

Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

Now is a good time to check or replace the air filter in your forced-air furnace. Remembering to check and change the filter regularly will help to improve the efficiency of the furnace, thus lowering your heating costs.

Cooperative members who have an electric water heater and would like to save money on their electric bill are encouraged to contact the Cooperative office and ask about our Load Management Program for water heaters. Members who enroll in this program can save up to \$12 per month. So, if you are looking for ways to lower your electric bill each month, remember, you are just a phone call away.

This past January 2, Dan Morgan completed his fifth year of service as an employee of Menard Electric Cooperative. Dan serves Menard Electric as a mechanic-groundman-truck driver.

If you use a wood burner or kerosene heater of any type, always be sure to have plenty of outdoor air infiltration. The flames produced by this types of heating burns up a lot of oxygen and must be replaced. You may want to do this by opening a window slightly, etc.

For those members heating their home with a wood-burning stove or fireplace, we would like to encourage you to please be extremely careful when attempting to cut down trees. Before cutting a tree down, please use extreme caution and be sure that there are no overhead power lines near the tree you wish to cut.

Meter reading dates

Menard Electric Cooperative would like to urge all members to assist us by making your meter more accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, below are the meter reading dates for February, March and April. It is our hope you will utilize this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made,

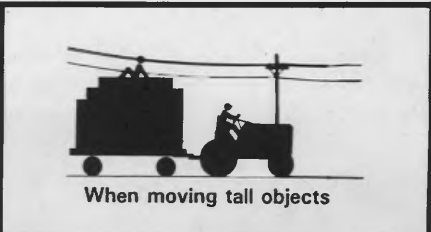
such as restraining a dog, clearing away debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter will certainly be appreciated not only by your contractual meter reader, but by the area servicemen who need access to your meter in case of an outage.

FEBRUARY						
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		

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

APRIL						
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				

Heads up!
Power lines
may be overhead



Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, December 20, 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, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, Warren D. Goetsch, and James G. Graff. Director Michael E. Carls 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, 1990, meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board. The minutes of the executive session of the meeting held November 27, 1990, were approved as presented to the board.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of November, 1990. The expenses for the month, except for cost of purchased power were in line with the budget. With increased sales and purchases, total margins for the months were approximately \$150,000 over budget. Total margins for the year-to-date are about \$190,000 over budget. The Outage Summary for the month of November was reviewed by manager Smith and he reported there were no recordable accidents or illnesses in the Safety Report for November. After some discussion and questions, the Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Manager Smith reviewed the policy on the sick leave bonus program. He indicated it was a successful year with almost all the employees having additional sick leave accrued. The board approved the continuation of the sick leave bonus program for another year.

Manager Smith reported on the recent physical inventory that had been completed on November 30, 1990. The board approved adjustments for the physical inventory.

The 1991 budget, which had been mailed to the board early in the month was presented for consideration. The staff recommendations that had been presented at the November meeting were reviewed and their recommendations were incorporated into the budget. After much discussion and deliberation, the board approved the budget which would provide a 1.6 TIER without revision of the Cooperative's retail rates.

Manager Smith presented the proposed contract for Burton Tree Service for 1991. The contract was approved.

President Bell appointed the Labor Committee for 1991, which consists of director Worner, chairman, Allspach, Cline and with Brauer being the alternate.

Warren Goetsch, chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee, reported on the activities of the Commit-

tee ad suggested that the date for the Cooperative's 54th Annual Meeting be Saturday, June 8, at PORTA High School. President Bell appointed a committee to review bylaws for any necessary bylaw amendments or updates. The Committee consists of Brauer, chairman, Graff and Allspach. The board approved the Annual Meeting Committee's report and set the date as suggested.

Ed Allspach, chairman of the Building Committee, indicated the Committee had not been able to meet in December but selected a date for the Building Committee to meet in January.

Directors Worner and Graff recently attended the Director's Update Conference and reported on this meeting.

Systems engineer David Crosnoe reported on the recent PCB inspection conducted by the U.S. and Illinois E.P.A. He told the board that the inspection went very well and all of the Cooperative's records and system for handling the transformers, etc., were in proper order.

Manager Smith requested the board approve the interim assessment for the cleanup of the Missouri Electric Works site at Cape Girardeau. The board approved the interim assessment.

President Bell reported on the recent activities of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative, at which time he presented the proposed building plans for the AIEC. After discussion the board recommended the paying of the building assessment for the AIEC.

Carroll Cline, alternate director to Soyland, reported on the recent Soyland board meeting and activities.

Attorney Smith presented the Right-of-Way Subordination Agreements with the Illinois Department of Transportation for two locations—the road widening of the black top between Williamsville and Route 124 and a bridge site on Route 123 south of Ashland. The board approved the subordination agreements.

The list of Uncollectible Accounts as presented to the board was approved for write-off.

The Agreements for Electric Service and Inventory of Work Orders for November 1990 were approved.

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

The Special Occasion Vouchers for the directors for the month of November 1990 were approved.

Discussion was held in regard to the January board meeting. The meeting will be held at the time previously set, January 22, 1991, at 7 p.m. central standard time.

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

Gill responds to 'erroneous' story on RE

CFC Governor and CEO Charles B. Gill characterized as "erroneous" a recent syndicated news-service story that depicted the Rural Electrification Administration and the rural electrification program as headed for a financial disaster that would require a taxpayer bailout.

"The fact is," said Gill, "CFC's members systems are viable, stable, functioning utility businesses that have continued to demonstrate their ability to meet their financial obligations. It is true that some systems have had financial difficulties and that some have restructured their debt. But those systems represent a tiny fraction of the total membership, and are honestly dealing with their problems in order to reach a solution. The history of this program is clear—rural electric cooperatives can be trusted to keep their word and pay their bills."

The syndicated story also referred to a downgrade of CFC's credit ratings as evidence of the program's failing health. Gill responded by saying that while the downgrade was disappointing, CFC's credit ratings are still high.

"It should be remembered," said Gill, "that the downgrades by Moody's and Standard and Poor's this

past year were the first downgrades of credit in CFC's 20-year history. The investment quality of CFC's bonds and its commercial paper have, over the years, steadily increased. Both rating agencies highlighted CFC's strengths, including its ability to maintain operating margins while developing significant loan and guarantee loss reserves. The agencies also noted CFC's broad membership base, stable operations, and limited exposure to ultimate loss.

"Furthermore," said Gill, "subsequent to our recent downgrade, we were able to enter the market through the sale of collateral trust bonds in an efficient and effective manner, highlighting investors' acceptance of the rural electric program."

Gill said, "this regrettable, erroneous reporting is an example of how important it is for all of us involved with this program to educate and communicate with our members, the press, and the trade media. We can never stop telling our nation about the importance of this program to the well-being of rural America. CFC, its member systems and rural electrification are healthy, strong, and will continue to operate in that manner."

More electricity during winter months

"Why is my electric bill higher in the winter? I don't have electric heat in my home and I am certainly not using my air conditioner!"

These are among the comments we often receive this time of year. Although we have some ideas as to why your usage may be higher than usual, it is somewhat difficult to pinpoint the reason to one specific item.

However, the following are a few things that may contribute to an increase in kilowatt-hour consumption during the winter months. It is our hope that after you have reviewed this list, you will have a better understanding of why your winter electric bills seem to be somewhat higher than you anticipated:

1. Holidays—Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's create an increase in cooking and baking.
2. Increased use of lights due to shorter days.
3. Most heating systems require the use of electric power and run almost continuously in extremely cold weather. In the case of a propane forced-air furnace, the culprit could be an electric fan circulating the air through the home.
4. Many use electric space heaters in their home and buildings.
5. Stock tank heaters and fountains.
6. Engine heaters may be used for cars, tractors and trucks.
7. Electric blankets and heating pads.
8. Clothes dryers are used more and those in unheated rooms use more energy.
9. Forgetting to shut a light or oven off and discovering it hours later.
10. Christmas tree and outdoor lights left on during the evening.

Electric Water Heater Program back— with a different twist!

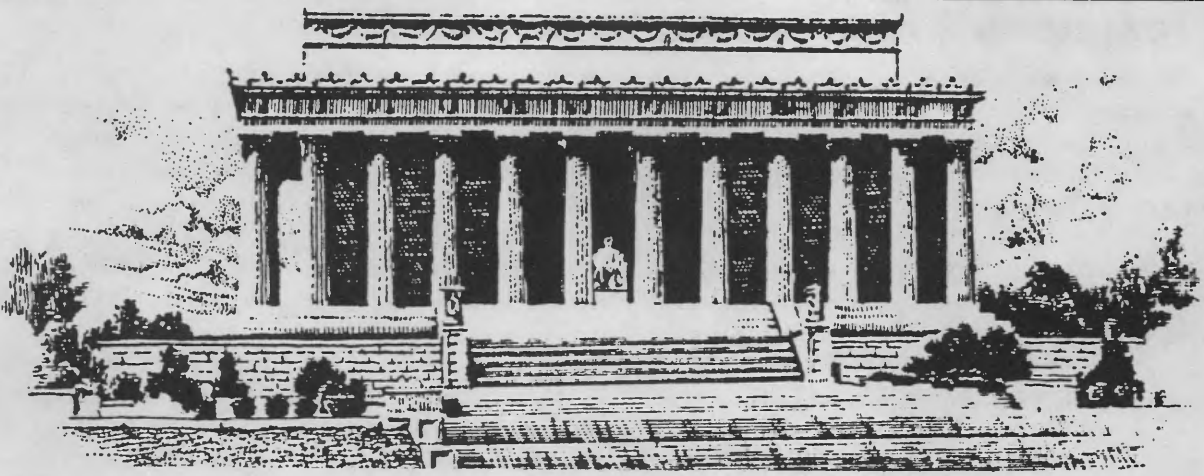
Menard Electric Cooperative is continuing its electric water heater rebate program, with something new. Through this program, which became effective January 1, members who purchase a water heater that meets ASHRAE 90 standards and has at least a 40-gallon storage capacity or larger will receive a \$150 rebate.

In this year's program, members who install an electric water heater replacing a gas water heater will receive a \$175 rebate.

It is our hope that the additional rebate may entice

fellow members to at least consider the possibility of installing an electric water heater. We feel confident that once a member compares electric water heaters to gas water heaters and analyzes the programs we offer to our members, the decision to install an electric water heater will be positive.

If you would like more information about this rebate, please feel free to contact the Member Services Department at the Cooperative office.



Youth to Washington Essay Contest

Menard Electric Cooperative will sponsor two high school students on an all-expense-paid tour to Washington, D.C., which is scheduled for the week of June 14-21.

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 Cooperative.

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 areas as Menard Electric Cooperative. (Members of the immediate family of any board member or employees 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, "Cooperatives Helping to Develop 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 text.

4. Entry Mailing: Entry must be mailed to Menard Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 279, Petersburg, IL 62675, no later than March 9th.

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 Context. **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 10.

(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.

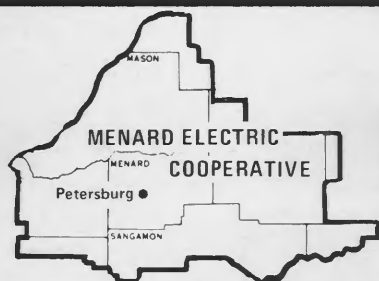
(d) The decision of the judges will be final in all cases.

(e) Final judging will be completed by May 18.

If you have a son or daughter who 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
P.O. Box 279
Petersburg, IL 62675



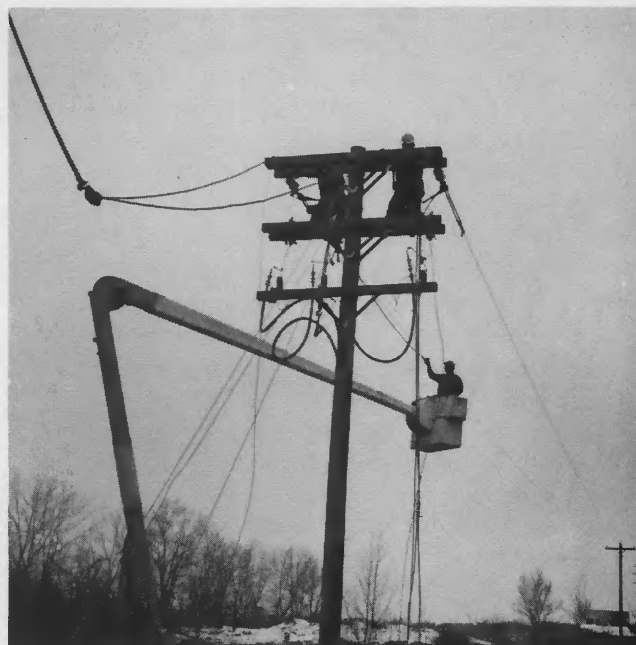
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Co-op Comments

Menard Electric Cooperative's "Youth to Washington" Essay Contest is currently under way. The contest is open to all juniors attending a high school within Menard Electric service territory. Two students will be selected to participate in and represent Menard Electric in this year's Washington, D.C., tour scheduled for the week of June 14-21. Interested students are encouraged to contact the Cooperative office so that the necessary material and contest rules can be forwarded to them.

With spring just around the corner, thoughts turn to the annual spring cleaning of our homes. However, there is one or two items you may wish to add to the list of things to do this spring—changing the air filter in your furnace and having your central air conditioning unit checked. This will help to ensure the system is running efficiently and lower your cooling cost this summer.



Your cooperative's line crews construct a three-phase line to the new restaurant at New Salem State Park.

What is a kilowatt-hour?

What is a kilowatt-hour (kwh)? Webster defines it as *a unit of energy equal to that expended by one kilowatt in one hour*. One kilowatt-hour equals the amount of energy used by ten 100-watt light bulbs in one hour.

Let's compare a kilowatt-hour with other forms of energy measurement: a British Thermal Unit (BTU), which is used in rating heaters, and horsepower (H.P.), which is used in rating motors.

Comparison factors

1 kilowatt-hour equals 3,413 BTU

$\frac{1}{4}$ kilowatt-hour equals 1 H.P.

$\frac{1}{4}$ kilowatt-hour equals 1 ton of refrigeration

Now that you have an idea at what the technical side of a kilowatt-hour represents, let's look at the practical side of a kilowatt-hour. In order to visualize a kilowatt-hour, let's relate it to the amount of work done by one person.

In the home, a person would have to beat a batter mixture at an incredible speed, steadily, for 10 hours

to generate energy equal to one kilowatt-hour.

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

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

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

Electricity is still the biggest bargain in anybody's budget. In fact, a *USA Today* survey found that 34 percent of all Americans feel electricity is the greatest invention of all time; the next closest was the wheel at 11 percent.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, January 22, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 4 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 amended to add an item "Review of Director Seminar" by Michael Carls. The rest of the agenda was approved and the minutes of the December 20, 1990, meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board.

Rick Burton of Burton Tree Service addressed the board and thanked them for giving Burton Tree Service the right-of-way clearing service for 1991. He discussed the operations of Burton and answered questions the board had in regard to procedures, spraying, etc. After answering the questions, Rick Burton departed the board room.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of December 1990. He pointed out that the final figures for margins, etc. could vary from the presented report, as the books had not been closed for the year. Operating expenses for the month less power cost, were about \$15,000 greater than budgeted. Including cost of power the total expenses were approximately \$30,000 over the budgeted amount. Margins for 1990 are approximately \$110,000 over budget. The board asked questions in regard to maintenance costs for the year and Smith reminded the board that due to the ice storm in February 1990 maintenance expenses were considerably greater than budgeted. The outage summary for the month of December was reviewed. The Cooperative experienced a number of outages from our power supplier, thereby throwing the annual outage hours per member above what would normally be expected. The Safety Report indicated no recordable injuries or illnesses for the month of December and there were no lost time accidents in 1990. After additional discussion and ques-

tions the Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Manager Smith asked how the board wanted to recognize prior service costs of the cooperative's retirement program. After discussion of the alternatives, the board voted to expense the prior service costs in the fiscal year 1990.

President Bell requested that the board hold a special board meeting in February to consider long range financial planning and needs of the Cooperative. The board set Friday, February 22, at 5 p.m. for the special board meeting.

The board approved the attendance of the manager, system engineer and general foreman to attend REA engineering seminars in the month of March.

Director Goetsch, chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee, reported on the activities of the Committee and requested that the board present names for the Nominating Committee at the next board meeting.

Director Carls reviewed the recent director's seminar he attended. Mike indicated that one complete day was spent on reviewing capital credits and other financial obligations of the cooperative. President Bell reported on the recent activities of the AIEC.

Director Carls reported on Soyland activities and reminded the board there would be a Soyland information workshop for all directors during the first week in March.

A report of the special services coordinator, Earl Pillsbury, for the fourth quarter of 1990 was reviewed and approved.

Agreements for Electric Service and Inventory of Work Orders for December 1990 were approved.

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.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the directors for the month of December 1990 were approved.

The next regular meeting of the Cooperative will be Tuesday, February 26, at 7 p.m.

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

Cooperative facts

Rural electric systems own and maintain more than half the electric distribution lines in the United States, but own only about 5 percent of the nation's generating capacity. Rural electricians distribute about 7 percent of the nation's electricity, and serve about 11 percent of the population.

