoke alarms for sale

Many of our members may recall the enactment of Public Act 85-0143 which requires that all existing homes and apartment buildings have a smoke detector(s) installed by July 1, 1988. However, new or substantially remodeled dwelling units are required under the new law to install only detectors which are AC powered as of January 1, 1989. Such units can rely solely on AC power or may also have a battery back-up. Because of this new law, many members are calling and inquiring as to what types of AC powered smoke detectors would best meet their needs.

Rick Polley, Energy Utilization Adviser for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, has researched the AC powered units on the market and has found one that he would recommend. The unit is a BRK 86 RAC AC powered electric smoke alarm with a 9-volt battery back-up. The price of the smoke alarm is \$16.25 and can be ordered through the AIEC.

If you feel you are interested and would like more information, please feel free to contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative office. Remember we have the battery operated smoke alarms for \$5 which you can pick up at the Cooperative office.



**WARNING:
IF YOU THINK THE POWER IS OFF
WHEN THE SWITCH IS OFF,
YOU'RE WRONG.**

Meet your employees

Dan Morgan

On January 2, 1986, Dan Morgan came to work for your Cooperative as a mechanic-groundman-truck driver. As you may have already ascertained by Dan's title he is a man with an enormous amount of talent. Dan's primary responsibility is to keep your Cooperative's fleet of trucks operational. For the past three years he has been doing an outstanding job at not only keeping the trucks on the road but also lowering the Cooperative's cost for those repairs.

Dan and his wife live in Petersburg with their daughter, Stacey.

During his spare time Dan enjoys watching and following a number of different types of sporting events. He enjoys playing softball and for the next few months he will be extremely busy building his own home. According to Dan, he hopes to be able to do almost all of the work himself. However Dan's favorite hobby is restoring old Pontiac GTO's and displaying them at car shows throughout the area. Knowing Dan, I'm sure they are something special.



Morgan

John Shelton

John Shelton came to your Cooperative on June 10, 1985, as an engineering technician. John's duties include controlling the inventory of our load management equipment and helping to monitor our load management system. John is also responsible for mapping new services and helping in other areas of the engineering department when needed. Although John has a great deal of diversity in his job he always performs each responsibility with professionalism and dedication, and that is one of



Shelton

the reasons why our load management program has been so successful.

John is a fellow member of your Cooperative and lives with his wife, Coleen, at rural Petersburg. They have three children Ami, Sarah and Katie.

While John is away from work he enjoys woodworking, fishing and doing home improvement projects. He also enjoys playing cards and traveling with his family. John loves to read novels during his quieter moments especially if it is a mind boggling who done it mystery.

Meter reading dates

Many members try to assist our meter readers by making the meter more accessible during the scheduled meter reading dates each month. However, before members can make the necessary adjustments,

they must first know what those dates are. Below are the meter reading dates for February, March and April. Any assistance you can give the meter reader will certainly be appreciated.

1990 FEBRUARY 1990						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
☾ FQ 2	☾ FM 9	☾ LQ 17	☾ NM 25	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

1990 MARCH 1990						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
☾ FQ 3	☾ FM 11	☾ LQ 19	☾ NM 26	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

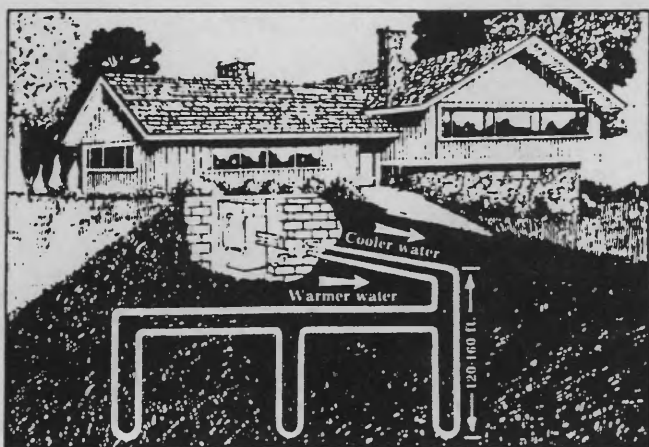
1990 APRIL 1990						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	☾ FQ 2	☾ FM 9	☾ LQ 18	☾ NM 24	

Is there much difference between gas and electric water heaters?

As the price of propane remains high, many of our members are finding out that the price difference between operating an electric water heater as opposed to a propane water heater are very small, if not equal. As many members already know, electric water heaters have a higher degree of efficiency because of added insulation and the fact that there is no flue in the unit which would allow heat to escape. For a family of four, the average new propane water heater would use approximately 25 to 35 gallons of propane per month. At current prices that would cost somewhere between \$24 to \$45 per month.

Over the past few years, Menard Electric has made an attempt to offset the cost of operating electric water heaters through two different programs. One would be the Electric Water Heater Rebate whereby we pay

members a one time payment of \$150 for installing a 40-gallon water heater which must meet ASHRAE 90 standards. In addition, Menard Electric also offers to any member with an electric water heater, a chance to participate in the Load Management Program. Under this program, members who use 1,000 kilowatt-hours monthly receive a \$12 per month credit. With the fact that the electric water heater has a higher degree of efficiency, and that members have access to our two innovative programs, the average new electric water heater would cost members anywhere from \$16 to \$40 a month to operate. As you can see, the difference in the operating cost of the two units is very small and in some cases lower if the members participate and take advantage of the programs which are available through Menard Electric Cooperative.



Geothermal heating and cooling

Choosing a heating and cooling system for a new or existing home can be a very difficult and confusing task.

There is one alternative to a conventional gas or oil-fired furnace that is more economical, completely safe and is ecologically sound. This system provides total comfort all year long by using an inexhaustible energy source. Its called a geothermal heating and cooling system which provides both heating and-cooling for the home.

The geothermal system takes advantage of energy stored within the earth. This stored energy is collected from the sun's energy striking the earth. This solar energy is absorbed by the ground around your house all year long. The geothermal system uses this huge mass of stored energy to heat and cool our homes and businesses.

How is heat exchanged? There are two main components to the geothermal system: the buried closed-loop (a loop of pipe buried in the ground) and the

indoor unit which is tied into a proper ductwork system. There is no outdoor unit used with this system as you would find with a conventional heat pump system.

Heat is exchanged with the earth by using a buried loop and a small circulating pump. Only two types of pipe are acceptable for the earth loop-polybutylene and high density polyethylene pipe. The loop is carefully assembled on location using "heat fusion" to join the pipes where necessary. Once this is done, the loop system becomes "one piece" of pipe with parallel circuits. The integrity of this loop is such that a virtual lifetime of trouble-free use can be expected. Installation by any other means may cause a failure of the pipe because of the unique conditions below the ground.

Water, with an antifreeze solution, is circulated through the loop. In the heating mode, the indoor unit extracts heat from the solution in the loop, and with a refrigeration process, intensifies that heat and delivers it through the duct system at temperatures ranging from 95 to 105 degrees F. Since heat is being transferred—not produced—the geothermal system is delivering over three units of energy for every unit of energy it consumes. This is possible due to the fact that it takes advantage of below-ground temperatures that are warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer than the outdoor air. Since the loop is buried in the ground, where temperatures are constant, the outdoor temperature does not adversely affect the high efficiency of the geothermal system.

In the cooling mode, the indoor unit extracts heat from the air inside the home, and transfers that heat into the solution circulating through the loop. The heat is then rejected to the earth.

Interested members should call the cooperative office for more information.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting January 22, 1990, in the offices at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, Warren D. Goetsch and Meredith L. Worner. Director James G. Graff was absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg, attorney Charles K. Smith, and Gordon Olsen from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

After the roll call the agenda for the meeting was approved. Olsen, director of the Printing and Information Department of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, presented the results of the 1989 Marketing and Attitude Survey recently completed by the Illinois Electric Cooperatives in cooperation with Sangamon State University. His review of the survey also made comparisons with a similar survey that was done by the electric cooperatives in 1986. His comments to the board not only were made on the general trends in Illinois but also the specific trends for Menard Electric. After his presentation he answered various questions for the board. The board suggested that management use this survey with the employees. After his presentation, Olsen departed from the board room.

The minutes of the December 21, 1989, meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board. Also the minutes of a special board meeting held January 17, 1990, were read and were approved.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of December 1989. Kilowatt-hour sales exceeded the budget by approximately one million, providing additional margins over budget of approximately \$60,000. In summing up the operations for the entire year 1989, the Cooperative exceeded the budget in operating margins by approximately \$370,000 and total margins by approximately \$450,000. Operations of the Cooperative other than power cost were about \$50,000 under budget. The board commended the manager and recommended an expression from the board to the employees on a job well done for the year 1989. Line loss for 1989, including Turriss Coal, averaged approximately 8.4 percent. The Outage Summary for the month indicated approximately the same number of outages and outage hours as the same period last year. The average outage hours per member for 1989 were 2.7 or a reduction of about 25 percent from the year 1988. The Safety Report for the month of December showed one recordable incident, with no

lost time. The board reviewed the accident summary for the year 1989, which indicated five recordable incidents with one lost time accident. After general discussion and questions the Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Attorney Smith reviewed three various items of litigation and the status of the same.

Four policies from the policy manual were reviewed. The board accepted the recommendations of management and a first reading of the policies was held. Final consideration will be given at the February board meeting.

Manager Smith and president Bell reviewed the latest discussions with Corn Belt and Menard. The board passed a resolution to send to REA an approved financial forecast to be submitted to REA in furtherance of the potential consolidation of the two cooperatives.

Chairman Warren Goetsch reported on the activities of the Annual Meeting Committee.

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

Director Michael Carls gave a report on the Soyland activities both for the month of December and also updated the board on the year end statistics of Soyland.

The Special Services Coordinator's Report for the fourth quarter 1989 was approved.

The Uncollectible Accounts were approved by the board as presented.

The board approved Agreements for Electric Service and the Inventory of Work Orders for December 1989.

The board approved payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed with the board notice of the meeting. Membership applications were approved per the list mailed with the notice of the meeting.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the directors for the month of December were approved.

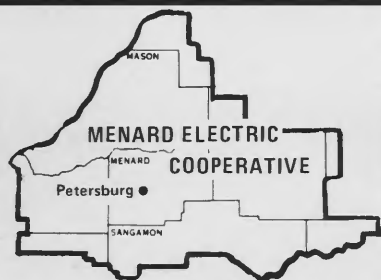
Under "Other Business" president Bell reminded the directors of the upcoming workshops to be held at the AIEC and recommended the board attend these workshops.

Manager Smith discussed with the board the need to replace the pagers for the area servicemen. This was an item not included in the 1990 budget. It has recently been determined that the pagers are difficult to get repaired, etc. After discussion by the board, it was approved to purchase the needed replacement pagers and equipment to update the paging system for the area servicemen.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Working outdoors?

Please, be careful around overhead power lines.
It's the sensible and safe thing to do.



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Valentine's Day comes in like an icicle

The storm that hit Menard Electric Cooperative on Valentine's Day was a bad one, and left many of our members without power. But in a way, we were fortunate. Our two sister cooperatives to the north and east of us, Corn Belt and Eastern Illini, were hit particularly hard.

By the weekend after the storm hit, we were pretty well reconnected, although some of our repairs were necessarily temporary. As is always the case, we had

crews rolling as soon as we realized the storm had hit.

Our crews worked many long hours, in cold and sleet, to get power back on, and we appreciate their efforts. We also appreciate the efforts of the men who came to help us from Monroe County Electric Cooperative, Waterloo; M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, Carlinville; and Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Greenville. The photos on this page show some of the repair efforts.

New employees

Janey Ames

Janey Ames began working for your Cooperative February 14 as a records clerk. Her responsibilities will include processing and dispatching all of the electric bills each month as well as taking care of the daily deposits.

Janey is a graduate of Havana High School and currently lives in Petersburg with her husband, Vernon, and children, Kelley and Brad.

She has an extensive background in secretarial and clerical work and comes to us from the Land of Lincoln Consortium of Springfield.

We welcome Janey and her family to Menard Electric Cooperative. Feel free to stop by and say hello next time you are in the Cooperative office.

Douglas Pettit

Douglas Pettit came to your Cooperative March 4. Doug will



Janey Ames

be working in the engineering department as an engineering technician. His duties will consist of working with and helping to put the new SCADA system in place and overseeing the cooperative's various load management programs.

Doug is originally from Petersburg and a graduate of



Douglas Pettit

PORTA High School. He also has an associate of applied science degree in electronics from the DeVry Institute of Technology in Lombard.

Doug and his wife, Robin, live in rural Petersburg and looking forward to meeting the membership of Menard Electric Cooperative.

Jessie Fricke retires February 28 after 18 years

Jessie Fricke came to Menard Electric Cooperative as a temporary employee assigned to work on member records for three days. She recalls that when she started "the office was in complete chaos because of office remodeling," and she had to walk down a narrow plank that stretched from the front door to her office each day. As it turns out, Jessie made it through those three days and decided to stay for a while, more than 18 years to be exact. Jessie said that when she started "there wasn't a computer, and final bills were figured and stuffed by hand."

Jessie started out with your Cooperatives as the receptionist/cashier and in 1977 was promoted to radio dispatcher, where she remained until her retirement.

According to Jessie, she will miss not only her "friends and fellow employees" but also miss "visiting with members of Menard Electric."

During her retirement Jessie plans to stay busy by traveling with her husband, Norman, and spending time with her grandchildren. She also plans on doing a lot of gardening and spending time on her painting and sewing. Jessie has always been, and surely will always be, a friend to every employee of Menard Electric. Because of that, and her maturity and dedication to the Cooperative, she will be sorely missed.

As Jessie now enters a new chapter in her life we wish her and Norman a long and happy retirement.



Jessie Fricke

Meet your employees

Todd W. Cloninger

Todd Cloninger is the newest member of our line crew, coming to Menard Electric on August 1, 1987. Currently Todd is in his third year as an apprentice lineman and is learning and gaining in experience each day. He is eager, professional and respected by the linemen for his hard work and dedication.

Todd and his wife, Delana, live in rural Chandlerville and are proud members of Menard Electric Cooperative.

During Todd's spare time he enjoys deer hunting in season, as well as following and participating in a number of sports activities. Todd also enjoys evenings which include dinner and a movie. Recently Todd's interests have also included a livestock operation, which includes pigs and cattle. As many of you know this interest takes an enormous amount of not only his time but his wife's as well.

Todd and his lovely wife are newlyweds and everyone at the Cooperative would like to wish them both a long and wonderful life together.

Casey Duncheon

Casey Duncheon began working for your Cooperative on



Todd Cloninger

October 1, 1987, as the storekeeper. His responsibilities include inventory control and getting all materials needed for the work orders together and ready to go out with the linemen. Over the last two and one-half years Casey has proven to be not only well-organized but dedicated to the Cooperative and is always willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. He is indeed an asset to Menard Electric.

Casey lives with his wife, Tricia, in Oakford. They have two children, Ryan and Shellie.



