

These Special Features Maximize Your Protection

● You Are Guaranteed Acceptance

You cannot be turned down for this coverage. And, there are no medical exams to take, or health questions to answer, regardless of your health or age. Of course, we can guarantee your acceptance for one policy only.

● First Day Protection

Your cash benefits are paid from the VERY FIRST DAY of any covered hospital stay. You do not pay any deductible.

● Benefits For A Lifetime

Your cash benefits are paid for EVERY DAY of covered hospitalization. No matter how many days you are hospitalized, or how many times. Even for life!

● Pays On Top Of Any Insurance

That includes group insurance, major medical coverage, workers' compensation, prepaid health plans—even Medicare. And your benefits are not subject to state or Federal income tax.

● Money To Spend As You Choose

Your checks will come directly to you, unless you tell us otherwise. These cash benefits are yours to use in any way you wish.

● Coverage Is Good At Any Hospital

Your Protection Plus coverage is good at any hospital, anywhere in the world—even federal and VA hospitals. The only exceptions are nursing homes, convalescent, extended care or self-care units of hospitals.

● Rate And Renewal Safeguard

No matter how many claims you file—or how much money you collect—we guarantee to renew your protection for as long as you wish. Only you can cancel your coverage. And, the only way your rate can ever change is if we raise the rate on all policies like this in your state.

● Please Note These Limitations

For confinement due to mental illness, half benefits are paid for up to 30 days. Old health problems (those that became evident or were treated before the effective date of your policy) are not covered for the first year. But once that year is up, even a health problem you've had for years is covered!

● Four Plans To Fit Family Needs

You can choose the Individual Plan for just yourself, the Husband-Wife Plan for yourself and your spouse . . . or you can include all your eligible dependent children under either the One-Parent or All-Family Plan. And everyone you insure receives the same full benefit protection you receive. There are no reductions for your spouse or children.

● Money-Back Guarantee

If you are not 100% satisfied with your policy (P500 series), just send it back to us within 30 days. You'll receive a complete refund of your premium. No questions asked.

Your First Month's Premium Is Only \$1.00! Then Continue At The Low Rates Shown Below:

OPTION A

Pays \$2,250.00 A Month—\$75.00 A Day!

| 39 & under | 40 & over |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| (use age of principal insured) | |

| | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| Individual | \$18.45 | \$21.20 |
| Husband-Wife | 34.35 | 39.30 |
| All-Family | 44.15 | 49.10 |
| One-Parent | 28.25 | 31.00 |

OPTION B

Pays \$1,500.00 A Month—\$50.00 A Day!

| 39 & under | 40 & over |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| (use age of principal insured) | |

| | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| Individual | \$12.95 | \$14.95 |
| Husband-Wife | 24.35 | 28.05 |
| All-Family | 31.15 | 34.85 |
| One-Parent | 19.75 | 21.75 |

OPTION C

Pays \$900.00 A Month—\$30.00 A Day!

| 39 & under | 40 & over |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| (use age of principal insured) | |

| | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| Individual | \$ 8.55 | \$ 9.95 |
| Husband-Wife | 16.35 | 19.05 |
| All-Family | 20.75 | 23.45 |
| One-Parent | 12.95 | 14.35 |

NOTE: Your renewal rate does not increase when you move from one age group to another.

Your Policy Will Arrive In This Handsome Document Holder



This sturdy, attractive portfolio is perfect for your policy and all your valuable personal papers. It's yours to keep even if you decide not to continue your protection.

Get One Month of Protection Free

You can save over 8% by paying premiums once a year, instead of each month. That's like getting one month of protection free!

Special Toll-Free Policyowner Hotline

As a Physicians Mutual policyowner, you'll have a direct line to the home office whenever you have questions about your coverage or need help with a claim.

Enroll Today—Here's How:

Complete your guaranteed acceptance form and mail with \$1.00 to: Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, 2600 Dodge, P.O. Box 3313, Omaha, Nebraska 68172.

GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE FORM—Physicians Mutual Protection Plus Hospital Plan

(Please Print)

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|------|-----------|-----|
| NAME _____ | First | Middle Initial | Last | | |
| ADDRESS _____ | Street | Apt. No. | City | State | Zip |
| PHONE NO. () _____ (for customer service only) | SEX (check one) Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |
| DATE OF BIRTH _____ | Month | Day | Year | AGE _____ | |
| Choose the Plan You Want (check one) | | Select Option You Prefer (check one) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Plan 4 <input type="checkbox"/> All-Family Plan 1 | | <input type="checkbox"/> OPTION A Pays \$2,250.00 a month (\$75.00 a day) 69331-503 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Husband-Wife Plan 3 <input type="checkbox"/> One-Parent Plan 2 | | <input type="checkbox"/> OPTION B Pays \$1,500.00 a month (\$50.00 a day) 69331-502 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OPTION C Pays \$900.00 a month (\$30.00 a day) 69331-501 | | | | | |
| Information About Your Spouse (complete if you have chosen the Husband-Wife or All-Family Plan) | | | | | |
| SPOUSE'S NAME _____ | | | | | |
| DATE OF BIRTH _____ | | | | | |
| SEX _____ | | | | | |

I enclose my first month's premium of \$1.00. I understand the policy is not in force until issued and benefits will not be paid for old health problems unless confinement begins one year after the issue date.

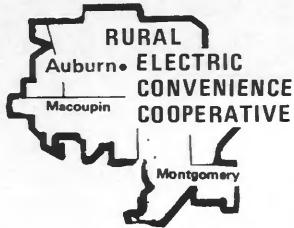
SIGNED X _____

Insured's Signature SIGN—DO NOT PRINT

Form E-500-1

Please make check or money order payable to: Physicians Mutual 2600 Dodge P.O. Box 3313 Omaha, Nebraska 68172

P503/502/501-4844A



Rural Hilights

Board of directors: Jim Ayers, Richard Carpani, Kevin Duewer, George Hart, Curtis Hays, Lynn Johnson, John H. Stephens, Gregory Wilson, and Lyle Yeaman.
Manager: Roy D. Goode.

RURAL ELECTRIC CONVENIENCE COOPERATIVE CO.

217-438-6197

AUBURN, ILLINOIS

Blinking clocks—the reason

Electric utilities from rural Florida to metropolitan Seattle are being besieged with questions and complaints from residential consumers about trouble with digital clocks. Interruptions in the power supply, even those lasting fractions of a second, will often upset or "crash" the electronic display in these clocks causing them to literally go on the blink.

In response to requests from utilities to do something about blinking digital clocks, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has been studying the problem since mid-1989. Their power electronics and controls staff people are working to understand the problem, develop solutions and relay helpful information on digital clocks to utilities, their customers and the manufacturers.

One of the key findings by the power electronics and controls staff is that momentary power interruptions, more than any other electrical disturbance, cause digital clocks to blink. Phenomena such as surges and sags in voltage, long-term undervoltage or interference from the operation of other kinds of equipment nearby are generally not the culprits.

Momentary power interruptions—usually lasting less than 30 seconds and often less than a single second—are a result of utilities' automatic switching operations performed to avoid serious long-term outages from natural events such as lightning strikes, tree limbs touching power lines, high winds blowing lines together and even human activities involving kites to cars.

Let's look at a momentary power interruption. A building wind stirs tree limbs into motion until, at last, one of them briefly brushes a high-voltage line feeding a neighborhood of rural residences. This brief touching of limb and line creates a short circuit that is instantly detected by sensitive relays. They open circuit breakers to stop the flow of electricity. This allows the limb to blow away from the line. The relay then recloses the circuit breakers to restore the line to service. The whole process may take less than a second—you may not even notice the flicker—but that may be long enough to crash the displays of digital clocks.

