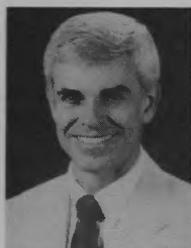




# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins

Once upon a time there was a group of deprived people who through their own determination and spirit did for themselves what the investor owned power companies would not or could not. In those dark days of the thirties when almost all of America was dimly lit by kerosene lamps, there was little incentive for the big investor owned power companies to extend their facilities to the isolated farmsteads that lay well beyond the urban limits. Now, however, things have changed; undeveloped rural areas that once were considered "skim milk" are now, as a result of development, considered as "cream." These same investor owned systems who would not extend into rural areas in the 1930's are ready and willing to absorb rural electric systems that were built by member-owners with low interest loans from the Rural Electrification Administration.

There are presently 1000 rural electric systems operating in the United States and each operates as a member-owned organization which is inherently by its structure, more responsive to the needs of its consumers than are the profit driven investor owned power companies. Investor owned systems are primarily regulated by state governing bodies known as commerce commissions or public utility commissions. Of course, in a sense, they are regulated

somewhat by their shareholders who have invested funds in the corporation and who for the most part are interested in seeing a healthy return on those investments. This results in a situation in which those who hold large amounts of stock have more input as to how the company is run and what its profit margins should be. Cooperatives, on the other hand, are different; each member, regardless of their financial worth or achievements, has one vote at the Cooperative's annual meeting.

From its conception, the rural electric program has had enemies, many of whom were officials or major stockholders of investor owned power corporations or who in one way or another, were allied with them. In those early days, there were a lot of half truths and untruths told and printed about the rural electrics, and those kinds of stories are still being told and printed today. We, in the rural electric system, like to assume that these stories are produced from ignorance and not from malice.

A recent Associated Press article is a prime example of misinformation. For example, the article cites eight cooperatives as being in default when in fact there are only five. The article also states that \$2.06 billion of REA loans would not be repaid. The \$2.06 billion referred to actually represents the 1989

*(Continued on page 12d)*

Not long ago, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives undertook a membership survey to determine several basic facts about members throughout the state, the members' attitudes toward their co-ops, and their electricity usage patterns and expectations.

At the same time, the individual co-ops were offered the opportunity to "piggyback" a more detailed survey of their own membership, with the local survey being spun off the general one at a reasonable cost. Since we are interested in your interests and attitudes, and since the price was right, we at SEIEC decided to take advantage of the piggyback offer.

We won't bore you to tears about how the survey was done, but we were careful to see that the questionnaires went out to a good-sized chunk of the membership, and the names were chosen at random. We didn't send out a few letters to friends, "Fishing for compliments."

The truth is, we *need* to know how we rate with you: If we're doing something right, we want to do more of it. If we're doing something you don't like, we want to know that, too.

We had data from a survey done during the winter of 1985-86, and

percent of our members—or one in 13—mentioned farming, and only 5 percent listed farming as their sole income source.

While the source of income is something to think about, the amount is really important, and SEIEC's members have a real "Good news/bad news" situation in that regard. The good news is that the median income is \$23,018. The bad news is that the rest of the people in the state make more money, with a \$27,138 annual income per household. Even so, we aren't doing too badly. Over the last four to five years, the median income here has gone up 30.8 percent, which is somewhat better than the rest of the state did.

Fewer than one in 12 households are in the lowest category, with incomes of less than \$5,000. About one in four, or 24.8 percent, are in the \$5,000-\$14,999 category, and about one-fifth are in each of the next two groups—those with incomes of \$15,000-\$24,999 and \$25,000-\$34,999. Nearly another fifth are in the \$35,000-\$54,999 group, and another 7.8 percent are nestled comfortably in the "\$55,000 or more" range.

The makeup of the work force was a bit of a surprise to us, as we

80 percent of our members live in a rural area, while about 10 percent live in a rural subdivision and a similar number live in small towns. A very few live in a city.

About 85 percent live in a single-family permanent house, and some 14.5 percent live in trailer homes. This ratio is about the same as for other co-ops in the state, and is virtually unchanged from the previous survey. More than 90 percent own their own homes, and nearly 60 percent have been in their "home place" seven years or more.

Nearly half the people responding reported that they live in a household made up of a married couple with children, while just over 18 percent live in a household without children, and about 10 percent are composed of one adult. Some 12.2 percent are widowed. While these categories are, for the most part, very much like those from the previous survey, the "married without children" group decreased more than 10 percentage points.

These statistics are important and give us an insight into our membership. But we, as suppliers of electricity, are naturally quite interested in appliance ownership and use, and other patterns of electricity

# Survey results

we were particularly interested in any changes that had taken place since then. There were a few surprises, but it turned out that we were right about most of the things we thought we knew.

One of the surprises we had was fairly common to many of the other Illinois co-ops, too. There are far fewer farmers on our lines than we thought. And the number of people who derive at least part of their income from farming has declined since the last survey. If we need a mystery novel-type title for our survey, it might well be "The Case of the Vanishing Farmer." Only 7.7

percent of our members are mentioned previously. More than 20 percent of our members are involved in factory/industrial occupations, and 18 percent mentioned professional work. About 15 percent cited Social Security, and the same number of people listed other types of pensions and investments as their income source. Some 7 percent mentioned office/sales, and a similar number put down personal service work. No other categories were mentioned in significant numbers.

One item that was *not* surprising was the overwhelmingly rural nature of our membership. About

usage. Naturally, many of the questions we asked related to present and planned usage. We learned that just over half our members paid between \$50 and \$99 for electricity the month before they received the survey, with an estimated median bill of \$82. About one in six had a smaller bill, with only 4 percent having a bill of less than \$25. About one-fourth had bills between \$100 and \$149, and a little over 6 percent had bills between \$150 and \$199. Just over 2 percent had bigger bills. The median bill is about \$27 less than for our "northern" cousins.

More than 90 percent of our

members noted that home use is their major electricity use. Reflecting the decline in farm numbers, it was interesting to note that there was a decrease of about 7 percent in those who indicated a combination of farm and home use, based on the previous survey.

Over one-fourth of our members said their main source of heat came from propane/LP gas, while wood, built-in electric heaters, natural gas central and electric central heating each grabbed about 12-13 percent of the market. About one in 10 indicated an electric heat pump, and about half as many use oil. Some 2.7 percent indicated that they heat with coal. The coal use, incidentally, reflects a 10-percentage point drop from the '85-86 survey. Natural gas and oil gained somewhat during that time.

Happily, nearly three-fourths of our members use electric water heaters, while propane/LP water heaters had about 15 percent of the market and natural gas had 7.4 percent. These ratios are the same as they were in the past and, pleasantly, we learned that our members have a higher proportion of electric water heaters than those in the rest of the state.

Some 45 percent of our members use electric central air conditioning to take the edge off the summer heat in their homes, and 37 percent use window units. About 5 percent said they use gas central air conditioning units. Of those using window units, almost three-quarters have only one unit, while some 21 percent have two. Just over 10 percent don't have air conditioning. Some 8 percent more people use some kind of air conditioning than had it in the last survey, and there are fewer window units. SEIEC members, in general, have more air conditioners than the more northerly folk.

It's pretty well known that the average American has a veritable herd of appliances handy, and SEIEC members are no exception. Respondents were given a list of 15 household appliances, and were asked to check those they used. It turned out—to no one's great

astonishment—that color TV sets were by far the most popular appliance, being used by some 90 percent of those who answered the questions. Over 80 percent were found to use a microwave oven, a washing machine and an automatic, frost-free refrigerator. In addition, between two-thirds and three-fourths use a separate food freezer and an electric clothes dryer, and about two-thirds use an electric range and an electric oven. About 15 percent own a computer.

The later survey shows a big jump in microwave usage, with 30 percent more members having them. Electric ovens increased by 11 percent and color TVs increased by 7 percent. About 10 percent of our members own satellite dishes, and over 40 percent of them indicated an interest in subscribing to "descrambled" TV programming services similar to cable TV services available in urban areas.

A fairly goodly chunk of the survey was given over to finding out how easy it is for our membership to contact us. We wanted to know how often the average member came in, phoned or wrote, and we also asked what you'd like us to do to improve communications. More than three-quarters of those responding said a toll-free number would increase the likelihood of their calling us, and we now have such a number (1-800-833-2611).

At any rate, just over half said they'd gotten in touch in the last year, and just over one-half of those cited power failure as the reason. New and/or additional service was mentioned by 24 percent, and 15 percent each cited billing problems and the need to repair wires or trim trees as their reasons for contacting us. Some 4.5 percent called because of the size of their bill. About 10 percent said they had difficulty getting in touch, and about half of those problems stemmed from the fact that a long-distance call was required.

We must admit we were a bit nervous when we got to the part where we asked how pleased our members were with their cooperative, but the results were generally pleasing.