Casey Duncheon

During Casey's time off he and his wife spend a great deal of time traveling to and from the various athletic activities that their children are involved in. Casey is a sports enthusiast and loves basketball, golf, fishing, and racketball. Many members may remember Casey's induction into the Illinois Athletic Hall of Fame on May 17, 1988, for his outstanding play as a basketball player at PORTA High School in Petersburg. Although it has been a few years since his playing days, it is my understanding that he is still quite an athlete.

Attention: Farmers, electrical contractors, grain bin distributors

Menard Electric Cooperative wants you to be aware of new changes in the National Electric Safety Code that have come about with its 1990 edition. These changes specifically address the placement of grain bins in relation to overhead power lines; whether alongside the road, up a lane, across country, etc.

Before your site location is final please contact the Menard Electric Engineering Department as to placement of the bin to determine the distance needed from the overhead power lines.

Failure to do so will result in additional charges to you or the owner of the bins if the cooperative is required to alter its facilities accommodating the grain bins to comply with the National Electric Safety Code.

Please don't hesitate to contact our Engineering Department. We want to help your installation, not hinder it!



Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Monday, February 26, 1990, in the offices at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, James G. Graff, Warren D. Goetsch and Meredith L. Worner. Director Martin was absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg, attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved and the minutes of the January 22, 1990, board meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board.

Manager Smith presented the operating report for the month of January 1990. He pointed out that the number of meters being served had increased by 89 compared to a corresponding period last year. He also indicated that the average kilowatt-hour usage on the farm and residential rate increased 75 kilowatt-hours over a corresponding period last year and that the average price per kilowatt-hour decreased by 3 mills.

Smith also indicated that kilowatt purchases occur on a calendar month basis while kilowatt-hour sales are generally based on a period from the 19th of the previous month to the 19th of the current month. Due to the overlapping time of purchases and sales of kilowatt-hours, kilowatt-hour sales for the month of January exceeded the kilowatt-hours purchase. Wholesale power cost for January exceeded the budgeted amount by over \$19,000 due to the additional kilowatts purchased due to the extreme cold weather in the latter part of 1989. The total operating cost for the month of January was \$2,800 less than anticipated. The total margins for January equaled \$148,000. He also pointed out that the delinquent accounts from 61 to 90 days delinquent were reduced from the preceding year. Delinquent accounts from 31 to 60 days are greater than for the previous year. Smith provided the board with a listing of temporary investments totaling \$1,750,000. The manager's safety report for January showed no recordable injuries or illnesses. He provided an outage summary for January which equates to .015 hours per consumer. The bulk of the outages were caused by power supply outages at various substations of the Cooperative. After general discussion and questions, the manager's report was approved as presented.

Manager Smith discussed with the board REA Form 7 for the year ending December 31, 1989. In addition, he gave a review of the Valentine's Day ice storm.

The board considered the final reading of employee policies dealing with the retirement and security program for union and non-union employees and also sick leave covering each of the above. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the policies were

adopted as presented.

David Crosnoe, system engineer for the Cooperative, presented for the board's consideration a two-year work plan. Crosnoe pointed out that the bulk of the work involved re-conductoring and re-poling existing lines throughout the Cooperative service area. Major work would include a new substation near Sherman and a new substation in the Allen Grove area west of San Jose. Some new tie lines were included in the plan, specifically from the substation out into the Cooperative service area. The estimated cost of the two-year work plan exceeds \$2 million. After some discussion, the two-year work plan as presented by Crosnoe was approved.

A resolution was presented and passed requesting Soyland Power Cooperative to construct a substation in the Allen Grove area.

The board was requested to secure names of members for the Nominating Committee which will be meeting early in April. The board of directors then went into executive session for one hour.

Upon returning to open session, reports were made dealing with committee meetings held jointly between Corn Belt Electric Cooperative and Menard Electric Cooperative. It was determined that additional committee meetings would be held, as well as a joint meeting of the two boards, which would occur on March 13 at Bloomington.

Reports were made by directors who attended the 48th annual meeting of NRECA.

President Bell then reported on the activities of the AIEC. He reviewed the AIEC Emergency Work Plan and its value to the Cooperative.

Director Carls reported on the activities of Soyland and updated the board on litigation in progress.

The list of Uncollectible Accounts was approved by the board as presented.

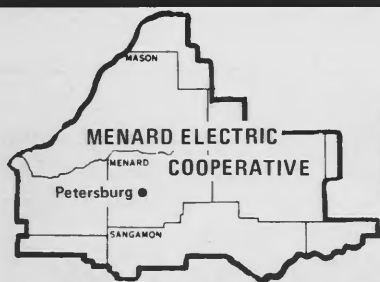
The board approved five Agreements for Electric Service and the Inventory of Work Orders for January 1990.

The board approved payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the meeting notice. Membership applications were approved as per the list mailed.

The Special Occasion Vouchers of the directors for the month of January were approved.

Members of the board were reminded that NRECA Course 530.2, "Board Planning and Control" was scheduled to be held in Springfield on March 5 and 6. Also, Soyland Power Cooperative's 27th annual meeting is scheduled to be held on March 22, 1990, in Springfield.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.



Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

Menard Electric Cooperative's 1990 Annual Meeting of Members has been scheduled for June 9 at the PORTA High School. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

Due to the recent ice storm, many members are noticing a need to have their trees trimmed or broken limbs removed. However, quite often branches are located near power lines. If this should be the case in your area, Menard Electric asks you not to place yourself in a hazardous situation. Simply call the Cooperative office and we will take care of trimming around the electric wires.

With spring here and the sultry days of summer just around the corner, now is a good time to have your air conditioners checked and cleaned so that it will cool your house efficiently this summer.

During this time of year, it is not uncommon for many of Menard Electric Cooperative members to begin making preparations for this year's crop. Obviously, the work they do during this season is very important to the farmers and to the Central Illinois economy, but nothing is as important as your health and safety. So, please, take an extra moment or two and look for overhead lines, guy wires, etc., and do your job safely.

Rural insurance




Menard Electric Cooperative has learned that several members have received information in the mail concerning medical insurance. The firm providing this information identifies itself as "The National Association of Rural Cooperative Members."

We want you to know that we have not made any such insurance available nor has our national organization, the "National Rural Electric Cooperative Association."

Meter reading dates

Many members try to assist our meter readers by making the meter more accessible during the scheduled meter reading dates each month. However, before members can make the necessary adjustments, the dates must be made known to our members. Below are the meter reading dates for May, June and July. Any assistance you can give the meter will certainly be appreciated.

1990		MAY							1990
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT			
 FQ 1:31	 FM 9	1	2	3	4	5			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
27	28	29	30	31	 LQ 17	 NM 24			

1990		JUNE							1990	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT				
 FM 8	 LQ 15	 NM 22	 FQ 29		1	2				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30				

1990		JULY							1990
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
29	30	31	FM 7	LQ 15	NM 21	FQ 29			

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Monday, March 26, 1990, in the offices at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by vice president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Meredith L. Worner, Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin and James G. Graff. Director Morris L. Bell was absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg, attorney Charles K. Smith and auditor R.L. Quint. The agenda for the meeting was approved and the minutes of the February 26, 1990, board meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board. Also approved were the minutes of the special meetings of March 5 and March 13 as presented and mailed to the board.

Manager Smith introduced R.L. Quint, CPA from R.L. Quint Auditing Service, and asked that he review the recently completed 1989 audit report and financial statements. After reviewing the report, Quint answered questions pertaining to specific items in the audit for the directors. He commented that the Cooperative had operated very well financially for the year 1989 and that the books were in excellent condition.

Manager Smith presented the operating report for the month of February 1990. He pointed out the differences in the budget, and the extra expenses experienced under maintenance due to the Valentine's Day 1990 ice storm. He commented that margins for the year-to-date was approximately \$120,000 over budget, which was due to the large kilowatt-hour sales for the month of January. The outage summary indicated an extreme number of hours for the year, due to the Valentine's Day ice storm. The safety report indicated two recordable incidences, however, neither were lost-time accidents for the month of February. Manager Smith concluded the operating report for the month with a review of the ice storm expenses, which totaled approximately \$65,000.

The board considered the proposal of R.L. Quint to conduct the audit of the Cooperative for 1990 and 1991. After discussion the board elected to employ R.L. Quint for the next two years.

The board considered amendments to the cooperative pension plan, as required by NRECA, and after discussion, adopted an amendment agreement to

meet NRECA's requirements.

The board discussed a proposed amendment to the bylaws on disposition of property. The board recommended the proposed bylaw amendment be presented to the membership for consideration at the annual meeting to be held on June 9.

Manager Smith reviewed recent activities with Missouri Electric Works clean-up and also discussions with the Village of Riverton in regards to service areas.

The board reviewed the work of the committees in regard to the Corn Belt/Menard consolidation discussions. Manager Smith reviewed a letter received from REA in regard to REA's proposal to the two cooperatives.

Meredith Worner reviewed with the board the NRECA workshops and classes he attended in connection with the recent NRECA annual meeting.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury reviewed with the board the activities of the Annual Meeting Committee. Each board member submitted a name for the Nominating Committee. A motion was made to approve said list and motion carried.

The list of uncollectible accounts as presented to the board was approved for write-off.

Gary Martin, alternate director to the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, reported on the activities of the AIEC as he had attended the meeting in the absence of director Bell.

Soyland director Michael Carls reported on the activities of Soyland and the recent Soyland annual meeting.

The board approved four agreements for electric service and the inventory of work orders for the month of February 1990.

The board approved payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the meeting notice and also membership applications were approved as per the list presented to the board.

Special occasion vouchers for the directors for the month of February were approved.

Under "other business," the board discussed an agreement relative to a proposed subdivision in the area.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 23, and will be held at 6 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.



You bet! You might wonder why a rural electric system "talks." It's because we're committed to communicating with our consumer-owners, our community leaders and our business associates. It's the cooperative way of finding out what's on people's minds so that we can continue to do the best job possible.

Communication is a two-way street. We want to hear from you. So just pick up the phone and call us or stop by for a chat. We're here to serve. Let's talk!

What to do when the power is off

If your power goes off, please follow these guidelines to help your Cooperative achieve a fast and safe restoration of your electrical service:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check the meter pole. If you have a breaker on the pole, make sure it is in the "on" position.
3. If the service is still out, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. Then call the Cooperative office to report the outage. If you live in the 217 area code and

have the telephone number prefixes of 632, 634, 635, and 636 call 217/632-7746. Members having any other telephone prefixes should call 1-800-872-1203.

5. Please give the person who answers the call your name, account number and any information you have obtained.

Note: If your power is out for any reason other than a breaker being off, do not try to restore service yourself!

High-pressure sodium lights

Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and theft. Members of Menard Electric Cooperative can rent a high-pressure sodium light for \$5.50 a month. This price includes installation on existing cooperative facilities, maintenance and the electricity the light uses. We can offer this security light at a lower rental price than a mercury vapor because of the decreased demand the light creates, thus using less kilowatt-hours. The high-pressure sodium light also provides your home with 14 percent more lighting than the mercury vapor light, which obviously means more security.

If you are interested in installing a high pressure sodium light or changing out your mercury vapor, please contact your Cooperative office.

Safety quiz

True or False?

A lineman can be injured if posters for garage sales and political candidates are nailed to utility poles.

True—Tacks, nails and staples stuck in utility poles can cause climbing hooks to slip. They can also tear protective equipment and the skin and flesh of the lineman.

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.



Menard Electric Cooperative employees (L to R) Larry Kyes and Terry Cutright provide members of the Mason County Fire Department with instruction on electrical safety.

Consider an air-to-air heat pump

Once again it is time to think about air conditioning and trying to conduct a spring maintenance checkup. Perhaps you may even want to consider replacing your old system with a high-efficient unit. If you have determined that there is a need for a complete air conditioner replacement, you may want to consider installing an air-to-air heat pump.

On outward appearances it looks exactly like an air conditioner. During the summer, the heat pump operates just like an air conditioner, cooling your home as efficiently as a high-efficiency air conditioner. However, this is not the only job the air-to-air heat pump can do for you in your home. This system can also supply you with efficient heat in winter. Most of the high-efficiency heat pumps available today have a heating efficiency on an average of 220 percent and operate in outside air temperatures from 15 degrees

to 65 degrees.

With this added dimension, members would then have an opportunity to save money on both the heating and cooling by just changing one unit.

There are two distinct advantages to the heat pump, the first being a rebate of \$250 per cooling ton from the Cooperative for members installing an air-to-air heat pump with a SEER of 9.0 or greater. In many cases, this rebate lowers the cost of the air-to-air heat pump and makes it less expensive to buy than a conventional air conditioner. The second benefit is its ability to heat and cool your house efficiently, which means a lower operating cost both in the winter and the summer.

If you would like more information or details on the air-to-air heat pump, please do not hesitate to contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative.

Water heater load management

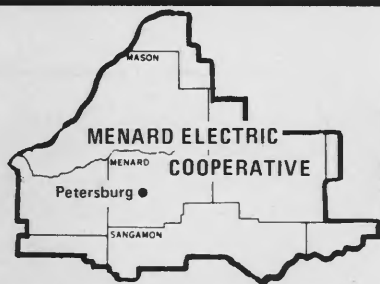
Under your Cooperative's Load Management Program a radio-controlled device is installed on your electric water heater in an attempt to lower our wholesale power cost. In addition to its rate stabilizing effect, Menard Electric provides members who install the device a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour reduction for every kilowatt-hour used between 600 to 1,000 every month of the year. Ultimately, this could amount to a savings of \$144 a year for those members. If you have an electric water heater and have not installed a load management device, contact the Cooperative office for more

information. If you would like to enroll in the program please complete the following information, mail to the cooperative, and join Menard Electric's Load Management team.

(name)

(account number)

(telephone number)



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

Do you have an electric water heater? If you do, why not call the Cooperative and ask to have a load management device installed. Once the device is installed, you can begin saving up to \$12 a month on your electric bill. This could mean a savings of \$144 a year. To enroll, simply contact the Cooperative office and ask to have a device installed on your water heater. Then, just sit back, relax, and enjoy your savings.

As summer approaches, now would be a good time to have your air conditioner checked and cleaned. This will help it operate at its optimum efficiency so that

this year's cooling bills can remain as low as possible.

On June 1, Darlene M. McGee will complete 10 years of service with Menard Electric Cooperative. Darlene is a clerk for your Cooperative.

During the spring and summer of this year, your Cooperative will be testing approximately 1,000 single-phase residential meters. This year's testing will occur in the Bishop and Topeka area.

We will also continue the pole-testing program in southern Menard and western Sangamon counties. We expect to test about 6,000 poles from Petersburg to New Berlin and the surrounding areas.

Both of these annual programs help to provide the members of Menard Electric Cooperative the most reliable service possible.

Menard Electric's 1990 annual meeting

As citizens of the United States, we take great pride in our democratic form of government. Fifty-four years ago, your Cooperative was formed with this same democratic philosophy in mind, giving the members the opportunity to choose their board of directors and discuss issues that concern the future of the Cooperative. Each year during the annual meeting, members are encouraged to exercise their rights as member/owners and help put democracy in action. This form of democracy is not only what makes our nation great, but also makes Menard Electric Cooperative a successful cooperative as well.