Power needs in rural areas continue to grow. During the 1970s rural electric kilowatt-hours sales increased at an annual rate of about 2.9 percent. However, con-

sumer growth of rural electric systems has also slowed from previous highs. During the last few years, co-ops have added new consumers at an annual rate of about 2.8 percent—substantially below the 1970's average of 4.2 percent.

Since 1961, REA borrowers have helped start and expand more than 25,500 new commercial, industrial and community facility projects, producing nearly a million new jobs. Rural electric systems themselves employed, as of the end of 1988, more than 57,000 people full time.

Cooperative services

Budget Billing

Our Budget Billing Plan is designed to equalize your monthly electric bills. It is available to all members with a good payment record.

Security Lighting

For a nominal monthly rental charge, the Cooperative will install a high-pressure sodium light and will be responsible for the maintenance of the light.

Electric Safety and Energy Education

Your Cooperative is ready and willing to assist in safety and energy programs for any interested group, club or school.

Energy Audits

The Member Services Department of your Cooperative can recommend and provide you with information on energy saving tips on weatherization, new construction and/or remodeling your home.

Heat Loss/Heat Gain Calculations

Your Member Services Department can assist you in calculating how much heat your house will lose in the winter and gain in the summer. Once this calculation is complete, we can help estimate the annual cost for running any particular system you may be interested in.

Water Heater Rebate Program

Menard Electric Cooperative offers members who install a new electric water heater a rebate of \$150 providing it has a 40-gallon storage capacity or larger and meets ASHRAE 90 standards. Members who

If you would like more information on any of the above programs, please contact Menard Electric Cooperative at 1-800-872-1203 or 632-7746.

install an electric water heater which is replacing a gas water heater meeting the above requirements will receive \$175.

Load Management Program

Menard Electric Cooperative offers a Load Management Program on electric water heaters that will enable the Cooperative, to a certain extent, control its wholesale power cost, as well as, provide the member with a rate reduction on a monthly basis.

Electric Heat Rebate

For members that are installing electric heat as their primary source of heat, Menard Electric Cooperative offers a variety of rebates that range from \$333 per ton for a geothermal heating and cooling system to \$250 per ton for members installing an air-to-air heat pump.

Crime Watch Program

Menard Electric Cooperative is part of a "Crime Watch" Program that is aimed at reducing rural crime.

Rural Electric News

The REN magazine is a primary source for getting pertinent information to our members. Reading the center section of the REN each month helps inform Cooperative members of operations and activities of its Cooperative.

Smoke Alarms

At your Cooperative office, smoke alarms are available for sale to any member for \$5.

A heating safety tip about heat exchangers

The heat exchanger is that portion of a propane, oil or natural gas-fired furnace around which the fan-forced air stream is circulated to be warmed prior to entering the space to be heated—your home. Within the exchanger is the flame that provides the heat.

A heat exchanger, no matter how old or new, can develop cracks and/or holes in it.

One of the products of burning oil or gas is carbon monoxide—a deadly killer. It will escape through the cracks or holes in the heat exchanger and mix with the air stream entering the heated space instead of going up the chimney.

So be aware of and alert for these most obvious symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Tired feeling | 6. Alteration in digestion | 11. Diminution of psychic powers |
| 2. Headaches | 7. Gray color of skin | 12. Occasional convulsions |
| 3. Nausea | 8. Reduction of visual acuity | 13. Anemia |
| 4. Palpitation of the heart | 9. Coated tongue | 14. Loss of appetite |
| 5. Mental dullness | 10. Loss of memory | 15. Reduction of sexual potency |

If you begin to suffer from any of the above symptoms, consult your doctor and then contact a heating and cooling contractor to have your furnace checked

and repaired. Look under heating contractors or furnaces in the Yellow Pages of your phone book.

Load Management Program

Over the past few years, Menard Electric Cooperative's load management of water heaters has been an extremely successful program. This program has given your Cooperative the opportunity to help lower the wholesale power cost, while at the same time providing those members participating in the program a reduction in their rates.

It is very simple to participate in the program. Just call the Cooperative office and ask to be placed on the Load Management Program. We will dispatch an employee to install a radio-controlled device on the heating elements of the water heater only. This will enable Menard Electric Cooperative to control the heating elements for no more than four hours in any given day during the months of December, January, February, July and August.

As stated above, this type of load curtailment serves two benefits to Cooperative members. First of all, it helps reduce our system demands during the above

mentioned five peak months. In turn, this reduction in demand helps reduce our wholesale power cost from our power supplier. This equates to more stable rates and it is our hope that continued success of this type of program will help to put off any future need for new generating facilities. The second benefit to Cooperative members enrolled in the program is more immediate. Participating members receive a direct reduction on their electric bills of three cents per kilowatt-hour for every kilowatt-hour they use between 600 and 1,000. This could amount to \$12 a month credit for every month of the year.

Remember that there is no long-term obligation to enroll in this program and that there would be no cost for installation of the device to members. So, if you are interested or would like to find out more information, please contact Menard Electric Cooperative at your earliest convenience.

Geothermal heating and cooling system

Choosing a heating and cooling system for your new or existing home in today's market can be a very difficult and confusing task.

However, there is an alternative to a conventional gas or propane furnace which is more economical, safe and ecologically sound. This alternative system provides total comfort all year long by using an inexhaustible energy source. It's called a geothermal heating and cooling system.

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

How is heat exchanged? There are two main components to the geothermal system: the buried closed-loop (a series of pipes buried in the ground) and the indoor unit, which is tied into a proper duct work system. There is no outdoor unit used with this system, such as the outside compressor found in air conditioning and heat pump units.

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 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. 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.

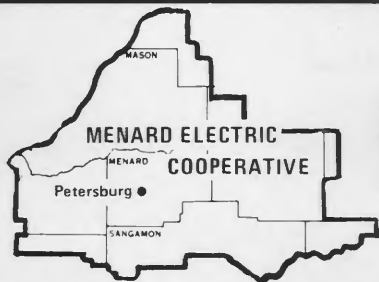
Water, with an antifreeze solution, is circulated through the loop. In the heating mode, the indoor unit extracts heat from the solution in the loop, and, with a refrigeration process, intensifies that heat and delivers it through the duct system at temperatures ranging from 95 to 105 degrees F. Since 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 colder 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 surrounding the home.

In addition to these advantages of heating and cooling your home more efficiently than any other system on the market today, the geothermal system has one other feature that needs to be addressed. This feature is the fact that the geothermal system can help supply your home with hot water and reduce your annual water heating costs up to 60 percent.

If you would like more information on the advantages of a geothermal heating and cooling system, please contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative office.



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Co-op Comments

Due to the harsh winter weather, many members are noticing a need to have trees, bushes and shrubs trimmed and/or have all broken branches removed. Quite often the branches are located near power lines. If this is 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 lines.

With spring just around the corner, now is a good time to have your air conditioner checked and cleaned. This will help your air conditioner cool your home more efficiently and comfortably all summer long.

Jim and Hazel Bearden celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on March 8. Jim is a former employee of your Cooperative, retiring in 1983.

Meredith and Delores Worner of rural Manito recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. Meredith is a director of your Cooperative serving in the Manito/Forest City area.

Consider an 'air-to-air' heat pump

With spring in the air some of you are considering changing your existing air conditioning system, and still other members are putting together plans for constructing a dream home.

In either case, you may want to consider the advantages of installing an air-to-air heat pump. On an outward appearance, 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 will. 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 the winter. Most of the high-efficiency heat pumps available today have an average heating efficiency of 200 percent and operate in outside air temperatures from 15 degrees to 65 degrees. With this added dimension, members

If you have an electric water heater and would like to save up to \$144 a year, please contact Menard Electric Cooperative and ask about the benefits of installing a load management control device on your water heater.



On February 14 and 15, several of your cooperative's employees participated in a first aid class at the cooperative's office. Standing, from left, are Marcel Verreault and Randy Avery, practicing some of the newly learned first aid techniques on Dan Morgan.

would then have an opportunity to save money on both heating and cooling simply by changing the setting on your thermostat.

There are two distinct advantages of a heat pump. The first is 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 for a member to purchase 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 summer.

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

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, February 26, 1991, 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, Warren D. Goetsch, and James G. Graff. Absent was Gary L. Martin. 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 was approved and the minutes of the January 22, 1991, meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Statement for the Month of January 1991. Due to the cold weather in the month of January, sales exceeded budget and the Cooperative begins the year with a margin of about \$128,000. Manager Smith answered several questions in regards to specific items in the Operating Report. The Outage Summary for the month of January was reviewed. Manager Smith indicated that the outage hours were greater than normal for this month due to the extremely bad icing conditions on transmission lines of our power supplier in the early weeks of January. The Safety Report showed no recordable injuries or illnesses for the month of January. Manager Smith reviewed the REA Form 7 for the year ending December 31, 1990. The Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Manager Smith then reviewed the items that the board needed to be apprised of in the certification of compliance with CFC loans. Motion was made and approved to recognize the manager's annual certification. Director Allspach, chairman of the Building Committee, reported to the board the results of a recent meeting with Adams & Associates for evaluation of the Cooperative's facilities and its upcoming needs.

Robert Brauer, Bylaw Committee chairman, reviewed the recent meeting of the Bylaw Committee, and the Committee proposed two amendments to the bylaws for consideration at the March 1991 board meeting.

Warren Goetsch, chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee, reported on the activities for the annual meeting, which is to be held June 8.

Manager Smith reported on the activities at the Missouri Electric Works site and the actions necessary to satisfy the EPA at this location. The board authorized the manager to make a good faith offer along with the other PRP's involved in the Missouri Electric Works with EPA. The board also recommended the manager work with other electric cooperatives in their investigation of alternatives in the finalization of the activities with EPA.

The NRECA 49th annual meeting was reviewed by the directors that attended the meeting as delegates.

Manager Smith presented a policy to the board on "moving electric facilities" to eliminate hazardous conditions. Further consideration will be given the proposed policy at the March meeting.

Director Bell reviewed the recent activities of the AIEC.

Director Carls reported on Soyland activities and reminded the board that Soyland will be holding information workshops for all directors the first week of March. He also reminded the directors that the annual meeting of Soyland will be held in Springfield on Wednesday, March 20. The board nominated Michael E. Carls and Dorland W. Smith to be directors on the Soyland board at the annual meeting with Carroll F. Cline to serve as the alternate director.

Agreements for Electric Service and the Inventory of Work Orders for January 1991 were approved.

The board approved the 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 per the list mailed with the notice of the meeting; there being 33 new memberships and 17 service permits.

Special Occasions Vouchers for the directors for the month of January were approved.

Under other business the manager discussed the need for upgrading one of the personal computers in the Engineering Department and the board approved the manager's request.

The next regular meeting of the Cooperative will be Tuesday, March 26, at 7 p.m.

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

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held a special board meeting Friday, February 22, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 5 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, and staff members Earl L. Pillsbury, Gerald E. Hedberg, Terry W. Entwistle, David H. Crosnoe, Wayne E. Jones and the Cooperative's attorney, Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was read with no corrections or additions. President Bell reviewed the purpose of the special meeting, which was to discuss, consider and take such action as necessary with regards to projections and planning of the Cooperative's financial needs for the next three to five years.

Manager Smith reviewed the projections for the wholesale power costs for the next 10 years. He discussed the TIER requirement and DSC requirements as required by REA and CFC. The board discussed various proposals and goals for equity and TIER. The

board discussed the possibility of retiring some capital credits, given the budget considerations for the coming year. Manager Smith reviewed the projections as far as load growth, labor costs, including insurance and retirement costs. The staff was asked for their comments on various items under consideration. After considerable discussion it was decided that the Bylaw Committee prepare a mission statement or statements to serve as the frame-work for setting up the Coopera-

tive's future long-term goals.

The board reviewed a financial forecast that had been prepared by management and staff. Further action would wait until receiving the mission statement from the Bylaw Committee, at the regularly scheduled March board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the board the meeting adjourned.

— 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 electric service.

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

a telephone prefix of 632, 634, 635 and 636, please call 632-7746. Members having any other telephone prefix 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 off for any reason other than a breaker being off, please do not try to restore the service yourself!



Tornado season

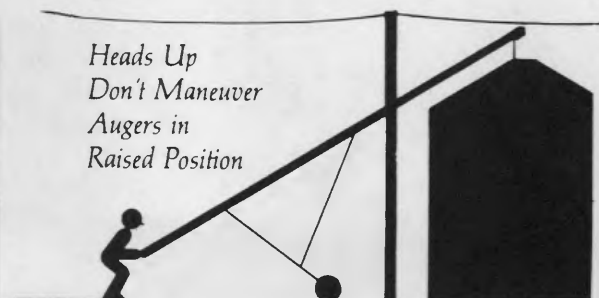
Warm spring weather is just around the corner, and with it brings the threat of tornadoes. Illinois ranks eighth in the nation for the average number of tor-

nadoes reported each year. Advanced warning forecasts and early warning systems have helped reduce tornado fatalities since the 1950s. Knowing what to do when a tornado approaches can mean the difference between life and death.

A tornado "watch" means that conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop. A tornado "warning" means a tornado has been sighted. When a tornado warning has been issued you should take shelter, listen to local weather forecasts and postpone outside activities. The safest place to be when a tornado strikes is an underground shelter, such as a basement or storm cellar. However, a sturdy piece of furniture can provide protection and could save your life. In a school, the best tornado shelter is an interior hall on the lowest level.

When a tornado approaches, windows should be slightly open, but stay away from them! Open windows can equalize pressure in the building and can help to deter damage.

Electric safety is everyone's business



Energy hints— for the home



● Weather protection

Test your windows and doors for air tightness. Move a lighted candle around frames and sashes of your windows. If the flame dances around, you need caulking or weatherstripping. Weatherstripping around windows and doors keeps out drafts and makes it harder for energy to leak outside the home. Also caulk carefully around moldings, joints, nails and vents.

● Cook efficiently

Never boil water in an open pan. Water will boil faster and use less energy in a kettle or covered pan.

● Water heating saving

Check the temperature on your water heater. Most water heaters are set for 140 degrees F or higher, but you may not need water that hot unless you have a dishwasher. A setting of 120 degrees F can provide adequate hot water for most families. If you reduce the temperature from 140 degrees F to 120 degrees F, you could save approximately 18 percent of the energy used at the higher setting.

Even reducing the setting 10 degrees F will save more than 6 percent in water heating energies.

Wrapping your water heater with an insulated blanket made for that purpose will make your water heater work more efficiently.

- **Close the drapes** every night to keep heat inside.
- **Install storm windows** or tape a sheet of polyethylene on the inside of your windows.

Order tips

Tips for Energy Savers is a 60-page booklet containing more than 190 ideas for saving energy and money for your car, home and office. The booklet also contains suggestions for purchasing efficient appliances. Published by the U. S. Department of Energy, copies of TIPS may be obtained by phoning the DEO's Conservation and Renewable Energy Inquiry and Referral Service toll free at 1-800-623-2929, or by writing CAREIRS at P.O. Box 8900, Silver Spring, MD 20907.

New employee



Jeffrey D. Schenkel

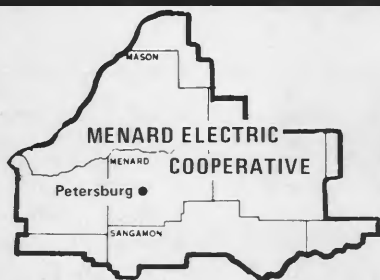
On February 4, Jeffrey D. Schenkel began working for your Cooperative. After a probationary period of employment, he will begin a four-year apprentice lineman program. During the next four years Jeff will be learning the fundamentals of building and maintaining electric distribution lines, as well as learning all the various types of services afforded to members of Menard Electric Cooperative.

Jeff was raised near Bloomington and is a graduate of Tri Valley High School. Before

coming to Menard Electric he worked in the residential construction industry.

Jeff and his wife, Joni, recently moved to Athens. They are looking forward to being part of the community. During Jeff's spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing and working on home improvement projects.

Menard Electric welcomes both Jeff and Joni to our Cooperative family.



Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203 217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

Menard Electric Cooperative's 1991 Annual Meeting of Members is scheduled for June 8 at the PORTA High School. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

Marcel and Denise Verreault celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on April 11. Marcel is a journeyman lineman for your Cooperative and a fellow member.

Elwin "Zeke" Kenoyer, 72, of Horseshoe Bend, Ark., passed away on March 25, at a hospital in Springfield, Mo. He is survived by his wife, Elsie, two sons, five daughters; and a sister and a brother, both of Mason City. "Zeke" was employed by Menard Electric from 1946 to 1951.

Electric water heater rebate program

Water heaters are the second or third largest user of energy in a household, therefore, we all must strive to use energy in the most efficient way possible. In an effort to help you do this, Menard Electric Cooperative offers any member who installs a new electric water heater, providing the water heater has a 40-gallon storage capacity or larger and meets ASHRAE 90 standards, a rebate of \$150. This rebate is given to any member who is installing an electric water heater, replacing an old electric water heater, or anyone installing an electric water heater in a newly built home. For those members who are installing an electric water heater to replace a fossil-fired water heating system, the Cooperative offers a \$175 rebate.