More than 80 percent of those surveyed responded positively, with 34.6 percent being very positive and 47.5 percent being positive. Only 1 percent said they had very negative feelings, and another .2 percent said they had negative feelings. Just over 15 percent felt neutral. While this is a distressing situation, we learned that our members feel more positive toward their co-op than statewide members as a whole.

Confidence in co-op management was gratifying, too. A large majority (97.7 percent) expressed some degree of confidence in those of us who are "minding the store." Of those, 63.5 percent expressed a great deal of confidence, and about 34 percent expressed "some" confidence. These results are very much like those in the earlier survey.

In short, by far most of our members seem to know that we're trying to do what's best for them. Obviously, not all are delighted with the price of electricity, although our rates are among the best in the state. We know it isn't easy to pay for large amount of electricity, even if the unit cost is low, and we assume that there are probably some ways we could improve services.

A survey is a form of communication, and so is a toll-free number. So is this story. Please let us know if you think we're doing well. Even more importantly, please let us know if there's something you think we could be doing better. We're here to serve you.

We'd like to thank all those who took the time to fill out our survey form and return it. We appreciate your input. But remember—you don't need to wait for a survey to let us know your thoughts. Call or write if you have an idea that will enable us to improve our service to you. Our mailing address is: SEIEC, P.O. box 251, Eldorado, IL 62930, and our toll-free number is 800-833-2611. Or feel free to stop by and talk to us. Our main office is in Eldorado, and we have branch offices in Benton, Marion, Golconda and Rosiclare.

We'd like to hear from you.

(Continued from page 12a)

REA loan reserve account. It is a set-aside against *possible, not actual* future losses. Every well managed lending institution sets up a loan-loss reserve account; the Rural Electric Administration is no exception.

The article proceeds to quote Harold Hunter as saying that cooperatives gambled with government money. The truth is that some cooperatives indeed planned and built generating plants to meet projected demands that have not yet

materialized—and so did a lot of investor owned utilities. What appears to give this comment creditability is the fact that Harold Hunter served as REA administrator from 1981 through 1988; however, those of us in the program know that Mr. Hunter was a friend of others, but never a friend of the rural electricians.

In short, to close these comments, I would like to remind you that your Cooperative and many others are in stable financial condition and we

object to half truths and scare tactic news articles. We invite you as member-owners to attend your annual meetings held in August of each year. At that meeting we will share our annual statement with you. If for some reason you were unable to attend this year's meeting and would like to receive a copy of our operating statement, give us a call or drop us a line, and we will make sure one is provided.

## Welcome new members

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in November 1990!

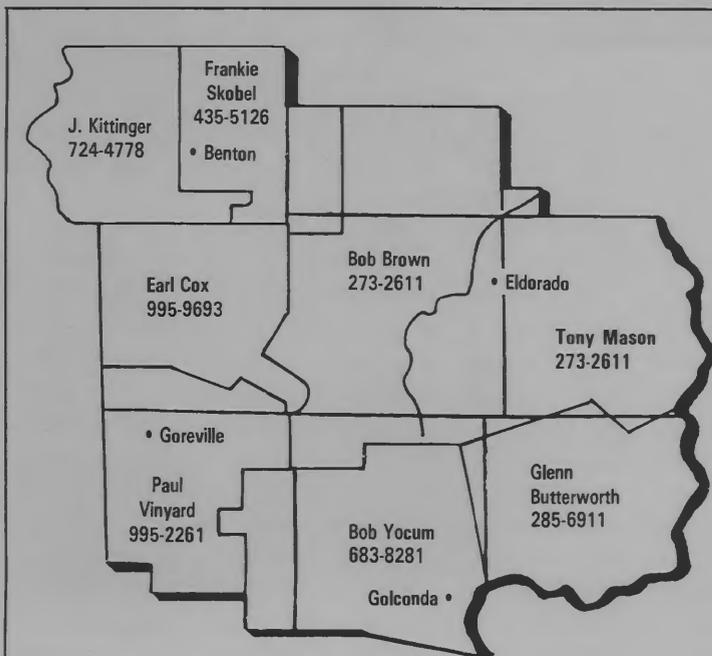
Carl R. Anderson  
Tom Antonini  
Carl Arnold  
Kim Browning  
Harley Bunting  
Robert Capps  
Gary R. Casey  
James Dale Cullison  
Kip A. Davis  
David S. English  
Kenneth L. Fann  
Jatina A. Felty  
Robert C. Floodeen  
Wilburn L. Fosse  
Lenard W. Gibbs  
Tony Gray  
Carla Gurley  
Charles E. Hood  
Kenneth R. Hoyle  
Arthur L. Jones  
Paul Juergens  
M. Lucille King  
Paul A. Martin

Cathie Medlin  
Robert Alan Midgett  
Barbara Mitchell  
Terry Pearce  
Charles Ragland Jr.  
Brian Reed  
Tim Richardson  
Roger Rietsema  
James Rouse  
John W. Russell  
Bertis F. Sheldon  
Tom Smith  
Mark K. Storey  
Rebecca Taborn  
Katherine Vickers  
Lula B. Wall  
Melba G. Wright  
Kathy Zirkelbach  
Jimmy W. Bivens  
Chris Alford  
Tammy Ballance  
David Brooks  
Patricia Carlson

Sheila Carver  
Joann Combs  
James R. Corn  
Joel F. Deneal  
Robin Durham  
Paul R. Eastwood  
Anita Fitzpatrick  
Billy Garris  
Robert L. Hartley  
Sherry Lynn Hill  
Frank Ireland  
Harold G. Love Jr.  
Gaines Nash  
Glenda Ragain  
John E. Razer  
Norma J. Sanders  
Sue Boner  
Dean Schuh  
Vincent Siedler  
E. Kaye Smith  
Mary A. Tanner  
Earl R. Upton  
Lowell K. Wheeler

Kevin L. Wilson  
Lonnie Barnes  
James Beldin  
Lester R. Carter  
Bryan L. Crawford  
Kirby S. Crites  
Laverne Dillon  
Lamont Francisco  
Steve Kellough  
Wade L. Nelson  
Barbara S. Tolbert  
Marsha Tolbert  
Kenneth L. Wenger  
Thunderbird Travel Agency  
Steven Taylor  
Hardin Co. Khoury League  
Robert H. Bottoms  
Brandt Broadcasting  
Bay Creek Camp  
Kimberly Barnes  
Mark Bradley  
Teresa L. Collins  
Edward R. Drake

Lawrence E. Erker  
Gale Etheridge  
Dema L. Flynn  
Robert D. Martin  
Suzanne T. Peterson  
Hallie E. Plane  
David E. Schou  
Bob Simpson  
Terry Wade Brown  
Brian Dorris  
Michael Flahardy  
Laura Fleming  
Michael L. Grant  
Todd W. Hawkins  
Jane Kingston  
Charles A. Nagel  
Donald Neal  
Luke Parks  
Jerry Turner



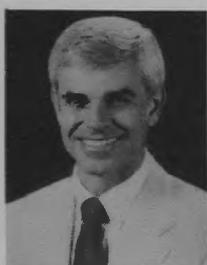
- If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:
1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
  2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.
  3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
  4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
  5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611, or 800-833-2611. These numbers are monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
  6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.

# Outage Map • Call toll-free 800-833-2611



# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins

The old year of 1990 went out with a bang, as the northwest quadrant of your Cooperative was struck by a severe ice storm commencing about 6 a.m., December 30th. Fifty-five Southeastern employees, four Southern Illinois Electric employees and four contract employees worked around the clock to restore service in the heavily stricken Franklin, Williamson and Hamilton County areas. The storm continued well into the early hours of December 31 and was complicated by moderately high winds and severe ice accumulation and as a result, 2,044 Cooperative members experienced outages. To date, the cost to the Cooperative to restore service and repair damages caused by this storm is approximately \$137,000.00.

Many of this storm's outages were the direct result of trees falling onto lines already burdened by the heavy ice load. Consequently, these lines broke, creating outages for our members and difficult repair situations for our crews who must remove the fallen trees before the lines can be spliced together and re-energized.

Your Cooperative has maintained an aggressive tree control program for several years now, utilizing mowing and chemical control methods in addition to manual removal and trimming. About six years ago, your Cooperative adopted the "natural" or lateral method of trimming, which will, in time, enable us to go longer periods of time before

coming back to retrim member owned trees. This method of trimming actually encourages the tree to direct its growth away from the power lines. Natural trimming requires more initial crew time to accomplish and sometimes results in some displeasure of a member who has become adjusted to the "rounding over" trim method. An important factor to bear in mind, however, is that this method of trimming does work, and it will result in a healthier tree and fewer retrims.

Another program that is gaining in popularity is our "Swap a Tree" program which was introduced in 1987. Members who elect to have interfering lawn trees removed rather than trimmed are eligible for this program which provides for replacement lawn trees planted at a new location on the member's property away from Cooperative power lines. Members interested in this program should phone toll-free 1-800-833-2611 and talk with Robert Kielhorn for more specific details.