This year's annual meeting will be June 9 at PORTA

High School, located at the west edge of Petersburg. Before the business meeting, there will be a free pork chop dinner served by the Mason County Pork Producers Association. The annual meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and members will elect three directors, hear reports from manager Smith and president Bell and hear other reports.

The Cooperative will have a bargain table, at which small appliances and electrical equipment will be available for sale at reduced prices.

Why not mark your calendar and join your friends and neighbors at the 53rd annual meeting on Saturday, June 9. Help your Cooperative prepare for the 90s.

Budget billing starts in June—sign up NOW!

This year your Cooperative will once again offer budget billing to all Rate "A," Farm and Residential single-phase services. The budget billing plan is a method whereby a member is rendered equal monthly bills for a maximum of 11 months. The budget billing cycle will begin on the June 30 bill and will end on the April 30 bill. The May 30 bill shows credits or debits, depending upon whether the members usage was higher or lower than the estimated amount over the previous 11 months.

The monthly amounts are determined by estimating the average kilowatt-hours used based on the actual usage of the previous 12 months. For new members, the budget amount will be determined from an estimated usage based on the best available data.

If you have any questions or would like to apply for the budget billing plan, please contact the Cooperative office and we will be glad to send you the necessary information.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Monday, April 23, 1990, in the offices at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Meredith L. Worner, Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, Warren D. Goetsch and James G. Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith. The agenda for the meeting was approved and the minutes of the March 26, 1990, board meeting were corrected and approved.

Manager Smith presented the operating report for March 1990. He pointed out that the expense items for the months were within the budgeted amounts for each item. In spite of the mild weather in March that affected power purchases and sales, total margins for the month were approximately \$10,000 greater than were budgeted. Year-to-date margins are approximately \$130,000 over budget. He reviewed several vital statistics and commented that the indicator ratios that REA and CFC normally look at are above the targeted guidelines. He commented on several items on the balance sheet and pointed out that total equity was approximately 33 percent. The Outage Report for the month of March revealed outages that are average for this time of year. The Safety Report showed a recordable incident from last year with several days lost time this year. The manager's Operation Report for the month of March was approved.

Manager Smith reviewed with the board the accumulated depreciation rate. R.L. Quint, in his audit report, suggested management review the depreciation rate and consider increasing this rate. After some discussion, the board advised the manager to compile

a revised accumulated depreciation rate for consideration at the next board meeting.

The board approved contributing 5 percent of the CFC capital credits for 1990 to the CFC integrity fund. The board approved sending attorney Smith to the NRECA Legal Seminar and attorney Tice to the hearings on territorial integrity.

Manager Smith reviewed with the board the current activities with the Village of Riverton and the environmental matters with Missouri Electric Works.

Director Goetsch reviewed the current status of plans for the upcoming annual meeting.

President Bell reviewed with the board the recent activities of the AIEC.

Soyland director Michael Carls reported on the activities of Soyland.

The quarterly report of special services coordinator Pillsbury was discussed and approved.

The board reviewed and discussed recent committee meetings held relative to the proposed consolidation of Corn Belt and Menard Electric.

The uncollectible accounts as presented to the board were approved for write off. The board approved the Agreements for Electric Service for five members and approved membership applications as presented to the board.

The Inventory of Work Orders for March 1990 was approved, and the invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the meeting notice were also approved.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the directors for the month of March were approved.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, and will be held at 6 p.m.

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

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 late charge.

The second problem that 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 for more information.

Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed on May 28, in observance of Memorial Day. The office will resume normal working hours May 29.

In Memoriam



Alvin Bertram

Alvin R. Bertram of rural route Middletown died on Wednesday, May 9, 1990. Alvin was an area serviceman (journeyman line-man) serving members in the

Greenview-Middletown-Mason City-Lincoln-New Holland-Elkhart areas.

Alvin began employment with Menard Electric Cooperative on January 16, 1956, as an apprentice lineman. After serving his apprenticeship, he became a journeyman, a leadman and subsequently in 1974, he became an area serviceman.

Alvin was born in Alexander, Illinois, to Alvin C. and Elizabeth Bertram. He graduated from Virginia High School and for several years lived in the Kilbourne area, moving to Middletown when he became the area serviceman.

Bertram served his country in the U.S. Navy for nearly four years, was a member of No. 88 AFAM of Havana and Local 51

of I.B.E.W.

He is survived by his wife, Fannie L.; mother, Elizabeth; two daughters, Gayle Lee and Michele Marie; two sons, David and James; four grandchildren; and one sister.

Alvin was a faithful and devoted employee of your Cooperative. He was always ready and willing to help a fellow employee or a member whom all, he believed, should be served with dignity. His safe working habits, sage advice and progressive attitude will long be remembered by those who knew him well. His fellow employees of the Cooperative and all others who had worked with him join our members in expressing deep sorrow and condolences to his family.

Ideas to keep cool this summer

With summer just around the corner, the thought of paying high electric bills due to air conditioning is never very far from our minds. As you know, the cost of air conditioning can be somewhat expensive; however, there are two alternatives available to you so the cost of keeping cool this summer doesn't get you overheated. Both alternatives are more efficient and economical than a conventional air conditioner system and both systems will be able to provide you with year round comfort.

The first alternative is an air-to-air heat pump. This system provides you comfortable climate control not only in the summer, but if you desire it could also heat your home efficiently. Menard Electric recognizes the tremendous benefits of this system and, in an attempt to increase awareness, offers a rebate of \$250 per cooling ton to any member who installs an air-to-air heat pump with a SEER of 9.0 or greater. In many cases, this rebate will make the cost of the air-to-air system

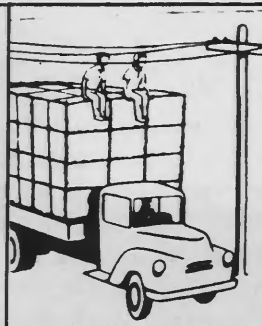
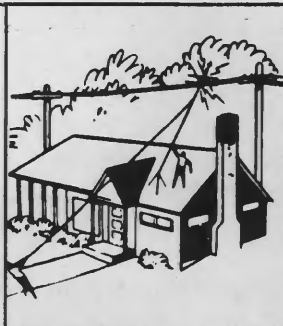
less expensive to buy than a standard air conditioner.

The second alternative is a geothermal heating and cooling system. With this system installed, you will not only have the most economical system on the market today for cooling your home, but for heating your home as well. As an added bonus, the geothermal will also greatly reduce your cost of heating domestic hot water. This type of heating and cooling system is slightly more expensive; however, Menard Electric offers a rebate of \$333 per ton, which we hope helps to make this system more attractive.

In any case, the difference in installation costs due to this type of heating and cooling system is generally recovered through its energy savings in three to five years.

If you are interested in one or both of these systems, or you would like additional information, please contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative office.

**Join the team-
Spot the hazards**



Safety tips for summertime outdoor electricity use

As work activities move into the summer season, the more intense farm work and home-yard care commands greater attention to personal safety. Let's review a few guidelines to avoid or reduce electrical hazards:

- When using electrical equipment outdoors, use grounded circuits protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter.

- Use electrical yard equipment (electric mowers, hedge trimmers, weed cutters, etc.) that has three-prong plugs and double insulation. Use with care to avoid service cable damage.

- Avoid using electrical equipment outdoors during rain showers and in wet surroundings.

- Be sure there is ample clearance between top edge of farm machines (including antennas) and the lowest overhead electric line under which machine is to travel.

- Avoid raising irrigation pipe, well pipe, and other portable equipment, like grain augers, near or around overhead electric lines.

- Prohibit kite flying around or near power lines.

- Avoid or reduce electrical equipment damage by installing lightning arrestors at building service entrances and on special equipment like submersible pumps.

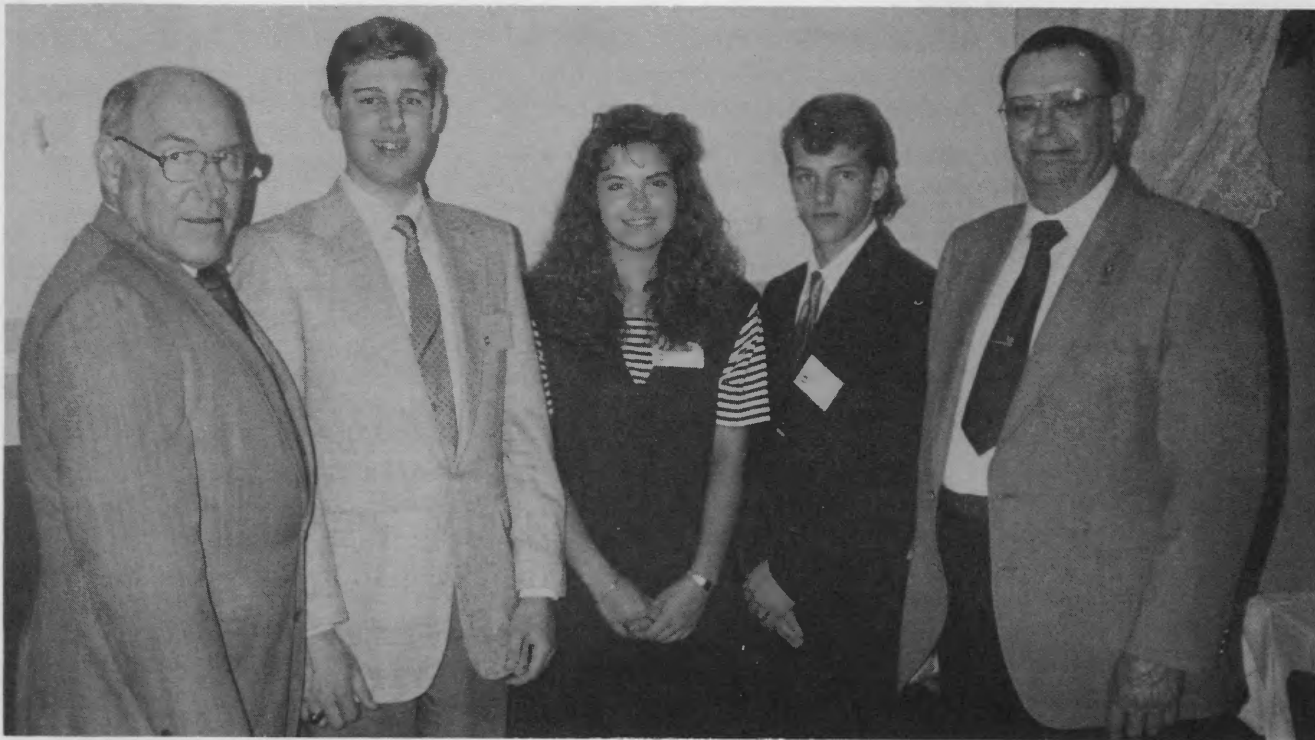
- Check all electrical-conductor/ground rod connections at building service entrances. Be sure there is a secure bond.

- Make certain that special equipment, like grain augers, are in plain view when they are switched on to avoid personal injury.

- Keep all belt equipment safety guards in place at all times except during "power off" service periods.

- Always use the proper size and type of protective devices, based on circuit conductor size and/or motor load (*whichever is being protected).

- If lamps frequently dim, or if TV picture appears to be irregular, have a qualified electrician inspect the wiring system. The condition may be caused by a loose connection, or it may mean the wiring system needs a rather complete overhaul.



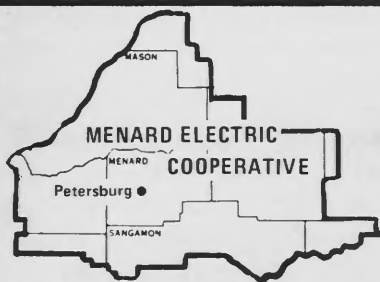
Three area students joined more than 150 others from across Illinois in Springfield April 18 for "Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day" activities. They represented Menard Electric Cooperative as finalists in the cooperative's "Youth to Washington" Essay Contest. With Dorland W. Smith (left), Menard Electric manager, and Morris L. Bell, board president, are, from left, Eric Hiller of Manito, Candy Lingleo of Petersburg and Dominic Wallace of Topeka.

Essay contest winners

On April 26, your Cooperative conducted its final judging segment on this year's "Youth to Washington" essay contest. The essays entered in this year's contest were judged on accuracy of facts, originality, composition and content. Semifinal contestants were also judged during an interview session on poise and knowledge of their essay. At the conclusion of the

judging session, three area high school juniors were selected as this year's winners. The winners are Candy Lingleo of PORTA High School and Eric Hiller and Dominic Wallace, both of Forman High School.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these young students on outstanding essays and for the extra effort put forth during this year's contest.



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

John O. Shelton of rural Petersburg completed five years of employment with your Cooperative June 10. John works in the Engineering Department as a technician.

The month of June marks the beginning of a new "Budget Billing" cycle. This allows payment of a given amount each month, June through April, on your electric energy bill. The month of May is used to balance the account with any unpaid amount or with a refund of any over payment during the previous 11 months. Why not contact the Cooperative office and request budget billing on your account?

As a reminder, single phase electric meters are being tested in Mason County. We are testing poles in the southern portion of Menard County and western portion of Sangamon County.

Members who install an air-to-air heat pump with a SEER of 9.0 or greater are entitled to a \$250 per ton rebate. This makes the cost of the heat pump less than the cost of central air conditioning unit. Please contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative office for more information.

Congratulations

Edward Rogers and M. Joanne Rogers, both of Virginia, were united in marriage June 1. Edward is an area serviceman for your Cooperative in Cass and Morgan counties. Our very best wishes are extended to Ed and Joanne. They are residing at Rural Route 2, Virginia.



Did you see what I saw?

The house going down the road caused more than one stare. Robert Burris (in the bucket) and Mark Bradley, (on the roof) lift the electric lines up so the house may pass by. The house started out on Tuesday morning, May 22, from its original location (next to the Menard County Farm Bureau Building) and reached its destination at 6:30 p.m., north of Athens. The home, now owned by Linda and Dan Connelly, suffered little damage in its trek out of Petersburg, across the Sangamon River, to its new location west and south of Indian Point. Some 30 electric lines had to be taken down or raised to allow the safe passage of the house.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held a special meeting Tuesday, May 8, 1990, in the offices at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Meredith L. Worner, Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Warren D. Goetsch, Gary L. Martin and James G. Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved. The main purpose for the special meeting was to review recent committee activities and consider the plan for the proposed consolidation of Corn Belt and Menard Electric.

After much discussion and consideration a motion was made that a resolution be adopted that Menard Electric Cooperative had decided to proceed no fur-

ther with the proposed consolidation of the two cooperatives. Motion carried.

The board also discussed the proposed bylaw amendment for the annual meeting that had been suggested at the April board meeting. It was decided that said proposed bylaw change not be presented at this annual meeting. Under "other business" manager Smith advised the board of the results of the Essay Contest and requested authorization to send three trip winners for 1990. Motion carried.

Manager Smith discussed with the board the underground service extension for Birch Lakes Subdivision. After review the board approved said agreement.

Being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned.

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, May 29, 1990, in the offices at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Meredith L. Worner, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, Warren D. Goetsch and James G. Graff. Absent was director Edward L. Allspach. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved and the minutes of the April 23, 1990, board meeting were corrected and approved. The minutes of the special meeting of May 8, 1990, were also approved.