In order to receive your rebate, simply contact the Cooperative office after the water heater has been installed. We will then have someone from the Cooperative office visually verify the water heater installation, and the rebate will then be processed.

If you have any questions or comments about the advantage of using an electric water heater, please feel free to contact the Member Services Department at the Cooperative office.



Dorland W. Smith, manager, and Terry W. Entwistle, general foreman, hold a plaque which was awarded to your cooperative by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives for its safe operations during 1990.



David H. Crosnoe, your cooperative system engineer, recently addressed a group of local builders and contractors. The purpose of the meeting was to inform them of the various programs MEC offers to its members.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, March 26, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 4 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 was approved and the minutes of the special meeting of February 22, 1991, and the regular meeting of February 26, 1991, were approved as presented and mailed to the board.

R.L. Quint, CPA from R.L. Quint Auditing Service, reviewed the recently completed 1990 Audit Report and Financial Statement. 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 1990 and that the books were in excellent condition.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of February 1991. The report showed margins for the month approximately \$47,000 over budget and year-to-date approximately \$278,000 above budget. Smith answered several questions in regard to the operating statement, balance sheet and budget. He made comments as to the formulas that are utilized to calculate the ratios and key indicators that were presented with the financial report. The Outage Summary for the month showed fewer outages than for the same period in 1990. The Safety Report showed no recordable injuries or illnesses for the month of February. Manager Smith then asked special services coordinator Pillsbury to comment on the progress of a proposed service area agreement with CIPS.

The board considered a policy on moving electric facilities to eliminate hazardous conditions. The policy was approved as read.

Director Brauer, Bylaw Committee Chairman, presented two bylaw amendments for board consideration. The first amendment was to Article I, "Membership," Sections 1.03 and 1.04. After consideration the board approved the bylaw amendment as presented. This amendment provides for the joint membership of two persons other than husband and wife occupying a dwelling as a residence. Section 1.04 spells out in detail the terms for conversion of a membership.

The second bylaw amendment was Article VIII "Disposition of Property," Section 8.01. After discussion and consideration the board recommended this bylaw amendment be presented to the membership at the annual meeting to be held on June 8.

Director Brauer reported on the recent activities of the bylaw committee in writing a Mission Statement for the Cooperative. After discussion, the following Mission Statement was adopted by the directors and will be included in the Policy Manual and with the bylaws.

Menard Electric Cooperative Mission Statement

"To provide high quality electrical service at a reasonable cost, recognizing that the margins belong to the members; and that the business should be managed in accordance with sound business and legal practices with concern for the growth and well being of the members, the employees, and the communities of the Cooperative."

Director Goetsch, chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee, then reported on the status of the annual meeting plans.

The Nominating Committee for the annual meeting was appointed by the board.

Building Committee chairman Allspach asked the firm of Adams and Associates to review with the board their findings and recommendations on the cooperative headquarters. Jim and Rama Adams advised the board about their firm and what their capabilities were in providing services for the cooperative. They reviewed their findings and inspection of the headquarters facilities and answered a multitude of questions that the board had in regard to our current facilities. They then presented the board with two basic options: (1) To further study the remodeling of the present building; and (2) A study as to the present building and the possibilities of the overall area that the cooperative owns in the city of Petersburg. After deliberation, the board postponed action on the recommendations of Adams & Associates to the April meeting.

Director Cline, chairman of the Capital Credit Committee, reported on the recent activities of the committee.

Director Bell reviewed the recent activities of the AIEC and commented on several bills that are before the current session of the Illinois legislature.

Director Carls reported on the activities of Soyland, including the recent information workshop and annual meeting of Soyland.

Agreements for Electric Service and the Inventory of Work Orders for February 1991 were approved.

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 per the list mailed with the notice of the meeting, there being 28 memberships and five service permits.

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

Under "Other Business," the manager discussed surge protection and after deliberation, the board recommended that surge protection be encouraged in our newsletter and publications, further stating that the cooperative not be actively involved in the merchandising of these devices.

The board approved the nomination of member services adviser Kevin Keiser, to the Cass County Economic Development Coordinating Committee and to support activities of this committee with Kevin's service.

The next regular meeting of the cooperative will be Tuesday, April 23, at 7 p.m. central daylight time.

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

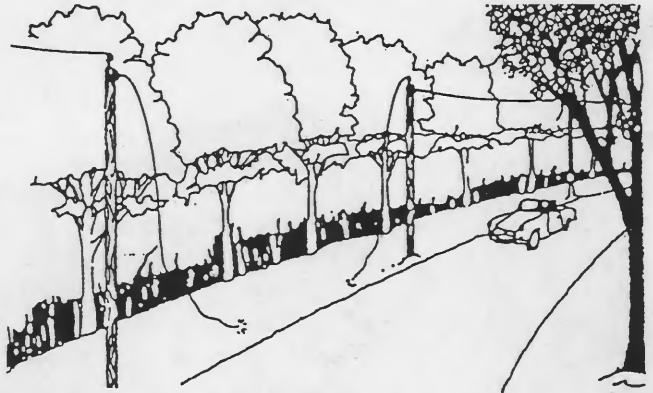
How is my power restored?

In this part of the country, any day of the year can bring severe weather followed by widespread outages. As a result of these outages your cooperative is often asked how we go about restoring service to our members.

Menard Electric Cooperative's policy is like that of any utility in the nation — to restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

The following is an explanation of how service is restored in the most logical, economical and most accommodating way during and/or after a major storm. The first priority is to restore service to all damaged three-phase feeder lines. In some cases, this requires only the removal of tree branches and limbs, and in other cases it may require actual reconstruction of downed poles and lines due to ice, etc. Once service has been restored to the main three-phase lines, we can then tackle damage to single-phase tap lines, which are coming off of these three-phase lines. Obviously, these single-phase tap lines serve a number of households. Once the tap lines are restored, we can then address all of the individual lines running from the transformer to a members home.

One important factor in restoring service quickly is the help we receive from the member. If you know your electric wires are down, if the transformer has failed, or if a pole is broken, please tell us when you phone



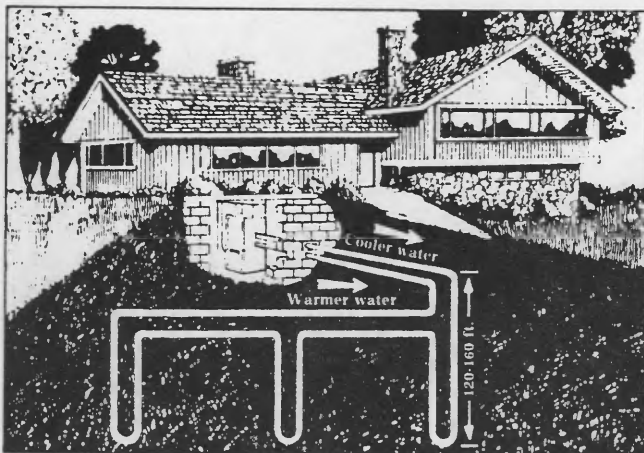
in your outage. This saves time when we know what and where the problem is. Another great time saver is for each member to know your account number. Knowing your account number will speed up the response time of the crew.

Remember, before you call in an outage, please check your breakers or fuses, and also check to see if your neighbors are out of service. Sometimes this will help isolate the problem. If the outage is anything other than a breaker, never try to restore service yourself. Contact the cooperative office and inform us of the situation. We will do our best to restore your service as quickly as possible — simply call 632-7746 or 1-800-872-1203.

Why not look at a geothermal heating and cooling system!

A geothermal system takes advantage of energy stored within the earth. This stored energy is collected from the sun's energy striking the earth. Solar energy is absorbed by the ground around your home all year long.

The geothermal system uses this huge mass of stored



energy to heat your home by utilizing two main components: the buried closed-loop (a series of pipes that circulates an anti-freeze solution that transfers the

heat), and the inhouse unit that, through a refrigeration process, extracts the heat from the anti-freeze solution and transfers the heat into the house. All of this is done without a visible outdoor compressor unit. Everything is in a conditioned living space, whether it be in a basement, crawl space or closet.

In the cooling mode, the indoor unit extracts heat from the air inside the home and transfers it into the loop, which deposits the heat to the ground outside.

In addition to these advantages of being able to heat and cool your house more efficiently than any other system on the market today, the geothermal system can provide you with a substantial amount of hot water. This could help to reduce your annual water heating costs up to 60 percent.

Remember, members who install geothermal heating and cooling systems will receive rebates from the Cooperative of \$333 per cooling ton. Members can also contact the Cooperative office and receive printed information on the geothermal system, as well as having a cost analysis done on their home.

For more information about the geothermal heating and cooling system, please contact the Member Services Department at the cooperative office.

Load management program

Over the past few years, Menard Electric Cooperative's load management of water heaters has been an extremely successful program. This program has given your Cooperative the opportunity to help lower the wholesale power cost, while at the same time providing those members participating in the program a reduction in their rates.

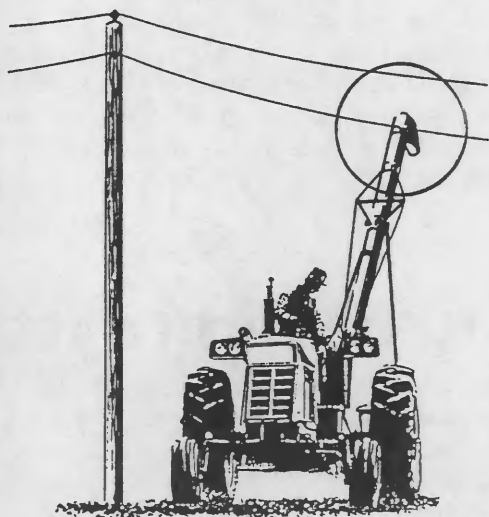
It is very simple to participate in the program. Just call the Cooperative office and ask to be placed on the load management program. We will dispatch an employee to install a radio-controlled device on the heating elements of the water heater only. This will enable Menard Electric Cooperative to control the heating elements for no more than four hours in any given day during the months of December, January, February, July and August.

As stated above, this type of load curtailment provides two benefits to Cooperative members. First of all, it helps reduce our system demands during the above-

mentioned five peak months. In turn, this reduction in demand helps reduce our wholesale power cost from our power supplier. This equates to more stable rates. It is our hope that continued success of this type of program will help to put off any future need for new generating facilities. The second benefit to Cooperative members enrolled in the program is more immediate. Participating members receive a direct reduction on their electric bills of three cents per kilowatt-hour for every kilowatt-hour they use between 600 and 1,000. This could amount to \$12 a month credit for every month of the year.

Remember that there is no long-term obligation to enroll in this program, and there is no cost for installation of the device to members. If you are interested or would like to find out more information, please contact Menard Electric Cooperative at your earliest convenience.

Be CAREFUL



Trucks for sale

Menard Electric Cooperative is accepting sealed bids until 4 p.m. Friday, May 3, 1991, on two vehicles and a trailer listed below. They will be available for inspection at the Cooperative office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, until May 2. Bids received will be opened on Friday, May 3, at 4 p.m. Members of the Cooperative are invited to submit bids.

- 1) 1985 Chevy ½-ton pick-up with a V-8 engine.
- 2) 1987 GMC ¾-ton cab and chassis only with a V-8 engine.
- 3) 1986 Belshe flatbed trailer with a tandem axle and eye hitch.

The Cooperative reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Menard Electric Cooperative's

54th annual meeting

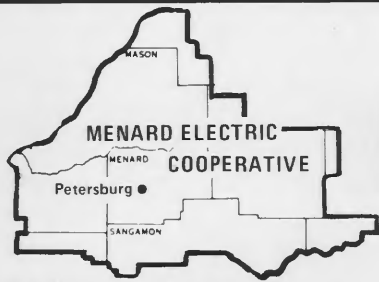
at

PORTA High School, Petersburg

Why not attend this year!

JUNE

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30						



Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203 217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Annual Meeting

To many people, communicating with their electric utility can be somewhat difficult. But for members of Menard Electric Cooperative it can be as simple as attending your cooperative's annual meeting.

This year's meeting will be held at the PORTA High School, located at the west edge of Petersburg on June 8, 1991.

Before the business meeting a free pork chop dinner will be served by the Mason County Pork Producers. Several displays will be available for your

observations. During the business meeting you will hear reports from the officers of the cooperative, elect three directors and receive information on upcoming events.

The cooperative will have a bargain table at which small appliances will be offered for sale at reduced prices.

So why not mark your calendar now, and start communicating with your cooperative on June 8.

In Memoriam



McMillan

Charles B. McMillan, a former director of Menard Electric Cooperative, died at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, on April 14, 1991. Charlie had experienced health problems for the past several months and at the time of his death was 67 years of age.

Mr. McMillan was elected to the Board of Directors on June 26, 1976. He served continuously until his resignation on January 27, 1986. He served as secretary of the board from June 1982 to June 1985.

McMillan was raised near Loami, Ill., and graduated from Auburn High School. Charlie spent his adult life farming in Sangamon County, most of which was in the Williamsville

area. He was a member of Masonic Lodge 203, Ansar Temple Shrine of Springfield, Scottish Rite Valley of Springfield and the Logan County Shrine Club and Tin Lizzie Patrol Unit. A veteran of World War II, Charlie was a member of the Elkhart American Legion Post 616.

His sound and logical approach to problem solving, innovative concepts and practical solutions to everyday life, will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Mr. McMillan is survived by his wife, Dolores; one son, Don; two daughters, Sharon Kay McMillan and Carol L. Garecht; three grandchildren; two brothers and one sister.

Office closing

Your cooperative office will be closed on May 27, 1991, in observance of Memorial Day. The office will resume normal working hours on May 28.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, April 23, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by President Morris L. Bell. Directors present in addition to Bell were Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, Warren D. Goetsch, James G. Graff, and Meredith L. Worner. 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 was approved and minutes of the March 26, 1991 meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of March, 1991. He pointed out that the maintenance amount for the month of March was approximately \$50,000 over budget. This was due to the additional labor expense for men and equipment sent to assist Eastern Illini during their ice storm. These amounts were billed in April and will show up as a credit to the maintenance account on the April Operating Report. The Outage Summary for the month showed more outages than for March, 1990, however, outage hours were approximately one-half for the same period in time. The Safety Report showed no recordable injuries or illnesses for the month of March. The Manager's Report for the month of March was approved.

Special Services Coordinator Pillsbury explained the request for a release of a portion of right-of-way and upon due consideration the board released the right-of-way as requested by the member.

A request for the Economic Development Rate for the new "River Ridge Restaurant" was discussed. The Rate Agreement was approved.

The board discussed long time employment services awards and approved the recommendation of Special Services Coordinator Pillsbury.

Manager Smith discussed with the board the request for contributions to CFC's Integrity Fund. The board approved the contribution of 5 percent of the CFC

Capital Credits to the Integrity Fund for the fiscal year 1992.

The board resumed deliberations on recommendations of the Building Committee relative to the employment of Adams & Associates. After deliberation, the board approved the employment of Adams & Associates to make a study of the needs of the cooperative for headquarters facilities.

Manager Smith reported on the activities of the committee in regards to the Missouri Electric Works and the need for cleanup of that site at Cape Girardeau.

Director Goetsch reported on the activities of the Annual Meeting Committee and informed the board of the schedule for the mailing of the notice and the timing for return of proxies. Goetsch also reviewed with the board the actions of the Nominating Committee.

The report of Earl L. Pillsbury for the first quarter of 1991 was reviewed and approved.

The list of uncollectible accounts as presented to the board was approved to be written off.

President Bell reported on the recent activities of the AIEC and also the activities of the Legal and Public Affairs Committee.

Director Carls reported on the activities of Soyland. Agreements for Electric Service and the Inventory of Work Orders for March, 1991 were approved.

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

The board approved 46 membership and 27 service permit applications.

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

Under "Other Business" the board discussed Earth Day and the need for recycling. The board recommended that management investigate the feasibility of recycling paper, especially the high-grade letterhead and computer printouts. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 28, at 7:00 p.m., Central Daylight Time.

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

What to do when your power is off

During the spring season, storms can occur very rapidly with almost no warning. These storms can test even the most sophisticated and well-built electric systems. In the event that a storm creates an outage at your residence, we encourage you to follow these guidelines, in an effort to help your cooperative achieve a fast and safe restoration of your electric 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 your service is still out, check with your neighbors to see if they have power. This will help to isolate the extent of the damage.
- 4) Call the cooperative office at 1-800-872-1203. Should you live in the Petersburg area, call 632-7746.
- 5) Please give the person who answers the call your name, account number, and any information you have been able to obtain.

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

Kite flyers code

Fly kites in an open field away from electric power lines, wires and transmission lines.

Use only perfectly dry kite string. Never wire!