We are confident that our tree control efforts have increased our system's reliability and we recognize the value that trees contribute to our well being and the environment. However, we also recognize that trees and overhead power lines cannot co-exist in the same space. We at Southeastern appreciate the past cooperation given by the membership and hope for your future cooperation in addressing this problem.

It was early morning, cold and black as a boot, as only cold, rainy December mornings can be. The farmer stood by his kitchen window, watching the steam rising off his coffee. He couldn't see out the window yet: didn't need to. He knew, just as sure as he was standing there, that the back field and the road across it were under water. And he also knew that the water was getting deeper.

He ticked off in his mind all the things he had done to prepare for the coming flood. The house was safe, no problem there. Even the record-busting 1937 flood hadn't come this high. The farm was another matter. He had moved feed over to the barn on the hill—across the field—so he would be able to feed the animals. He hoped it was enough. He had placed a small boat down there so he could get across to the isolated part of his place, and he had gassed up the little outboard and made sure it would start. He had topped off the fuel tank on the four-wheel-drive truck, just to be sure. There had been a severe ice storm a few miles to the north, so he had carried in wood for the woodstove and had laid in a supply of kerosene for the lamps—just in case they got a power outage on top of everything else.

The sky in the southeast started to lighten slightly as he ran through his mental checklist, and he was satisfied that there was not even one more thing he could do to prepare for the flood he knew was coming. There would be no unpleasant surprises.

Just when you think things can't possible get worse, they often have a way of doing just that. As the water rose, the temperatures fell, and the farmer found himself looking out over a large sheet of ice, with the water still rising under it. The ice was too thick to cross on in the boat, and too thin to walk or drive across. Murphy, after whom the infamous



Scenes like this were common in parts of the SEIEC service territory during the year-end ice storm.

## Nature's dou

law is named, must have been laughing.

Fortunately, a friend and fellow farmer "over there" was in the same predicament. The two men got on the telephone and agreed to exchange work, each taking care of the other's livestock.

Such preparations and labor swaps were not uncommon, as the weather handed SEIEC and the people who live in our service territory a "double whammy." As the Ohio River—and dozens of smaller rivers and creeks—was rising, an ice storm swept in early on the morning of



SEIEC director Neil Soward of Rosiclare stands in the cupola overlooking the river. It was almost completely underwater in 1937, he says.



The water was fairly high up on the floodgates at Rosiclare, but wasn't as high as it was in the 1937 flood.

## le whammy

Sunday, December 30, 1990.

While we were getting mostly a cold, bone-chilling rain, it looked at first like the storm was going to pass us to the north. As a matter of fact, the worst part did.

"We got one call at about 5:05 a.m. on December 30 from a mem-

ber who had lost power," says Tom Kouts, engineering and operations manager. "Then we got a call from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) at about 5:30. They said another co-op to the northeast of us was having trouble and had asked that the AIEC

Emergency Work Plan—or EWP—be put on alert.

"They asked if I thought we could send a crew or two," he continues, "and I told them we weren't having any trouble, and that I'd try to assemble some men and equipment. Once I got a crew together, I'd call and see if they still needed them."

As might be expected during a long holiday weekend, it took some extra effort to round up a crew, but Kouts finally got situated. Unfortunately, while he was calling crew members, co-op members started calling him.

"We had three calls at 6 o'clock," he says, "and they started coming in in bunches at about 6:30. They got pretty heavy then, and the volume was pretty steady until 3 p.m. the next day.

"When the AIEC called back, I gave them my apologies, and sent our crews up to the northwest part of our service territory, to start cleaning things up there.

"We called in five people to answer the telephones, in addition to the dispatcher and supervisory personnel. Even so, the lines were quickly swamped."

In all, we had some 358 miles of line affected by the storm, in Franklin, Williamson, Hamilton and Saline counties.

"Probably 90 percent of our troubles were due to trees and branches falling into our lines and pulling them down or shorting them out," Kouts says, "although there was some trouble with some of the older lines up in that area breaking under the weight of the ice.

"By the time everybody was back on, we had 14 crews out, including one contract crew we had working. And we borrowed two crews from Southern Illinois Electric over at Dongola, since they weren't hit as hard as we were."

While the storm cost us about \$137,000 all told, we should feel for-



High water was part of nature's "double whammy," and made it difficult to get around. This is a stretch of Highway 1, just north of Cave-In-Rock.

tunate. A nearby co-op sustained about three times as much damage, and had members out for about three times as long.

One thing we're thankful for here at SEIEC is our members and their patience at a time when it was cold, dark and uncomfortable. By far most of those calling were kind and thoughtful and we're grateful for that.

Thanks!

## Welcome new members

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in December 1990!

Maureen C. Tanner  
Jimmy Dean Avery  
Michelle Cardwell  
Marion F. Clement  
Robert M. Cochrane  
Wallace N. Diefenback  
Steven B. Gibson  
Robert L. Gill  
C. Wendell Hudgens  
Steve Kesler  
Gail Miller  
Dayna J. Myers  
Curt Smith  
Burl Sussen  
Tom Zeller  
Carey Bell  
Myrtle Eichorn  
Claudine Head

Michael McCabe  
Edward Lee McGee  
Wayne O'Connor  
John L. Orillion  
Kenneth Phelps  
Stan Planisky  
Vickie Price  
Stephen H. Reid  
Martha A. Richardson  
Guy A. Roberts  
Edward Studnicka  
United Illinois Bank  
Roy L. Worley  
Jacqueline Allen  
Ferol E. Austin  
Daniel L. Brewer  
Samuel C. Brubaker  
Lisa Capeheart

Carl C. Carwile  
Jerry Davie  
Barbara J. Delaney  
Kenneth E. Dent  
Pervis Ellis  
Barry E. Funk  
Ed D. Gibbs  
Billy C. Graham  
Thomas H. Hardesty  
Donald L. Langhars  
Glende Lovellette Jr.  
Melinda Martin  
Judith A. Mathis  
David L. Mize  
Dawn M. Pool  
Angela L. Robison  
Shelly Rushing  
Joyce Sanders

Paul S. Smith  
Scott Tite  
Jenell Vicary  
Shirley Wagoner  
Glenn Everett Walker  
Joseph L. Wittkamp  
Lisa Wohlend  
Sheila M. Wright  
Donald R. Vaughn  
Mark E. Eaton  
Roy Xanders  
Keivn Smith  
Mike Williams  
Basnett Investments  
Mavrick Natural Gas  
Gary J. McCarty  
Judith Amberger  
Irene Bozarth

Catholic Shrine Plg  
Geneva Craig  
Joseph E. Damron Jr.  
Brenda L. Joplin  
George E. Machura  
Steven W. Martin  
Gerald L. Montgomery  
Carlos L. Schoonover  
Susie A. Smith  
James R. Wanstreet  
Cindy S. Weekley  
Kathy Wittinger  
Charles H. Workman  
Carol A. Avery  
D.R. Bowman  
Velma L. Diamon Lyell  
Dan L. Rodden  
Jeff Bearden

## If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is between the "OFF" and "ON" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, re-trip the breaker to the

"ON" position.

3. If you still do not have power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-800-833-2611, 24 hours a day. Please give the party answering, your name, phone number and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.

# Call toll-free 1-(800)-833-2611



# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins

The management and board of a cooperative are responsible for undertaking actions today that will ensure the success of the organization in the future. To accomplish this task, cooperatives typically hold strategic planning meetings on an annual basis. Your Cooperative held such a meeting on January 18. At that time certain goals were established and a new mission statement was created. These goals are things that we, as an organization, want to achieve in addition to the day-to-day operations of the Cooperative. Numerous goals were established for 1991 and beyond, all with the intent of improving the overall operation of your Cooperative, while at the same time containing costs.

From time to time in past articles, I have commented on the differences between cooperatives and investor-owned utilities. Investor-owned utilities typically do not share their mission statements with their consumers, cooperatives do. Our 1991 mission statement is as follows:

*The mission of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative shall be to establish and maintain competitive rates consistent with the needs of the area served in order to be a positive and involved force within the community, providing a diverse membership with an adequate and reliable supply of energy for homes, farms businesses and industry and furthermore, it shall be our*

*goal to promote increased business, recreation and tourism to improve the attractiveness of our service area. In addition, it is our intent to establish an assertive marketing and educational program to enhance and develop the membership and service area, never forgetting that we are owned by those we serve.*

According to Paul Swaim of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 25 percent of American workers who lost their jobs from 1981-1986 lived in rural areas, even though rural workers comprise only 21 percent of the total work force. The board and management of your Cooperative are concerned with these figures. We want to encourage existing businesses and industry in our area to stay here and, if possible, expand their operations. In addition, we want to do our part to encourage new business industries to locate here. To help accomplish this, we have worked with our power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Co-operative, and in 1991 will offer an economic development rate rider for farm, commercial and industrial members who are on demand billing and who are currently in the 500 kilowatt demand range, or will be by expansion of existing facilities or construction of new facilities. Those existing and new farms, businesses and industries which meet the expansion requirements of the

*(Continued on page 16d)*

# New employees

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## Mike DeArmon

Mike DeArmon, journeyman lineman, is a relative "old timer," having come to work on April 17, 1989. He is a journeyman lineman. Born and raised in Eldorado, Mike attended Eldorado Schools, where he played golf.