Manager Smith presented the operating report for April 1990. He pointed out that the margins for the month of April were approximately \$50,000 over budget. The main reason for the variance was that kilowatt-hour sales were greater than expected. Year-to-date margins are approximately \$180,000 over budget. He reviewed several vital statistics and commented that the indicator ratios that REA and CFC normally check, are above the targeted guidelines. The Outage Report for the month of April show outages that are average for this time of year. Total outages for the year due to the February ice storm is high. The Safety Report showed three recordable incidents from April, with no lost time being experienced. The manager's Operation Report for the month of April was approved.

Next item on the agenda was the consideration of the composite or accumulated depreciation rate for the general plant. At the April board meeting the board had directed management to recommend a depreciation rate for consideration at this board meeting. After discussion the board elected to increase the composite depreciation rate for the general plant to 3.1 percent.

The Cooperative Policy on Non-Discrimination was reviewed and the proposed revision received its first

reading. It will be considered for approval at the June board meeting.

Manager Smith reported on the discussions with the Village of Riverton and advised the board on an upcoming ESA complaint with CIPS.

Annual meeting committee chairman Warren Goetsch and special services coordinator Earl Pillsbury, then reviewed with the board the plans for the annual meeting scheduled for June 9.

President Bell, director Graff and manager Smith reviewed the recent activities of the annual Legislative Conference held in Washington, D.C., the first week in May.

The AIEC report was given by president Bell. He discussed with the board recent comments of the new REA administrator Gary Byrne. He also advised the board on the status of the capital credits legislation, sponsored by the Illinois electric cooperatives.

Soyland director Michael Carls reported on the activities of Soyland.

The Uncollectible Accounts as presented to the board were approved for writeoff. The Inventory of Work Orders for April 1990 was approved and the Membership Applications as mailed with the board notice were also approved.

The invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the meeting notice was approved.

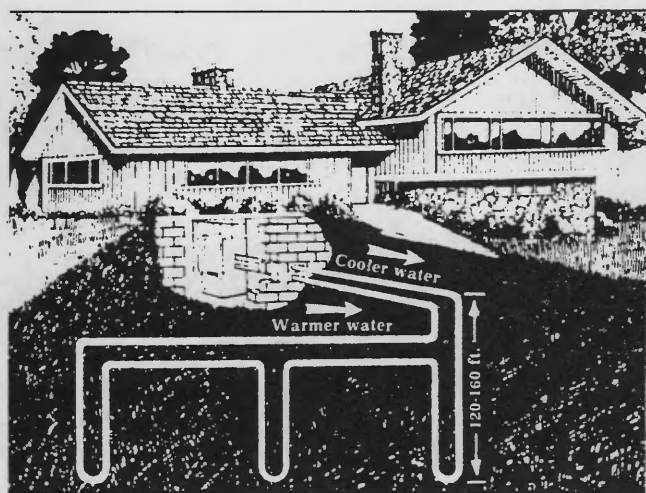
Special Occasion Vouchers for the directors for the month of April were approved.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 25, at 6 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in observance of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The office will resume regular business hours on July 5.



Geothermal heating and cooling

Choosing a heating and cooling system for a new or existing home can be a very difficult and confusing task.

There is one alternative to a conventional gas- or oil-fired furnace that is more economical, completely safe and ecologically sound. This system provides total comfort all year long by using an inexhaustible energy source. It's called a geothermal heating and cooling system, which provides both heating and cooling for the home.

The geothermal system takes advantage of energy stored within the earth. This stored energy is collected from the sun's energy striking the earth. This solar energy is absorbed by the ground around your house all year long. The geothermal system uses this huge mass of stored energy to heat and cool our homes and businesses.

How is heat exchanged? There are two main components to the geothermal system: the buried closed-

loop (a loop of pipe buried in the ground) and the indoor unit, which is tied into a proper ductwork system. There is no outdoor unit used with this system as you would find with a conventional heat pump system.

Heat is exchanged with the earth by using the buried loop and a small circulating pump. Only two types of pipe are acceptable for the earth loop—polybutylene and high-density polyethylene pipe. The loop is carefully assembled on location using "heat fusion" to join the pipes where necessary. Once this is done, the loop system becomes "one piece" of pipe with parallel circuits. The integrity of this loop is such that a virtual lifetime of trouble-free use can be expected. Installation by any other means may cause a failure of the pipe because of the unique conditions below the ground.

Water, with an antifreeze solution, is circulated through the loop. In the heating mode, the indoor unit extracts heat from the solution in the loop, and with a refrigeration process, intensifies that heat and delivers it through the duct system at temperatures ranging from 95 to 105 degrees F. Since heat is being transferred—not produced—the geothermal system is delivering more than three units of energy for every unit of energy it consumes. This is possible due to the fact that it takes advantage of below-ground temperatures that are warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer than the outdoor air. Since the loop is buried in the ground, where temperatures are constant, the outdoor temperature does not adversely affect the high efficiency of the geothermal system.

In the cooling mode, the indoor unit extracts heat from the air inside the home, and transfers that heat into the solution circulating through the loop. The heat is then rejected to the earth.

Interested members should call the Cooperative office for more information.

Water heater rebate

Water heaters are generally the second or third largest user of energy in the home. Because of this, your Cooperative would like to give you \$150 to get rid of that old, inefficient water heater and replace it with a new, more-efficient electric model.

In order to qualify for a \$150 rebate, your electric water heater must meet two qualification: (1) the water heater must have a minimum storage capacity of 40 gallons or more, and (2) the electric water heater must

meet ASHRAE 90 standards.

With this rebate and our load management program, members could experience operating costs on electric hot water heaters similar to or below the operating costs of a gas or propane water heater. Once installed, simply notify the Cooperative office by filling out the information below. When we receive the information, we will dispatch an employee to visually verify the installation and complete the necessary paper work so that your \$150 rebate check can be mailed to you.

account number	daytime telephone number
name	address
city, zip	

Load management program for electric water heaters

Menard Electric Cooperative would like to thank the more than 600 members who participated in this program during the past year and helped Menard Electric Cooperative to reduce its kilowatt demand. We urge all members who have an electric water heater to consider participating in this program.

The program has two important benefits to Menard Electric members. The first has already been touched upon—the reduction in kilowatt demand for our entire system. This reduction helps to lower our wholesale power cost, thus, keeping our rates as stable as possible.

The second and more noticeable benefit to each member who installs a device is a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour reduction for every kilowatt-hour used between

600 and 1,000. This could mean a maximum \$12 a month reduction for every month of the year. In order to receive this credit, simply call the Cooperative office and ask to have the load management device installed on your electric water heater. We will then install the control device at no cost to the member and with no long-term obligation. With the device installed, we will have the ability to control the heating elements for a maximum of four hours in any day, during the months of December, January, February, July and August.

Remember, there is no long-term obligation and no cost to you. If you are not satisfied, the device will be removed without hesitation.

Why not be a part of our load management team?

Help manage our load

Members who attended this year's annual meeting were informed that due, in part, to the load management program, Menard Electric's wholesale power rate has gone from one of the highest in Soyland Power to one of the lowest. By lowering our wholesale power cost, we have been able to maintain rate stability over the past several years.

As many of you know, this is done through the controlling of irrigation systems and water heaters and members who can separate themselves from our

services in times of peak demand. There are other ways in which a member can help manage Menard Electric Cooperative's load. During the peak summer months of July and August, members can help control this demand by turning back their thermostat setting on their air conditioner and making a conscience effort to lighten their energy use between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. during the above mentioned months.

Any assistance that you can give during the summer peak months would certainly be appreciated.

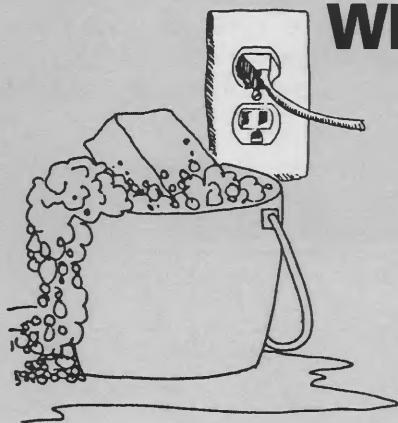
Trucks for sale

Menard Electric Cooperative is accepting sealed bids through Thursday, June 28, 1990, on the three vehicles listed below. Each of the vehicles will be available for inspection at the Cooperative office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday until June 28. Bids received will be opened on Friday, June 29, at 12 noon. Members of the Cooperative are invited to submit bids on these trucks. The Cooperative reserves the right to reject

any and all bids.

1. 1984 GMC $\frac{3}{4}$ ton 4x4 Cab and Chassis
2. 1985 GMC $\frac{3}{4}$ ton Cab and Chassis
3. 1985 Dodge, 1 ton Cab and Chassis

The Cooperative will also accept sealed bids on a "fiberglass utility body." Sealed bids will be accepted on the utility body at the same time and place as the trucks listed above.



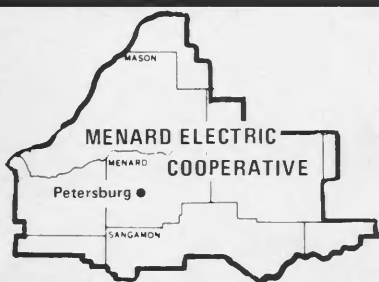
Who needs a GFCI?

You do—if you use electric appliances in your bathroom, garage, at an outdoor outlet, or anywhere there is water or moisture.

A plugged-in appliance, even though it's turned off, can still deliver a shock if it comes in contact with water. But a GFCI—ground fault circuit interrupter—reacts to the smallest electric current leak by stopping the flow of electricity.

A GFCI is most definitely your assurance of using appliances and equipment properly.

Become acquainted with a GFCI as soon as possible. We'll be glad to provide you more information. Please contact us.



Menard Electric News

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

Annual meeting news:

Rates to remain stable

Members of Menard Electric Cooperative met Saturday, June 9, at PORTA High School in Petersburg for the Cooperative's 53rd Annual Meeting. During the meeting, members heard reports from Dorland W. Smith, manager; Morris L. Bell, president; and Robert I. Brauer, treasurer.

The most important message during the meeting was that electric rates will remain stable, at least through 1991, for Menard Electric members. Smith reported that the stabilization of rates was a result of stable wholesale power costs from Soyland Power Coopera-

tive and Menard Electric's load management programs.

During the official business portion of the meeting, members re-elected incumbents Michael E. Carls of Virginia, James G. Graff of Middletown, and Warren D. Goetsch of Williamsville to the board of directors.

Before the meeting, members enjoyed a delicious dinner served by the Mason County Pork Producers and had an opportunity to examine the numerous displays and exhibits that were provided by local vendors and affiliated organizations.



Clockwise from left: From left are reelected directors Michael E. Carls, Warren D. Goetsch and James G. Graff with manager Dorland Smith. Members take advantage of reduced prices at the Members' Bargain Table. The proxy table is busy reassigning proxies to members.

Attendance prizes—53rd annual meeting

Menard Electric Cooperative

June 9, 1990

Supplier gifts

Brownstown Electric—Mr. Coffee Iced Tea Pot—Glenn Dambacher, Middletown

Burton Tree—Electric trimmer—Glenn E. Fricke, Petersburg

Drake-Scruggs—Truck box—E.R. Milstead Jr., Oakford (Early Bird)

Electric Lab—Alarm Clock—Earl W. Henrikson, Springfield

Graybar—Screw Holder—Floyd Toland, Chandlerville

Tool Box—Donald Henrikson, Springfield

R.R. Kinyon—GE AM/FM Clock Radio—Ralph Kreiling, Forest City

U.S. Electric—Multiple-outlet Strip—Elmer Sparrow, Virginia

United Utility—Presto Electric Fry Pan—Lloyd Smith, Sherman

Menard Electric Cooperative Prizes

Henrietta Aldag

Wayne L. Armbrust

Gregory D. Baum

Wellington P. Behrends

Harold Black

James T. Blessman

Harold D. Brown

Kenneth W. Brown

Ethel M. Coady

Matthew Funkhouser

Glen Gabehart

Eugene Geiss

C. Herman Gutmann

Wayne Henderson

J.F. Hoesman

Duane E. Hoffman

Nelson Jackson

Dale Keltner

James Landreth

George E. Meeker

Curtis Melcher

R.J. Meredith

Dale Milstead

Earl V. Murdock

Charles Nordstrom

J. Weldon Renken

David R. Richeson

Buddy Romine

Lester A. Ross

Roy G. Ryder

Kenneth Sampson

Timothy C. Sexton

Emerson Sheets

Zane Shelton

C. Kenneth Smith

Donald E. Smith

Doris E. VanOrman

Margaret H. Vogel

John S. Wright

James Zimmerman

Robert Zook

Chatham

Manito

Petersburg

Easton

Jacksonville

Topeka

Springfield

Cantrall

Middletown

Petersburg

Petersburg

Chandlerville

Petersburg

Williamsville

Chandlerville

San Jose

Argenta

Alexander

Greenview

Mason City

Cantrall

Illioopolis

Oakford

Kilbourne

Dawson

San Jose

Petersburg

Ashland

Dawson

Havana

Greenview

Dawson

Havana

Middletown

Easton

New Berlin

Forest City

Mason City

Riverton

Petersburg

Athens

West Bent Hot Pot

Professional brush curling iron

Coleman 2-liter jug

Rechargeable automatic toothbrush

Heavy duty home & auto flashlights

Multiple outlet strip

West Bend 4 qt. slow cooker

6 foot clamp lamp

Proctor Silex spray/steam iron

54 quart ice chest

Rechargeable flashlight

West Bend Butter-Matic

Electric ice cream maker

Quick drip coffeemaker

West Bend Air Poppery

20 inch 3-speed fan

Coleman 2-liter jug

West Bend Hot Pot

Hamilton Beach electric knife

Coleman 2-liter jug

Booster cables

Magnavox AM/FM clock radio

West Bend food chopper

Cordless screwdriver

Travelcare clothes steamer

Rival can opener/knife sharpener

2-slice toaster

Sunbeam 40 speed handmixer

West Bend electric griddle

34 quart ice chest

Coleman 2-liter jug

West Bend food processor

Coleman 2-liter jug

Coleman 2-liter jug

Sunbeam under-cabinet can opener

Professional brush curling iron

Coleman 2-gallon cooler

West Bend Hot Pot

Lamp converter

West Bend Potpourri Pot

Sunbeam brass quartz clock

Proxy prizes

Gerald E. Gehrke

Melvin Leiding

Carrol Lewis

Robert L. Ratliff

Joe Snyder

New Holland

Havana

Jacksonville

Petersburg

Petersburg

Rubbermaid tote cooler

Rubbermaid tote cooler

Rubbermaid tote cooler

Rubbermaid tote cooler

Rubbermaid tote cooler

Co-op Comments

The Rural Home Energy Grant Program, administered by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources through Menard Electric Cooperative, has come to a conclusion. During the 1989-90 period of the program, Menard Electric distributed more than \$57,000 to Cooperative members. This brings the three-year total to 158 members with an allocation of approximately \$220,000. As you may recall, this program was for weatherization grants from the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources for home improvements such as installation of insulation, high efficiency furnaces, windows, etc. All members who received grants had to meet certain criteria established by DENR. Your Cooperative was happy to have been able to offer this program to our members. We are sure that the home improvements will help

them live a bit more comfortable during the coming months.