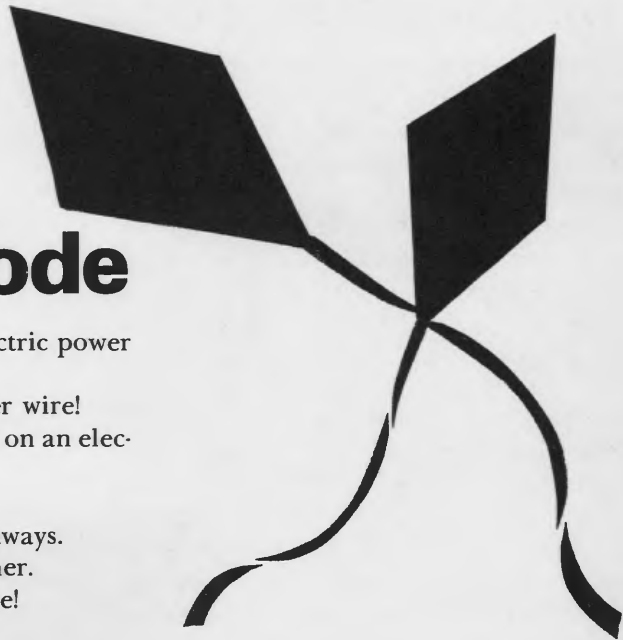
Do not try to remove a kite if it is caught on an electric power line or utility pole.

Do not use metal in making a kite.

Do not fly kites on or near public highways.

Never fly a kite in wet or stormy weather.

Have fun and be safe when flying a kite!



Tips for planting trees

Tree planting is a tradition during spring. Trees not only add beauty to our landscape, but add value to our property. Before you plant a new tree near your home, consider the following:

- 1) Will the roots damage the foundation of the home.
- 2) Will branches brush cars using the driveway or obstruct a drivers vision.
- 3) As the tree grows, will branches drag across the roof and drop leaves into the gutter and/or will the branches grow too close to your home.

- 4) Will the new tree or bush damage underground electric wires.
- 5) Will the tree soon grow into electric poles and lines, thus endangering service to you and your neighbors.

Just about everyone likes trees and everyone needs electricity, but remember, trees and power lines do not mix. If the tree branch is near a line and falls onto it, you and your neighbor could be without electricity. So when you go to plant a tree this spring, a little planning will help ensure continuity of service, not only to you, but to your neighbors as well.

Safety tips for summertime outdoor electricity use

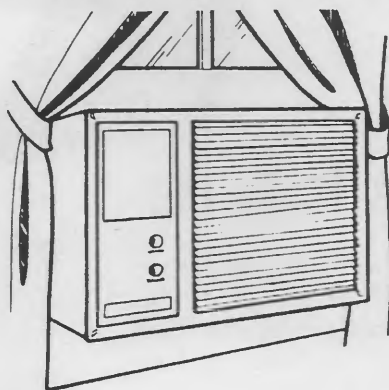
As work activities move into the summer season, the more intense farm work and home-yard care commands greater attention to personal safety. Let's review a few guidelines to avoid or reduce electrical hazards:

- 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 the top edge of farm machines (including antennas) and the lowest overhead electric line under which the 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 equipment like submersible pumps.
- Check all grounding wire/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 belts and 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 conductors 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.

Air conditioner check-up time

Isn't this time of year great? Spring breezes are just right for line-drying clothes, airing out the house and enjoying outdoor activities. The weather isn't too hot or too cold. It just doesn't seem right to be thinking about your air conditioner, does it? However, before you realize it, summer will arrive with its hot, muggy weather. Plans for reliable summer air conditioning should begin now with a spring check-up of your central or window air conditioning unit or heat pump system.

You can take care of most of the maintenance. Clean the coils, replace the filters, lubricate the motor and check the belts. Review



your owner's manual for proper start-up procedures. During the summer, regular maintenance procedures should also include keeping grass, leaves, shrubbery and other

obstructions away from outside units. Indoor coils should be cleaned with a vacuum cleaner or brush periodically, while outdoor coils are sprayed with a garden hose. Be sure the vents in your home are not blocked by furniture, curtains or rugs.

If your equipment needs servicing, contact a reputable repairman. He can take care of the more difficult tasks such as checking thermostats and sensors, recharging the refrigerant and testing pressure.

Well-maintained air conditioning equipment will not only keep you more comfortable this summer — it will operate more efficiently and save you money!

Security lighting

Your cooperative offers two types of security lights which are available at a nominal monthly rental fee. The cooperative offers the mercury vapor security light, which has been popular for many years, and the high pressure sodium security light. Recent studies by your cooperative have indicated that the high pressure sodium light creates less kw demand and uses fewer kilowatt hours than the mercury vapor light, while giving off the same or more light. The high pressure sodium light is available for \$5.50 a month, and the mercury vapor light is \$7.35 a month. This rental fee includes all energy used by the light, as well as, maintenance and installation, providing it is installed on existing cooperative facilities.

If you would like a security light installed or should you wish to replace an existing mercury vapor light with a high pressure sodium, please complete the information requested below and mail to the cooperative.

_____ I would like to have a high pressure sodium security light installed.

_____ I would like to have a mercury vapor security light installed.

_____ I would like to change my mercury vapor light to a high pressure sodium light.

(name)

(address)

(account number)

(telephone number)

Water heater rebate program

Over the past few years, Menard Electric Cooperative has offered its members an electric water heater rebate program. Under this program, a rebate of \$150 was given to any member installing an electric water heater that had a 40-gallon or larger storage capacity and met ASHRAE 90 standards.

This year the program has been continued but with a slightly different twist. Members installing an electric water heater in a newly constructed home or replacing an old worn out electric unit will still receive \$150. However, members who install an electric water heater which replaces a gas unit will receive a \$175 rebate.

It is our hope that the additional \$25 will serve as an incentive for you to at least look at the advantages of installing an electric water heater.

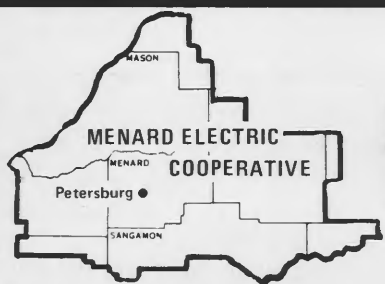
If you would like more information, please contact the Member Services Department at your cooperative.

Capital credits allocated for 1990

Menard Electric Cooperative is "member owned". At the close of a fiscal year, "margins" (income minus expenses) are allocated to the members, on a prorated basis. For fiscal year, 1990, the allocation factor is .0070788723.

To determine the amount of capital credits on an individual account, multiply the above factor, times the amount paid for electric energy, (excluding tax). As an example, energy payments of \$1,000 times .0070788723 = \$7.08, of capital credits assigned to the account for 1990.

Menard Electric Cooperative has not retired any capital credits, todate. When member equity nears 40 percent, it is anticipated that the directors will consider some plan for retirement of accumulated margins.



Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203 217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

On June 2, Ronnie R. Harden completed 20 years of service with your Cooperative. Ron is a crew leader working with and building distribution electric lines.

On July 15, Glenn Squires will have completed 40 years with your Cooperative. Glenn is currently the area serviceman for the Petersburg/Athens/Tallula area.

June marks the beginning of the 1991-92 Budget Billing cycle. Under the Cooperative budget billing plan, members pay an equal amount on their electric bill from June through April. The month of May is used to balance the account. Why not contact the Cooperative and request budget billing on your account?

Remember, members installing an electric water heater may be eligible to receive a \$150 rebate. For more information, contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative office.

The air conditioning season is here. In an attempt to make your system operate at its peak efficiency, we encourage all members to have their air conditioners checked and filters changed. This will help increase the efficiency of the system and help reduce your air conditioning costs.

We at Menard Electric Cooperative would like to congratulate Cass County on their success in being one of 12 Illinois counties selected for the Rural Partners Program. Under this program Cass County will have the opportunity to learn about and implement economic development by using the talent and expertise found within its own boundaries. Congratulations!!

Terry and Linda Entwistle will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary on June 22. Terry is the general foreman for your cooperative.

Judy and Jack Powers celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on June 10. Judy is the cashier/receptionist for your Cooperative.

Vacations mean lower electric bills??????



Many members assume when they leave on vacation their electric meter stops running until they return. This is not always the case, due to many items that may run whether you are home or away. If you return from your vacation and are surprised to see that your electric bill did not change much, let's ask ourselves a few questions.

• Was the water heater turned off during the vacation time? If the water heater is left energized, it will continue to operate and maintain tank temperature even if you are not using any hot water.

• Were the refrigerators or freezers left on? If so, they will continue to operate, as well as maintaining the set temperature. If both are frost-free units, they may have a six-hour defrost cycle, defrosting the frost on the coils and then cooling again within a few minutes.

• Other common appliances which can contribute to kilowatt-hour consumption are dehumidifiers, clocks, pumps, and automatic lighting. And of course, in the winter, heat is generally left on a low setting. Another item which can be a contributing factor, is many vacationers bring home one or two weeks worth of laundry and that gives the electric water heater and dryer a work out on the first day or two home.

If you have asked yourself these questions upon your return home and still have some concern as to the amount of kilowatt-hours consumed, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, May 28, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, 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, James G. Graff, and Meredith L. Worner. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, and attorney Homer J. Tice.

The agenda was approved and minutes of the April 23, 1991, meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board. Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of April, 1991. Margins for the month are approximately \$80,000 over budget, however, the bulk of this was a credit to maintenance for the assistance given to Eastern Illini during the March ice storm. Margins year-to-date are approximately \$270,000 over budget. Smith answered several questions presented by the board in regard to line loss, delinquent accounts and expected maintenance expenses for the balance of the year. The Outage Summary for the month of April indicated a greater number of outages than the same month last year. There were considerable less outage hours and the average outage hours per consumer are about 20 percent of what they were in 1990. The Safety Report showed three recordable injuries for the month of March, however, none of them were lost time accidents. The Manager's Report for the month of April was approved.

A review of the recent legislative rally held in Washington was given by director Graff, director Goetsch, and manager Smith.

Manager Smith reported on the recent activities of the Environmental Protection Agency and the cleanup of the Missouri Electric Works site at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He indicated that the EPA was about to issue a Consent Decree. Attorney Warren Krebs will be present at a future board meeting to fully explain the options and alternatives the board would have in signing the Consent Decree.

Attorney Tice discussed the recent notification by the Village of Riverton of the annexation of a parcel of land. The board affirmed the action of the manager and president and advised attorney Tice to proceed

with the action necessary to preserve the Cooperative territory and contractual agreement.

President Bell advised the board of the recent request of NRECA for financial assistance from the individual member distribution cooperatives in helping the cooperatives in Colorado prevent a utility take-over of the Colorado-Ute generation and transmission cooperative. After discussion it was approved for Menard Electric Cooperative to contribute \$200 toward the Tri-State Plan, with said funds to be forwarded through the AIEC.

The board considered a revision to the policy on Committees of the Board and accepted the first reading thereof. This revision would make the Policy and Bylaw Committee a standing committee.

Director Goetsch and special services coordinator Pillsbury reported on the plans for the upcoming annual meeting. The board and staff will have a joint meeting on Thursday morning, June 6 to finalize the program plans for Saturday, June 8.

President Bell reported on the activities of the AIEC. He informed the board of the Strategic Financial Planning Workshop to be held in November, sponsored by CFC. He indicated the remodeling and addition to the AIEC building is on schedule.

Michael E. Carls, Soyland director, reported on the recent activities of Soyland.

Agreements for Electric Service and the Inventory of Work Orders for April 1991 were approved.

The board approved the payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved 56 memberships and 22 service permit applications.

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

Under other business, the board discussed the upcoming Illinois Legislative Barbecue to be held on Tuesday evening, June 4. Manager Smith was instructed to order sufficient tickets for those directors and staff that will be attending. Smith was also instructed to send a "thank you" letter to Turriss Coal Company for their recent hospitality in conducting a tour for the directors.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, June 25, 1991, at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time.

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



Office closed

Thursday, July 4, 1991 in observance of Independence Day

Rural insurance

It has once again been brought to our attention that Menard Electric Cooperative members have recently received, via the mail, insurance information bearing the words, "a national association of rural cooperative members." The name of the insurance company is Reserve National Insurance Company. Menard Electric Cooperative is NOT affiliated with this company and does not in any way endorse its policies. In fact, the

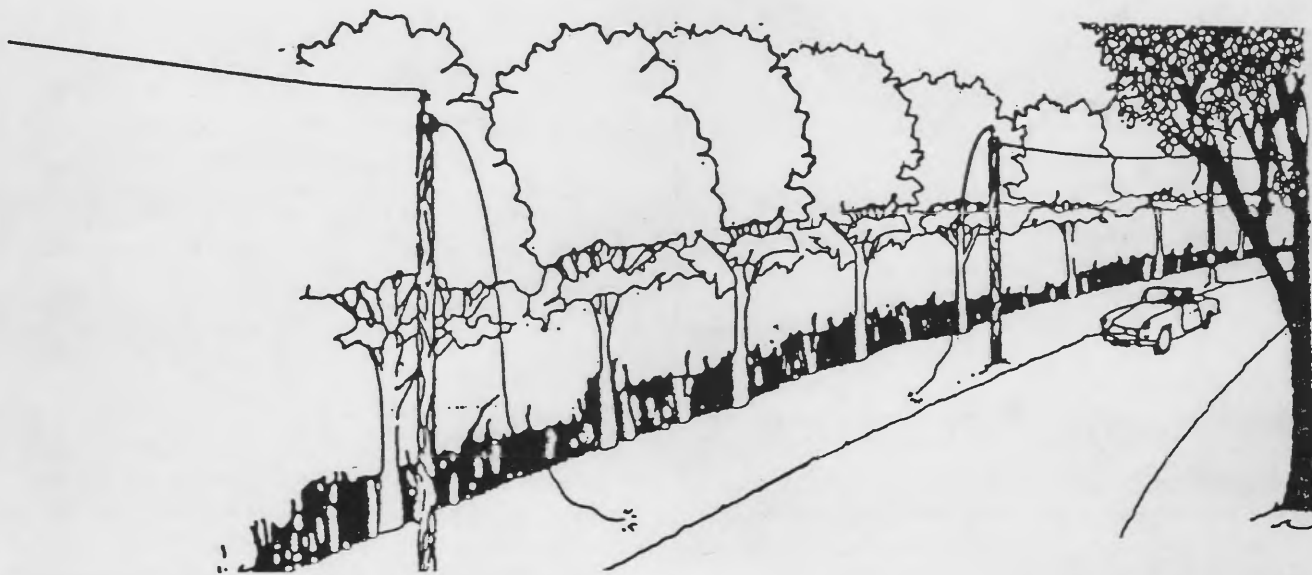
group has no known affiliation with any rural electric cooperative.

Over the past 54 years Menard Electric Cooperative has built good will with its members based on trust. Don't let someone infringe on this good will to sell you insurance or anything else.

If you have any questions in regard to this matter, please feel free to call 1-800-872-1203.

Advantages of an electric water heater

- Heating water with electricity is seven times safer than gas. A study by the National Fire Protection Agency has found that gas water heaters cause seven times as many home fires as electric water heaters.
- Electric water heaters require no flue or vent. They can be placed virtually anywhere.
- Electric water heaters do not use air for combustion. Indoor air quality is uncompromised by the water heater and there is no danger of explosion.
- Electric water heaters require less maintenance, no pilot light, no vent, flue or heat exchanger to corrode.
- Electric water heaters have more insulation. They can be insulated on all sides, including top and bottom.
- Electric water heaters are much more efficient. The heating elements are in direct contact with the water so they are nearly 100 percent efficient. A gas water heater loses 40 to 60 percent of its heat energy up the flue.
- Members installing electric water heaters will receive \$150 from the Cooperative, providing the new water heater has at least a 40 gallon storage capacity and meets ASHRAE 90 standards.



The storm has passed but danger still lingers

While we understand the urgency of restoring electric power to all of our members during and after severe storms, we consider hazardous conditions created by the storm our first priority.

Power lines that have been snapped or pulled down as a result of a storm present a serious, even deadly threat. If you come across a downed wire, stay completely away from it—don't touch the wire, the pole to which it is attached or anything else in contact with the wire. Call Menard Electric immediately—don't assume someone else will call or has already called. We want

to know about downed wires as soon as possible so we can send our trained linemen to make the needed repairs.

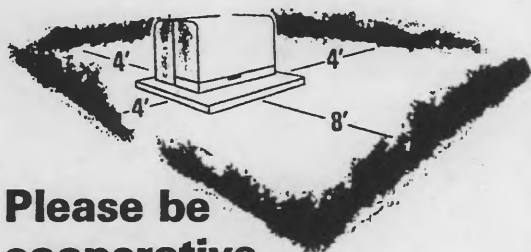
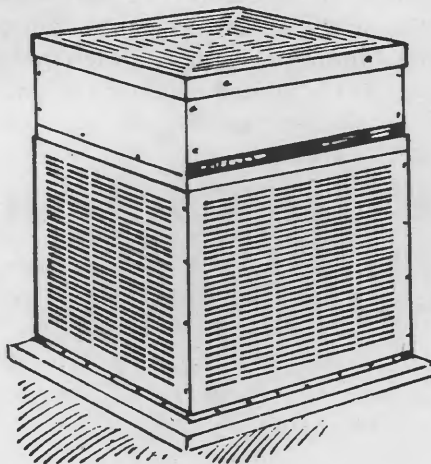
We encourage you to take a few moments today to teach your children about the dangers of downed electric wires. Instruct them to tell you or another adult as soon as possible about the problem and to warn other children to stay away. Never assume a wire is harmless—let us make the determination and repairs. With your help, together we can continue to keep our community safe from electrical accidents.