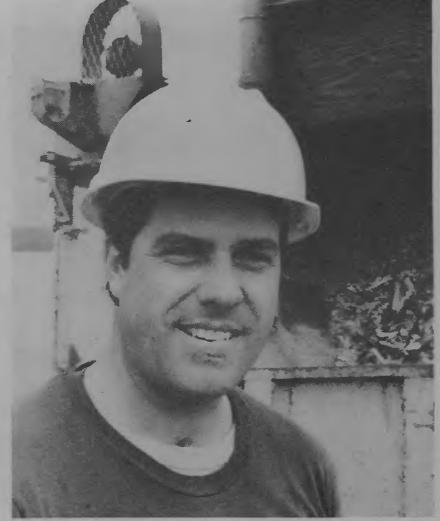
Mike and his wife, Sue, live in Eldorado. They have two daughters, Nicki and Ricki. Before coming to SEIEC, Mike worked in construction. He lists golf and motorcycle riding as his interests.



## Randy Spivey

J.R. "Randy" Spivey came to work February 4 as an apprentice lineman. Born and raised in Rosiclare, he attended Rosiclare schools and has attended college off and on, winding up at present with about 23 credit hours "in a variety of subjects." Most of his studies involve electricity, fire science, mechanical skills and computer classes.

He played baseball and basketball in high school, and lists fishing, hunting, horseback riding and running as his hobbies.



## Stan Volle

Stan Volle, apprentice forester, came to work February 19. Born and raised in Golconda, he attended Golconda schools, and is studying coal mining technology at Southeastern Illinois College. While in school, he played basketball.

Stan and his wife, Sharon, have a 17-year-old son, Chris. They live just north of Golconda.

Stan lists fishing and trail riding as his hobbies.

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## Coping with a winter outage

Winter outages can be miserable. It's almost always dark, always cold, always dismal. Try as we might, they'll always be with us.

But a winter outage doesn't have to be disastrous and you can be relatively cozy if you do some planning and take a few precautions.

When the power goes off, the first thing to do is disconnect those electric circuits that serve delicate electronic appliances and entertainment equipment. This will protect them from any surges that may occur when the power is restored. When it is restored, wait for 15

to 30 minutes to ensure that the outage is over, then reconnect those circuits.

And, if the lights go dim and stay that way, disconnect those circuits that serve motor operated appliances. Dim lights mean that the voltage coming into the home is not high enough to adequately serve motors—a low voltage situation. Operating motors at low voltage may damage them.

### For warmth

1. Several layers of lightweight clothing will keep a body warmer than one heavy piece.

2. A backup heater can be helpful, but be careful. If the heater has a flame, ventilation must be provided.

3. During an extended outage, use one room (preferably one on the sunny side of the house with few windows) in the house to conserve as much heat as possible. Open curtains during the day and close them at night.

### For light

1. Know where the flashlight and fresh batteries are.

2. For safety, place lighted candles in containers such as coffee cans.



### **Oliver Butler**

Oliver Butler came to work February 19 as a journeyman lineman. He was born in Harrisburg and lived in the Pierson Community, south of Harrisburg. He graduated from Pope County High School, and has a year of general studies at Southeastern Illinois College. He worked in construction before joining SEIEC.

A veteran of a two-year hitch with the U.S. Army, Oliver spent a year in Vietnam.

He and his wife, Marsha, have four daughters, Stephanie, Dacy and twins Melissa and Merissa. They are members of the Saline Valley Missionary Baptist Church.

He hunts and raises hunting dogs.



### **Kenny House**

Kenny House, journeyman forestryman, began work at SEIEC on February 11. Born and raised in Murphysboro, he worked for Asplundh, the tree trimming firm.

Kenny and his wife, Ruby, have a three-year-old son, Eli. An avid archer and bowhunter, Kenny participates in archery tournaments.



### **Tammy Turner**

Tammy Turner, billing clerk, is one of several new SEIEC employees hired in the last month or so. She began work February 25. Born in Michigan, Tammy moved to Harrisburg with her family when she was a year old. They own and operate the Bar-B-Que Barn, a Harrisburg restaurant, where Tammy has worked for several years.

Tammy attended Harrisburg schools, and holds an associate's degree in accounting from Southeastern Illinois College, and is continuing her studies at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. She lives in Harrisburg.

3. Have extra lantern fuel on hand if lanterns are used for light. Refill the lanterns outdoors.

#### **For food**

1. Stock supplies of food such as canned meat, tuna, powdered milk

and juices, cereal, peanut butter and crackers.

2. Fill plastic jugs with water.

3. Have throwaway plates, plastic silverware and a manual can opener on hand.

#### **During an extended outage**

1. Shut off the water supply (and the electricity to the pump, if you have one) and drain the system. Pour antifreeze into the plumbing fixtures in the bathroom and kitchen.

#### **Have the following general items on hand**

1. Wind-up alarm clock
2. Battery powered radio
3. Extra blankets

Prepare as if every winter outage will be a long one and you'll not be caught short of necessities. You can be confident and rest assured that your employees will work around the clock to restore service to all members as quickly as possible.



## Complications with gas furnaces

High-efficiency gas and propane furnaces use secondary-condensation heat exchangers to remove waste heat from the exhaust gases and boost efficiency to more than 80 percent. Although this eliminates the need for a high-temperature chimney, it significantly increases

the complexity of your home heating system

More parts mean more opportunities for something to break, fail, or otherwise disappoint the purchaser. A Canadian study of 600 reported complaints by purchasers of high-efficiency furnaces reported

the following major problems: (1) system shutdown due to component failure or unnecessary activation of safety switches, 57%; (2) improper installation 16%; (3) furnace noise 7%; (4) service and maintenance 6%; (5) condensation, corrosion or discomfort 14%.

From Residential Heating Systems by Ned Nisson

(Continued from page 16a)

rider are subject to receive billing credits of up to 50 percent of their expanded demand charges for a 60-month period. Applications for this rider will be taken through December of 1994. If you feel that

your farm, business or industry meets or will meet the requirements of this economic development rider, give us a call and we will be glad to discuss the details with you.

There are about a thousand rural electric cooperatives operating in

the United States today. Eighty-four percent of them feel they can outperform their investor-owned utility neighbors in service quality, the board, management, and employees of Southeastern feel that we can too—it's our goal!

## Welcome new members

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in January 1991!

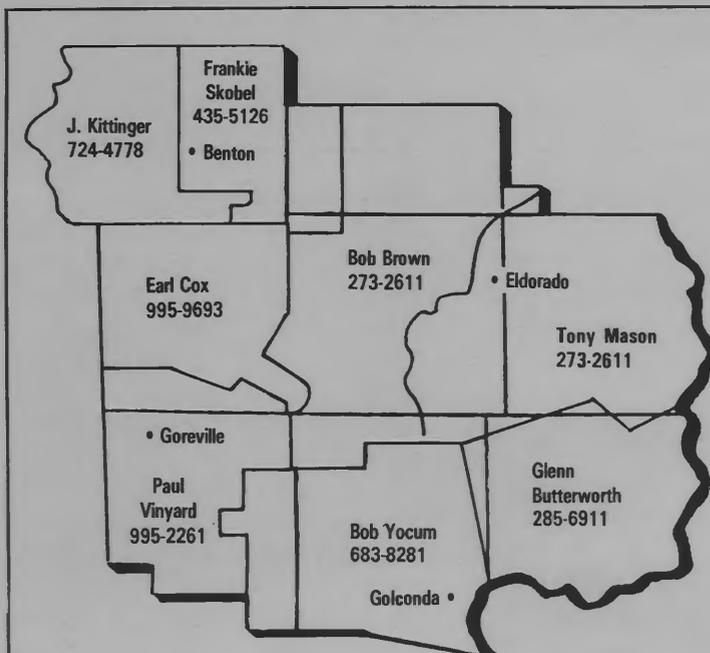
Robert G. Aikman  
Todd A. Booten  
Mark E. Bowers  
Sherell Foshee  
J. Mark Genet  
Billy Holshouser Jr.  
Bart Lane

Mickey Mangrum  
Deborah Mott  
Theodore L. Olsen  
Henry Piland  
Homer E. Tipton  
Glendell Scot Vaughn  
Michelle Williams

Charlene Spytak  
John Cunningham  
Jeffrey R. Dearmon  
Robert A. Eggertsen  
Paul Gearing  
William E. Gollither  
Gene O. Lewis

Richard McBride  
Murdale Baptist Church  
Zeigler Coal Co.  
James Sanford  
Vanessa Baker  
Sheri Jo Barnett  
Billy G. Hand

Lela June Hunt  
Shirley L. Inboden  
David Kirby  
Palmer's Trading Post  
Eric Perschbacher  
Windell Rohan  
Ronald L. Smelcher



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

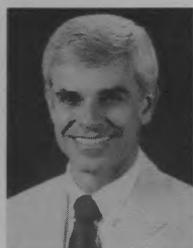
1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611, or 800-833-2611. These numbers are monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.