If you are interested in installing a new air conditioner in your home, call the Cooperative office and ask about the benefits of an air-to-air heat pump. We think you will be surprised.

During the summer months many of us enjoy taking our long-awaited vacations, which require a lot of planning. However, making arrangements with your Cooperative in regards to your electric bill is often overlooked. This year, why not add your electric bill to the list of things to do before you leave on vacation? Help yourself and your Cooperative to avoid any unnecessary problems.

David K. Atterberry of Buffalo will complete 40 years of service with your Cooperative July 24. Dave is an area serviceman for Menard Electric, serving members in the Sherman-Riverton-Buffalo-Illiopolis areas.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Monday, June 25, 1990, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Meredith L. Worner, Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, Warren D. Goetsch, and James G. Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg, and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved and the minutes of the May 29, 1990, meeting were approved as mailed to the board.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for May 1990. Expenses, excluding power costs, were approximately \$30,000 less than budgeted due to operations and maintenance items that had not been completed and billed. Total margins year-to-date are approximately \$244,000. He reviewed the vital statistics for the month, temporary investments, outage summary and indicated there were no recordable injuries/illnesses on the safety report. The Manager's Operating Report for the month of May was approved.

President Bell asked for a review of the annual meeting by the Annual Meeting Committee and special services coordinator Pillsbury. Comments were also given on the annual meeting by various board members. The board commended the staff and employees on the planning and carrying out of a very successful annual meeting.

This being the first meeting after the reorganizational meeting, president Bell made appointments to standing committees, and delegates to the AIEC and

NRECA regional and annual meeting were selected.

The board discussed the board meeting dates and times for the next 12 months and it was decided the board meeting would be the fourth Tuesday each month, beginning at 7 p.m.

The board considered the Non-Discrimination Policy and approved its revisions for the policy manual.

President Bell presented to the board a request from Clay Electric Cooperative to share in the expenses for their law suit with Jennmar Corporation. After discussion the board approved Clay Electric's request for sharing in the legal expense of this suit.

The chairman of the Labor Committee, Carroll Cline, reported on the recent activities of the Labor Committee and the beginning negotiations with IBEW Local No. 51.

Manager Smith presented to the board a proposed policy, which would allow the employees to purchase supplemental term life insurance. After some discussion the board elected to approve the first reading. The policy will be brought back to the board for final reading at the next board meeting.

President Bell reported on the activities of the AIEC. He explained the budget of the AIEC for the year 1990-91. The board approved paying the dues assessment to the Association for the upcoming year.

Soyland director Michael Carls reported on the activities of Soyland.

The uncollectible accounts, as presented to the board, were approved for write off. The Inventory of Work Orders for May, 1990, was approved and the Agreement for Electric Service as presented to the board was approved.

The membership applications, as mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting, were **approved**. Also

approved was the payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed with the notice.

Special Occasion Vouchers for directors for the month of May were approved.

Under "Other Business" manager Smith reported on the need to upgrade the copy machine and also the pur-

chase of a small portable machine to be used as backup to the large machine. He also reported on the activities with the Village of Riverton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Federal assistance **to electric utilities**

For many years now there have been several members of Congress and our executive branch of government who believe that the United States has been paying too much for rural electrification. Below is a break down of federal assistance for the various types of electric utilities.

(\$000)

A. RURAL ELECTRIC PROGRAM

1) Outstanding REA Loans	\$11,451,526
2) X (avg interest cost to govt. less avg rate on REA loans outstanding)	5.0%
= TOTAL ASSISTANCE	\$572,576
3) Number of Consumers Served	11,144,587
ANNUAL ASSISTANCE PER CONSUMER	\$51.38
	=====

B. INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITIES

1) Outstanding Accum. Tax Benefits	\$58,883,886
2) X avg.interest cost to government	9.0%
= TOTAL ASSISTANCE	\$5,299,550
3) Number of Consumers Served	80,667,000
ANNUAL ASSISTANCE PER CONSUMER	\$65.70
	=====

C. MUNICIPAL (PUBLICLY OWNED) UTILITIES (from a sample of 491 public utilities)

1) Interest Paid on Long-Term Debt	\$4,696,018
2) Marginal Tax Rate	24%
= TOTAL ASSISTANCE	1,127,044
3) Number of Consumers Served	12,221,558
ANNUAL ASSISTANCE PER CONSUMER	\$92.66
	=====

Sources:

REA Annual Statistical Report, 1988

Financial Statistics of Selected Electric Utilities, 1988

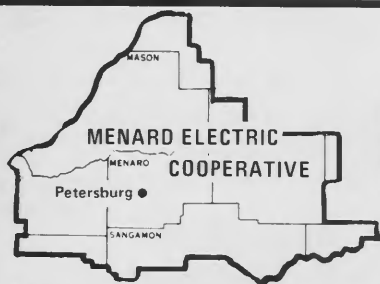
Notes:

All dollars in thousands except per consumer.

For information on Federal Assistance by State contact NRECA Economics Division (202-857-9576).

NRECA Economics Division

April 1990



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

John and Coleen Shelton will be celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary August 21. John is an engineering technician for your Cooperative and is a fellow member. Congratulations to John and Coleen!!

Menard Electric Cooperative has many programs available to its membership. Taking advantage of these programs will save members money and make the use of clean, safe electricity surprisingly cost effective. If

you are interested in finding out more about the programs that will save you money, please contact the Member Services Department at the Cooperative office.

Summer is almost over, and soon children from high and low will be returning to school. This means that children will be walking, riding their bikes and commuting on school buses as they venture back to the classroom. We, at Menard Electric, would like to ask all of our members to give special consideration when approaching school crossings and school buses. Being extra careful when you approach these areas will help to make this school year a safe one.



From left, Dorland W. Smith, manager of Menard, Judy Basso, Dale VanEtten and Pat VanEtten stand near the entrance of Woodland Lakes Subdivision.



Randy Avery (in the bucket) hooks up power to the Woodland Lakes subdivision as Dale, Pat, Dorland and Judy look on.

New subdivision on Cooperative lines

Menard Electric Cooperative recently extended underground service to Woodland Lakes subdivision. Woodland Lakes is a new residential development with a gorgeous view of the Sangamon River valley.

The new subdivision is located just east of Petersburg along Route 123 and features two stocked lakes, city water, beautiful wooded lots and areas set aside for the development of parks. The subdivision is located in the PORTA School District and promises to be a welcome addition to the Petersburg area.

The developers of the 39-lot Woodland Lakes are Tom and Judy Basso and Dale and Pat VanEtten. According to them, the response they have received so far has been super and they are looking forward to seeing the first house built in the subdivision.

Your Cooperative is extremely pleased to be able to provide electrical service to the new residential area. We believe that the new load created will be of value to all members of Menard Electric Cooperative.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, July 24, 1990, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Meredith L. Worner, Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, Warren D. Goetsch, and James G. Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved, and minutes of the meeting held on June 25, 1990, were approved as mailed to the board.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for June 1990. Expenses, excluding power costs, were approximately \$30,000 less than budgeted, due to operation and maintenance items not completed and billed. Because of the extremely cool and wet June, kilowatt-hour sales were approximately 3,000,000 less than budgeted. Margins for the month were \$208,000 less than budgeted. Total margins for the year are at the projected level as of June 30. Manager Smith reviewed the vital statistics for the month. Temporary investments were up, and the outage summary reflected the storms in June. There were no recordable injuries or illnesses on the Safety Report. The Manager's Operating Report for the Month of June was approved.

Manager Smith reported on the electric heat rebate for the 1989-90 heating season. He requested that the heating rebate be continued for the heating season 1990-91. The board approved the continuance of the electric heat rebate and authorized the certification to Soyland for the past year.

The board considered member request for information and took action on the same.

Labor Committee chairman Cline reported on the

recent activity of the Labor Committee and the results of the negotiations with IBEW Local No. 51. After discussion, the board approved the recommendations of the committee and authorized the president and secretary to sign the labor contract.

The board reviewed the new policy on supplemental term life insurance and approved said policy.

Manager Smith advised the board that Mr. and Mrs. Julius Barbee had submitted their resignations as custodians of the office. He said Service Master had been contacted and was performing the janitorial services for the Cooperative. The board approved a contract for janitorial services with Service Master.

Earl Pillsbury presented the Special Services Report for the second quarter of 1990. The report was approved.

President Bell reported on the activities of the AIEC. He said Menard had the greatest number of ACRE members.

Soyland director Carls reported on the activities of Soyland and the recent Soyland board meeting.

The Inventory of Work Orders for June 1990 was approved. The payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed with the notice of the meeting was approved.

Forty-three membership applications and nine service permits were approved.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the month of June were approved.

Under "other business," manager Smith reminded the board of the passing of the Illinois Clean Air Act and the need to designate smoking and non-smoking areas within the office. The board referred the matter to the manager for action at the August board meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Water heater rebate

Water heaters are generally the second or third largest user of energy in the home. Because of this, your Cooperative would like to give you \$150 to get rid of the old, inefficient water heater and replace it with a new, more-efficient electric model.

In order to qualify for a \$150 rebate, your electric water heater must meet two qualifications: (1) the water heater must have a minimum storage capacity of 40-gallons or more, and (2) the electric water heater

must meet ASHRAE 90 standards.

With this rebate and our load management program, members could experience operating costs on electric hot water heaters similar to or below the operating costs of a gas or propane water heater. Once installed, simply notify the Cooperative office by filling out the form below. When we receive the information, an employee will verify the installation and complete the necessary paper work so that your \$150 rebate check can be mailed to you.

account number

daytime telephone number

name

address

city, zip



Dale and Mary Satorius stand proudly in front of their lovely home at rural Petersburg.

Another geothermal heating/cooling system goes on your cooperative line

On July 2, Dale and Mary Satorius' names were added to a growing list of Cooperative members who have installed a geothermal heating and cooling system. After careful consideration and examining all possibilities, Dale and Mary decided that the geothermal heating and cooling system was the most efficient system on the market today. Because of its efficiency they would be able to heat, cool, and do the water heating in their home cheaper than any other alternative.

In their 3,200-square-foot home, a four-ton Water-Furnace geothermal heating and cooling system was installed by Snell Heating and Cooling of Virden. The estimated operating cost for heating, cooling and water heating for the entire year for their home is expected to be approximately \$600. Their outside loop consists of four 150-foot, vertical loops. Through these loops an antifreeze solution is circulated that enables the solution to absorb the heat from the earth in the winter and discharge heat from the house in the summer. This type of heating and cooling system is actually using the earth's energy. Most systems of this type are 300-350 percent efficient.

For members who would like more details on this type of heating and cooling system, please contact the Cooperative office so that appropriate information can be forwarded to you.



Employees of Snell Heating and Air Conditioning installing one of four 150-foot wells for the Satoriuses' geothermal heating and cooling system.

Your employees



Kevin D. Keiser

Kevin D. Keiser, member services advisor for your Cooperative, was hired March 7, 1988. His duties include promoting the efficient use of electricity in the homes and on the farms throughout the Cooperative service area.

During his tenure, he has assisted 170 Cooperative members in securing more than \$221,000 in energy grants from the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

He prepares the center section for the Rural Electric News, provides information on kilowatt-hour usage, assists with bill inquiries and conducts the annual essay contest. Kevin assists with the annual meeting, works with contractors and members on geothermal heating and cooling systems, and other load promotion activities.

He enjoys doing home repairs and woodworking projects, and is an avid sports fan, both as a participant and observer.

Kevin and his wife, Kimberly, live in Petersburg and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their first child in November.

Meter readers needed

Menard Electric Cooperative is currently accepting applications for meter reading positions throughout the Cooperative's service territory. All meter reading positions are on a contractual basis. Meters are read during a three-day period each month.

If you are interested in completing a formal application, please fill in the information below and return it to the Cooperative office. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact your Member Services Department.

Name
Address
Account number
Telephone number

New employee



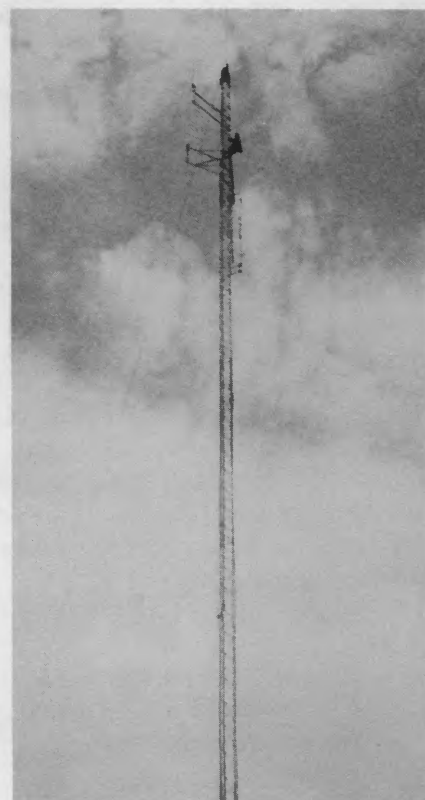
Larry Power

Larry Power began working for your Cooperative June 25. After a probationary period of

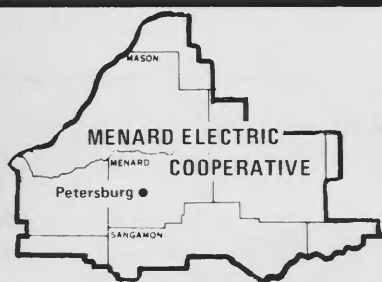
employment, he will begin an apprentice lineman training program. During Larry's four-year apprenticeship he will be learning how to build and maintain electrical distribution lines and electric services for members of Menard Electric. Larry was born and raised east of Petersburg. He is a graduate of Greenview High School. Larry has a background in electricity and was a self-employed electrician for three years. He also worked for Menard Service Company for five years. Larry, his wife, Robin, and their two children, Shawna and Nicholas, live east of Petersburg. Larry is looking forward to meeting the members of Menard Electric Cooperative.

Office closing

Menard Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day. The Cooperative will resume normal business hours Tuesday, September 4.



An employee of Tower Contract, Inc., installing a new antenna that will receive and send radio signals for your Cooperative's new load management system.



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

Dan and Dorothy Morgan will be celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary September 26. Dan is a groundman/truck driver/mechanic for your cooperative.