An idea to keep you cool this summer

Many members interested in installing central air conditioning systems in their homes are looking at an air-to-air heat pump. With an air-to-air heat pump, members find they can cool their home with the same efficiency as a high efficiency air conditioning system, but there are some definite advantages to installing an air-to-air heat pump. The first is a \$250 per ton rebate, providing it has a SEER of 9.0 or greater. In many cases, this rebate will enable the member to install the air-to-air heat pump at a lower price than a conventional air conditioning system.

The second advantage is that the air-to-air heat pump can do two functions for you. In addition to cooling your home efficiently, it also gives you the ability to heat your home if you so desire during the winter months, thus, giving you two ways to save. We at Menard Electric would encourage all members to at least look at these advantages. For more information, contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative office.

**Air-Source
Heat
Pump**



Please be cooperative

Don't plant trees or shrubbery within eight feet of the front or four feet of the sides and back of a pad-mounted transformer.

DUCK!



**That's the smart approach
to power lines.**

Now that the weather's nice, you'll be out and about, fixing up your house or tending to the farm. Here's smart advice. Some of your projects may put you on the roof, others may have you moving tall poles or machinery. Sure, you know the power lines are there, but they may be closer than you think. Just remember to duck. Put some distance between the lines and yourself. TV antennas, grain augers, pool cleaning poles and other objects are deadly when they come in contact with electricity. Look up and keep down near power lines. Get your jobs done safely.

Bill calls for more EMF research

A bill calling for a comprehensive federal research and information program into the health effects of electric and magnetic fields (EMF) has been introduced in Congress by Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-N.J.)

The proposed legislation has been endorsed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which represents the nation's 1,000 consumer-owned electric utilities.

The bill would authorize a five-year, \$34 million study, directed by the Department of Energy, to evaluate the health effects of EMF, whether power lines can be designed to reduce health risks, and to distribute EMF information to the public.

Electric and magnetic fields exist wherever current is flowing through wires, such as power lines or home appliances. In the last 20 years several studies have found a possible association between magnetic fields and cancer. Other studies have failed to confirm those

findings, leading most scientists to conclude that more research is needed into the health effects of EMF.

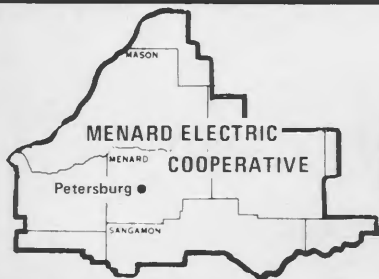
In introducing the bill, Pallone said, "The primary task is to come up with more definitive answers based on careful scientific research that has credibility with the public."

He noted that a draft study of EMF by the Environmental Protection Agency calls for further research.

Pallone added, "It is extremely important to more widely disseminate even the partial answers we have today in order to calm the fears that some people have that they are not getting the full story."

In a letter supporting the bill, Bob Bergland, executive vice president of NRECA, told Pallone, "The bill provides for vitally needed, increased levels of funding for research into the health effects of EMF."

The electric utility industry is currently spending about \$6 million a year on EMF research.



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Many members again took advantage of the Bargain Table, where small electric appliances could be purchased at reduced prices.

54th Annual Meeting

On Saturday, June 8, Menard Electric Cooperative held its 54th Annual Meeting. As in the past, members gathered to enjoy a delicious pork chop dinner, observe a number of interesting exhibits and had an opportunity to visit with employees and directors of your Cooperative.

The 54th Annual Meeting was different in one respect—it marked a first for Menard Electric Cooperative—and was a welcome surprise to the members in attendance. Cooperative board president Morris L. Bell said, "We will begin this year paying capital credits to estates only. Estate representatives

may make applications at the Cooperative and the first applications received will be the first paid.

Capital credits represent the surplus of income over expenses in a not-for-profit electric cooperative. Capital credits are assigned to members based on the amount of electricity each member used. The Cooperative holds capital credits until enough equity is built up in the system to ensure a stable financial condition. "The Cooperative needed to be in good financial condition with member equity near 40 percent before we could begin capital credit retirements," Bell explained. "Now we can begin

to retire part of this equity to our members.”

Bell also advised members that the Cooperative anticipates stable electric rates, at least through 1991. The last retail rate adjustment for members of Menard Electric Cooperative was in March 1988. “We have been able to maintain that rate for the past three years even though other costs involved in distributing electric energy have been on the increase,” Bell said.

Manager Dorland W. Smith credited the Cooperative’s Load Management Program with its ability to maintain stable rates. He stated that even though other costs are increasing, the Cooperative’s wholesale power cost per kilowatt-hour has been declining. The Cooperative has been able to expand its control of irrigation and water heating loads to maintain rates. The Cooperative currently has radio controls on 360 irrigation systems and an increasing number of electric water heaters. This allows the Cooperative to shut those loads off during peak demand periods.

Robert I. Brauer of Oakford, treasurer for the Cooperative, reported that the Cooperative had \$12.1 million in revenue in 1990—down from \$12.5 million in 1989. Total margins and patronage capital in 1990 amounted to more than \$378,000, which has been assigned to members as capital credits.

Other important business during the 54th Annual Meeting was the election of three directors to serve three-year terms. Members unanimously re-elected Morris L. Bell of Chandlerville, Gary L. Martin of Alexander, and Edward Allspach of Mt. Pulaski. Following the annual meeting, the board of directors met and elected Warren D. Goetsch of Williamsville to succeed Morris L. Bell as president, Carroll F. Cline of Pleasant Plains was elected vice-president, Robert I. Brauer of Oakford was re-elected as treasurer, and Meredith L. Worner of Manito was re-elected as secretary.



The Cooperative’s officers for the coming year are from left: Meredith L. Worner of Manito, secretary; Carroll F. Cline of Pleasant Plains, vice president; Warren D. Goetsch of Williamsville, president; and Robert I. Brauer, treasurer.



The Menard County Health Department stayed busy providing blood pressure testing for all who wanted the service.



Members enjoyed a delicious pork chop dinner prepared by the Mason County Pork Producers.



The WaterFurnace display was well received by the members.

Attendance prizes — 54th Annual Meeting

Menard Electric Cooperative
June 8, 1991

Supplier gifts

Brownstown Electric — 12 volt air compressor — Vernon D. Edwards, Petersburg
Burton Tree — Electric Trimmer — Rock Creek Productions, c/o Ken Reynolds, Tallula
Dalums Utility — 6 caps — Arnold Crater, Havana; Dale DeGroot, Ashland, Harold Deverman, Greenview;
Duane Hoffman, San Jose; Don Semple, New Holland; Blanch Tibbs, Petersburg
Electric Lab — 50 foot outdoor extension cord — James Sheley, New Holland
Graybar — 50 foot extension cord — Harold Masten, Tallula
R.R. Kinyon — Sony AM/FM clock radio — Marvin Martin, Alexander
U.S. Electric — 25 foot trouble light — Virginia Gilbanks, Petersburg
United Utility — Presto electric fry pan — Wilford Kolves, Bath

Menard Electric Cooperative prizes

Forrest Cravens	Buffalo	West Bend electric skillet
Crop Mate Fertilizer	Petersburg	Automatic drip coffeemaker
Charles E. Hawk	Buffalo	Cordless screw driver
Wayne Henderson	Williamsville	table lamp
Reece Kern	New Berlin	West Bend corn popper
Ralph Kreiling	Forest City	West Bend slow cooker
Dale Lepper	Ashland	Hamilton Beach deep fryer/cooker
E.R. Milstead Jr.	Oakford	West Bend hot pot
Robert Ranson	Kilbourne	Sunbeam automatic toothbrush
John P. Rivers	Pekin	Electric insect killer
William Robinson Jr.	Sherman	Coleman 2-gallon jug
John E. Root	Petersburg	Hamilton Beach electric knife
Nile E. Sanert	Petersburg	Rival 2-slice toaster
Oliver L. Schelp	New Berlin	GE digital clock radio
Zane Shelton	Middletown	Rival 3-speed hand mixer
Richard Showalter	Easton	Professional hair dryer
C. Kenneth Smith	Easton	Black & Decker steam & dry iron
Harmon Snider	Havana	Rubbermaid ice chest & jug
Charles A. Stock	Arenzville	Coleman 2-gallon jug
Dennis Tibbs	New Holland	Heat band with cold pack
Robert Vanderveen	Havana	Rival can opener
Margaret H. Vogel	Mason City	Rubbermaid ice chest & jug
James R. Walker	Kilbourne	3-speed electric fan
John Walters	Mason City	Sunbeam wall clock
Weidhuner Farm, Inc.	Greenview	AM/FM portable radio
Robert Zook	Athens	Rival ice cream freezer

Proxy prizes

Gary Atteberry	Lincoln	1st Alert rechargeable flashlight
Orville Bartels	Chandlerville	1st Alert rechargeable flashlight
Michael Bentley	Virginia	1st Alert rechargeable flashlight
John Lyon	Illiopolis	1st Alert rechargeable flashlight
Lois Noltensmeier	Chandlerville	1st Alert rechargeable flashlight

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, June 25, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff, and Meredith L. Worner. 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 was approved and minutes of the May 28, 1991, meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board. Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of May, 1991. Year-to-date margins are above budget by about \$160,000. Smith answered several questions presented by the board in regard to financing and the possible need for a loan application in the year 1991. The Outage Summary for May reflects approximately the same number of outages as last year. Year-to-date consumer outage hours are lower than a year ago. The Safety Report recorded no lost time injuries or illnesses for the month of May. Manager Smith also reviewed the status of applications for the capital credit refunds to estates. The Manager's Report for the month of May was approved.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury reviewed the 1991 annual meeting. Director Martin commented on the attendance and ways the annual meeting might be improved in the coming years.

Manager Smith updated the board on the current activities and problems with the Village of Riverton.

The board adjourned to the Load Management office where system engineer David Crosnoe and engineering technician Douglas Pettit gave a review and demonstration of the Cooperative's new SCADA and load management equipment.

Upon returning to the board room, president Goetsch appointed the directors to various committees. The board elected Morris Bell to be the AIEC board

member for the term 1991 through 1993 and Gary Martin to be the alternate AIEC board member. Delegates were then appointed to the AIEC annual meeting and the NRECA and CFC regional and national meetings.

Board meeting dates for the ensuing year were discussed and meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The December meeting will be held Friday, December 20 at 1 p.m.

The board approved the policy on "Committees of the Board" as presented at the last meeting.

Manager Smith discussed with the board a summary of the electric heat rebate for the heating season 1990-91. He discussed the possibility of a grain drying rate for the fall of 1991. The board instructed manager Smith to explore a possible grain drying rate and to bring recommendations back to the July board meeting.

Manager Smith reported on the current activities of Adams & Associates and their review of the headquarters facilities. The board approved the uncollectible accounts as per the list presented to the board.

Director Bell reported on the activities of the AIEC. The board considered the AIEC dues for 1991-92 and after discussion approved the payment of the dues in one payment as of July 1, 1991.

Director Carls, Soyland director, reported on the activities of Soyland.

The Inventory of Work Orders for May 1991 were approved.

The board approved the payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved 66 membership applications and 18 service permit applications.

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

Under "Other Business" discussed the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Regulations and authorized the president of the board to sign the assurance statement to be filed with REA.

Co-op Comments

Mr. and Mrs. Ronny R. Harden of rural Springfield will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on July 28. Ron is a leadman for your cooperative.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hinrichs of Petersburg celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 21. Albert was line superintendent for Menard Electric from January 1, 1938, until his retirement on December 1, 1975.

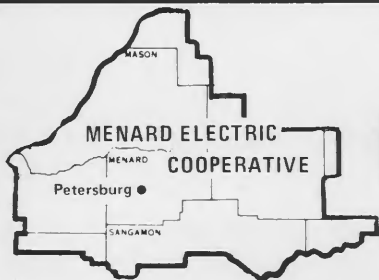
It's not too late to request budget billing for the year 1991-92. Why not contact the cooperative and request budget billing for your account?

Kevin Keiser, member services adviser for your cooperative, is serving as one of the coordinators for the Rural Partners Program in Cass County.

Capital credits

As announced at the 54th annual meeting, Menard Electric Cooperative will begin paying capital credits to estates in 1991. Legal representatives of estates may make application for such payment. Payments will be made on the first-come, first-paid basis. Applications which exceed \$94,600 will be held under 1992.

To receive further information on capital credits for estates write to Menard Electric Cooperative, Attn: Capital Credits, P.O. Box 279, Petersburg, IL 62675. You may also call 217/632-7746 or 800/872-1203.



Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Co-op Comments

Casey and Patricia Duncheon will be celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary on September 3. Casey is the stores clerk at the cooperative headquarters in Petersburg. Congratulations to Casey and Patricia!

* * *

If you are interested in buying a new air conditioner, why not contact the cooperative office to find out the

advantages of installing an air-to-air heat pump instead. We think you will be pleasantly surprised.

* * *

Your cooperative was originally organized to provide service to its members. Over the years, this philosophy has not changed. Currently, your cooperative has numerous programs available to all members in an attempt to provide excellent service to those we serve. We encourage all members to contact the cooperative office if they have any questions or if they are interested in any programs offered.

Electric use continues even while on vacation

A question commonly asked by members during the summer months: "My family and I were on vacation for two weeks last month, why isn't my electric bill lower?"

This is a difficult question to answer because there are a number of situations that could contribute to the bill remaining higher than was anticipated. One factor could be that the days you were away from home fell "between" two billing periods. Another cause could have been an increased use of air conditioning and/or washing and drying before and after your vacation. Keep in mind that while you are away there are still some appliances that continue to operate, such as your

refrigerator, freezer, water heater, and possibly the air conditioning or furnace.

To save energy while you are away, turn your air conditioner off or at least set the thermostat at a higher setting. Turn down the thermostat of your water heater and use timers on your lights instead of leaving them on all day.

As you can see there are a number of variables which can be attributed to your usage and these are only a few possibilities. If you have any questions or comments about your electric bill, please feel free to contact your cooperative office.

LABOR DAY

LET'S TAKE A BREAK...



Office closing

Menard Electric will be closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day. The cooperative office will resume normal business hours Tuesday, September 3.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, July 23, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, and Meredith L. Worner. Absent was director 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 was approved with the addition of a couple of items under "Other Business." The minutes of the June 8, 1991, organizational meeting of the board of directors and the June 25, 1991, regular board meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board.

The Inventories of Work Orders for June 1991 were approved.

The board approved the payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved 54 membership applications and six service permits.

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

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of June 1991. Year-to-date margins are below budget by about \$100,000. Manager Smith answered several questions in regard to the budget for 1991 and discussed the balance sheet and other key indicators. The Outage Summary for the month of June was reviewed and the Safety Report recorded no lost time injuries or illnesses for the month of June. There being no further discussion, the Manager's Report for the month of June was approved.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury presented the

quarterly Special and Member Services Report. He also reviewed the progress being made between Menard Electric and CIPS on establishing a service area agreement.

Director Bell reported on the activities of AIEC.

Director Carls reported on the recent Soyland board meeting and Soyland activities. He reported that the gas turbine generator at the Pearl plant had been successfully put back into operation and was now available for peaking duties.

Director Martin, member of the building committee, reported on the recent activities of Adams and Associates in their study of the headquarters facilities of the cooperative.

Manager Smith discussed the possibility of a grain drying rate for the fall of 1991. Consideration of this rate was postponed until the August board meeting.

Staff assistant Hedberg and manager Smith reviewed the status of the capital credit estate refunds and advised the board that the capital credits for 1990 had been allocated to the membership.

Manager Smith advised the board on the status of activities and problems with the Village of Riverton.

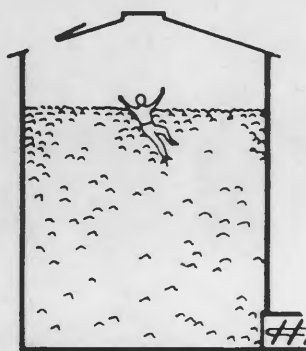
The board reviewed the current status of the EPA's requirements of the cleanup of the Missouri Electric Works site and Menard Electric's involvement.

The board approved the request of Illinois Rural Electric Co. to share the cooperative's load management frequency.

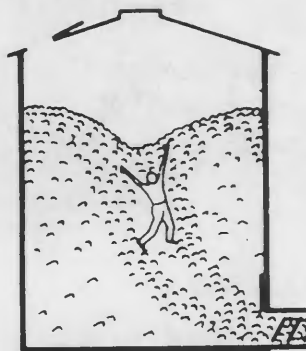
Under "Other Business" the board approved the purchase of a UPS system for the computer and also approved the expenditure of funds for testing the three-phase metering equipment and the maintenance of the three-phase OCRs in the cooperative's substations.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

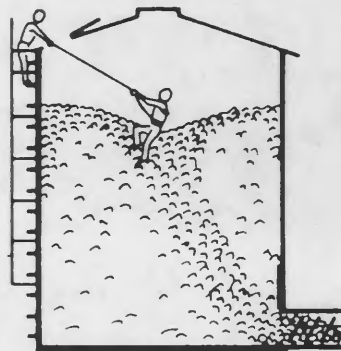
Follow safety rules



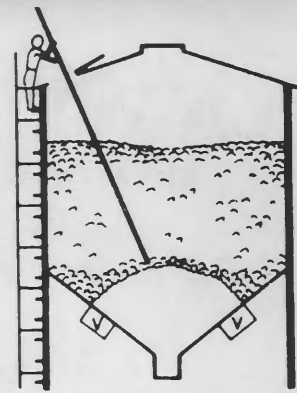
Grains are dangerous as quicksand even when not unloading.