## Outage Map • Call toll-free 800-833-2611



# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins

The evidence is decisively clear: Rural America is carrying a disproportionate share of the nation's economic burden, and apparently the burden is going to become much heavier. With a reapportioned and more-urban Congress, the needs of rural areas are likely to once again be sacrificed in the quest to eliminate America's budget deficit. It appears that the Rural Electrification Administration is a prime target.

In 1983, in the interest of trimming the budget deficit, a new formula was proposed for reimbursing hospitals for Medicare/Medicaid costs. This formula proposed that small town hospitals be paid less than city hospitals for the same medical procedures. Now someone made this decision thinking that rural hospitals had less overhead and therefore fewer expenses. If horse sense would have been applied, it would have been evident that rural hospitals need the same facilities and equipment to supply services as their city counterparts, the only real difference being the number of patients utilizing the service. As a consequence of this change in formula, hundreds of rural hospitals shut down in the decade of the 80s. More will close in the 90s.

A new formula has been proposed for those rural electric cooperatives that borrow money through the Rural Electrification Administration. This formula, when applied, will result in a higher cost of borrowed money for your Cooperative. This formula could be the

beginning of the end for the 50-year-old REA loan program.

The budget deficit is a threatening issue, one that has to be addressed. The above mentioned formula revision is in addition to the 25 percent reduction in funds slashed from the program earlier this year, and it is in addition to the 40 percent reduction in funds the program has seen in the past decade. Some of the individuals suggesting these cuts and formula changes believe the REA loan program is no longer needed, since only 1.2 percent of the rural homes remain unelectrified. These individuals have not considered that most of the original power lines built 50 years ago have been replaced, are being replaced, or will need to be replaced, in order to supply rural America with a dependable source of electrical energy. At today's cost, replacing 20 miles of line and poles, to serve six or seven families, is no more feasible than it was in the early forties, when the power companies would not or could not do it.

Is the REA loan program a subsidy? The answer is **yes**. Cooperatives that use the program have been able to borrow 70 percent of their requirements at 5 percent interest through REA and 30 percent from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation at current market rates, which provides a blended interest rate of about 6.5 percent. All money is paid back to each respective agency, and in light of

*(Continued on page 12d)*



A small part of Bob's favorite stones and mineral specimens. The onyx elephant and some of the minerals were purchased at shows, while the spheres and slabs are Bob's.

# Wilson is rock co

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 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 went to his place. We'd done quite a bit of work, and then it started to rain."

That put a stop to the work, and after the rain had passed, the farmer suggested a walk in the field, explaining that a rain would sometimes uncover interesting artifacts.

"We were walking along," Bob relates, "and I saw a little white

arrowhead, a really small one. I picked it up and showed it to the farmer, who was really tickled. He offered me a nickel for it, and I jumped at that kind of money.

"It turned out that I never got paid for the arrowhead or the haying work, but I did get a start on a hobby," he says.

He has made a display board backed with red velvet for some of his nicer arrowheads, and exhibits it proudly. While his board has many interesting pieces, he has several that aren't mounted, too. One of the more interesting is a tiny hatchet head. "It would have been a child's toy," he says, adding, "children learned a lot of the skills they needed to know by playing with child-sized toys that were just

like the real thing."

An over-the-road truck driver, he notes that he had a small farm for just the same reason. "I farmed to teach my two boys to work," he says with a grin. Bob and his wife, Ruth, also have three daughters.

There are several Indian campsites around where the Wilsons' live, and while exploring them, Bob noticed many stones like those used around campfires. "I call them 'campstones,'" he says, "and I started bringing them home along with anything else I'd found, if they looked interesting."

One thing led to another, and before long, Bob was breaking campstones to see if they were more interesting inside. In some cases, they were hollow, with



Bob also has a machine that enables him to make stone spheres.



Bob exhibits one of his rock saws.



Bob displays some of the many Indian artifacts he has found. Most are from right around his farm.

# lector

crystals inside.

He decided to get a rock saw, and get into rock cutting in a serious way. "I have five saws now," he says with a laugh, "and I'm building a sixth. You can hardly get to them through the garage. There's a machine to make spheres out of stones, too.

"It's interesting to cut rocks," he says, "because many of them have interesting patterns in several different colors. One of the spheres I made is tan with dark gray in it, and there's a place where it looks just like a dog's head. It's really fascinating."

The Wilsons' have joined a nearby rockhounds' group, the Southern Illinois Earth Science  
*(Continued on page 12d)*



Ruth has a talent all her own. Here, she is pictured with her camera and some of the beautiful hummingbird photos she has taken.

(Continued from page 12a)

the fact that the REA pays more than 5 percent for the funds it loans, a subsidy exists. The REA loan subsidy equates to about \$50 per member per year. Investor-owned utilities receive federal assistance that amounts to about

\$65 per customer per year and municipal-owned utilities receive about \$93 per year per customer. Should subsidies exist for domestic programs that benefit the nation and its people? The answer is yes, and another question must follow. How can America afford billions

and billions in aid and debt forgiveness for foreign countries, but cannot afford the REA program, one of the most successful programs ever undertaken and which has an unequalled repayment record?

(Continued from page 12c)

Club, and go to meetings and shows when they can. They've traveled to Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota and Missouri in the half-

dozen or so years they've been in the club, and have brought home a lot of interesting stones.

While all that was going on, Ruth was following a hobby, too. She was

into painting, mostly natural and rural scenes. And she had an interest in photography, too. Finally, she sold a couple of paintings and bought a camera and zoom lens. She was particularly interested in "shooting" a beautiful little hummingbird that enjoyed her flowers.

Since her lens only goes to moderate telephoto, she got fairly close to the flower and focused her lens on it, and waited. "I'd wait 'til I didn't think I could wait any more," she says, "and then I'd wait a little longer. When I was about ready to give up—and when I didn't think I could hold the camera still any longer—the bird would show up. I really got some beautiful pictures. I was so happy with some of them that I had some good-sized enlargements made, and had them matted, mounted and framed."

While Bob's still working to find "just that perfect rock," Ruth allows as how she's still looking for "just the perfect hummingbird photo."



In addition to photography, Ruth does some paintings. In fact, she financed her photo hobby by selling a couple of paintings.

## If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.

2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is between the "OFF" and "ON" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, re-trip the breaker to the

"ON" position.

3. If you still do not have power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-800-833-2611, 24 hours a day. Please give the party answering, your name, phone number and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.

# Call toll-free 1-(800)-833-2611



# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins

A favorite method of teaching basic electricity is to use a water system analogy in which the generating plant is viewed as a reservoir and power lines are viewed as water pipes. An electrical system and a water system are very similar and almost everyone knows that power line conductors carry electric energy from a generating plant to the end user.

There is a major difference, however, between the two systems. In a water system, the fluid is contained within the pipe walls, but in an electrical system an energy field exists outside of the conductors, even when they are insulated. These energy fields are known as EMFs or electric, magnetic fields and research is currently underway to determine what effects they have on human and animal health.

EMFs exist, not only around power lines, but also around household appliances, as well as the wiring located within the walls of your home.

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) is presently funding over forty EMF research projects and additional studies are being undertaken by the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Cancer Institute, and many universities.

To date, a number of studies have been completed on the health effects of EMFs, but the results have been conclusive. A draft report released in December of 1990 by the Environmental Protection Agency states that a link between EMFs and health concerns is

doubtful and concludes that scientists still do not understand how EMFs affect biological processes. On the other hand, a preliminary study conducted by the University of Southern California shows some support for child health problems associated with power lines and considerable support for child health problems associated with electrical appliance use.

Your cooperative and the other members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association wholeheartedly endorse continued research and commend the Electric Power Research Institute for their fairness and impartiality.

As an electric cooperative, it is our business to sell energy, but if there is a problem with our product, we want to know it, we want our member-owners to know it, and we want to fix it.

Considering all of the competing energy sources (natural gas, propane and oil), the facts are still on our side: electricity is the safest, cleanest form of energy available today.