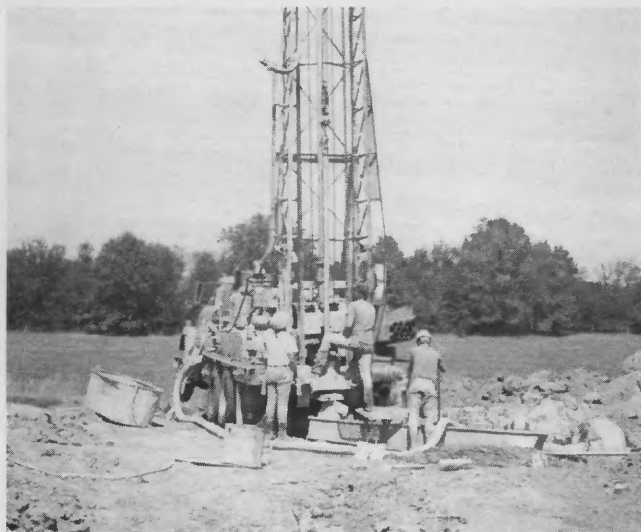
The cold days of winter are just around the corner. Now would be a good time to replace the filter in your forced-air furnace. It is also a good time to plan your weatherization improvements so that you stay warm this winter. If you have any questions about im-

provements you can make, please contact the Member Services Department of your Cooperative.

Many members are already aware that August electric bills were sent later than usual this past month. This was due to Menard Electric Cooperative updating its computer system. Payments, however, still have a due date of September 21 as shown on your bill. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Gerald and Christine Hedberg will be celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary September 20. Jerry is the staff assistant for your Cooperative and is responsible for the data processing department.

Members sold on geothermal heating, cooling



Men from Snell Plumbing and Heating of Virden, install one of the four vertical loops for the new geothermal heating and cooling system at the Gerdes home.

Gary and Vicki Gerdes are the latest members to become disciples of geothermal heating and cooling. They are currently building their 2,000-square-foot dream house south of Petersburg and have designed it to be as efficient as possible. Therefore, the Gerdeses installed a four-ton WaterFurnace unit that will heat, cool and provide a majority of their water heating needs more efficiently than anything on the market today. The estimated cost to operate their WaterFurnace unit for the entire year will be approximately \$850. With the rising cost of propane, this unit is



Gary and Vicki Gerdes in front of their home currently under construction.

looking better than ever before.

After careful consideration, Gary and Vicki decided that, due to the tremendous savings in energy, they would be able to recover the difference in cost to install this type of system in about three and one-half to five years.

If you would like more information about a geothermal heating and cooling system or would like to have a free cost analysis done on your home, please contact the Cooperative office.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, August 28, 1990, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Meredith L. Worner, Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, Warren D. Goetsch, and James G. Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved and the minutes of the July 24, 1990, meeting were approved as mailed to the board. Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the year-to-date. Expenses, excluding power costs, were approximately \$11,000 less than budgeted. Operating revenue was approximately \$137,000 less than budgeted and kilowatt-hour sales were down approximately 4,000,000 for the month. This caused margins to be approximately \$60,000 less than anticipated. Total margins for the year are also less than budgeted. Manager Smith reviewed the vital statistics for the month and indicated that temporary investments are up. The Outage Summary reflected the storms that occurred in July. The Manager's Operating Report for the month of July was approved.

Manager Smith reported to the board on the progress of the cleanup of the Missouri Electric Works site at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He also reported on the status of the complaints with CIPS under the Electric Power Supplier Act.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury reported to the board that the Village of Kilbourne had granted the Cooperative a franchise. This will allow the Cooperative to serve within the corporate limits of the Village, if the boundaries are altered to include areas historically served by Menard Electric.

Director Cline reported on the recent meeting of the Capital Credit Committee. After discussion the board

directed the Committee to develop a proposed plan for retiring capital credits for consideration by the board.

The board considered a policy relative to the Illinois Clean Air Act. Manager Smith reviewed the act and how the Cooperative was handling it. The policy was accepted as its' first reading.

President Bell asked for comments on the AIEC Annual Meeting by those that had been in attendance. Directors Graff, Cline and Worner commented on the various sessions and indicated it was a successful meeting. Manager Smith reported that director Worner had received his Director's Certification Certificate at the AIEC Annual Meeting. He said several employees had received certificates—Earl Pillsbury receiving his Supervisory and Managers Certificate; Gerald Hedberg and Terry Entwistle receiving their Supervisory Certificates.

Michael Carls, Soyland director, reported on the activities of Soyland and the recent Soyland board meeting.

The Inventory of Work Orders for July 1990 was approved and payments of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed with the notice of the meeting was approved. The board approved the list of uncollectible accounts as presented to the board and also approved agreements for electric service as presented. Application for memberships totaling 70 and 9 service permits were approved.

Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month of July were approved.

Under "other business" manager Smith requested the board adopt a resolution amending the agreement with NRECA relative to the deferred compensation account that is managed by NRECA. The board approved the resolution and a new joinder agreement.

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

A utility pole is no place for a sign

Over the past few weeks, the attaching of signs to utility poles owned by your Cooperative has become a common occurrence. Many people do not see any harm in attaching a sign that is located far away from the overhead power lines. However, signs, no matter how small and no matter how far or near they are located to power lines, can cause serious damage to your Cooperative. This is one of the ways in which linemen are most frequently injured.

Many of these signs are secured

by nails or staples, which increase the risk of the lineman being injured. As the lineman climbs the pole, he may not see the nail or staple. If one or both of the linemen's climbers attached to his shoes were to come into contact with the foreign objects, the lineman could lose his footing and fall from the pole. This obviously could cause serious injury to the lineman and ultimately cost the Cooperative through lost time, etc. So, next time you want to put up a sign, give the lineman a break and don't put it on a utility pole.



Electric heat rebate for 1990-91

During the July board meeting, your directors decided to continue the electric heat rebate for the coming winter season. Over the past four years, many of Menard Electric Cooperative members have taken advantage of this program and were extremely happy with the benefits they received.

As you may recall, the electric heat rebate program provides

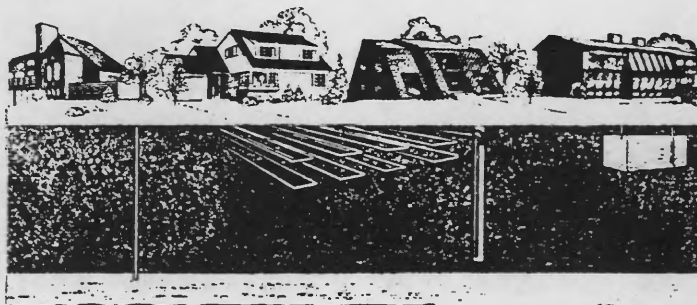
rebates to members who use electricity as their primary source of heat. The rebate is 4.4 cents per kilowatt-hour for every kilowatt-hour used over 1,000 during the primary heating months of December, January and February.

For those members who have recently installed electric heat as their primary source and would like to receive this year's rebate, we ask

that you complete the following information and return it to the Cooperative office. A Cooperative employee will then be dispatched to your residence to visually verify the new heating system and add your name to the 1990-91 listing. Members who have already completed this procedure in previous years will not be required to re-submit the following information.

I have as my primary source of heat:

- _____ electric baseboard
 _____ ceiling cable
 _____ electric furnace
 _____ air-to-air heat pump
 _____ closed loop heat pump



name

account number

address

telephone number

city/state

Meter reading dates

We at Menard Electric would like to urge all Cooperative members to please help make our meter readers' job a little easier. This can be done by having the area around the meter free of debris and tall weeds. Also, having gates unlocked and dogs restrained help the

meter readers do their job safely and without fear.

The calendars below show the scheduled meter reading dates for October, November and December. Any assistance you can give will certainly be appreciated.

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Look for most homes to be heated by electricity in next 20 to 30 years

The following comments by Jim D'Amico, president of Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA), appeared in the January 22, 1990, issue of "Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration News":

About 10 years ago, a manufacturer's representative told me that he believed eventually all homes in this county would be heated with electricity.

He cited the lack of fossil fuels as the primary reason, but mentioned the expense of installing gas pipelines and the cost of trucking fuel oil as other reasons.

I listened, but didn't really agree.

Today, however, I agree.

In the next 20 to 30 years, we will see a major change in the way homes are heated. Fossil fuels will become a thing of the past as costs to retrieve, supply and deliver the needed service associated with fossil fuels escalate.

But the overriding issue will be **safety**. I believe the day will come when combustibles in the home will be outlawed. Fire marshals nationwide will press for the eliminating of gas- and oil-burning equipment based on safety, citing the preservation of life and property.

Underground pipelines of fossil fuels will be outlawed to preserve

the environment as well as to remove the compounding threat coupled with natural disaster, as witness in the recent San Francisco earthquake.

Litigation over loss of life and property due to the combustion of fossil fuels, as well as the potential pollution of the environment, will drive liability insurance beyond the point of availability for even major corporations.

Utilities, in an effort to offset lost revenues from gas heating, will compete with major oil companies as natural gas will become competitive as an alternative for gasoline to power our vehicles.

Use outdoor electric tools safely

During the fall season many members can be found working outside in their yards in an attempt to get their yard and house prepared for the winter months. Often this maintenance requires the use of electric tools. Because of this we would like to remind all of our members to be safe when using electricity outdoors.

Never use electric equipment around water or wet ground. Use only extension cords specified for outdoor use; an indoor cord won't hold up to the abuse and they are not weather resistant. Make sure extension

cords are sized for the equipment you are using: 16/3 minimum for hedge trimming, drills and vacuums; 14/3 minimum for lawn mowing and chain saws; 12/3 for electric sanders, snow blowers and heaters. Carefully inspect all cords for cracks in the insulation and replace them immediately if damaged.

Be sure to read and follow all instruction booklets that come with equipment; often safety glasses and gloves are recommended by the manufacturer.

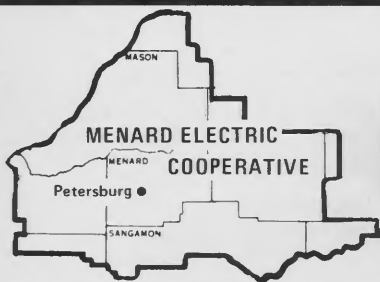
Be alert during harvest season

This year's harvest is near, and farmers throughout the Cooperative service area will once again be hard at work bringing in this year's crops. This is a happy and an anxious time as farmers prepare to reap the benefits of their hard work during the summer months.

Unfortunately, this is also the time of year when your Cooperative sees an increase in guy wire, pole and line damage. We at Menard Electric realize that you have important tasks on your mind during this time of year. We share in your concern to complete these tasks. However, today's equipment is larger and puts the operator of the vehicle farther away from hazards and obstacles around the perimeter of the field. This makes it easier to overlook guy wires and other objects hiding near the edge of the field.

This year, do yourself and Menard Electric a favor. Take time to check for hidden obstacles before you start harvesting or before you move your irrigation system. This is even more important if you have new employees helping during the harvest season. Don't let the guy wires or poles hitch a ride on your equipment this year.





Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

During the binding of the September 1990 issue of the Rural Electric News magazine some 500 Menard Electric members were mailed the REN magazine without the Menard Electric news center section enclosed. If you are one of those members and wish to have a copy of the September center section, please contact your Cooperative office and we will mail one to you. We certainly apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Halloween is October 31 and as we all know this is the day when all the little ghosts and goblins come out for "trick or treat." We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Halloween and urge all members to take extra measures to insure the safety of our children.

With a touch of fall in the air, many members begin thinking of ways in which to weatherize their home, but many times do not know where to begin. Menard Electric Cooperative can help. If you simply call the Member Services Department at your Cooperative, we can provide you with booklets showing proper energy saving steps, or if need be, a Cooperative employee can be dispatched to your home to do a heat loss/heat gain calculation.

On November 5, Terry Entwistle will be celebrating 20 years of employment with Menard Electric Cooperative. Terry is the General Foreman for your Cooperative and is responsible for all the outside line crews.

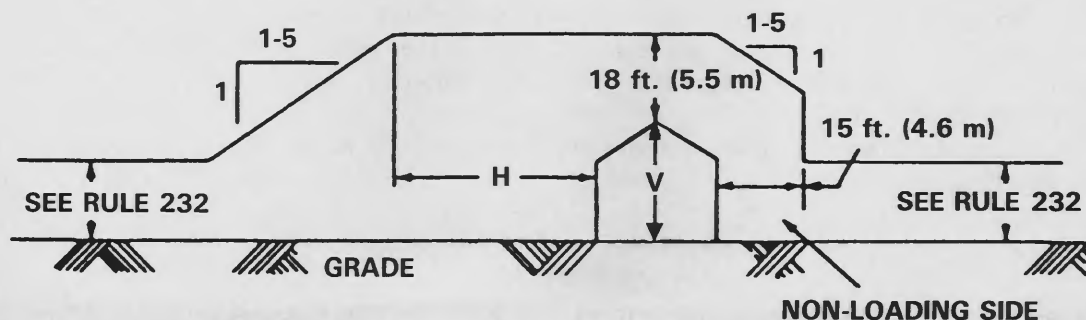
Glen and Margaret Worth of rural New Holland celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on October 6. Glen is a former employee of your Cooperative, retiring in 1972.

National Electrical Safety Code changes requirements

Menard Electric Cooperative has been made aware of some changes in the National Electrical Safety Code which have come about in the 1990 edition.

These changes specifically address the placement of grain bins in relation to overhead power lines. As the simplified illustration suggests, there must now be a clearance of no less than 18 feet above the highest point of the bin, thus reducing the chance of having augers or other foreign objects becoming entangled in the overhead line.

So, if you are contemplating building a new storage bin and your potential site is near overhead electric power lines, please do not hesitate to contact our engineering department for more information and details about these restrictions. Failure to do so could result in an additional charge to you or the owner of the bins if the Cooperative is required to alter its facilities to comply with the National Electric Safety Code.



V = Height of highest filling or probing port on grain bin

$H = V + 18 \text{ ft (5.5 m)}$

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, September 25, 1990, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Meredith L. Worner, Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, Warren D. Goetsch, and James G. Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved and the minutes of the August 27, 1990, meeting were approved as mailed to the board. Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of August 1990 and year-to-date. Expenses, excluding power costs, were approximately \$24,000 greater than the amount budgeted. Manager Smith reviewed the expenses, and indicated that maintenance expense was up due to a lot of poles being replaced. Operating revenue for the month was approximately \$68,000 less than budgeted and kilowatt-hour sales were down approximately 1.7 million for the month. Margins for the month were approximately \$50,000 less than anticipated and margins for the year are also less than budgeted. Manager Smith reviewed the vital statistics for the month and indicated that temporary investments were greater than normal. The Outage Summary reflected the storms that occurred in August, and the Safety Report indicated one incident with no lost time. The Manager's Operating Report for the month of August was approved.

Director Cline, chairman of the Labor Committee, reported on the activities of the Committee. After discussion the recommendations of the Labor Committee were approved as presented.

Manager Smith reviewed the CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis provided annually by CFC. It is an indicator of how Menard Electric compares to similar sized cooperatives in Illinois and throughout the nation.

The report of the Capital Credits Committee was presented by chairman Cline. After discussion the recommendations of the Capital Credits Committee were approved and the manager and staff were instructed to implement the recommendations of the Committee, beginning in 1991.

A policy relative to the Illinois Clean Air Act received its second reading and was approved.

Director Goetsch, manager Smith and president Bell reported on the recent Region V meeting of NRECA, which was held in Des Moines, Iowa.

Manager Bell reported on the AIEC activities.

Director Carls reported on the recent activities of Soyland and the recent Soyland board meeting.