From a utility standpoint, the system is operating as it should and always has. It is working automatically to prevent outages of long duration. These momentary

interruptions generally have no major adverse consequences on any equipment or operations, except they upset digital clock displays and aggravate consumers all over the nation and the world.

If the utilities have all handled momentary interruptions so skillfully and so handily for so many years, why then are we suddenly confronted with this seemingly unsolvable puzzle?

Well, the study group at EPRI has discovered that older clocks, manufactured in the 1970's, contained temporary energy storage devices called capacitors in their internal electric wiring that were larger than those in clocks of more recent manufacture. These larger capacitors provided a "ridethrough" time of 2 to 10 seconds—enough to tolerate most momentary interruptions. Newer clocks, perhaps to shave production costs, generally have much smaller capacitors that provide little or no ridethrough time.

And there you have it. Electric service is as dependable as it has always been. But with today's more sensitive micro-electronics, the perception of consumers is that the electric service is deteriorating. That just isn't the case.

There are some bright spots, however, in the blinking clock picture. EPRI has found that almost all clocks manufactured since the mid-1980's have a battery ridethrough capability to keep them going even during an extended outage. Unfortunately, most consumers either are not aware that a battery can be installed or they just plain forget to install one. If you are contemplating buying a new digital clock or appliance, insist that it have this battery backup.

EPRI is also formulating design changes for the Asian manufacturers of digital clocks. One solution being considered would be a rechargeable nickel-cadmium battery of the kind built into some of the VCR's on the market. Another approach EPRI is considering is sponsoring the development of generic digital clock circuit designs that will accommodate a rechargeable battery, a low-battery indicator, or an automatic reset button. These designs would be made available to the Asian manufacturers.

So don't despair. There may be a non-blinking clock in your future.

Earn Up to \$1,000 REBATE

When You Update Your Heating System Or Appliances!

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

Rebates available only to members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. who are in good standing and in compliance with all Cooperative policies and bylaws. A member is eligible for a rebate only if all electricity, consumed on premises within the Cooperative's service area owned by member or in which member has a legal or equitable interest, is provided by the Cooperative. In addition, member agrees, in consideration of the rebate, not to terminate his membership in the Cooperative, without the approval of the Cooperative's board of directors. Rebates can be earned for any qualifying electric equipment installed.

| | REBATE |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geothermal Heating, Cooling and Water Heating System | \$ 1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or Remodel Home to Total Electric (Payable \$400 per year for two years) | \$ 800 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Pump | \$ 400 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Water Heater | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Base Board or Ceiling Cable Heat, per room | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Clothes Dryer | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Converting from Gas Clothes Dryer to Electric Clothes Dryer | \$ 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Converting from Gas Water Heater to Electric Water Heater | \$ 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sun-Twin Heater | \$ 125 |

Call now for more information on your cooperative's rebate program or for information on clean, safe electric heat. Or send us your name and address and we'll contact you.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Member's Signature _____ Phone _____

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co.

P.O. Box 19, Auburn, IL 62615

Telephone: 1-800-245-RECC 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

438-6197 Non-business hours

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

Illinois law requires smoke detectors

Illinois law requires that every dwelling unit have smoke detector protection. These smoke detectors should be either the ionization or photoelectric type and approved by Underwriters' Laboratories.

Every dwelling must have at least one approved smoke detector in an operating condition within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes. The detector should be installed on the ceiling at least six inches from any wall or on a wall four to six inches from the ceiling. Every single-family dwelling unit must have at least one smoke detector installed on every floor of the structure, including basements but not including unoccupied attics. In multiple-family or mixed-use units the owner is required to supply and install all smoke detectors, including those inside each living unit and at least one smoke detector at the uppermost ceiling of each interior stairwell.

If your home was completed before the end of 1987, you may use either battery-powered units

or AC-powered units. If your home was completed or substantially remodeled after December 31, 1987, you must have AC-powered units only. And if your new or remodeled dwelling requires more than one smoke detector, you must have them wired in an interconnected manner so that the actuation of one detector will create warnings at all detector locations.

Violation of the law is a Class B misdemeanor.

The law specifies minimum numbers of smoke detectors and establishes required locations. There may also be other locations in your home where smoke detectors would be appropriate. Fire safety experts say you should install detectors in several locations, such as near bedrooms, in hallways, living areas, and basements. If you have any questions about smoke alarms, contact your insurance company. Your electric cooperative may also have information about smoke detectors, and many cooperatives in the state have top-quality smoke detectors for sale at reasonable prices.

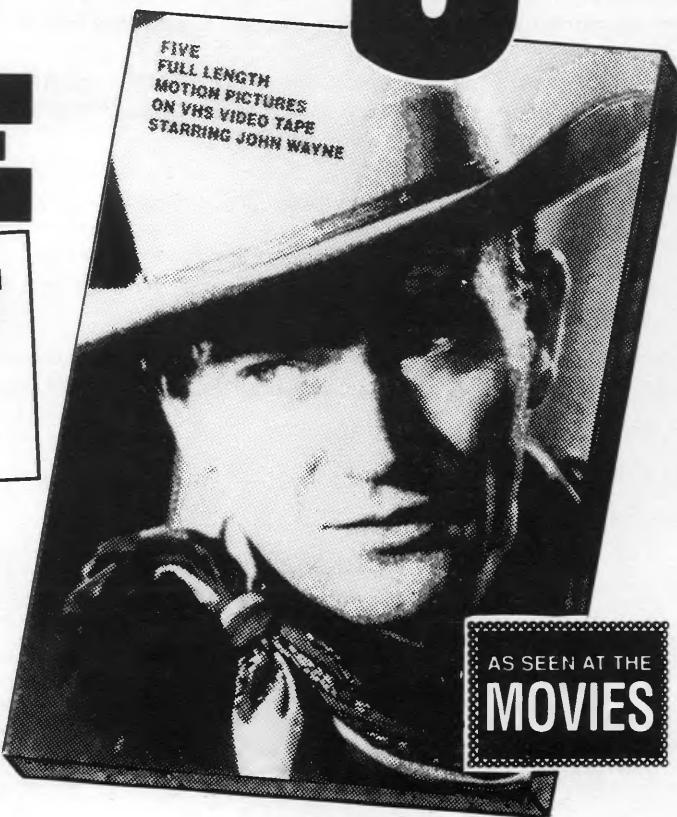
ATTENTION GREAT MOVIE LOVERS:

We are giving away **5**

JOHN WAYNE

Blockbuster Movies
ON VHS VIDEO TAPE

for less than
\$2 each!!



AS SEEN AT THE MOVIES

Some of the most extraordinary Westerns ever to come out of Hollywood have not been seen by moviegoers under fifty years old...

With this offer...NOT ANY MORE.

Here are five little known Blockbusters of yesteryear featuring the legendary John Wayne. All on super 1990-quality VHS Video Tape (for all your family and friends to enjoy again and again), for less than \$2 a movie.

Every full-length film is guaranteed to have you glued to your seat, couch, or bed from start to finish. From first gunshot to last.

In fact, we will put this guarantee in writing for you: *If you don't find this major collection of great John Wayne movies ("Angel and the Badman", "Blue Steel", "Lawless Range", "Helltown", "Desert Trail") a joy to view and own...we'll take back the collection for a full refund a YEAR from now.* (Of course, we expect you will love your movies and won't ever want to part with them. But you have the Guarantee.)