# Stewardship week at Dixon Springs

The Dixon Springs Agricultural Center is usually a fairly quiet place. Nestled in the wooded hills of Pope County, the ag research facility is occasionally home to the noise of a tractor or, perhaps, a chain saw.

For a week last month, it rang with the voices of hundreds of children, as it served as the site of Stewardship Week. The event was designed to bring in kindergarten through eighth grade students from all over Southern Illinois and give them an awareness of nature and how man can better fit into it.

Stephanie Brown, Forest Resource Center director, notes that some 2,200 kids turned out for the first four days of the event. Friday, April 26, which was Arbor Day, was set aside for an open house for the general public.

"Cooperation from every natural resource agency in the area made it

possible to offer an outstanding program for the kids," Brown says, "and we had 25 stations set up on the Ag Center lawn. Resource people at each station gave programs on stewardship-related topics including soil conservation, recycling and cave ecology."

The schedule was set up in such a way that teachers could choose from five to seven stops at different stations during the day, with some taking as little as 10 minutes, while others took upwards of an hour.

Hands-on events were popular with the kids, and the opportunity to pet a live snake was enjoyed by many kids — and to varying degrees by teachers and teacher's aides. Southern Illinois University's Fisheries station offered a look at a tilapia, a fish that's catching on with aquaculturists. Many kids also took advantage of the opportunity to

pick up a living crayfish.

Other stops dealt with nature hikes, recycling, wildlife, tree planting, composting and wetland conservation, among others.

A 30' by 60' tent was an added attraction this year, and was filled with various exhibits and activities to keep the kids occupied during breaks and schedule gaps.

The kids also had an opportunity to meet with Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl, and each received a tree to plant.

"Support from our many sponsors, including Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, has made it possible to offer a first-class program," Brown says. "Last year's program was a great success, but with the funding we got this year, we were able to nearly double the size of the event. We hope to make it even better next year."



There were many activities, both indoors and out. In these photos, kids pet snakes, pick up a crayfish, get a close look at a mule, have their picture made with Smokey the Bear, watch a nature video and look at an indoor tree exhibit. Others lined up for a nature hike. All in all, it was a day to be remembered.

# Nominating committee chosen

As provided by the bylaws of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc., a Nominating Committee was chosen April 16, 1991, consisting of the following cooperative members:

## District No. 1

Melanie Bauman, R.R. 1, Sesser, IL 62884

## District No. 2

W.D. Fisher, R.R. 1, Macedonia, IL 62860

## District No. 3

Phyllis J. Jones, R.R. 1 Box 214, Broughton, IL 62817

## District No. 4

Joe Small, R.R. 1, Galatia, IL 62935

## District No. 5

Charles G. Cox, R.R. 1 Box 88, Eldorado, IL 62930

## District No. 6

Eugene Roper, R.R. 4 Box 265, Marion, IL 62959

## District No. 7

John W. Ward, R.R. 2 Box 157, Harrisburg, IL 62946  
Richard C. Vinyard, R.R. 3, Harrisburg, IL 62946

## District No. 8

David W. Wiman, R.R. 1 Box 124A, Herod, IL 62947  
Gayla Roe, R.R. 1, Junction, IL 62954

## District No. 9

John Rushing, R.R. 1 Box 439, Simpson, IL 62985

## District No. 10

Iris B. Randolph, R.R. 1, Golconda, IL 62938

## District No. 11

Chester Davis, P.O. Box 542, Golconda, IL 62938

The committee will meet at the office of the cooperative on Tuesday, June 11, 1991, at the hour of 10 a.m., for the purpose of nominating four (4) candidates for three-year terms as trustees of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc. Trustees whose terms are expiring include: William S. Richardson, R.R. 1, Ewing, IL 62836 (District 2); Roy D. Wise, R.R. 3 Box 170, Harrisburg, IL 62946 (District 7); James "Jamie" Scherrer, R.R. 1, Shawneetown, IL 62984 (District 8); and Gary W. Hise, R.R. 1 Box 34C, Golconda, IL 62938 (District 11).

David Ramsey, Secretary  
Board of Trustees

# Welcome new members

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in March 1991!

J.R. Murphy  
Jackie Arrowood  
Raina Campbell  
Rosalee Cruson  
David S. Harrell  
Sheila R. Jennings  
Michael O'Brien  
Tammy Rone

Tom Sims  
Bradley Yancik  
Nancy S. Casteel  
Rick E. Cox  
Philip Heathman  
Danny Miles  
Leonard L. Murray  
Bradley G. Rood

Debra L. Thompson  
Daniel Wayne Allen  
Randy Barger  
Archie R. Cornell  
Veronica Evans  
Darrell R. Herzog  
Michael S. King  
Jim Rice

Scott Schutt  
Sonya Slane  
Todd K. Buchanan  
Edgar J. Coffman  
Thomas Edwards  
Angela L. Joyner  
James R. Moore  
Charles J. Osborn

Santo Sciluffo  
Scott A. Webb  
Nadine Allen  
Samantha Bower  
Michael E. Crawford  
Mark A. Hansen  
Randall G. Jackson  
Frances Land

Richard Owen  
Sharon M. Sills  
Mae Winslow  
Curtis E. Carman  
Neal D. Collins  
William Harris  
Theresa Marvel  
Barry C. Morris

Robin S. Rodriguez  
Jesse F. Spain

## Outage map

**Call toll-free  
800-833-2611**

If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611, or 800-833-2611. These numbers are monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.

## We do not endorse insurance companies

Several of our members have contacted us and told us that they have been approached by representatives of an insurance company—or companies—who suggest that they have been endorsed by Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative. This is not true. We do not endorse any company's offering. We strongly recommend that you read any offering carefully before buying.



# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins

According to Webster's dictionary, the term "megalopolis" is used to define one huge, sprawling city or several large cities in close proximity. Such mega cities are envisioned by some Capitol Hill legislators as the solution to the United States' enormous budget deficit. They believe services such as water, sewers, health care, education, telephone, roads and electricity can be more economically provided when the population is condensed into compact areas, rather than spread across the vast ones.

Based on a dollar only evaluation, they are undeniably correct; however, not everyone wants to live in a mega city, and there are still many who are convinced that rural living offers a superior quality of life. Advocates of the "Mega City Solution" are not necessarily against rural living; they are just adamantly opposed to any federal tax assistance for rural America. In a nutshell, their philosophy is, "if you want to live there, fine, but don't expect urban tax payers to help." They feel rural citizens should complacently accept eroded health and educational services, poor roads, and higher utility costs.

Are mega cities the reality of the future? With only one congressman in

nine presently representing rural areas, there is cause for concern. In addition, the recent census indicates the exodus to the cities is continual, and rural tax dollars are following, resulting in states such as Arkansas, getting only 75 cents for each \$1 of taxes paid into the Highway Trust Fund.

America has lost many of her heavy industries to foreign and multinational corporations and more losses are predicted. Such losses and the correspondent elimination of jobs result in a reduced tax base, which must accommodate a growing population. The consequential competition for tax dollars between urban and rural America could result in a loss of many rural programs.

Fortunately, at the present time, many members of Congress recognize that rural America is vital to the county's survival and have supported rural programs. We, as rural Americans, must be unified and vocal in our efforts if we are to maintain and protect what has been gained to date; if we do not, what we now have may be lost.

Businesses often get started in the darndest ways, and for the darndest reasons.

*Springhouse* Magazine is a case in point. Essentially, the magazine was the result of a brainstorming session by three Southern Illinois men of widely varying backgrounds. The three, Bill Carr, Kenneth Mitchell and Gary DeNeal, were looking for the kind of business that most of us would like to have: They wanted to do something they would enjoy doing, that would fill a real need, and that would earn a respectable living. But there was one more "something," too. They wanted something they could do out of their homes, deep in the woods and hills of Southern Illinois, or "Little Egypt."

After kicking around several ideas with varying degrees of merit, they finally settled on the idea of a magazine that would deal with the history, folklore and mystique of their area.

They were about as unlikely a trio of budding magazine publishers as you would expect to find anywhere. Gary had a background in history and English, which didn't offer that much in the way of job opportunities in the hills and hollers of his beloved Southern Illinois. So he tried hog farming, and found that it wasn't exactly his "cup of swill," either.

Carr, a merchant seaman, mercenary and clockmaker, has been all over the world. When push came to shove, no other place held the attraction for him that the Illinois Ozarks did. Mitchell had worked in the building trades, department store management and the advertising field.

At any rate, the three set out in the early fall of 1983 to get their venture off the ground. The first issue's cover had a drawing of a rising sun, a soaring eagle, a sprouting oak, rolling hills and a spring. It had red and brown inks on a buff-colored stock. Inside, the authors explained why: "The spring, the infant oak, the rising sun, and the soaring eagle, all against a very typical Illinois Ozark landscape are symbolic of the



**The sign is an inverted soft drink sign, recycled for another use in Little Egypt.**

*Springhouse* as it emerges—a new being, frail and unsteady, in a beautiful but often unforgiving environment—with great hopes, aspirations, and potential. It reflects our hopes and aspirations not only for this new publication, but also for our area, its people, our nation, and the world."