Two Agreements for Electric Service were approved. An Underground Service Agreement for Birch Lakes, Third Addition, was approved.

The Inventory of Work Orders for the month of August 1990 were approved and payment of the invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed with the notice of the meeting was approved.

Fifty applications for memberships were approved and 12 permits for service were accepted.

Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month of August were approved.

The meeting date for the month of October was discussed and it was decided to move the October meeting from the 23rd to October 30th at 7 p.m.

Manager Smith indicated that Robert Burris is the area serviceman in the Mason City area.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Cooperative facts . . .

Did you know . . .

- The first cooperative was organized in the U.S. by Benjamin Franklin in 1752? It was for the insurance of Homes from Loss of Fire and it still continues today.
- About 30 percent of farmers' products in the U.S. are marketed through cooperatives?
- Rural electric cooperatives operate more than half of the electric distribution lines in the U.S. and provide electricity for 25 million people?
- A cooperative is open to anyone who can use its services and is willing to accept the responsibilities of membership?

- All margins are assigned to members proportionately to their patronage?
- Cooperatives work together at the local, regional, national and international levels to further economic democracy?
- Nearly 60 million people are members of 40,000 various U.S. cooperatives? These cooperatives serve in a variety of ways: business services; child care; housing; insurance; legal and professional services; marketing of agricultural and other products; personal finance; utility or cable TV services; and health care.

We're here to help!

Heating costs can be a terrible burden to a family trying to live on a budget already stretched to the limit by rising prices for other essential items as housing and food. If your family is struggling to make ends meet, don't put off paying your monthly electric bill. Contact us ahead of time to review

the federal and state programs that may be available to help low-income families and senior citizens throughout the high-cost heating months coming up. We'll be glad to put you in touch with the proper agency to determine if you qualify for assistance.



"Remember — If you have a 1/16 inch crack around a standard door, it will let in as much air as a hole in the wall this size!"

Make it a safe hunting season

For many people, fall means hunting season. The time of year when outdoorsman's thoughts turn to the challenges of the hunt and the crisp fall morning air.

Unfortunately, in their enthusiasm to enjoy the outdoors, hunters sometimes cause interruptions in electric services and create life-threatening situations by interfering with power lines.

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

Taking target practice on insulators or birds sitting on power lines is not very sporting, and it may even be fatal if a line is damaged or broken. Damaged lines can snap and fall to the ground while still energized, creating a hazard to the hunter and anyone or anything walking through the area.

Also, a random potshot can crack a line insulator, leaving damage that may not be noticeable from the ground. Over time, the crack can fill with moisture and cause a short, leaving members without service until the insulator is replaced.

In some cases, if the insulator is severely damaged, the line may become detached from the pole and drop to within a few feet of the ground.

Shooting insulators and other electrical equipment is illegal and expensive and adds to your Cooperative's operating expenses. Still, the cost is minimal compared to the potential for personal injury or death.

Rural insurance ???

It has recently been brought to our attention that Cooperative members have received information about medical insurance through a firm identifying itself as "The National Association of Rural Cooperative Members." We would like to inform everyone that Menard Electric Cooperative has not made any such insurance available to members of the Cooperative or through any other organization.

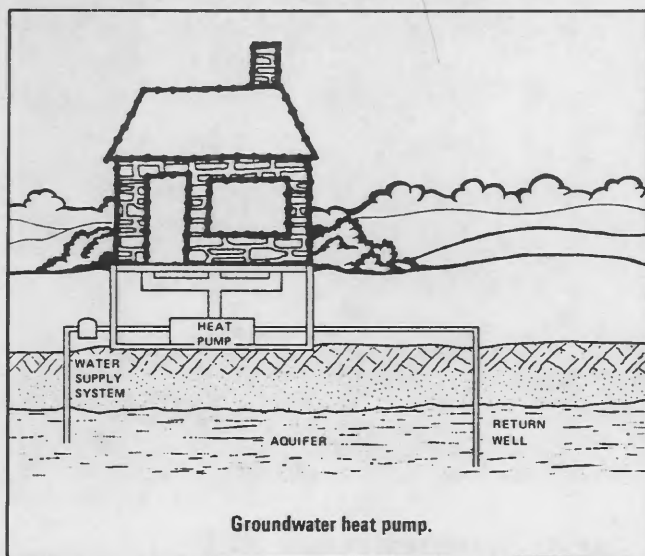
Office closings

The cooperative office will be closed on Monday, November 12, in observance of Veteran's Day. The office will be open for regular business on Tuesday, November 13.

The cooperative office will also be closed on Thursday, November 22, and Friday, November 23, in observance of Thanksgiving. The office will resume normal business hours on Monday, November 26. We would like to wish all our members a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Open well — geothermal heating and cooling system

Recently, your Cooperative has experienced a number of members in Mason County inquiring as to the potential of utilizing their household wells in the geothermal heating and cooling system. This method of extracting heat from ground water is commonly referred to as an open well geothermal heating and cooling system. In areas where water supply is abundant, such as over an aquifer, the potential for this type of heating and cooling system is outstanding. The open



well system works in much the same way that a closed loop system would operate. However, instead of extracting heat from water circulated through a series of loops, the open well system simply takes the water out of the well, extracts the heat from the water and deposits the water either in a drainage ditch or another

well, etc.

There are some distinct advantages to this type of heating and cooling system over a closed-loop system. Obviously, there is a reduction in installation costs. By being able to utilize your home's existing well, you are able to forego the cost of installing the outside horizontal or vertical closed loops. This could be a savings of \$1,500 to \$2,500 off the installation cost. The other advantage to this type of system is that during the heating mode, the open well system has a tendency to perform a little better because of the 52 degree water that it is utilizing from the aquifer below. In a closed loop system the water that is in the loop may get to near 32 degrees.

While there are significant advantages to the open well system, there are some disadvantages which need to be looked at. The first is the high mineral content of the water being used. This high mineral content may involve periodic cleaning of the heat exchanger so that the unit may operate efficiently. The other disadvantage to this type of system is that it uses your household well and pump to circulate the water. The pump is generally larger than the pumps found on the closed loop system. Thus the year round operating cost may be slightly higher than a closed loop system.

If you would like more information about the benefits of installing an open loop system in your home, please feel free to contact the Member Services Department of your Cooperative. It is our belief that under certain circumstances, the open well system can be a very viable alternative to members who wish to heat and cool their homes in the most efficient way possible.

Electric water heater load management program

Reducing our peak demands during the months of January, February, July, August and December create several advantages for our members. First of all, it helps to reduce our wholesale power cost. Second, it aids in delaying the need for additional generating plants and last, but not least, it helps stabilize the electric rates of your Cooperative.

In addition to these overall benefits, members enrolling in the Cooperative's water heater load management program will receive a 3 cent per kilowatt-hours reduction from kilowatt-hours 600 to 1,000. This could mean a savings of up to \$144 a year for those members participating in the program.

In order for your Cooperative to accomplish this peak reduction, a radio-controlled device is placed on your electric water heater. Then, during the above mentioned peak months your Cooperative monitors the entire system load. When the load becomes too high, a signal is sent to the radio-controlled device to turn the heating elements of your water heater off for short periods of time.

Please note that the heating element is the only part of the water heater being controlled, thus members still have access to the hot water which is already stored in the tank.

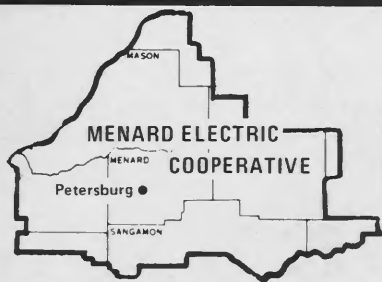
If you are interested and would like to begin saving up to \$144 a year, please contact your Cooperative office or complete the following and return it to Menard Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 279, Petersburg, Illinois 62675.

I am interested in the Electric Hot Water Heater Load Management Program.

Signature of Member

Address

Account Number Daytime Telephone Number



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

As a reminder to all hunting enthusiasts, we urge you to be extremely careful when around electrical equipment. Remember, damage of electrical equipment due to shooting can be dangerous, not only to you but to other hunters in the area as well.

As the weather begins to turn colder, many members of Menard Electric are increasing their efforts to

weatherize their home. For those of you who would like to lower the cost of heating and cooling this year but don't know where to begin, please contact the Member Services Department of your Cooperative.

Members who have an electric water heater and would like to begin saving as much as \$144 a year are urged to call the Cooperative office and ask about our Load Management Program. Remember, the sooner you call, the sooner you can begin saving on your electric bill.

Residential Energy Assistance Partnership Program

If you need or may need assistance to pay your electric bill, you may be eligible to participate in the Residential Energy Assistance Partnership Program (REAPP). For details of this program you may wish to contact an agency in your area:

Logan, Mason and Menard counties

Central Illinois Economic Development Corp.
325 S. Chicago Street
P.O. Box 846
Lincoln, Illinois 62656
Phone: (217)732-2159

Macon County

Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corp.
1122 East Marietta Street
Decatur, Illinois 62521
Phone: (217)428-2193

Cass and Morgan counties

MCS Community Services
345 West State
P.O. Box 1274
Jacksonville, Illinois 62651
Phone: (217)243-9404

Sangamon County

Sangamon County Department of
Community Resources
725 North Grand Ave. East
Springfield, Illinois 62702
Phone (217)525-2896

Tazewell County

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
632 W. Jefferson Street
Morton, Illinois 61550-1540
Phone: (309)694-4391



Larry Power and Todd Cloninger (standing left to right on the pole) are apprentice linemen for your Cooperative. Recently they attended a climbing school sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives at Lincoln Land Community College. There they learned new techniques and sharpened their climbing skills. Standing in front is the instructor of the class, Alan Pinkstaff.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, October 30, 1990, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Meredith L. Worner, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, Warren D. Goetsch, and James G. Graff. Director Edward L. Allspach was absent. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved and the minutes of the September 25, 1990, meeting were approved as mailed to the board.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of September 1990 and year-to-date. Expenses, excluding power costs, were approximately \$24,000 greater than the amount budgeted. Smith indicated that maintenance expense was up due to the right-of-way clearing crews work in the month of September and additional work on the pole replacement program. Operating revenue for the month was approximately \$268,000 greater and sales were up by 3-million kilowatt-hours over the amounts budgeted. Total margins for the year-to-date were about \$100,000 over budget. Line loss for the year is less than 9 percent and compares well with other cooperatives. The Safety Report showed two recordable incidents, with no lost time. Smith presented a detailed summary of the Illinois Public Utility taxing procedure and reviewed the 1990 summer load management results. The Manager's Operating Report for the month of September was approved.

The board reviewed the REA Borrower's Statistical Profile for the year 1989.

The board considered the recommendation to amend the R.S.&I. Agreement and after review the

new agreement was approved.

Attorney Smith reported to the board on a recent legislative hearing held in Springfield on September 27.

President Bell reported on the recent activities of the AIEC and actions that were taken at the AIEC board meeting. Bell presented the Continuing Education Program conducted by the AIEC, using NRECA instructors for classes to be held in Springfield. After discussion, the board approved the assessment for the Continuing Education Program.

Director Carls reported on the recent activities of Soyland and the recent Soyland board meeting. He reported that the Finance Committee met October 29 and worked on the Soyland 1990-91 budget. It appears that the average cost per kilowatt-hour will be approximately 2 mills higher than last year. Menard Electric Cooperative's overall assessment should be approximately the same due to load management.

Attorney Smith reported on his recent attendance at Legal Seminar XXX. He reviewed some of the legal concerns that the board should have.

The Special Services Report for the third quarter 1990 was reviewed and approved.

The list of uncollectible accounts for the month totaling \$3,440 were approved as itemized. The Inventory of Work Orders for September, 1990, was also approved.

Invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed with the notice of the meeting were also approved. Forty-seven membership and 12 permit applications were approved. The Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month of September were approved.

It was decided to hold the regular November board meeting on Tuesday, November 27, at 5 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Meter readers needed

Menard Electric Cooperative is currently accepting applications for meter reading positions throughout the Cooperative service territory. All meter reading positions are on a contractual basis, and all meters are read during a three-day period each month.

If you are interested in completing a formal application, please fill in the information below and return it to the Cooperative office.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Member Services Department at the Cooperative office.

name

address

account number

telephone number

Be 'earthquake' prepared

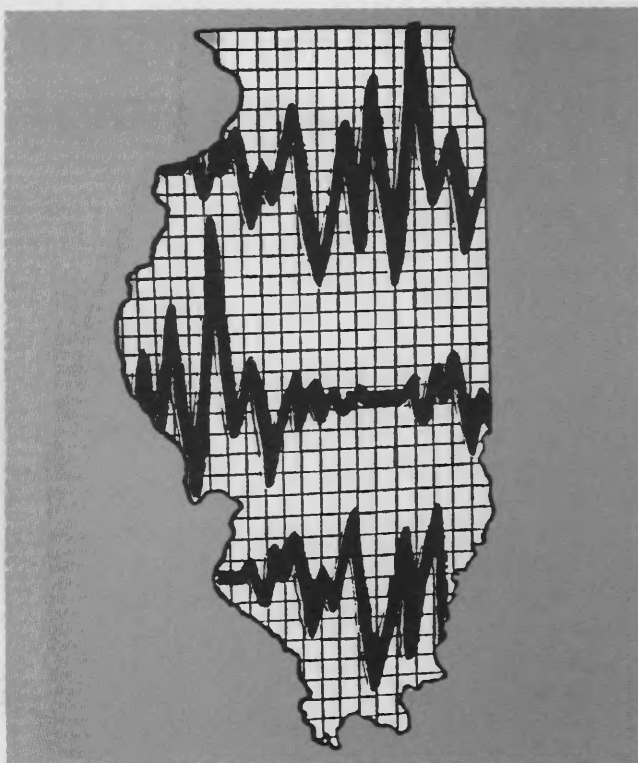
Did you know that a major earthquake along the New Madrid Fault is expected in the near future? The New Madrid Fault is the largest earthquake fault zone in the central United States. If a major quake occurred along this fault, all of Menard Electric's service area could be affected.

The U.S. geological survey estimates that enough strained energy has built up along the New Madrid fault since 1912 to produce a shock of 7.6 on the Richter Scale. Remember, the devastating earthquake that occurred in October of last year in California measured only 7.5 on the Richter Scale.

If such an earthquake occurred, obviously there would be considerable damage to buildings and many people would be without utilities. Power lines could be down, gas and water lines could be broken and bridges could be impassible.

What should you do? People can lessen the severity of earthquake damage by identifying hazards that exist in their homes, schools, or places of business and then systematically remove or correct each hazard. To reduce the hazards, strap major appliances, such as water heaters, refrigerators, and stoves to a wall to keep each from moving or falling. Remember, the water heater may be your only source of drinking water after such a disaster!

Fasten bookshelves or filing cabinets to a wall and remove objects stored above head level. Increase the number of fasteners or supports on water and gas pipes to prevent fracture and leakage. Other things you can do to make your home more earthquake ready is to keep a few days supply of water and food available. Maintain a properly equipped first aid kit, complete



with any necessary prescription medications in sufficient quantities to last several days. Organize and test a family emergency plan to help ensure each family member's survival.