Flowing grain sucks you under suddenly when unloading starts.



If you must go into the bin, use a lifeline and have someone there.



Break bridges with a pole. Use vibrators to keep grain flowing.

Rebate for electric water heaters

Menard Electric Cooperative is continuing what has become a very successful program with cooperative members. Members who install an electric water heater with a 40-gallon or larger storage capacity will receive a onetime rebate of \$150 from the cooperative. For those members who install an electric water heater which replaces a gas unit will receive a onetime rebate of \$175.

If you would like more information about the program, please contact the cooperative office. If you have recently installed a water heater and would like to have an employee stop by and visually verify the installation

and begin the rebate process, please complete the information requested below and return it to the cooperative office.

Signature of Member

Account Number Daytime Telephone Number

Brand Name of Water Heater Size of Water Heater

Water heater load management program

To date, more than 650 members have chosen to install a load management control device on their electric water heaters. Due, in part, to their interest, Menard Electric Cooperative has had the ability to lower its peak demand during the months of December, January, February, July and August; thus, helping to lower our wholesale power cost.

We encourage all members who have an electric water heater and are not on our load-management program to contact the cooperative office. Under the load management program, in addition to the savings that the entire cooperative may be able to achieve from the reduction in peak demands, members receive a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour reduction on their electric bill from kilowatt-hours 600 to 1,000. This could mean up to a \$12 per month savings for an individual member.

If you would like to have additional information or

would like to enroll in this program, please complete the information requested below and return it to the cooperative office or contact the member services department at 1-800-872-1203 or 217/632-7746.

I am interested in the hot water heater load management program.

Signature of Member

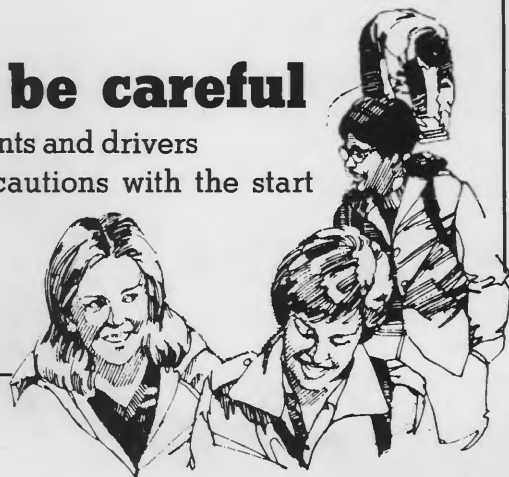
Address

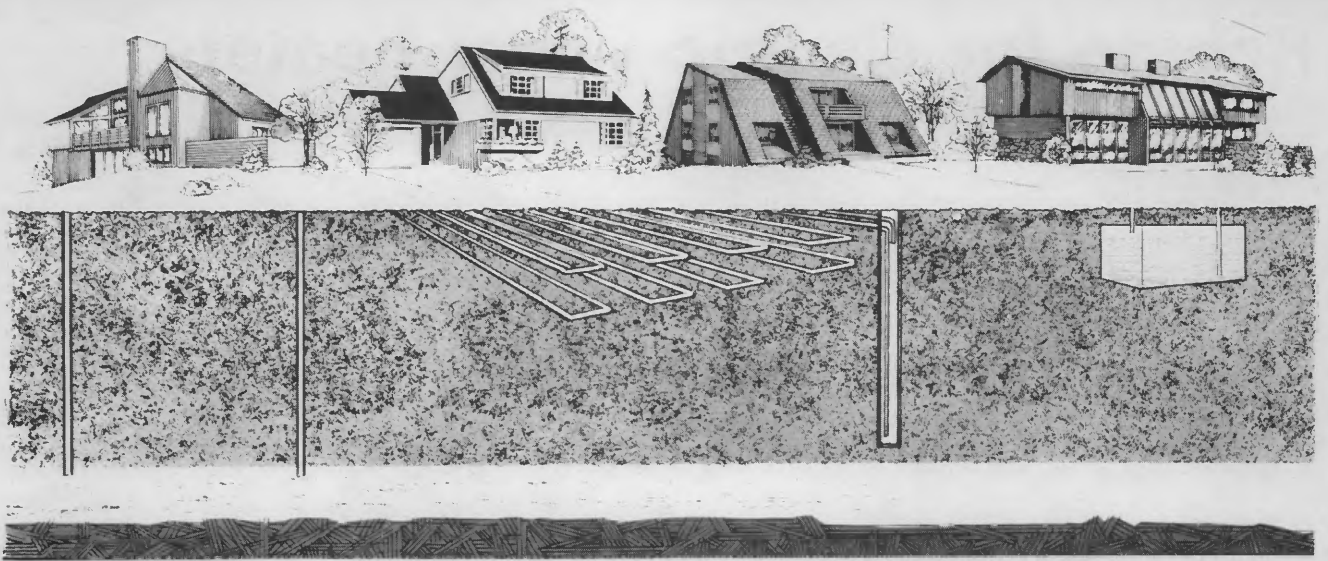
Account Number Daytime Telephone Number



Please be careful

We urge students and drivers
to take extra precautions with the start
of the school year.





Geothermal heating and cooling

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 your home.

How is heat exchanged? There are two main components to the geothermal system: the buried closed loop (or in some cases an open loop system utilizing an aquifer) and the indoor unit, which is tied into a proper ductwork system. There is no outdoor compressor used with this system as you would find with a conventional heat pump system.

Heat is exchanged with the earth by using a buried pipe 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. 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.

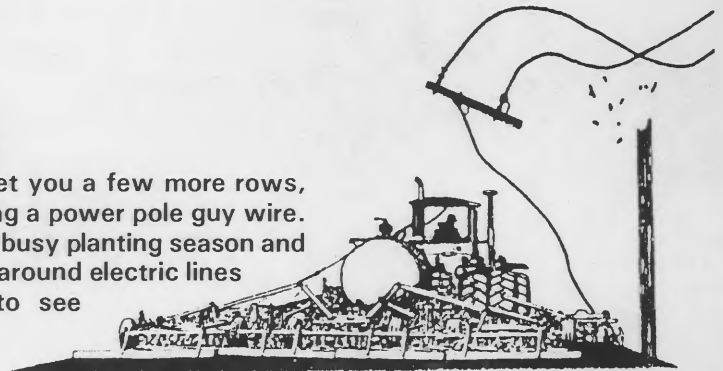
In the cooling mode, the indoor unit extracts heat from the air inside the home and transfers that heat into the solution circulating through the loop. The heat is then ejected to the earth.

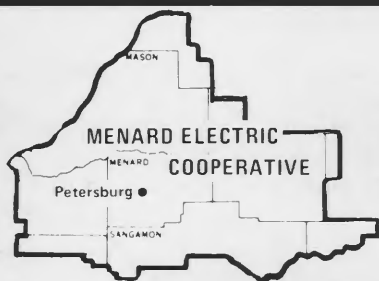
Another benefit of the geothermal system is that, in addition to reducing your heating and air conditioning costs, the system will also substantially reduce your water heating costs as well by transferring excess heat to the water heater. You can expect savings of 50 percent to 60 percent on your water heating costs.

For more information, please feel free to contact the cooperative office.

Be CAREFUL

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 News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203 217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

Dwaine and Rene' Heyen of rural Petersburg will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary on October 3. Dwaine is a journeyman lineman for your Cooperative. Congratulations Dwaine and Rene'!

Schools all across the countryside are once again ringing their bells to the start of a new school year. Menard Electric Cooperative would like to encourage all members to pay special attention when driving near school crossings, bus stop areas and school grounds.

With fall just around the corner and the cold blustery days of winter soon to follow, now would be a good time to replace the air filter on your furnace. Remember, having clean filters help to increase the efficiency of your forced-air furnace, thus helping to reduce your operating cost this winter.

Menard Electric Cooperative strives to provide its members with the best possible service. One of the ways in which we attempt this is through regular pole testing. Through this procedure we are able to continually

weed out damaged poles so that our distribution system remains healthy and intact. Currently, your Cooperative is conducting pole testing in and around the Salisbury area.



Left to right: Carroll F. Cline, vice president, and Robert I. Brauer, treasurer, prepare the first capital credit checks.

Avoidable autumn accidents

As a chill in the air prepares us for the onset of autumn, members return to the outdoors to participate in a variety of sweater-weather activities. Unfortunately, in their zest to enjoy the great outdoors, people sometimes cause interruptions in electric service and create life-threatening situations by interfering with high-voltage power lines.

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

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

Menard Electric Cooperative urges all members to contact the Cooperative office when the need arises to trim or cut a tree near a power line. Let professionals make a determination and complete the job safely.

New standards set for water heaters

On January 1, 1990, the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act went into effect.

This act established new national minimum efficiency requirements for all water heaters manufactured in the United States. This new standard supersedes all state and local requirements.

Menard Electric Cooperative has revised its Water Heater Rebate Program so that water heaters purchased no longer have to meet ASHRAE 90 standards. Simply purchasing a new electric water heater with a 40-gallon or larger storage capacity will qualify for a Cooperative rebate of \$150.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, August 27, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Gary L. Martin and James G. Graff. Absent were directors Edward L. Allspach, Robert I. Brauer, and Meredith L. Worner. 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 as presented. The minutes of the July 23, 1991, regular board meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board.

The Inventory of Work Orders for July 1991 was approved. The board approved the payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved 52 membership applications and eight service permits as presented with the notice of the meeting. Also approved was an electric service agreement for one member.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of July 1991. He answered several questions regarding the budget for 1991, and discussed the balance sheet and other key indicators. He also explained the budgeted power cost and revenue for the year 1991. The Outage Summary for the month of July was reviewed. The Safety Report recorded no lost-time injuries or illnesses for the month of July. There being no further discussion, the Manager's Report for the month of July was approved.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the month of July were approved.

The Uncollectible Accounts were discussed and were approved to be written off as presented.

Staff assistant Hedberg reviewed the progress of the capital credit estate refunds and apprised the board that the first checks had been prepared and were presented to the board for their signatures.

Director Bell reviewed the recent activities of the AIEC and its 50th annual meeting held in Springfield. Directors Graff and Martin, who also attended the AIEC annual meeting, commented on the meeting. It was reported that director Bell had been elected president of the AIEC board of directors for the coming year.

Director Carls indicated that the August board meeting for Soyland would be held August 28.

Manager Smith and Building Committee member Gary Martin discussed the recent activities of Adams & Associates.

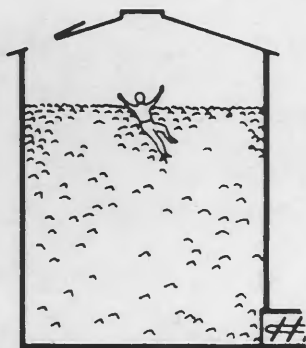
The board reviewed the residential rate comparisons as prepared by the EEE staff of the AIEC and the 1990 revenue summaries for the Illinois cooperatives. Manager Smith discussed the CFC Integrity Fund Report as presented by the CFC staff. He advised the board that the cooperatives in Illinois had received more benefit from the fund than the dollars they had invested.

Manager Smith presented recommendations to the board for the non-union employees wage adjustment. After some discussion the manager's recommendations were approved.

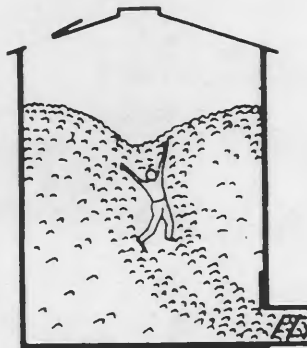
President Goetsch asked manager Smith to comment on the activities in progress with the Village of Riverton and the Environmental Protection Agency/Missouri Electric Works.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

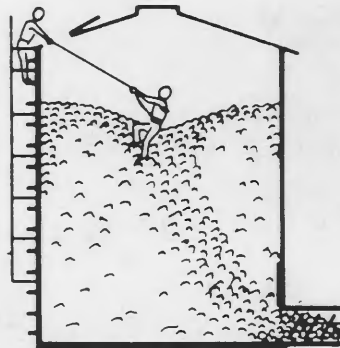
Follow safety rules



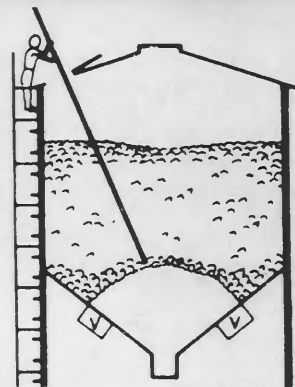
Grains are dangerous as quicksand even when not unloading.



Flowing grain sucks you under suddenly when unloading starts.



If you must go into the bin, use a lifeline and have someone there.



Break bridges with a pole. Use vibrators to keep grain flowing.

Weatherproofing your home

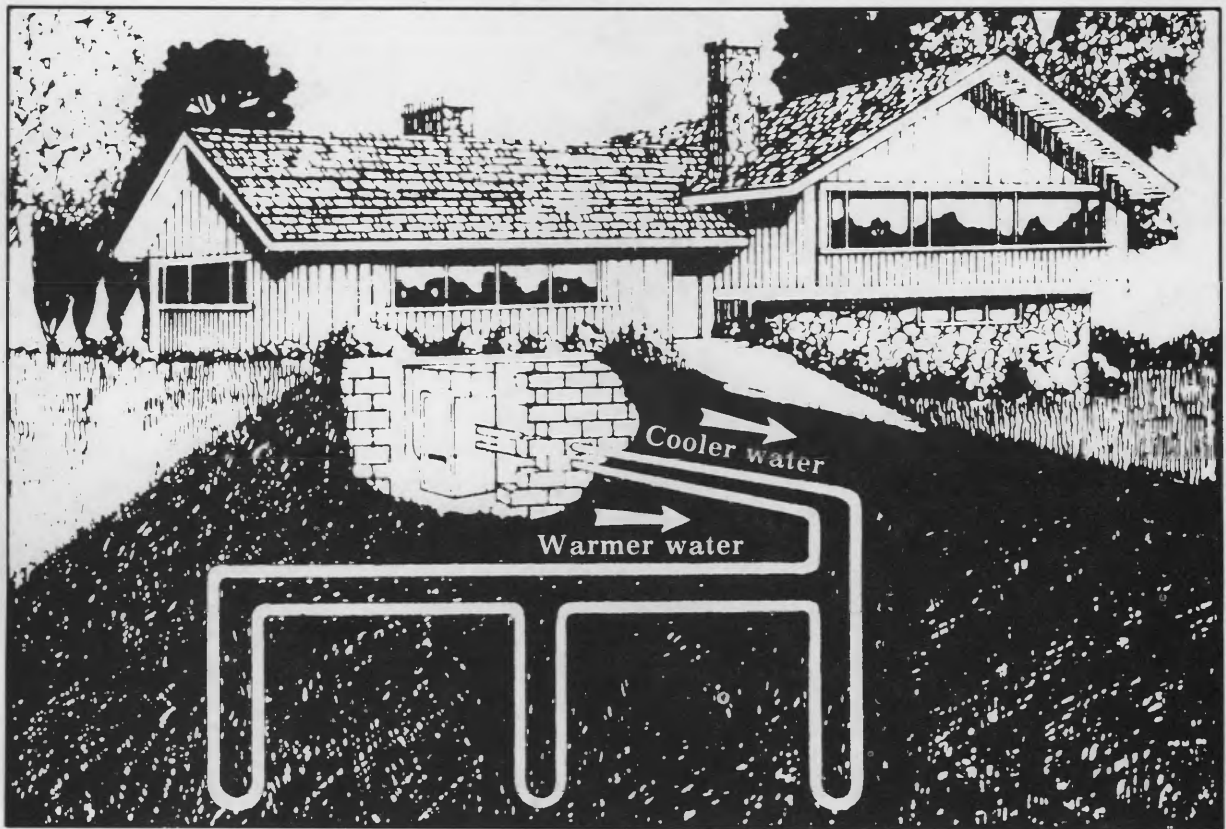
The cold days of fall and winter are rapidly approaching and with these cooler temperatures comes a renewed interest in weatherproofing our home. More than one-half of the heat loss in our homes during the winter escapes through cracks and loose-fitting windows and doors. For many of us, installing new replacement windows and doors is not feasible. But that doesn't mean we have to sit back and watch our money blow away in the cold wintry winds.

Caulking and installing weatherstripping around windows and doors can provide a 5 percent to 15 percent savings, depending on the condition of your home. Caulking can also be applied to the construction joints to provide an even greater reduction in infiltration.

Remember, a crack 1/12 of an inch around a door is equivalent to having a 4 x 5 inch hole in your wall.