NOTE ABOUT THE SPECIAL PRICE

You are advised to respond at once to the \$2 give-away

offer, because it's part of a publicity promotion for releasing video tapes to the public – for the first time – by a mail order company. *When the promotion ends the offer will be withdrawn (advertising "coupons" will then no longer be accepted to obtain movies for \$2 each).*

Classic Movie Society

68 Washington Ave. • Dumont, NJ 07628

XN2ES1

Please rush me _____ Complete Collection(s) of 5 John Wayne feature movies on super 1990-quality VHS Video Tape for only \$9.95 each Collection. (Add just \$4 P & H no matter how many videos you order up to limit four.)

Enclosed is my Check/Money Order for \$ _____.
Or...charge my VISA MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ONE YEAR MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE!

©1990 IRPI

(NJ residents add sales tax.)

A PILLAR OF FLAMING TRUMPETS

HARDY HUMMINGBIRD VINE (CAMPsis RADICANS)

PRICES SLASHED

**AS
LOW \$2.24
AS EACH
IN QTY.**



ZOOMS ROOF HIGH THE FIRST YEAR!

No other flowering plant you can grow will attract hummingbirds faster than the fabulous trumpet vine. The very first year of planting the beautiful, hardy vines will climb skyward, grasping any kind of support . . . man-high within a few weeks . . . roof-high by mid-summer . . . a pillar of flaming red trumpet flowers, each loaded with nectar that hummingbirds find so irresistible, they return year after year to thrill you and your family. These plants are foolproof to grow, thrive even in poor soils, sun or shade. Climbs on its own, covering walls, arbors and fences in no time at all.

GARDENERS' CHOICE GUARANTEE

You must be delighted with your purchase. If not, return it for a prompt and full refund. All orders are processed immediately and notification will be sent in case of delay. Shipment is guaranteed in time for proper planting.



Mail to: Gardeners' Choice™ P.O. Box 237
Dept. SB50-EL, County Road 687, Hartford, MI 49057

Yes, I want to grow the Hummingbird Vine. Please rush me the number of plants checked below:

- 1 Hummingbird Vine . . . \$ 3.98 + \$1.50 P&H
- 3 Hummingbird Vines . . . \$ 7.98 + \$2.25 P&H
- 6 Hummingbird Vines . . . \$14.98 + \$2.75 P&H
- 12 Hummingbird Vines . . . \$26.98 + \$3.25 P&H

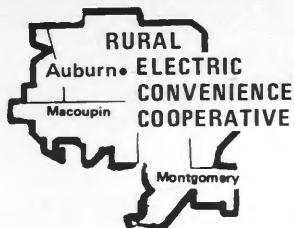
Total amount enclosed \$_____.

CA, MI and NY residents please add sales tax.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Rural Hilights

Board of directors: Jim Ayers, Richard Carpani, Kevin Duewer, George Hart, Curtis Hays, Lynn Johnson, John H. Stephens, Gregory Wilson, and Lyle Yeaman.
Manager: Roy D. Goode.

RURAL ELECTRIC CONVENIENCE COOPERATIVE CO.

217-438-6197

AUBURN, ILLINOIS

Earn Up to \$1,000 REBATE

When You Update Your Heating System Or Appliances!

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

Rebates available only to members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. who are in good standing and in compliance with all Cooperative policies and bylaws. A member is eligible for a rebate only if all electricity, consumed on premises within the Cooperative's service area owned by member or in which member has a legal or equitable interest, is provided by the Cooperative. In addition, member agrees, in consideration of the rebate, not to terminate his membership in the Cooperative, without the approval of the Cooperative's board of directors. Rebates can be earned for any qualifying electric equipment installed.

| | REBATE |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geothermal Heating, Cooling and Water Heating System | \$ 1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or Remodel Home to Total Electric | \$ 800 |
| (Payable \$400 per year for two years) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Pump | \$ 400 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Clothes Dryer | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Converting from Gas Clothes Dryer to Electric Clothes Dryer | \$ 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Converting from Gas Water Heater to Electric Water Heater | \$ 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sun-Twin Heater | \$ 125 |

Call now for more information on your cooperative's rebate program or for information on clean, safe electric heat. Or send us your name and address and we'll contact you.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Member's Signature _____ Phone _____

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co.

P.O. Box 19, Auburn, IL 62615

Telephone: 1-800-245-RECC 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
438-6197 Non-business hours

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

Rural TV service now available

If you're a satellite dish owner, you have probably experienced the frustrations of scrambled channels, something that many stations have been allowed to do the last few years.

A variety of Rural TV programming options might be the answer to your satellite dish problems.

In August 1986, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) formed a subsidiary—National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC). The purpose of NRTC is to make satellite

programming available to rural residents through electric and telephone cooperatives.

"Unlimited Visions" is a subsidiary of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in Paxton, which is set up to provide this Rural TV service; RECC members can now subscribe through EIEC.

You need a satellite dish and a decoder in order to use the Rural TV programming. Here's a list of programming and prices available through "Unlimited Visions":

Unlimited Visions Programming and Pricing

Basic Package 1 (15 channels)

| | | | Monthly Cost: | Annual Cost: |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| CNN | KTVT | HEADLINE NEWS | \$11.95 | \$120.00 |
| LIFETIME | ESPN | THE WEATHER CHANNEL | | |
| USA | WTBS | NICKELODEON | | |
| ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT | FAMILY CHANNEL | WGN | | |
| WPIX | NASHVILLE NETWORK | DISCOVERY CHANNEL | | |

Basic Package 2

(Same as Basic 1 without ESPN)

\$10.95 \$105.00

Expanded Basic (22 Channels)

(Same as Basic 1 above with additional channels shown below)

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------|----------|
| PRIME NETWORK | PRIME TIME 24 | SKYLINE SILVER | \$17.95 | \$185.00 |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------|----------|

G1 Package (10 Channels)

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------|---------|
| A + E | CNN HEADLINE NEWS | CNN | \$8.95 | \$90.00 |
| DISCOVERY CHANNEL | ESPN | FAMILY CHANNEL | | |
| USA | NASHVILLE NETWORK | WGN | | |
| WTBS | | | | |



TIER CHANNELS

| | Monthly Cost: | Annual Cost: |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| PT 24 | \$3.50 | \$38.00 |
| SKYLINE SILVER | \$3.00 | \$32.00 |
| NETLINK | \$5.95 | \$60.00 |
| SSN | \$7.95 | \$87.00 |

PREMIUM CHANNELS

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|----------|
| HBO | \$7.95 | \$85.00 |
| CINEMAX | \$7.95 | \$85.00 |
| DISNEY | \$7.95 | \$85.00 |
| HBO/CINEMAX | \$14.95 | \$165.00 |
| HBO/DISNEY | \$14.95 | \$165.00 |
| CINEMAX/DISNEY | \$14.95 | \$165.00 |
| HBO/CINEMAX/DISNEY | \$20.95 | \$230.00 |
| STARION PREMIERE CINEMA | \$6.50 | \$72.00 |

Subscriber set-up fee — \$10.00 (one time charge to establish account)

Subscriber record changes — \$3.00

Note: ESPN, NETLINK, AND SSN are subject to territorial restrictions and occasional local event blackouts.

If you're interested in subscribing or simply want more information, you can contact:

"Unlimited Visions"

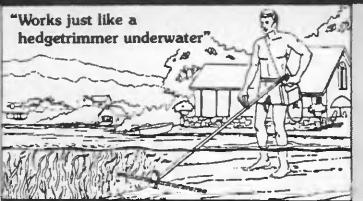
1-800-824-5102

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Note: RECC is not able to sign anyone up for the service or answer specific questions.

Control Water Weeds

Amazing new Underwater Harvesting Tool!
the WATER-WEEDER™ Harvester



Cut aquatic vegetation from a boat, from a dock or simply by wading in from shore. Control weed growth the environmentally safe way.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or money back!