Should you become involved in an actual earthquake, remember these simple facts to help reduce the possibility of severe injury: If inside a building, get under heavy furniture or in a doorway. Avoid large rooms with open span ceilings, or roofs that are more likely to collapse. Avoid large windows or groups of windows which could shatter. Avoid rooms with a lot of fixtures or furnishings which can fall or slide. If outdoors, move away from buildings, especially those with masonry or glass outer walls. Avoid utility lines, which may fall or snap. Avoid trees, which could fall. Lie or sit down to avoid being thrown about by the quake. If in a car, try to stop in a safe place and stay in the vehicle.

After the shaking has stopped, the danger from an earthquake may still not be over. Ruptured gas lines or downed power lines may still present life-threatening situations, so be alert and conscious of these dangers.

Some things to consider after an earthquake is:

1. Building in danger of collapse.
2. First aid for those who may be injured.
3. Have gas and electric service to the building turned off by someone trained to do so.
4. Extinguish small fires if possible.
5. Be sure that everyone is accounted for after the quake. If you would like more information on how you can be more earthquake prepared, contact the American Red Cross.

Rural insurance ???

It has recently been brought to our attention that Cooperative members have received information from a medical insurance firm identifying itself as "The Rural Co-op Association." We would like to inform everyone that Menard Electric Cooperative has not made any such insurance available to its members through this or any other company.

Office closings

Menard Electric Cooperative will be closed November 22 and 23 in observance of Thanksgiving. The business office will reopen November 26.

The Cooperative office will also be closed December 24 and 25 in order to celebrate Christmas with our families. The Cooperative office will resume normal working hours December 26.

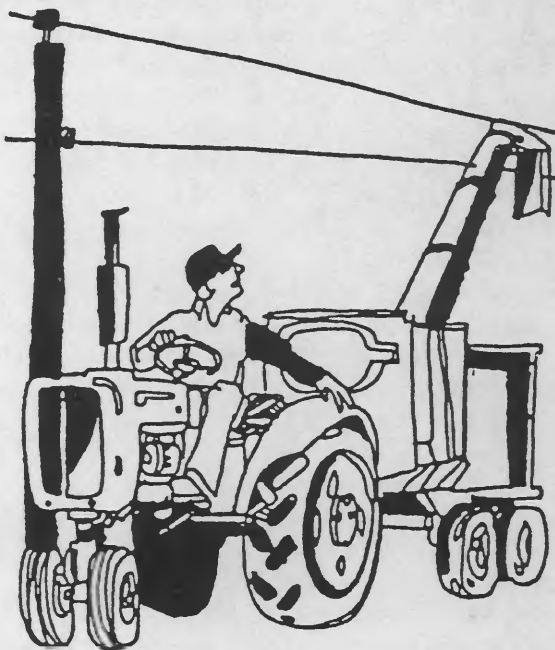
Modern farming requires modern farm safety

Electricity has played a major role in the astounding progress of American farming ... helping make Illinois and the nation the leading exporters in agricultural commodities. But electric power lines present serious potential hazards to farmers who don't exercise care when working with tractors, combines, balers, augers and other large equipment.

Watch out for overhead power lines when you are driving or towing farm equipment. If you have young farm hands who are responsible enough to operate farm equipment, impress upon them the importance of carefully surveying a work area or travel route to ensure that power lines are well out of the reach of any equipment.

Keep in mind other basic safety measures as well during harvesting operations: Check out your equipment before you use it. Make sure your helpers are familiar with the equipment they use.

Shut off power before unclogging or fixing a machine. Wear appropriate equipment. One careless moment can cause a tragic accident. Don't let tragedy strike your farm. Make this a safe harvest ... for you and your neighbors.



Let us be thankful

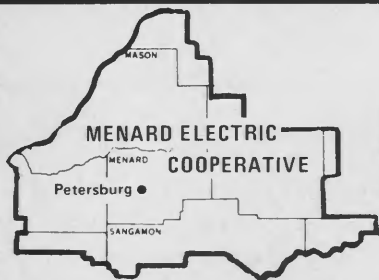
THANKSGIVING is no longer just a tradition. It is a heritage from our forefathers who converted a wilderness and founded a nation of free men, under God, with liberty and justice for all.

In the present times when there is so much turmoil and needless dissention, it is appropriate that we carefully count our blessings and rededicate ourselves to the principles on which our country was founded.

We are thankful for those determined people who, some 54 years ago, had the vision and persistence to organize electric cooperatives. And we are thankful for our members who care about this cooperative system and are responsive to its needs for change ... those who are interested and concerned about our progress.

These things and many, many others are cause for giving thanks.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone



Menard Electric News

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

Seasons Greetings from your directors and employees

Directors

*Morris L. Bell
Warren D. Goetsch
Meredith L. Worner
Robert I. Brauer
Edward L. Allspach*

*Michael E. Carls
Carroll F. Cline
James G. Graff
Gary L. Martin
C. K. Smith, attorney*

Employees

*Dorland W. Smith, manager
David H. Crosnoe
Terry W. Entwistle
Gerald E. Hedberg
Wayne E. Jones
Earl L. Pillsbury
Janey L. Ames
David K. Atterberry
Randolph J. Avery
Mark A. Bradley
Robert P. Burris
W. Todd Cloninger
Terry L. Cutright
W.R. ("Casey") Duncanson
M. Suzanne Freeland
James T. Haddick
Ronny R. Harden
Dwayne E. Heyen
Christopher P. Hinton*

*Alan D. Horn
Kevin D. Keiser
Lawrence D. Kyes
M. Orene Lynn
Phyllis A. McCoy
Darlene M. McGee
Evelyn P. McLaughlin
John D. (Dan) Morgan
Douglas S. Pettit
Larry D. Power
Judith A. Powers
Donald R. Riser
Edward L. Rogers
Rhonda K. Satorius
John O. Shelton
Glenn D. Squires
Marcel Verreault
John H. Whitehurst*

Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed on Monday, December 24, and Tuesday, December 25, in observance of Christmas.

The Cooperative office will also be closed on Tuesday, January 1, in celebration of the New Year.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, November 27, 1990, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. (CST) by president Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Meredith L. Worner, Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, Warren D. Goetsch, and James G. Graff. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, staff employees Earl L. Pillsbury, Gerald E. Hedberg, David H. Crosnoe, Wayne E. Jones, Terry W. Entwistle, and attorney Charles K. Smith. The agenda for the meeting was approved and the minutes of the October 30, 1990, meeting were approved as mailed to the board.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of October and year-to-date. Total margins for the month are approximately \$65,000 less than budget. Smith indicated that expenses were greater than normal in several areas, especially the maintenance and general operating expenses. Due to the extremely good weather, extra time has been spent in the maintenance of right-of-way and the physical system itself. Year-to-date margins are approximately \$40,000 over budget. The Safety Report showed a recordable incident with no lost time. The Outage Report was reviewed for the months of September and October. The manager's Operating Report for the month of October was approved.

President Bell presented a letter he recently received from the REA Field Accountant, in regard to the loan fund audit. He asked the manager to comment on this audit letter. Manager Smith reviewed the loan audit comments and indicated that all loan fund advances had been used for appropriate projects in the REA approved construction work plans as amended. The board noted the audit report.

The board considered a resolution of CFC loan CTCs, in regard to the last loan advance. Resolution to purchase the loan CTCs from general funds was approved.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury presented to the board the insurance bids for the year 1991. After

due consideration the board approved the bid from Federated Insurance.

A preliminary review of the 1991 budget was presented by members of the staff, Earl Pillsbury, Jerry Hedberg, Terry Entwistle, Dave Crosnoe, Wayne Jones, and attorney Kim Smith. Manager Smith apprised the board of the power cost and revenue items that would be included in the 1991 budget. After comments by the staff members, they answered questions from the board in regard to their presentation.

The board went into executive session for the annual appraisal of the Cooperative manager.

Upon return to open session the board discussed right-of-way subordination agreements by the Illinois Department of Transportation. No action was taken on these particular subordination agreements.

President Bell reported on the recent activities of the AIEC. Director Carls reported on the activities of Soyland and the recent Soyland board meeting. He said the budget had been approved for 1991.

The list of Uncollectible Accounts was reviewed by the board and the writeoff list was approved as presented.

The board approved Agreements for Electric Service and the Inventory of Work Orders for October 1990.

The board approved payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The membership applications were approved as per the list mailed with the notice of the meeting.

The Special Occasion Vouchers for the directors for the month of October were approved.

Under Other Business, manager Smith requested permission to contact a firm to do a review of the Cooperative's office headquarters facilities and make recommendations on plans and options for future office expansion. The board approved the manager's request to employ Adams & Associates to make this preliminary study.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Severe vandalism makes no sense

Shooting electric distribution lines and equipment is malice destruction of property. It is not a sport, it is vandalism, pure and simple. Worse, this reckless act not only destroys equipment and causes damage, but it endangers the lives of the culprits and others. Lines fastened around insulators shattered by bullets or buckshot have been known to drop onto shooters electrocuting them. Innocent people in the area of a downed line are also in danger of being seriously injured or killed.

Who pays for this vandalism? You do; maybe even twice. Once, as a member whose bill helps to pay for the maintenance required to repair such damage and twice, if you are the victim of an outage caused by this type of destructive act. If you have hunters in your family, stress to them that electrical equipment is not fair game. Should you see any shooting of electrical equipment, please contact your county sheriff or Menard Electric Cooperative immediately.

Water heater rebate program—back in 1991!

During the November 1990 board meeting, your board of directors approved the continuance of Menard Electric Cooperative's Electric Water Heater Rebate Program. This program has been very successful over the years in aiding members in replacing their old worn out water heaters with a brand new high efficient model.

As you may recall, members who install a new electric water heater can receive a \$150 rebate check from the Cooperative. In order to receive the rebate, the new water heater must have at least a 40 gallon storage capacity or larger and it must meet ASHRAE 90 standards. Should these two requirements be met, a Cooperative employee is dispatched to visually verify

the installation and to double check the model numbers and storage capacity. Once verified, the \$150 check is mailed to the member.

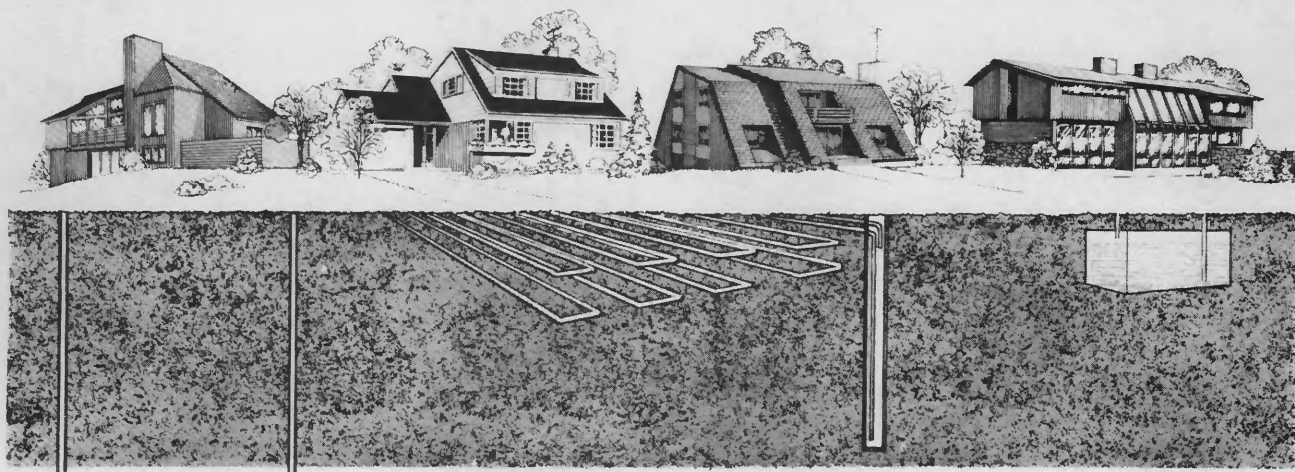
If you have any questions about this program or have recently installed a new electric water heater, please feel free to contact the Member Services Department or complete the following information and return it to the Cooperative.

Name

Account Number

Daytime Telephone Number

Electric heat rebate carried over another year



Over the past few years many of our members have been able to take advantage of our Electric Heat Rebate Program. Members who wish to install a new system, but have not been able to do so will once again have the opportunity to obtain this rebate in 1991.

As a reminder, this is a rebate given to Cooperative members who install various forms of electric heat in their home as their primary heating source. For members who install a geothermal heating and cooling system with a SEER of 9.0 or greater, the Cooperative issues a rebate for \$333 per cooling ton. In the case of air-to-air heat pumps, your Cooperative pays \$250 per cooling ton, provided that it also has a SEER

of 9.0 or greater.

In addition to these rebates, Menard Electric Cooperative is ready and willing to provide any member with an in-depth heat loss/heat gain study on their home. This study provides the Cooperative member more of an insight as to the size, as well as the estimated operating cost for any particular system.

We certainly encourage any member, who is considering buying a new heating and cooling system, to contact the Member Services Department so that this calculation can be done and be used for the benefit of the member.

Tired of the heating bill roller coaster ride?

With propane gas and fuel oil prices on their way up again, now would be a good time to consider heating your home with a geothermal heating and cooling system. With this type of heating and cooling system, you will have the advantage of having an environmentally safe, clean, comfortable system that

will meet all of your heating and cooling needs and for a lot less money.

So, if you want to get away from the ups and downs of your heating bills this year, contact Menard Electric Cooperative so that we can show you the advantages of a geothermal heating and cooling system.

Weatherization hints

At Menard Electric, we want you to save your energy dollars. We all know it is expensive to heat and cool your home. By making a few improvements around the house, you can reduce these costs. Efficient energy utilization and conservation is the key to saving money.

Over half the heat that escapes from the house in the winter is through cracks and loose-fitting windows and doors. Weatherstripping materials will reduce air infiltration around these areas. There are various types of materials which you can use for weatherstripping. These materials have a wide variety of life, durability, and cost. Most of these materials are easy to install. The best ways to decide what is most suitable for your home is to visit a hardware or a building supply store. You can also contact your cooperative office.

Caulking loose fitting windows and doors is another way of preventing air loss. Caulking compounds are materials used to fill, cover and seal cracks and construction joints. Again, there are several types of caulking compounds from which to choose. With caulking, one needs to also consider the adhesiveness and the type of application that will work best.

Replace old caulking which is cracking or flaking. Clean out old joints first to get good adhesion. Caulking can be accomplished with a few low cost tools and a little practice to get a good seal. Be sure to follow the manufacturers' instructions.

Again, efficient energy use is the key to saving energy

dollars. By using these weatherstripping and caulking procedures, you will stop air and moisture infiltration into your home. These procedures will greatly decrease your home's heating and cooling bills.

"Remember — If you have a 1/16 inch crack around a standard door, it will let in as much air as a hole in the wall this size!"

Waterlogged pumps can produce unnecessarily high electric bills

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.



SPECIAL TIPS

NEVER use regular string of lights on a metal tree -- the danger of shock is great. Use spotlight to illuminate metal tree.