"We started out expecting only a few hundred subscribers," Gary says, "and it was a real family kind of thing." His wife, Judy, who serves as associate editor, adds that much of the magazine's assembly was done around a table, in a more or less picnic atmosphere. "We would all get together, with the magazine pages in stacks around the edge of the table," she says, "and we would kind of make an evening of collating. It was kind of fun."

Both note that the publications' rapid growth made that method of assembly impossible before too long.

They hoped their magazine would fill a void that was being ignored at the time, and the rapid growth proved that they had the right idea.

Anyway, the fledgling publication

would concentrate almost exclusively on the comings and goings, both past and present, of people who lived in or around such places as Womble Mountain, Williams Hill and Possum Ridge.

It would chronicle the day-to-day activities of those who are considered by many to be "hillbillies."

"It's been a real surprise to us," Gary says, "because we thought the only people who would be interested would be either present Southern Illinoisans, or people who used to live here and who had moved away. We thought they would feel a certain nostalgia and enjoy the magazine.

"That has proven to be partly the case, but not the whole thing. We have people who express a great interest just in the folklore, whether they have ever lived here or not," he adds.

Gary, who notes that the other two original publishers have since



**Gary also does a radio broadcast. Here, he practices his morning greeting to Southern Illinois.**

fallen away from the business, is proud of the fact that *Springhouse*, which at first glance appears to be aimed at a fairly narrow audience, has some well-known contributors. John Dunphy, for example, is called "the most prolific writer ever to operate a used book store in Alton, Illinois," and is further recognized as a regular contributor to *The Christian Science Monitor*. Irving Dilliard

# Springhouse chronic past and

spent more than 30 years with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 10 years on the faculty of Princeton University, and went on to become the first director of the State of Illinois Department on Aging. Another regular contributor lives in Hawaii, and several subscribers live there. Another lives in Japan.

Such articles as "A Young Egyptian and a Pinch Bug" sit cheek by jowl with such learned pieces as "The High Stakes of Riverboat Gambling." "Ferne Clyffe Unadorned" and "In Search of the Piasa" are nearby. Of course, the Cave-In-Rock outlaws and depression-era bloodletters also receive their fair share of attention. Much of the magazine is devoted to life and travel in Southern Illinois when it was "the wild and woolly way west," and there are a lot of depression-era reminiscences, too. Of course, there are recipes.

Every once in a while, a magazine publisher might be tempted to try an experiment with his publication, and Gary is no exception. He decided to add spot color—by hand. "I thought it might be interesting to color just a small part of each cover, to add a little interest. I figured I would do it by hand to keep costs down. A lot of people thought I was crazy," he says with a chuckle.

Judy was one of them. I told him that he was out of his mind to try such a thing," she says emphatically, "and that I wasn't going to have any part of such a crazy idea—and I didn't!"

The DeNeals note that their two sons, Brian and Hugh, aren't particularly interested in the magazine, but they are interested in Gary's radio program, which is a fairly new venture. While a magazine can be operated out of a remote home, and a radio broadcast can too, they are not all of the DeNeal operation. Gary runs a bookselling venture out



*Springhouse* grew out of a brainstorming session by three Southern Illinois men who wanted to live and work in Little Egypt. It has now gone through several issues, and increased its subscribing list. Here, Gary displays some of the back issues.

of the home, with the books offered in *Springhouse*. On a good month, you can find some 65-70 books listed, most if not all of them dealing with Southern Illinois.

The publication, which Gary characterizes as "An adventure shaped like a magazine," is appropriately Southern Illinois in more ways than content, he notes. "Our office is in Saline County," he says, our post office box is in Pope County, our typesetting is done in Hardin County, most of our mailing is done in Williamson County, and our printing is done in Wayne County."

*Springhouse* is alive and well—and enabling the DeNeals to live and work where they want to—at home in the hills of Little Egypt.



Gary also runs a mail order bookshop out of his home, with about 65-70 titles, most relating to Southern Illinois, on the shelves.

# es Southern Illinois, present

# Capital credits for 1990

The most economical method of notifying members of their capital credit allocation is to furnish them with a multiplication factor, which when applied to the total electric bill for the year 1990 will determine the notified of the amount of patronage. Notices will be mailed to large commercial consumers who are not on self billing.

Self-billing members may determine their capital credit allocations from Southeastern by multiplying their bills paid (less tax) by a factor of .09104142; for Southern Illinois Power Co-operative use a factor of .10500039.

For those paying accounts under the Small Commercial Schedule, a factor of .08865799 for Southeastern and .10225151 for Southern Illinois Power Co-operative should be used.

If you are unable to determine your 1990 allocation, the amount credited will be furnished on request.

The bylaws of your cooperative provide that each member shall be notified of the amount of patronage capital credited to his account. Of the total allocation, approximately 36 percent is due to capital credit allocation received from the Southern Illinois Power

Co-operative.

A capital credit plan is an arrangement under which: (1) a cooperative and its members expressly agree that any payment by any patron over the cost of serving him is capital furnished by the patron to the cooperative; (2) the Cooperative credits such patronage capital on its books to the patrons; and (3) such capital will be retired when, in the opinion of the board of trustees, such retirement will not impair the cooperative's financial position.

The capital credit plan provides for service at cost for paying off the REA and CFC loans, for acquiring complete local ownership of the cooperative system, for giving all patrons full credit for all payments in excess of cost, and for the eventual repayment to the patrons of all capital furnished by them. Capital credits are not necessarily available in the form of cash, but are represented largely by investments in poles, wire, transformers and other equipment required to provide service. In general, no patronage capital can be retired until the cooperative has obtained enough capital to take care of all its needs.

## Welcome new members

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in April 1991!

Thomas E. Arnold  
Jesse Barger  
Albert E. Brain  
Michael John Carretti  
John R. Dunn  
Wm. D. Franklin  
Genevieve Garrard  
Pat Hodge  
Samantha Howell  
Henry R. Manfredini

Mark Francis Mills  
Thomas L. Rich  
David Schram  
Linda S. Shepperd  
Guy Thompson  
Alonzo Bishop  
Gerald Craig  
Leatha Jones  
William R. Manuel  
Russell D. Patterson

Anthony Baker  
Ronnie Braggs  
William Brandsasse Jr.  
Bobby J. Cooper  
H. Lynn Criswell  
Roger A. Davis  
Jim Dunn  
Michael D. Eldridge  
Treasa Kelly  
John Dsterhout

James A. Renfroe  
Matthew S. Rich  
Thomas R. Riggs  
Annie Rundles  
David Shaw  
Beatrice K. Simer  
Andrew C. Smith  
Debra F. Smith  
Lisa Smith  
Kaila Spanos

Chad Vaughn  
Allen W. Walters  
Suzanne Attebury  
John Hogan  
Brent Knott  
Ron Lowery  
Jackie D. McCabe  
Marion Eagles AR 2457  
Anthony S. Pierce  
Dennis Simmons

Billy L. Tatum  
Gary D. Thorn  
Frederick Turner Jr.  
Gallatin County Comm  
Ronnie R. Clark  
Michael L. Gross Jr.  
Bertram G. Leech  
James A. Wysong

## If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.

2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is between the "OFF" and "ON" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, re-trip the breaker to the

"ON" position.

3. If you still do not have power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-800-833-2611, 24 hours a day. Please give the party answering, your name, phone number and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.

## Call toll-free 1-(800)-833-2611



# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins

Illinois produced over 60 million tons of coal last year, a slight increase over the 59.7 million tons produced in 1989. However, the provisions of the 1990 Clean Air Act could reduce Illinois' short-term coal production by 30 percent, according to John S. Moore, Director of the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources. Illinois coal is vital, not only to the livelihood of thousands of Southern Illinois miners, but also to the country as a whole, if we are ever to achieve energy independence.

The tendency for the past two decades has been for corporate America and government to seek the quick and easy solutions to problems. The "quick and easy" response to the 1990 Clean Air act is to burn low sulfur western coal. Fortunately, most Illinoisans recognize the disastrous consequences of such a decision, and our state government is currently involved in strategies to encourage Illinois utilities to continue to burn domestic coal, rather than switching. Illinois utilities presently burn about 14.4 million tons of domestic coal annually. However, almost 40 million tons are exported to other states for utility use; therefore, Illinois must continue to research and develop clean coal technologies. If we do not, our

export markets to other states will most assuredly be lost.

If Illinois loses her coal industry, over 21,000 Illinois jobs could be lost by 1995, according to the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Our power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Co-operative, burned over 690 thousand tons of Southern Illinois-produced coal last year. We at Southeastern take pride in the fact that the energy we sell is generated from locally produced coal, which keeps the economic wheels of the area turning.