Having an adequate amount of insulation in your home this winter will also help you keep warm at the lowest possible cost. The recommended R values of insulation for central Illinois are R-11 in the wall and R-38 in the attic. In terms of fiberglass insulation, this means you should have at least 3 1/2 inches in the walls and 12 inches in your attic. Adding insulation to your basement or crawl space will also help to complete the job of securing your home this winter.

If you would like more information on weatherproofing your home, contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative office.



Advantages of a GT system

Look at these advantages of a geothermal heating and cooling system:

- it's the most efficient system on the market today
- it heats your home in the winter, cools your home in the summer and substantially reduces your annual water heating cost
- it's environmentally safe with no harmful gases

emitted into the atmosphere

- it's aesthetically appealing, as the unit is not visible from the outside
- the Cooperative offers a rebate of \$333 per ton

If you would like to have more information on what a geothermal system can do for you in your home, please contact the Member Services Department at the Cooperative office.

Be alert during harvest season

This fall farmers throughout the Cooperative service area are once again 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 as you go about your farm work. This is even more important if you have a new employee helping during the harvest season. Don't let the guy wires or poles hitch a ride on your equipment this year.



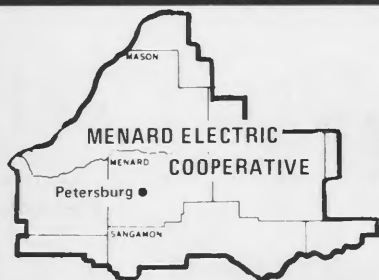
Severe vandalism makes no sense

Shooting electric distribution lines and equipment is malicious 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.

May we say thanks to our members

- Who call promptly to notify the office when a power outage occurs, telling us exactly where the trouble is located and the cause.
- Who grant right-of-way for construction and maintenance of line to serve your neighbors, providing adequate and reliable electric service to everybody on the system.
- Who notify the office when moving so electric service can be transferred to the new owner or disconnect if no one will be using power.
- Who keep television antennas, silo-filling pipes and other equipment clear of falling distance on all electric lines.
- Who teach children all the rules of electric safety, both indoors and outdoors.
- Who are careful when using trucks and farm machinery around poles, lines and guy wires.
- Who use extreme care when cutting trees near your electric lines.
- Who report anything that is wrong with the lines such as bad pole, broken guy wires, broken strands on the line conductors and cracked or broken insulators.
- Who keep signs, fence wires, nails and other hazards off the poles for the safety of our linemen.



Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203

217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

Co-op Comments

Not everyone can afford to replace their windows and doors in an effort to improve the comfort level of their home and decrease the cost of heating this winter. Caulking and installing weatherstripping around doors and windows can provide a 5-to-15 percent savings, depending upon the condition of your home. Caulking can also be applied to the construction joints to provide a greater reduction in infiltration. Remember, a crack 1/12 of an inch around a door is equivalent to having a 4 x 5 inch hole in your wall.

Halloween is October 31, and as we all know this is the day when the little "ghosts and goblins" come out for trick or treats. This is the day when everyone needs to take just a few extra minutes to ensure the safety of our children. We, at Menard Electric, would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Halloween.

With the thermometer now beginning to dip, many members' thoughts turn to the efficiency of their existing heating system. If you find yourself in this situation and would like information about the most-

efficient system on the market today, please contact the Cooperative office and ask for information on a geothermal heating and cooling system.

Office closings

The cooperative office will be closed on Monday, November 11, in observance of Veteran's Day. The office will be open for regular business on Tuesday, November 12.

The cooperative office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29, in observance of Thanksgiving. The office will resume normal business hours on Monday, December 2. We would like to wish all of our members a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Electric heat rebate back for 1991-92

During the September board meeting, your directors decided to continue the Electric Heat Rebate Program for the coming winter season. As you may recall, the rebates are given to all members who use electricity as their primary source of heat.

This year's rebate will be 4.0 cents per kilowatt-hour for every kilowatt-hour used over 1,000 during the billing months of December, January and February.

For those members who have recently installed electric heat as their primary source of heat and would like to receive this year's rebate, we ask that you complete the information found in the next column 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 1991-92 list of recipients.

Members who have completed this process in previous years do not have to submit the following information.

I have one of the following as a primary source of heat:

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

Name _____

Address _____

Account No. _____

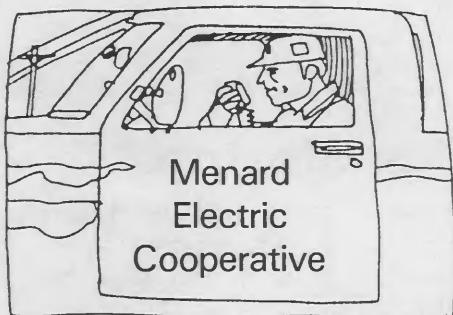
Telephone No. _____

Did you know

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Over the past few years, critics of the rural electrification program have criticized the federal government for supplying low-interest loans to rural cooperatives. These critics believe that the loans amount to nothing more than a subsidy to rural distribution cooperatives across the country. However, investor-owned utilities and municipalities also received assistance, although their assis-

tance is not through loans, but through various tax incentives. In fact, if the subsidies were based upon a per member or per consumer figure, you would find that rural electric cooperatives are subsidized \$51.28 per member, investor-owned utility consumers are subsidized \$64.73 per consumer, with municipalities subsidized \$90.71 per consumer.



Cooperative vehicles are clearly marked, and all cooperative employees have identification cards.



Be on the lookout for scam artists!

Apparently even the criminal element realizes that rural electric cooperatives have an extremely well-developed rapport with its members. In recent years there have been several incidents in other states where people posed as "employees" of a rural electric cooperative and demanded payment in cash in order to fix a "bogus" electric problem.

In one incident, three men went to the home of a rural cooperative member and claimed there was something wrong with the electric wiring. They told the member he/she would need to pay them \$900 (cash) in full or the service would be disconnected. Imposters even conducted a fake inspection of the member's home and barn. They then pretended to make two calls

to the Cooperative headquarters to make the scam seem real.

Menard Electric Cooperative would like to encourage all members to contact the Cooperative office if similar situations occur to them at their residence. All Menard Electric Cooperative employees have identification cards and will freely present them upon request.

Also, the Cooperative employees, with just a few exceptions, utilize Cooperative vehicles which are clearly marked. So, if you are approached and the employee does not have an identification card, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office.

Water beds

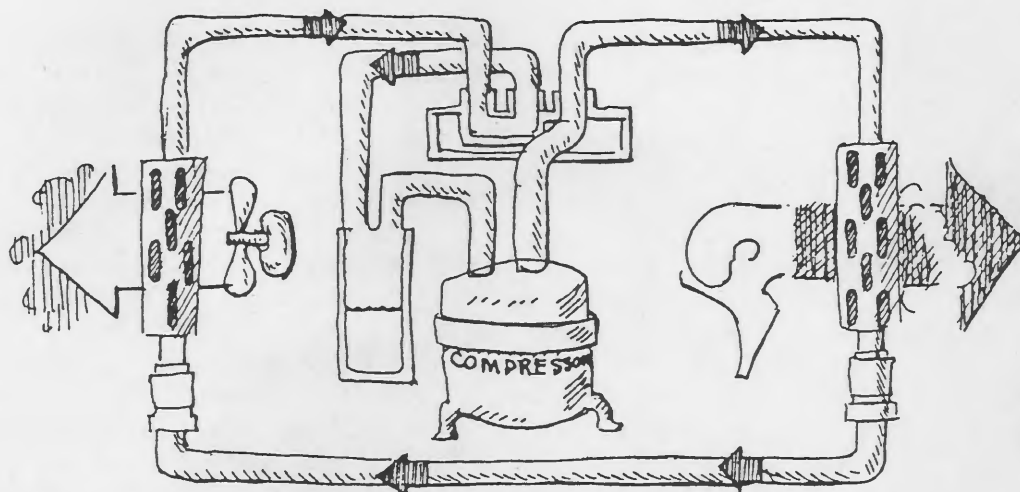
As the nights become longer and colder, many members rely on their water beds to keep them warm and comfortable. Unfortunately, most people are not aware of the cost of operating a water bed. A water bed is basically a large water heater. A heating pad laying under the water-filled mattress brings the temperature up to a comfortable level. The average heating pad size ranges between 250 and 400 watts, depending on the size of the bed.

To determine the impact of a water bed on your electric bill, consider the following: (1) how warm you want

the bed, (2) the temperature of the room in which the bed is located, and (3) whether the water bed is protected with insulation.

Many people do not consider insulating the bed to reduce heat loss. Insulation boards such as ½-inch polyethylene is a good material to use. Remember to keep the mattress covered completely with heavy blankets and quilts at all times to help retain the heat in the water. The less heat you lose from the mattress, the less it will cost you to operate.

Heat pump heating cycle



New technology for heat pumps

Over the past few years, heat pumps have gained wide acceptance in residential, commercial and industrial applications. Now there is a newly developed advanced heat pump that is the culmination of six years of joint funding and development by the Electric Power Research Institute and Carrier Corporation. The new advanced heat pump has cooling energy efficiencies up to 50 percent greater than the average model achieves today and has the capability of providing heat to your domestic hot water heater as well.

From the surface this new advanced heat pump looks very similar to its predecessors. Once the cover of the compressor unit is removed, there are some distinct differences. This new advanced heat pump utilizes an electronically commutated, permanent-magnet motor drive that allows it to achieve higher efficiencies because it can operate at variable speeds.

There is also a device that converts AC power into three-phase DC pulses, which permits the compressor

to operate at nearly any speed needed to match the heating or cooling load in your home. The new compressor reduces refrigerant flow and pressure losses, thus enabling it to achieve higher efficiencies. Today's conventional heat pump operates at one or two speeds. In many cases it operates faster and at higher speeds than necessary to heat or cool the home to a desired temperature. The new technology also offers better humidity control. When cooling is done at low speeds, moisture has a better chance to collect on the indoor coil and drop off.

Due to this newly developed technology, the new heat pumps have the capability of heating your home with efficiencies of up to 350 percent. The advanced heat pump can provide an operating cost savings as much as 46 percent.

For more information on heat pump advantages and savings you can obtain, contact the Member Services Department at your Cooperative.

Your Cooperative must have access to its equipment

It has been brought to our attention that access to Cooperative equipment is becoming difficult at some locations. This equipment includes meters, underground cable, transformers, and in some cases, overhead lines.

In situations where equipment cannot be reached because of overgrown trees, newly built fences, patios, dogs, etc., Menard Electric may have to enforce its "Right of Access" Policy. This policy states that, "Authorized representatives of the Cooperative shall have the right of access to the premises of the member at all reasonable times for the purpose of reading, testing or inspecting meters, connecting or disconnecting service, inspection of wiring and apparatus, and making repairs on lines or right-of-ways. Unreasonable deterrents to access of Cooperative facilities shall cause the service to be disconnected."



In order to avoid this situation, please take a moment to look around your home to make sure that all of the Cooperative's equipment is accessible. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, September 24, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Absent was director Robert I. Brauer. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg, REA field representative Stuart Churchill and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved with the addition of one Agreement for Electric Service, consideration of electric heat rebate and employment of engineering firm for rate study. The minutes of the August 27, 1991, regular board meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board.

The Inventory of Work Orders for August 1991 was approved. The board approved the payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved the membership and permit applications as presented. Also approved were electric service agreements for five members.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of August. Total margins year-to-date are under budget, however, are in line with the same period last year. He reviewed the Outage Summary for the month of August and indicated the Safety Report showed no lost time injuries or illnesses for the month. He then reviewed the Load Management Summary for the summer months of July and August. In spite of the summer being hotter and dryer than normal, implementation of our load management program was held to a minimum number of hours during the month of July and even fewer for the month of August. Load management was successful for the summer months and should be a benefit in our effort to maintain wholesale power cost to as low a level as possible.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the board for the month of August were approved. The Uncollectible Accounts were discussed and were approved to be written off as presented.

Director Bell reviewed the recent activities of the AIEC. He also pointed out the courses in the Continuing Education Program for Employees and Directors that were being recommended by the AIEC. A motion was passed to participate in the Continuing Education Program for 1991-92.

Directors Cline, Graff and Bell reported on the recent Region V meeting held in Springfield. The main

thrust of the meeting dealt with future REA funding.

Director Carls reported on the August board meeting of Soyland. He said the next Soyland board meeting would be September 25.

Staff assistant Hedberg reviewed the progress of the capital credit refunds to estates.

Manager Smith reported on the activities of Adams and Associates. He indicated they would be visiting the Cooperative in the coming weeks to evaluate our facility needs.

Stuart Churchill, REA field representative, reviewed the REA Statistical Profile Analysis. He indicated how the key indicators were calculated and commented on those that were either high or low.

Manager Smith presented a 10-year financial forecast for the board's consideration. After discussion, the board passed a resolution adopting the new Ten Year Financial Forecast.

The board discussed the need for additional loan funds and approved a resolution requesting a concurrent loan with REA and CFC totalling \$5-million to be available through 1996.

The board approved resolutions in regard to management signing the RS&I Compliance Revisions.

The board approved the policy revisions in regard to retirement age, group hospitalization, major medical and revisions of the RS&I policies.

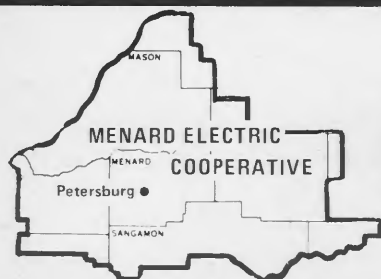
Under "Other Business" the board discussed the continuation of the Electric Heat Rebate Program. After discussion it was approved to extend the Electric Heat Rebate Program for the heating months of December 1991, January and February 1992. This will be a rebate of 4.0 cents per kilowatt for electrically heated homes on kilowatt-hours over 1,000 per month.

Manager Smith presented a request to employ Southern Engineering to do a "cost of service" study and a retail rate evaluation. It was approved to employ Southern Engineering to make these studies.

Manager Smith indicated that the Village of Riverton had refused the Cooperative's proposal for settlement of our territorial differences.

He indicated that a consent decree should be received from EPA on the Missouri Electric Works cleanup site sometime in the next few weeks. He recommended the board consult with the attorney prior to making a decision on whether or not to enter into the consent decree. The board agreed to talk to the attorney in this regard at their next board meeting. A motion was made and passed for the October 22 board meeting to begin at 4 p.m., with the presentation on the EPA consent decree by attorney Warren Krebs.

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



Menard Electric News

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

Co-op Comments

If you have an electric water heater and would like to save up to \$144 a year, please contact the Cooperative office and ask for information on our Load Management Program.

If you have an old, worn-out water heater and would like to replace it with a new, modern, high-efficiency unit, Menard Electric Cooperative would like to give you a rebate of \$150 for installing an electric water heater with a 40-gallon or larger storage capacity. For those members who are replacing a gas water heater with an electric heater, the Cooperative offers a rebate of \$175.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

If you need assistance to pay your electric bill, you may be eligible to participate in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). For details of this program you may wish to contact an agent in your area.

Logan, Mason and Menard counties residents should contact:

Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation
325 South Chicago Street
P.O. Box 846
Lincoln, IL 62656
Phone (217)732-2159

Macon County residents should contact:

Decatur Macon Community Opportunities Corporation
1122 East Marietta Street
Decatur, IL 62521
Phone (217)428-2193

Cass and Morgan county residents should contact:

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

Sangamon County residents should contact:

Sangamon County Department of Community Services
200 South 9th Street, Room 311
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone (217)535-3120

Tazewell County residents should contact:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
632 West Jefferson
Morton, IL 61550-1540
Phone (309)694-4391

Carroll and Imogene Cline of rural Pleasant Plains celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on October 1. Carroll is a director of your Cooperative serving the Petersburg/Pleasant Plains district.

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 gun shots can be dangerous, not only to you, but to other hunters as well.

Jeff and Joni Schenkel of Athens are the proud parents of a baby boy, Cody Dean, born on October 21 and weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces. Jeff is a first-year apprentice lineman for your Cooperative. Best wishes and congratulations!!!

Happy Thanksgiving

Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The office will resume normal working hours on Monday, December 2.



Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, October 22, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, attorney Warren D. Krebs, and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved with the addition of member requests items under "Other Business." The minutes of the September 24, 1991, regular board meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board. The Inventory of Work Orders for September 1991 was approved. The board also approved the payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved 48 new memberships and nine permit applications as presented. One electric service agreement was approved.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury presented the Special and Member Services Report for the third quarter. After comments, the report was approved by the board.

Manager Smith introduced attorney Krebs from the firm Parr, Richey, Obremsky & Morton, Indianapolis, Indiana. Attorney Krebs represents the Cooperative in the Missouri Electric Works (MEW) and EPA site cleanup at Cape Girardeau, Mo. Mr. Krebs reviewed the consent decree that had been mailed to the Cooperative by EPA. He said that it had been worked out with the (MEW) Steering Committee and EPA in an effort to find a feasible solution to the Cape Girardeau site. He pointed out the pluses of the consent decree and also indicated the shortcomings. After his presentation Mr. Krebs answered questions from the board relative to the implications of signing or not signing the consent decree. The board approved the Cooperative signing the consent decree with the Environmental Protection Agency as a settling defendant.