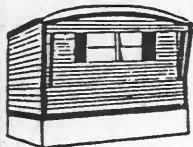
Call or write today for FREE information package.

TOLL FREE 1-800-552-1217

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Make Your Mobile Home Look Beautiful Again!



Install insulated siding on your mobile home.

You will save on your heating and cooling bills by adding an R-6 to your sidewalls.

Mobile Home Replacement Windows also available.

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25 TREES!

YOUR CHOICE OF 4 VARIETIES!

Only... \$59.95

Great for . . .

- Lawn Trees
- Bird Sanctuaries
- Wildlife Habitat
- Erosion Control
- Wind Rows
- Privacy Screens
- Christmas Trees
- Gifts



Colorado Blue
Scotch Pine
White Pine
Black Hill Spruce

Price Includes:

- Shipping & Handling • Tax
- Planting Instructions
- Trees packed in moist packing material in waxed box.

Trees are inspected by State of Wisconsin

Please fill in number of trees desired:

— 12-18" Col. Blue
— 18-28" Scotch Pine
— 12-18" White Pine
— 8-15" Blk. Hill Spr.

Name _____

Shipping Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Customer Telephone No. _____

Mail Check or Money Order to:
HAYWARD EVERGREENS, INC. — P.O. BOX 607 • HAYWARD, WI 54843 • 715/634-4511
Offer good through May 10, 1991 • Shipping Begins First Week of May 1991.

DENTURES

ONE DAY SERVICE
APPOINTMENT HIGHLY ADVISED
\$ 99

CUSTOM UPPER OR LOWER
ADA APPROVED MATERIALS

ABC Dental of Illinois
Arthur G. Romero, DDS
2 Smith St.
Carmi, IL 62821
(CORNER OF WALNUT & SMITH)
Appt. or Info. (Collect Calls Accepted)

(618) 382-3313

Simple Extractions

\$7 ea. w/U or L

ACRYLIC PARTIALS

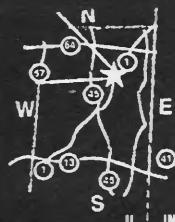
\$109 ea. U or L

OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE

8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

MONDAY thru FRIDAY

ABC DENTAL, CARMI



TRIMMER USERS! MOWER USERS!



YOU'LL LOVE our totally new DR™ TRIMMER/MOWER compared to the hassle of using any hand-held trimmer or any small-wheels rotary mower!

The Revolutionary DR rolls light as a feather on two BIG WHEELS! TRIMS far better and far more precisely than hand-held trimmers. Plus, has the POWER TO MOW everything from whole lawns to tough waist-high growth with incredible ease! Rocks, roots, stumps, etc. do it no harm because the DR has no steel blades to bend, break or dull. Perfect for use with riding mowers: takes the place of both your hand-held trimmer AND small-wheels rotary mower for finish-up trimming and mowing. For FREE DETAILS, prices, specifications of Manual & Electric Starting Models, Direct-from-Factory "Off-Season" Savings and our 30-Day Risk-Free Trial, please mail coupon below. Or, call (802) 425-2196. Either way, we'll look forward to hearing from you!

YES! Please rush complete FREE DETAILS of ALL FOUR Revolutionary DR™ TRIMMER/MOWERS including prices, models with and without Electric Starting, and Off-Season Savings now in effect. I understand there is no obligation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

To: COUNTRY HOME PRODUCTS, Dept. A1503, Box 89, Ferry Road, Charlotte, VT 05445

FOUR MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM!



©1991 CHP, INC.

spending, and it will improve our nation's environmental quality," said Mark Hopkins, author of the report. Hopkins reported that federal investment in energy conservation measures dropped from more than \$250 million five years ago to less than \$45 million in 1989. His report recommends establishment of a new energy management goal and the creation of a federal efficiency fund in the U.S. Department of Energy.

Feds should use farm fuels, corn growers say

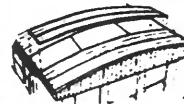
The government should use ethanol-blend fuels in its vehicles to show a commitment to alternative fuels, corn farmers say. Jack Kintzle, president of the National Corn Growers Association, says ethanol is an "alternative energy source that must be part of any national energy strategy." His group urged three steps to foster the development of renewable, farm-grown fuels: an immediate switch to using ethanol-blend fuels in government vehicles; guarantee that ethanol gets "an amount equal to research and development [funding] for other alternative fuels, and creation of an income tax credit for those investing in ethanol production. Corn is the premier source of ethanol, although wood pulp, grasses and other cellulose-containing plants are being studied as alternatives. The association says it would take an additional three million ears of corn to produce enough ethanol to supply 5 percent of U.S. fuel needs.

Each time you use a detergent, bleach, disinfectant or other household cleaner, it destroys necessary bacteria in your septic system. See the Dr. Drain septic tank and lateral line cleaner ad in this issue. Available at Wal-Mart.

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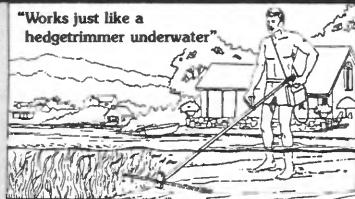
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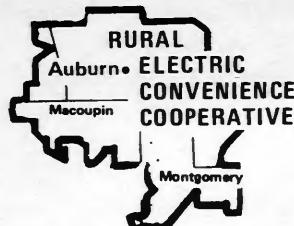
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To: COUNTRY HOME PRODUCTS, Dept. A1505
Box 89, Ferry Road, Charlotte, VT 05445 (802) 425-2196

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OR WRITE
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Rural Hilights

Board of directors: Jim Ayers, Richard Carpani, Kevin Duewer, George Hart, Curtis Hays, Lynn Johnson, John H. Stephens, Gregory Wilson, and Lyle Yeaman.
Manager: Roy D. Goode.

RURAL ELECTRIC CONVENIENCE COOPERATIVE CO.

217-438-6197

AUBURN, ILLINOIS

Del England to replace Roy Goode

Del L. England of Montgomery, Ala., has been selected by the Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. board of directors to serve as the cooperative's new manager. England will replace Roy D. Goode, who has been manager of the cooperative since April 1, 1968, and whose retirement begins May 31.

England's career in the electrical field began in childhood, when he helped his father install wiring in houses prior to electrification in rural Missouri.

His business career started in 1961 with Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Sales, Oakland, Calif. In 1972, England became office manager for Warren Rural Electric Cooperative, Bowling Green, Ky., moving to Fredericktown, Mo., in 1974 to become staff assistant/manager of office services for Black River Electric Cooperative.

From 1977 to 1978, England was assistant general manager of



England

Cookson Hill's Electric Cooperative, Stigler, Okla., before becoming general manager of Macon Electric Cooperative, Macon, Mo., a position he held until 1982. He then served as general manager of Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative, Rains-

ville, Ala., until 1985, when he became a rural electrification consultant for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Ltd. In that capacity, England and his wife, Betty, spent more than three years in Bangladesh, where he acted as technical assistance consultant to the Rural Electrification Board of that country's government.

Lynn Johnson of Virden, president of the RECC board of directors, said of England's hiring, "We are fortunate to have such a qualified person taking over the responsibilities of manager. Del's experiences in the technical and managerial aspects of rural electrification are sure to benefit our membership in the years ahead."

Rural Electric Convenience Co. provides electricity to 4,762 members in Christian, Macoupin, Montgomery, Morgan and Sangamon counties.

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, leave, 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!



Earn Up to \$1,000 REBATE

When You Update Your Heating System Or Appliances!

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

Rebates available only to members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. who are in good standing and in compliance with all Cooperative policies and bylaws. A member is eligible for a rebate only if all electricity, consumed on premises within the Cooperative's service area owned by member or in which member has a legal or equitable interest, is provided by the Cooperative. In addition, member agrees, in consideration of the rebate, not to terminate his membership in the Cooperative, without the approval of the Cooperative's board of directors. Rebates can be earned for any qualifying electric equipment installed.

| | REBATE |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geothermal Heating, Cooling and Water Heating System | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or Remodel Home to Total Electric | \$ 800 |
| (Payable \$400 per year for two years) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Pump | \$ 400 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Water Heater | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Base Board or Ceiling Cable Heat, per room | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Clothes Dryer | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Converting from Gas Clothes Dryer to Electric Clothes Dryer | \$ 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Converting from Gas Water Heater to Electric Water Heater | \$ 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sun-Twin Heater | \$ 125 |

Call now for more information on your cooperative's rebate program or for information on clean, safe electric heat. Or send us your name and address and we'll contact you.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Member's Signature _____ Phone _____

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co.

P.O. Box 19, Auburn, IL 62615

Telephone: 1-800-245-RECC 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
438-6197 Non-business hours

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

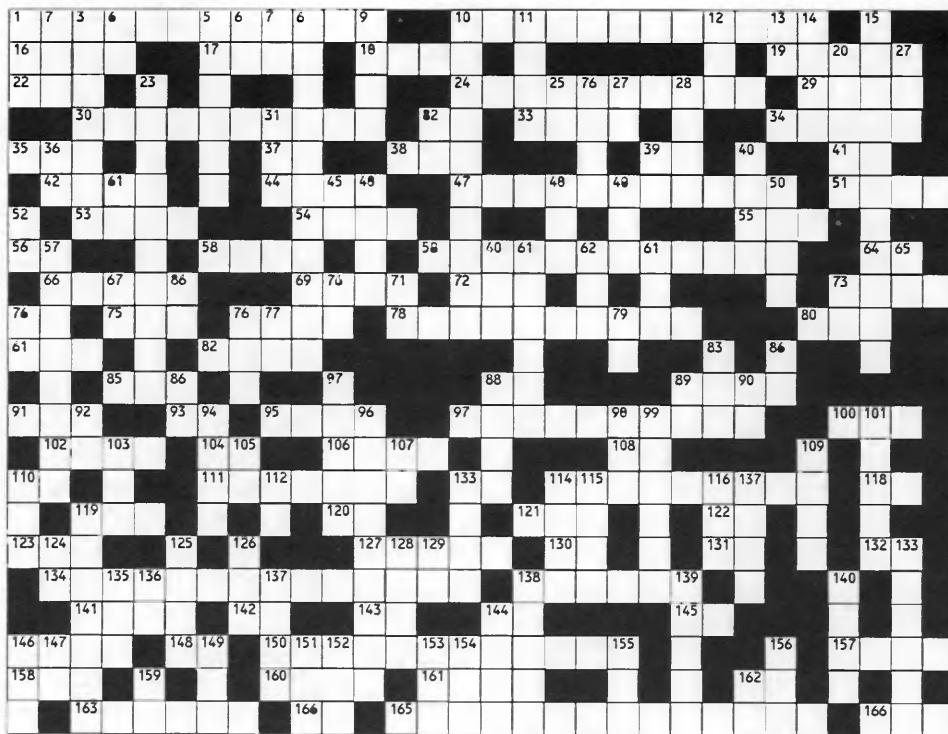
CROSSWIRES

By Judith M. Smith

#4

ACROSS

- Very bright
- To reform
- Music group from the 1960s
- Gas used in lighting
- Andy Taylor's son
- Beneath
- Measures resistance to current flow
- Internal heat of the earth
- Ireland
- Output
- Symbol for copper
- Troubles
- Selfishness
- Abbr.: standing room only
- Arkansas
- Lubricant
- Symbol for gold
- Abbr.: gigacycle
- Not new
- Aim
- Hard coal
- Deserve
- Not false
- Used with a hammer
- These are made of aluminum
- New Mexico
- ____ and proper
- Saving our resources
- Symbol for tellurium
- Our planet
- Garden of ____
- Decay
- 1/1000 of a dollar
- Abbr.: attorney general
- You find this at the end of your foot
- River ____
- Mete
- Charged particle
- Abbr.: Laboratory
- Used to catch fish
- Residue of cigarettes
- Not them
- Latin: journey
- Abbr.: journey
- Abbr.: Associated Press
- Opposite of To
- Mineral coal
- Goes with neither
- Hours, minutes, seconds
- Another name for a record
- To be obliged or compelled
- Massachusetts
- Abbr.: right
- Surrounding
- Maine
- Across the state
- Short for advertisement
- Opposite of beginning

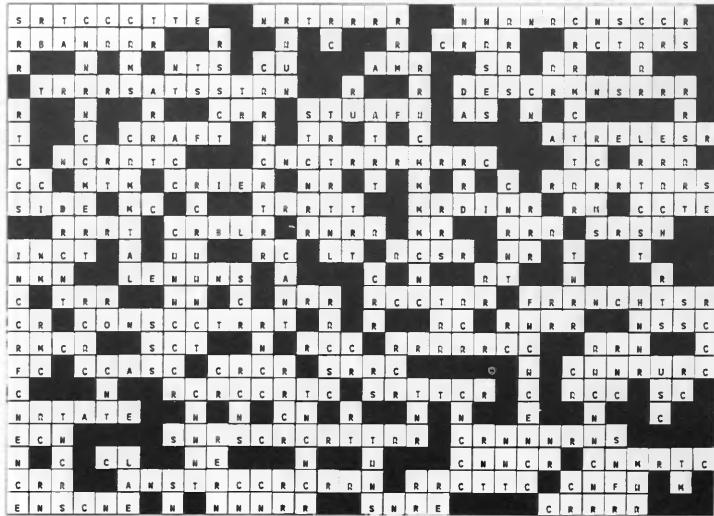


- Short for Diana
- Bind
- Preposition
- Something shaped like a bow
- Coronet
- Abbr.: district attorney
- Latin: thing
- Not PM
- Exchange of messages
- Part of a group
- Italian currency
- Symbol for thorium
- Pennsylvania
- Abbr.: physical education
- Wizard of ____
- Swimming ____
- Louisiana
- Group
- ____ and Crafts
- Centimeter-gram-second unit of energy
- Rind
- Pleasant
- Abbr.: transmit-receive
- Annual
- Abbr.: doctor
- Connected one to the other
- Request

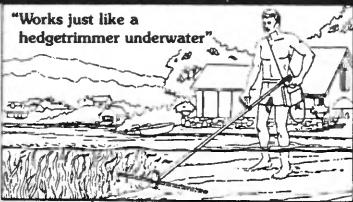
DOWN

- What you say at weddings
- Abbr.: National Institutes of Health
- Mixture of decaying matter
- What you say at weddings
- Abbr.: National Institutes of Health
- Mixture of decaying matter
- One million watts
- In no way
- Road
- Massage

- Article
- Guarantee
- Abbr.: Southeast
- Abbr.: company
- Surroundings
- Ripped
- Controls electric current
- Increase in size
- ____ La La
- Biblical abbr.: Obadiah
- Poetic: Never
- Predicting
- A loyal subject
- Marry
- Substance that conducts charge
- Toward
- Listen
- Suffix used after -s, -ch, -x
- Island in Hawaii
- Name ____
- Roman numeral for 101
- Symbol for ruthenium
- Alternating Current
- Prefix meaning one trillionth
- Abbr.: emergency room
- Abbr.: Alcoholics Anonymous
- Opposite of dead
- Hurry
- Abbr.: all-terrain vehicle
- Sugar comes from this
- Tennessee
- One million watts
- In no way
- Road
- Massage
- Live ____
- Nickname for elevated train
- Abbr.: right
- Not she
- Denmark
- North Dakota
- Missouri
- Man's name
- To prohibit
- Three-toed sloth
- Abbr.: Uganda
- Short for Stuart
- Puerto Rico
- Sound of laughter
- Covered with a hemispheric roof
- Alternator
- Goddess of fertility
- Suffix used after -s, -ch, -x
- Symbol for element Nickel
- Schedule
- Having local self-government
- (Two words) "____ Little Teacup...."
- Being by birth or origin
- City in Nebraska
- Not woman

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Control Water Weeds
Amazing new Underwater Harvesting Tool!
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"Works just like a hedge trimmer underwater"

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And you thought you would never have the luxury of Wearing a "ROLEX". WELL YOU WERE WRONG— NOW YOU CAN EVEN AFFORD A MATCHING PAIR!