Manager Smith presented an interim assessment from the MEW Steering Committee for funds to enable the Steering Committee to pay current bills.

The board decided to retain Krebs to investigate and pursue efforts to have the insurance company that insured the Cooperative at the time of the MEW site contamination, cover the expenses of the cleanup operation.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of September. The total margins for the month of September were about \$275,000; bringing

total margins for the year-to-date to about \$80,000 below budget. He reviewed expense items for the month and commented that kilowatt-hours sales were running above budget. All of the Soyland distribution cooperatives were experiencing greater-than-budgeted kilowatt-hours sales for the year. The Outage Summary for the month of September was compared to September, 1990, and there were fewer outage hours this year. Year-to-date outage hours per consumer are substantially less than 1990. The Safety Report showed one accident. It was not a lost-time accident, thereby continuing the no lost-time period for 1991. The board reviewed the temporary investments, the performance ratios and balance sheet. The board approved the Manager's Report as presented.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the board for the month of September were approved. The Uncollectible Accounts were discussed and approved to be written off as presented.

Director Bell reviewed recent activities of the AIEC. As a conclusion of his report a short video entitled "Fifty years then and now—a story of AIEC" was shown to the board.

Director Carls reported on the September and October Soyland board meetings. He stated that the Soyland Budget for 1992 had been given to the Finance Committee and would be discussed in length with the entire board prior to the November board meeting. He said that Menard's costs were up slightly due to the increased fixed costs being put into the Soyland budget. However, energy costs should be lower as the Clinton plant is operating at 100 percent giving us the advantage of having low cost kilowatt-hour production.

Manager Smith reported on the activities of the National Food and Energy Council and the board approved the renewal of membership in the NFEC.

Manager Smith reviewed the progress of the capital credit estate refunds.

The Building Committee reported on the recent activities of Adams & Associates. Manager Smith commented that Adams & Associates had been at the site within the past month and requested the Building Committee to meet with them to evaluate their progress.

"Menard Electric Cooperative vs The Village of Riverton" was commented on by manager Smith.

Under "Other Business" the board discussed several member requests. After discussion the board authorized management to advise the members that the current policies would be followed. The Labor Committee is to meet Tuesday evening, October 29 at 6 p.m. and the Building Committee will make plans to meet with Adams & Associates in mid November.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Electric heat rebate for 1991-92

During the September board meeting, your directors decided to continue the Electric Heat Rebate Program for the coming winter season. Rebates are given to all members who use electricity as their primary source of heat.

This year's rebate will be 4.0 cents per kilowatt-hour for every kilowatt-hour used over 1,000 during the billing months of December, January and February.

For those members who have recently installed electric heat as their primary source of heat and would like to receive this year's rebate, we ask that you complete the information found in the next column 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 1991-92 list of recipients.

Members who have completed this process in previous years do not have to submit the information.

I have one of the following as a primary source of heat:

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

Name _____

Address _____

Account No. _____

Telephone No. _____

Excerpts from Menard Electric Cooperative's Policy Manual

Section IV

Member Obligations

... The member shall protect the equipment of the Cooperative on his premises and shall not interfere with nor alter, nor permit interference with or alteration of, the Cooperative meters or other property except by duly authorized representatives of the Cooperative. ...

Meter Tampering and/or Diversion

Tampering with Cooperative meters to cause a reduction of electric usage or diversion of electric use around the meter will subject said service to all costs involved in restoring the meter and service to its proper order, the estimated kilowatt-hour consumption over the period of time involved in the tampering or diversion, plus a \$100.00 service charge.

Unauthorized Connection or Reconnection

Any service that has been connected or reconnected by a member regardless of the reason for disconnection, shall be subject to a \$25.00 service charge in addition to all charges necessary to connect or re-establish this service.

It is unfortunate that during recent weeks, cooperative personnel have found some load management control devices inoperative and electric meters which appear to have been tampered with.

Actions which attempt to achieve credits and rebates that are not due or diverts electric energy are against the law. More importantly it adds to the cost of service for all members.

If you are aware of situations as listed above, PLEASE contact Menard Electric Cooperative, so that corrective action can be taken and your cost held to as low a level as possible.

Have a safe holiday season

As you and your family celebrate during the holiday season, we encourage the following wise-energy use practices:

- Make sure your tree is placed away from fireplaces, candles, space heaters, electrical appliances and other heat sources that might dry it out, or ignite it.
- Turn off tree lights overnight or when you're away from home.
- Keep paper decorations and tinsel away from hot lights.

Above all, enjoy this festive time. And, greet the New Year with energy, health and happiness!



Did you know ???

Did you know that rural electric cooperatives in the United States own and maintain one-half of all the power lines and cover two-thirds of the country? Cooperatives provide electricity to approximately 10 percent of the population.

Menard Electric Cooperative has approximately 2,450 miles of energized line serving all or parts of eight counties in central Illinois. We

have 3.4 members per mile of line, while investor-owned utilities in Illinois serve 42.52 consumers per mile. Municipalities serve 102.08 consumers per mile.

Menard Electric Cooperative receives average revenue per mile of line of \$4,521; investor-owned utilities in Illinois receive \$74,242; and municipalities receive \$145,179 per mile of line.

Your best heating and air conditioning value begins with a G. But it's not gas. It's GeoThermal.

GeoThermal Heating, Cooling and Water Heating. We call it System:GT.™ GeoThermal Heating, Cooling and Water Heating is a system that collects heat from liquid circulated through pipes buried in the earth. This method concentrates the heat, then circulates comfortable, warm air throughout your home. The ability to move heat is the secret of System:GT's incredible efficiency. In fact, the most efficient gas and oil furnaces use three times as much energy to create heat as System:GT uses to move the same amount of heat. Simply stated, it is the most efficient heating system available today.

System:GT can air condition your home in the summer by reversing its heat moving process—and the efficiency is just as spectacular as its heating capability. System:GT can provide a 30 percent

gain in air conditioning efficiency when compared to other air conditioning methods.

System:GT can heat your water too. It can satisfy virtually all of your water heating needs in the summer at no additional cost. Winter savings can be as much as 40 percent.

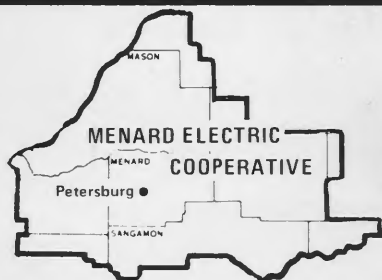
In short, System:GT provides year-round comfort while combining the wise use of energy resources with the lowest possible operating cost. It is convenient, safe and clean. It's the latest in heating and cooling technology.

For your free copy of System:GT—Your Guide to GeoThermal Heating, Cooling and Water Heating—

call 1-800-872-1203

Menard Electric Cooperative.





Menard Electric News

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1-800-872-1203 217-632-7746

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Dorland W. Smith

From the manager

By Dorland W. Smith

The Holiday Season is my favorite time of year. It's a time when the cold, crisp air is filled with the ringing sound of silver bells. Stockings are hung and plans are made for the annual arrival of you know who. Families unite and the warm feeling of giving fills the hearts of people everywhere.

The employees and directors of your Cooperative know this feeling well. They give all that they have every day of the year to ensure that our members receive the best service possible. They know the feeling of pride upon the completion of a job well done and the satisfaction of knowing another member's needs have been met. We are here to serve you and are willing to do so 365 days a year. At Menard Electric Cooperative, service is a reality and is as real as the Holiday Season.

On behalf of the Employees and Directors of your Cooperative; God bless you and have a happy and safe Holiday Season.

Office closing

The Cooperative office will be closed Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday. The Cooperative office will also be closed Wednesday, January 1, in celebration of the New Year.

MERRY

CHRISTMAS TO OUR
FRIENDS OLD AND NEW.

WE WISH YOU THE SEASON'S
BEST.

Rebates for electric heat installations continue in 1992 for Menard members

During the November board meeting, your directors elected to continue the Cooperative's electric heat rebate program. Under this program members receive a rebate for installing one of the most efficient heating and cooling systems on the market today. This means you can now pay less on heating and cooling bills because of the 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 system. In order to qualify, members must install an air-to-air heat pump that has a SEER of 10.0 or greater. Once this requirement is met the member will receive a \$250 per ton rebate. In the case of the geothermal system a member

will receive \$333 per cooling ton providing the unit also has a SEER of 10.0 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.

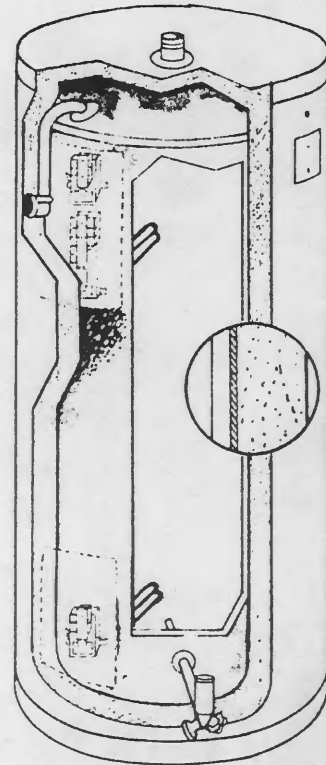
For those members who install ceiling cable or baseboard electric heat, Menard also retains a \$50 per room rebate (bathrooms excluded), with a maximum of \$300 per household. If you have any questions concerning these rebates or would like to find out more about these systems or how they can save you, please contact the member services department at your Cooperative office.

Electric water heater rebates return for 1992

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors has agreed to continue the electric water heater rebate program for 1992. Under this program members who install an electric water heater having a 40-gallon storage capacity or larger can receive a one-time rebate of \$150. For members who install an electric water heater that replaces a fossil-fired water heater, the rebate is \$175.

Once the water heater has been installed, simply call the Cooperative office. We will dispatch a Cooperative employee to visually verify the installation and double-check the size. Once the verification has been completed, the necessary paper work will be set in motion and the appropriate rebate check will be mailed to the member.

If you have recently installed a water heater and have not received your rebate, please complete the information below and return it to the Cooperative. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact your Cooperative.



Electric water heater rebate

Name

Daytime Phone Number

Account Number

Size Water Heater

Brand of Water Heater

David Atterberry retires after 41 years of service



Atterberry

After serving your Cooperative for more than 41 years, David Atterberry has decided to hang up his hooks. On January 3, 1992, Dave will retire after working longer than any employee has ever worked for the Cooperative.

Dave began working for Menard Electric Cooperative on July 24, 1950, as a temporary employee on the tree crew. Dave quickly moved up the ladder to his current position as an area serviceman serving the areas of Harrisburg, Illiopolis, Lanesville, Buffalo, Dawson, Mechanicsburg, Sherman, Niantic, Williamsville and Riverton. Dave said that "one of the biggest changes over the years was in the area of technology and equipment." He recalls when he started "many of the poles had to be installed by

hand but now trucks equipped with digger derricks do most of that back-breaking work."

During his retirement Dave plans to spend time with his wife and family, and playing cards with his friends. Dave enjoys the outdoors so it is no wonder he also plans to spend some of his time hunting, fishing and traveling.

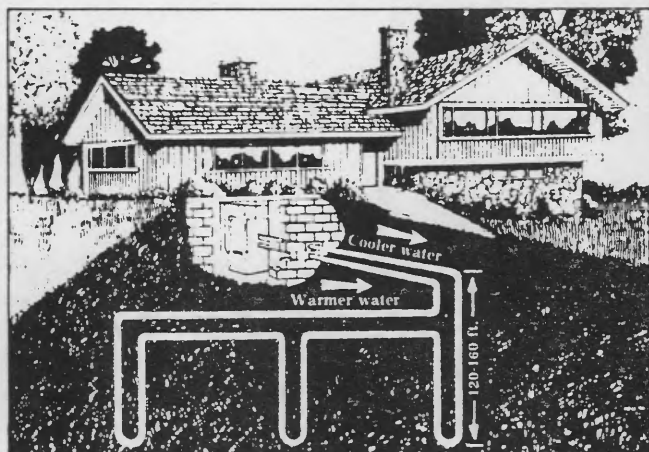
It goes without saying that Dave's experience will be sorely missed. His compassion in dealing with members and his dedication are the qualities we will miss most.

On behalf of the Cooperative we thank him for his years of service and we wish Dave and Audrey many happy years of retirement.

Why not look at a geothermal heating and cooling system!

A geothermal system takes advantage of energy stored within the earth. This stored energy is collected from the sun's energy striking the earth. Solar energy is absorbed by the ground around your home all year long.

The geothermal system uses this huge mass of stored



energy to heat your home by utilizing two main components: the buried closed-loop (a series of pipes that circulates an anti-freeze solution that transfers the

heat), and the inhouse unit that, through a refrigeration process, extracts the heat from the anti-freeze solution and transfers the heat into the house. All of this is done without a visible outdoor compressor unit. Everything is in a conditioned living space, whether it be in a basement, crawl space or closet.

In the cooling mode, the indoor unit extracts heat from the air inside the home and transfers it into the loop, which deposits the heat to the ground outside.

In addition to these advantages of being able to heat and cool your house more efficiently than any other system on the market today, the geothermal system can provide you with a substantial amount of hot water. This could help to reduce your annual water heating costs up to 60 percent.

Remember, members who install geothermal heating and cooling systems will receive rebates from the Cooperative of \$333 per cooling ton. Members can also contact the Cooperative office and receive printed information on the geothermal system, as well as having a cost analysis done on their home.

For more information about the geothermal heating and cooling system, please contact the Member Services Department at the cooperative office.

Board meeting report

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, November 26, 1991, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by president Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to Goetsch were Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Carroll F. Cline, Morris L. Bell, Robert I. Brauer, Gary L. Martin, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Also present were manager Dorland W. Smith, special services coordinator Earl L. Pillsbury, staff assistant Gerald E. Hedberg, system engineer David H. Crosnoe, general foreman Terry W. Entwistle, office manager Wayne E. Jones, and attorney Charles K. Smith.

The agenda for the meeting was approved as printed in the director's work book. The minutes for the October 22, 1991, board meeting were approved as presented and mailed to the board.

The Inventory of Work Orders for October 1991 was approved. Manager Smith answered several questions relative to the bills submitted and the board then approved the payment of invoices as represented by the list of checks mailed to the board with the notice of the meeting. The board approved 47 new membership applications and six permit applications. Also approved were three electric service agreements.

Manager Smith presented the Operating Report for the month of October 1991. The total margins for the month were approximately \$68,000 over budget. Total margins year-to-date are approximately \$14,000 less than budget. Manager Smith reviewed the Outage Summary for the month of October. He indicated that the Safety Report showed no lost-time injuries or illnesses for the month. Manager Smith answered several questions in regard to the Operating Report and the board approved the same.

Special Occasion Vouchers for the month of October were approved. The Uncollectible Accounts were discussed and approved to be written off as presented. Staff assistant Hedberg reviewed the status of the capital credit refund for estates. The Capital Credit

Committee will meet and prepare a general capital credit refund program for the board's consideration at the December meeting.

Director Bell reviewed the recent activities of the AIEC. Of interest to the board was the discussion of the legislative redistricting, for the U.S. House of Representatives and the State Representatives and Senators.

Director Carls reported on the recent Soyland board meeting. He mentioned that the 1992 budget had been reviewed by the Finance Committee of Soyland and was adopted at the board's recent meeting. Menard Electric's wholesale power cost from the Soyland budget will be increasing this year.

Manager Smith then requested the staff members in attendance to review with the board their preliminary budgets for each department.

Special services coordinator Pillsbury presented to the board for consideration changes in the employees medical insurance program through NRECA. After some discussion, his recommendations were approved by the board.

Director Allspach, chairman of the Building Committee, discussed with the board the committee's recent visit with Adams & Associates, as they continue to examine the future needs of the Cooperative. The board recommended that the Building Committee ask the architects to complete their study and make their presentation to the board, possibly in January.

Director Worner, chairman of the Labor Committee, reported on the recent meeting of the Committee and recommended manager Smith proceed with his discussions with the neighboring cooperatives.

President Goetsch requested the staff and manager leave the board room and the board went into executive session for the annual appraisal of the Cooperative manager.

Upon return to open session, there being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the board of directors will be Friday, December 20, at 1 p.m.

Attention holiday vacationers

With the holiday season upon us, many members travel in order to celebrate Christmas and New Year's with family and friends. All too often upon their return, members notice very little decrease in their electric bills. The cause of this phenomenon is not easily answered because there are a number of situations that could contribute to the bill remaining higher than anticipated.

One factor could be the days you were away from home fell between two billing periods. Another cause could have been an increase in laundry before your departure or after your return. Keep in mind that even while you are away major appliances such as refrigera-

tors, water heaters, freezers, etc. continue to run. Heat, although this is usually turned back to a lower setting, continues to run while you are away.

To save energy while you are away, you many want to consider lowering thermostats in both the furnace and water heater. Turn off those appliances that are not needed, such as the humidifier and dehumidifiers; and unplug stereos and televisions. As you can see there are a number of variables that can contribute to your usage and these are only a few of those possibilities. If you have any questions about your electric bill, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office.