DISCOUNT DEPOT DOES IT AGAIN! Now we bring you the "hottest" affordable watch in the nation — the startling exact reproduction of the diamond-studded ROLEX PRESIDENT WATCH — for only \$20 each while supplies last!

We stake our reputation on bringing you fantastic values — and this is no exception! We purchased the entire manufacturer's overrun to bring you these watches at the lowest price in America!

Wear your ROLEX REPRODUCTION to work or business meetings and guarantee yourself the look of success. Wear it at parties and special events to catch the eye of envious admirers. And wear your watch daily without ever worrying about extra insurance costs. After all, this "ROLEX" costs you only \$20... not thousands.

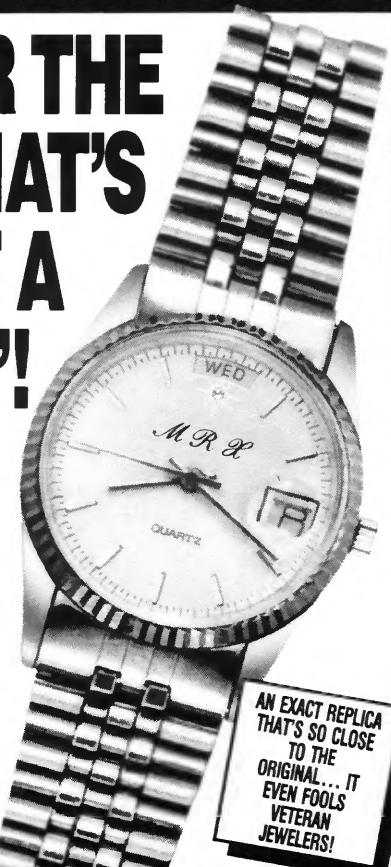
ORDER NOW IN MEN'S AND LADIES VERSION! You must act quickly because we now have in our warehouse LESS than 50,000 of each watch (both watches are exactly similar — except for the size — the ladies' version is more petite and does not have day feature). At this incredibly LOW DISCOUNT DEPOT PRICE, treat you or a loved one to a matching pair — or order plenty of extra for gifts... AND SAVE! Your satisfaction is guaranteed for 5 years so you have nothing to lose! Avoid disappointment — ORDER NOW!

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JEWELERS!

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Yes! Please rush me my "Masterpiece Reproduction" watch.

Please send me _____ (Qty) Men's watches and _____ (Qty) Ladies watches at only \$20.00 each plus \$2.95 shipping and handling for each watch ordered.

His & Her SPECIAL! Two or more watches only \$20.00 each and we pay all the shipping and handling!

Enclosed is \$_____. FL & MI residents add sales tax.

Charge it: Visa MC Amex Discover Exp. Date ____/____

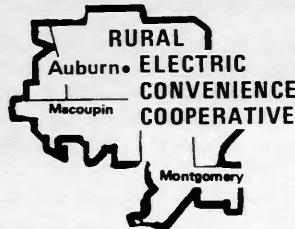
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Rural Hilight

Board of directors: Jim Ayers, Richard Carpani, Kevin Duewer, George Hart, Curtis Hays, Lynn Johnson, John H. Stephens, Gregory Wilson, and Lyle Yeaman.
Manager: Roy D. Goode.

RURAL ELECTRIC CONVENIENCE COOPERATIVE CO.

217-438-6197

AUBURN, ILLINOIS

54th annual meeting of members

Thursday evening,
August 29, 1991

Glenwood Junior High School,
Chatham

- Free evening meal served by Pork Producers 5-7 p.m.
- Entertainment for children
- Election of directors
- Reports of officers
- Capital credit checks will be available to the members at the annual meeting for the year 1972
- Attendance prizes—Six \$50 credit awards on electric bill
- Grand Prize—September usage bill up to \$500
- Craft fair (Interested participants should contact RECC at 1-800-245-7322 for more information)

Membership — joint or single?

Some members may not be aware if their membership in the cooperative is a single or joint membership.

A joint membership allows either the husband or the wife to vote at your cooperative's meetings, whereas the single membership allows just the member who signed the membership application to vote.

The term "member" as used in the cooperative's bylaws shall be deemed to include a husband and wife holding a joint membership, and any provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of membership shall apply equally with respect to the holders of a joint membership.

Those of you who are unsure which type of membership you have with the cooperative may call or write your cooperative office and you will be given that information. If you find that your membership is single and you wish to change it to a joint membership with your spouse, you may sign the card at right, **along with your spouse**, and return it to your cooperative. This card will be attached to your

membership application to indicate that your membership is now a joint membership with your spouse.

If you are a widow or widower and the membership is in the name of your deceased spouse, please call or write your cooperative office and arrangement will be made to transfer the membership to your

name.

Please do not hesitate to call your cooperative office and find out what type of membership you have. The type of membership you have, depending upon your situation, will determine your privilege in conducting the business and affairs of your cooperative.

Member Status Change

To change the status of your membership from Individual to Joint, both husband and wife must sign this form, and fill in the address and date and return to the cooperative.

Sign _____ and/or _____
Member applicant Member applicant

Date _____, 19_____

Address _____

Mail to: **Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co.**
East Route 104
P.O. Box 19
Auburn, IL 62615



Energy tips for a cooler summer

Here are some tips that may help minimize the effect of hot weather on your electric bills.

- Set your air conditioning thermostat at 78 degrees while you're home, raise the thermostat setting 5 or more degrees when you will be away from home for

several hours.

- Don't turn the thermostat to a lower setting to speed up cooling.
- Keep the air conditioner filter clean. A dirty filter causes the unit to run longer to move the same amount of air.
- Make sure indoor registers are free of dust and clear off furniture and other obstructions, so air can circulate freely.
- Keep the outside unit clear of grass or shrubs to allow proper air flow over the condensing coils.
- Block out sunlight to your windows by closing draperies, blinds, or shades inside.
- Use appliances that produce heat and moisture in the early morning or late evening hours, whenever possible.

Turn off all unnecessary lights. They produce heat that your air conditioner must remove.

- Use a microwave oven, electric skillet or other small appliances for meal preparation. This keeps your kitchen cooler than using the range or oven.
- Use low wattage fans to help circulate air indoors.
- Don't run your air conditioner out of habit. On cooler, less humid days, turn the unit off, and open the windows.



Wilson's collection includes a variety of multicolored rock slices and crystal formations, as well as a goodly number of spheres. The onyx elephant was purchased at a show.

Rockhound

Non-paying job spawns lifetime hobbies



Wilson shows off one of his five rock saws. He is working on a sixth.

Bob Wilson has a couple of hobbies, and one sparked the other, as often happens. He collects Indian artifacts—mostly arrowheads and the like—and rocks.

"I got into collecting arrowheads in an unusual way," the rural Benton resident and member of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative says. "I was raised in an orphanage," he explains, "and one day a nearby farmer came over looking for a boy to work in the hay, and we

Buying, selling or trading?

Then you need to look through the Illinois Marketplace advertising section beginning on page 22.



The agriculture-commercial machine built to mow at Homeowner Prices.

- 22-24" cut
- 5-8 HP self propelled

Call or write: Steffen Mfg., Inc.
RR 1, Fairbury, Ill. 61739
815-692-2506

FREE STUFF

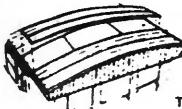
FREE STUFF FROM UNCLE SAM

Our government hands out billions of \$ worth of free stuff, loans, subsidies, scholarships, grants, etc. This book tells you exactly where and how to apply to get your share. Also tells where to buy gov't. surplus items (cars, boats, cameras, etc.) for "peanuts". Send \$2.00 plus \$1.00 for shipping to: PABCO, LTD., BOX 3207-D, SO. AMBOY, NJ 08879-3207

Paying too much for Health Insurance? Insurance plans offered through the National Business Association have affordable group rates. For free recorded message call (24 Hrs) 1-800-869-4944.

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KEMCO ROOF-OVER System is the Ultimate Solution for a Problem Roof!



- REDUCES HEATING & COOLING COSTS.
- MAINTENANCE FREE.
- BUILT IN OVERHANG & GUTTERING ELIMINATES WATER STREAKS ON SIDE OF HOME.
- STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND ON.
- NO MORE ROOF COATING YEAR AFTER YEAR.
- QUIET! NO ROOF RUMBLE OR RATTLE
- ELIMINATES CONDENSATION & WATER PROBLEMS

Standing lockseam design on top of 2" polystyrene insulation form the energy efficient KEMCO ROOF-OVER System.

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2 Smith St., Carmi, IL 62821
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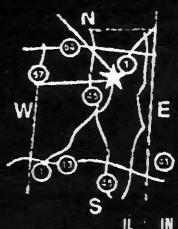
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ABC DENTAL, CARMI



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HEARING AT A
ROCK-BOTTOM
PRICE!**

**LISSEN 3000™
\$995
JUST**

The latest technology — available now!

Now you can have hearing like a superperson. The Listen 3000™ is the latest generation of sound interception and amplification technology.

Put the unit in your pocket, place the comfortable cushioned headphones in your ears, and you'll be able to hear conversations, pick voices out of a crowd, listen to the sounds of nature, even hear a coach's instructions to his players. And people will never know! They'll just think you're listening to a personal stereo radio.

This device is not intended for eavesdropping or recording private conversations.

Perfect for those who have hearing problems!

If you've had to stop going to movies, plays or concerts because you barely hear what's going on, just take the Listen 3000™ with you to the theater. Or use it at home to listen to television or the stereo without having to play it so loud that the neighbors complain.

It's like having a new pair of ears!

You'll suddenly hear sounds you've never noticed before. If you're a birdwatcher, you'll be able to listen to their beautiful songs from 100 feet away. If you're a hunter, you'll be able to hear approaching animals and be ready for them. And it's compact and convenient. It weighs just 3 ounces, so it's small enough to fit in a shirt or blouse pocket without damage (it even has a velcro strip on the back to make sure it doesn't accidentally fall out). Uses one 9-volt battery (not included).

We guarantee to have 10,000 available for those who respond in time, and our full one-year guarantee means you risk nothing, so order now!



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PAIR OF EARS!**

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36326 US 19 N., Palm Harbor, FL 34684

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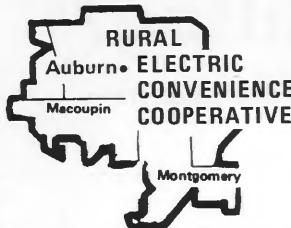
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Board of directors: Jim Ayers, Richard Carpani, Kevin Duewer, George Hart, Curtis Hays, Lynn Johnson, John H. Stephens, Gregory Wilson, and Lyle Yeaman.
Manager: Del England.

RURAL ELECTRIC CONVENIENCE COOPERATIVE CO.

217-438-6197

AUBURN, ILLINOIS

Members support lawsuit

Members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative (RECC) showed their solid support for a costly lawsuit August 29 when they voted to reelect three directors who have supported the cooperative in a four-year-old lawsuit. Members also voted overwhelmingly for a resolution calling on the board to continue the lawsuit, which so far has cost upwards of \$400,000 in legal fees.

The balloting took place at the 54th annual meeting of Rural Electric. More than 650 members and guests attended the meeting at Glenwood Junior High School in Chatham. Some 512 members participated in the meeting in person or by proxy.

In director balloting, Gregory D. Wilson of Glenarm, secretary of RECC's board of directors, defeated Mark Kennedy of Glenarm by a vote of 293 to 176. George Hart of Girard, cooperative vice-president, defeated Gerald Carney of Girard by a vote of 314 to 148. Richard Carpani of Litchfield was reelected without opposition.

The board of directors of Rural Electric filed a lawsuit in 1988 against Soyland Power Cooperative, based in Decatur, seeking to void a contract that requires the local cooperative to buy all of its wholesale power from Soyland. Directors have blamed Rural Electric's higher rates on Soyland and its 13 percent ownership share in the nuclear Clinton Power Station. The RECC legal action was filed in Macon County District Court, while Soyland—joined by the U.S. Justice



Three members of the cooperative won reelection to the board. From left are Gregory D. Wilson of Glenarm, George Hart of Girard and Richard Carpani of Litchfield.

Department, representing the Rural Electrification Administration, and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation of Washington, D.C.—has filed a countersuit in federal court in Springfield seeking to block the

state court action and calling on the federal court to uphold the wholesale power contract between RECC and Soyland.

In a statement issued by Wilson, Carpani and Hart prior to the meeting, they said, "The court battles have taken much longer than any of us would like.... The amount that has been spent on legal cost can be recovered in the first year of freedom from Soyland. If we quit now we will never again have an opportunity to purchase power from anywhere except Soyland."

In his president's report to the members, Lynn B. Johnson of Virden said that the cooperative is still operated under the not-for-profit, member-owned concepts under which it was founded 54 years ago. Even though the guiding principles remain the same,



Manager Del England

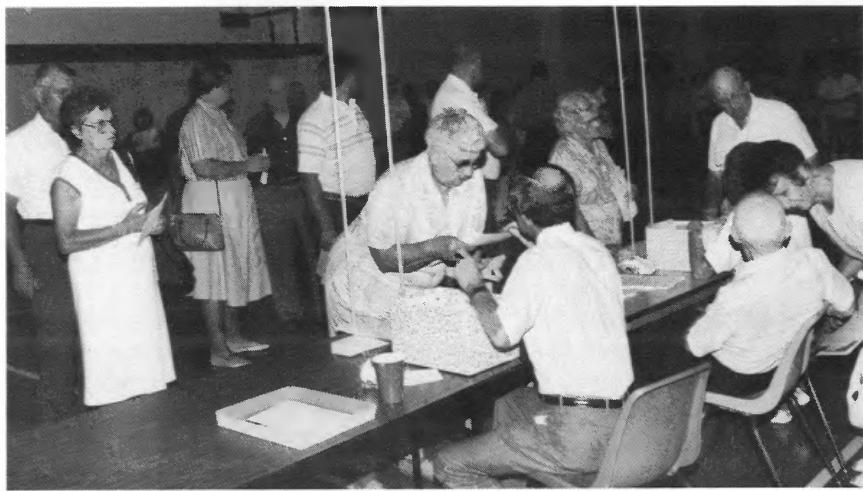
Johnson said, "to be successful a cooperative must adapt to change." Our members are not all farmers now but people from all walks of life, he said. Many new residents have moved into the cooperative service areas from the cities to seek a better quality of life.

Del L. England, who became Rural Electric manager June 1, explained the cooperative principles in more detail. "I am part of an important and unique business organization which operates according to unique and special principles," England said. "They set the organization apart from profit-seeking, investor-oriented corporations."

"The cooperative is democratically controlled by its members on the basis of its member-users and not as investors in the capital structure of the cooperative," England explained. He said the four basic principles are open membership, democratic control, patronage refunds, and limited or no interest on equity capital provided by members.

In his treasurer's report to the membership, Wilson pointed out that net margins for 1990 were \$219,707, down from \$637,708 a year earlier. Total operating revenue in 1990 was more than \$7.2 million, down from just under \$7.4 million a year earlier. He pointed out that in the past several years total revenues have been declining as average usage per member has declined. With declining revenue and increasing wholesale power costs, Wilson said the board of directors faces some tough choices later this year.

During registration, members who received service from the cooperative in 1972 could pick up capital credit checks as part of a distribution of \$44,973 in capital credits being refunded this year. Capital credits represent the margins earned by the cooperative in years past and are returned to members when the financial condition of the cooperative permits. Checks not picked up at the annual meeting will be mailed to members who are entitled to receive them.



The registration area was a busy place before the meeting. More than 650 people attended the meeting, held at Glenwood Junior High School in Chatham.



Lynn B. Johnson of Virden makes his president's report. At the left are the other directors of the cooperative.



A large number of members came early for the pork chop dinner that preceded the meeting.

I-70 Growth Association

Electric cooperative a key participant in multi-county development effort

Products with the label "Made in Southwestern Illinois" lining the shelves of stores for Japanese shoppers in Tokyo and Osaka?

That's one avenue of rural development being explored by the I-70 Growth Association—a team of 13 communities whose goal is to attract industry to the area. What role can Japan have in local economic improvement? The country can play a dual role, speakers at an August meeting of the group said. Japanese companies could locate manufacturing facilities in southwestern Illinois, and Japan could become a customer of goods produced in that region.

Guest speakers at the meeting talked about the importance of Japan as a trade partner and about how the group can promote the Interstate 70 corridor as prime territory for development.

"We can help export your products to Japan," said Linda Hasegawa of Japan-U.S. Trans Asso-



Thomas H. Moore (left) executive vice president and general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), discusses with Gary Wobler, manager of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, ways in which the AIEC can assist the I-70 Growth Association.

ciates, an Indiana-based consulting firm for American and Japanese companies. "More than 1,000 manufacturing companies from Japan are operating in the United States. You need companies along I-70, not only from Japan, but from Southeast Asia and Europe. I know this community needs new jobs."

Hasegawa stressed the importance of understanding the customs of the American and Japanese cultures. For example, the customary business handshake is new to the Japanese, who

traditionally bow low from the waist.

Thayr Richey, also of Japan-U.S. Associates, warned the gathered community leaders that economic development will not happen overnight.

"There are very few secrets in rural development," he said. "Focus on the long-term and hustle. From what I know about this area, I think you have a lot going for you. Don't expect rapid changes, though. Set a five- to ten-year deadline for achievements."

John Hemmer, director and Tokyo manager of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, said international markets are beginning to gain a new image of what Illinois really is.

"It's more than the city of Chicago. It's becoming more recognized by international business as a place to live and a place to do business," Thayr said.

He told the I-70 group to "identify what you are as a community and don't keep it a secret." However, he advised them not to try to be everything to everybody. "Success has come to those who focus on their strengths and promote these."

Thomas H. Moore, general manager of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), commended the members of the I-70 group for their leadership in rural development and outlined ways in which the AIEC can assist their efforts through Southwestern Electric Cooperative. The electric cooperative has helped spearhead this new movement. Soyland Power Cooperative, Southwestern's power supplier, has been an active participant in the formation of the new economic development group.

Gary Wobler, manager of Southwestern Electric, told his audience, "There are three kinds of people. Those who watch it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened. Well, we're going to make a difference and make it happen."

Group members toured the participating communities in July, and the association is preparing brochures and a video highlighting what the communities have to offer. Community profiles featuring available sites for new company facilities have been created.

Participating towns are Altamont, St. Elmo, St. Peter, Brownstown, Vandalia, Mulberry Grove, Greenville, Pocahontas, Highland, Smithboro, Troy, Keyesport and Pierron.

Gressette failed to note that big investor-owned utilities like his weren't interested in serving those areas before co-op electric service helped fuel their growth. But he did volunteer that investor-owned and municipal utility rates are often lower than those of the co-ops. Balancing the Chamber's piece, however, were interviews with Bob Bergland, a former Secretary of Agriculture who now heads the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and congressional supporter Rep. Glenn English (D-Okla.), as well as Bowman and some of his co-op's consumers. One unidentified co-op member interviewed for the piece offered a personal defense: "We are loyal (to the co-op) because we feel it's more or less a family organization."

Farm poverty rate stays lower than national average

The number of people living in poverty rose sharply in 1990 to 33.6 million—a jump of 2.1 million—and the median income of the American family dropped to under \$30,000, the Census Bureau said. At the same time, the government reported that the farm poverty rate is running at low levels for the fourth year in a row—the result of stronger farm income and families that often hold two jobs, according to one analyst. The Census Bureau said the farm poverty rate for 1990 was 11.2 percent, virtually unchanged from the preceding year. The U.S. average was 13.5 percent, up a dramatic 5.5 percent, its highest level since 1986. "For the fourth consecutive year, there was no significant difference between the farm and non-farm poverty rates," the Bureau said. "Typically, the poverty rate has been higher for the farm than the non-farm population." The 1990 poverty line was \$13,359 for a family of four. The Bureau showed that the income gap between rich and poor continues to widen with the middle class getting squeezed. The farm poverty rate has been on par with the U.S. average since 1987. "Farm income was pretty good last year and farm households tend to be stable, typically married couples," Calvin Beale, a U.S. Department of Agriculture demographer, said in analyzing the report. Married couples tend to have higher incomes than one-parent families. "It's gotten so it doesn't surprise us anymore that the farm poverty rate should be lower than the non-farm (rate)," Beale said. Meanwhile, the rural poverty rate was 16.3 percent, compared with 15.7 percent in 1989. The rural poverty rate has exceeded the U.S. average for the past couple of decades. Rural America, home to a quarter of the U.S. population, has recovered more slowly than urban areas from the recession of the 1980s.

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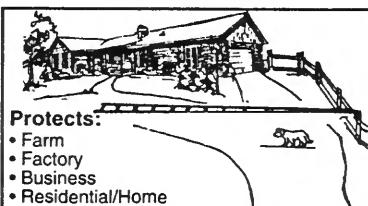
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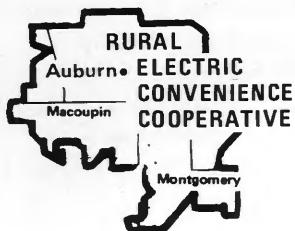
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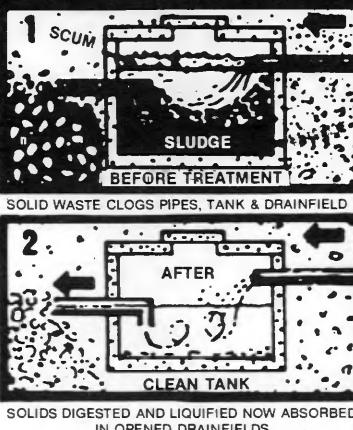
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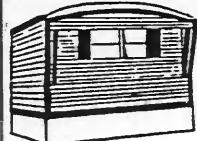
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/s/ Larry F. Ellodgo, Editor