Power generators in Illinois have reduced the sulfur dioxide emissions from our coal nearly 30 percent below 1970 levels through compliance with the 1970 version of the Clean Air Act. Through cooperation and long-term strategies, the requirements of the 1990 Act can be met as well—if "quick and easy solutions" are avoided.

# Official Notice of 1991 Annual Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That the Annual Meeting of the members of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., will be held at the Southeastern Illinois College, Illinois Route 13, East of Harrisburg or South of Eldorado on College Drive, on August 6, 1991; that the period of registration for said Members will be from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.; business meeting of said Members will convene at 7 p.m. for the purpose of taking action upon the reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees of said Cooperative; for the election of four (4) Trustees for terms of three (3) years each, and for such matters as may be properly considered at such meeting.

You are further notified that the number of Trustees to be elected at the 1991 Annual Meeting is four (4) and that one each is to be elected from Districts 2, 7, 8, and 11.

## Report of Nominating Committee

As provided by the bylaws of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc., a Nominating Committee, consisting of the following Cooperative members:

Melanie Bauman (District #1)  
W.D. Fisher (District #2)  
Phyllis Jones (District #3)  
Joe Small (District #4) (Absent)  
Charles G. Cox (District #5)  
Eugene Roper (District #6)  
John W. Ward (District #7)  
David W. Wiman (District #8)  
Gayla Roe (District #8)

As provided by the bylaws of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., a Nominating Committee, consisting of the following Cooperative Members:

Melanie Bauman (District #1)  
W.D. Fisher (District #2)  
Phyllis Jones (District #3)  
Charles G. Cox (District #5)  
Eugene Roper (District #6)  
John W. Ward (District #7)  
Richard C. Vinyard (District #7)  
David W. Wiman (District #8)  
Gayla Roe (District #8)  
John Rushing (District #9)  
Iris B. Randolph (District #10)  
Chester Davis (District #11)

met at the office of the Cooperative on June 11, 1991, at the hour of 10 a.m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for Trustee of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. for the terms expiring.

John Rushing (District #9)  
Iris B. Randolph (District #10)  
Chester Davis (District #11)

met at the office of the Cooperative on June 11, 1991, at the hour of 10 a.m. for the purpose of nominating four (4) candidates for three-year terms as Trustees of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The undersigned presided as Secretary of the meeting.

The following candidates were nominated:

The undersigned presided as Secretary of the meeting.

The following candidates were nominated:

William S. Richardson, RR 1, Ewing (District #2)  
Roy D. Wise, RR 3 Box 170, Harrisburg (District #7)  
James "Jamie" Scherrer, RR 1, Shawneetown (District #8)  
Gary W. Hise, RR 1 Box 34C, Golconda (District #11)

DATED at Eldorado, Illinois, this 11th day of June, 1991.

/s/ Melanie Bauman  
Melanie Bauman, Secretary  
Secretary of the Meeting

DATED at Eldorado, Illinois, this 17th day of July, 1991.

/s/ David Ramsey  
David Ramsey, Secretary

William S. Richardson (District #2)

Roy D. Wise (District #7)  
James "Jamie" Scherrer (District #8)

Gary W. Hise (District #11)  
DATED at Eldorado, Illinois, this 11th day of June, 1991.

/s/ Melanie Bauman

Melanie Bauman  
Secretary of the Meeting

# Save \$10

## on your next electric bill!

Members attending the annual meeting August 6  
will receive a \$10 credit on their next electricity bill.  
Be sure to attend and take part in your annual meeting.

Attend the  
**Southeastern Illinois  
Electric Cooperative  
Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 6  
Southeastern Illinois College  
(Illinois Route 13 east of Harrisburg)  
(or College Drive south of Eldorado)**

---

**Registration begins at 6 p.m.  
Business meeting begins at 7 p.m.**

- Reports of officers
  - Election of directors
  - Other cooperative business
- 

**\$10 electric bill credit for  
all members attending the annual meeting**



**A familiar sight on the Ohio**

## **'Always a River' on its way**

Many years ago, kids in river towns would keep watch on the river, watching for smoke. The first to yell, "Showboat's a-comin'" could be proud of his sharp eyes. Things were simpler then.

It's been a while since there were showboats on the Ohio, but there's one "a-comin'," and it's going to stop in Golconda for two days (August 27-28). The visit is part of a program entitled "Always a River: the Ohio River and the American Experience."

It's a floating exhibition on a specially built barge, and will be towed 981 miles, the entire length of the Ohio, from where it begins at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to where it joins the Mississippi River at Cairo, Illinois.

On its way, Always a River will dock at 19 river cities and towns including Golconda and Cairo. Plans are to set up a tent and stage at each stop, and Indiana University's (IU) Hoosier Singers and members of IU Opera Theater will perform. Home-grown

entertainment, including barbershop quartets, is being lined up, too.

Parades, entertainment and opening festivities will be brought aboard at each stop, to give a local flavor to the floating museum. Interactive displays will invite spectators to become participants. You can pull levers, turn wheels and play riverboat captain. There is a history exhibit, too. The erratic behavior of the river is spelled out for you, and changes in its usefulness. There are exhibits

showing the development of complex prehistoric societies, the days of the riverboats, and the river's tributaries.

Since roads in early America were bad at best and railroads were non-existent, rivers were major transportation routes. The Ohio was one of the most important, so there is a section on the progression of the boats

that plied many a mile on the river: dugouts, flatboats, keelboats, steamboats and modern tugboats.

Sponsored by the Humanities Councils of the bordering states and the National Endowment, and coordinated by the Indiana Humanities Council, the exhibit will carry distinguished hosts, including authors,

designers, historians and engineers.

Visitors will be welcomed aboard by a river pilot—a 50-year veteran of the Ohio River.

Again, the best opportunity for SEIEC members to visit Always a River will be August 27-28 in Golconda.

## Welcome new members

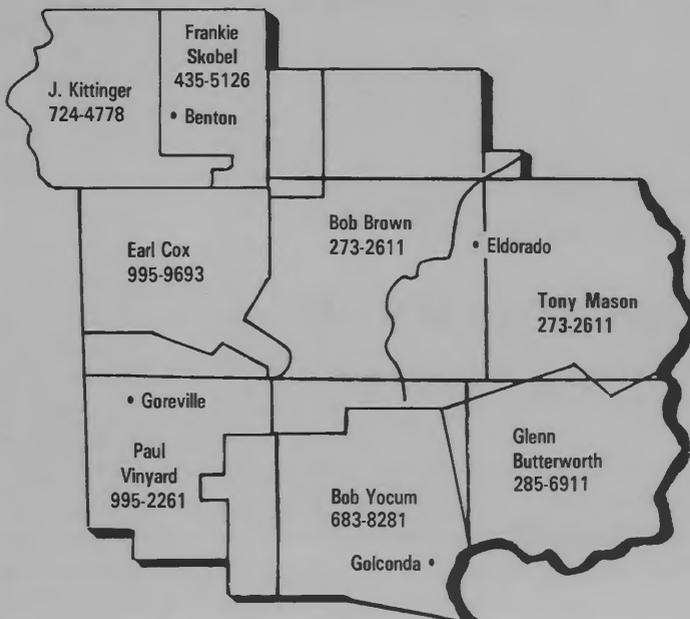
Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in May 1991!

Curt Anderson  
J.S. Andrews Jr.  
Michael Barnes  
Delmus L. Bradley  
Max E. Bridgford  
Edna Y. Brin  
Donald B. Buchanan  
Denise Wheelhouse  
Butch L. Carter  
Charles Colboth  
Billy Gene Cox  
Jon Devers  
John Devillier  
Wendell A. Diefenbach  
Darlene Eickmeyer  
Dewayne Erwin  
Gil Frishman  
G Kay's Bait & Tackle  
Eric V. Gates  
Lorrie Gilliam  
Michael Gwaltney  
James G. Hasse Sr.  
Kevin Heaton  
Kenneth E. House

John W. Hughes  
Richard M. Jeffries  
Charles J. Jones  
Donald E. King  
Melissa Kondoudis  
Frances Leavell  
Charles L. Lenard Jr.  
Billy G. Malone  
Theresa M. Markoff  
Charles V. Miller  
John W. Moore  
James D. Price  
Steven A. Price  
Barbara J. Randol  
Audra D. Shaw  
Alvin D. Suits  
Robert E. Taylor  
Paul W. Thomas  
Bill Vanek  
Deana L. Vaughn  
Sunny R. Wenning  
Jared Whitehead  
James A. Willis  
HLD Cellular

Cox Farms  
Motel 6  
Steven Alexander  
Charles Behn  
Roy G. Berry  
Shannon D. Boner  
Tim Bowns  
Mark Burriss  
B. Blanton Dees  
Virgil M. Eaton  
Paul Elder  
Eric L. Frazier  
Mark Gerdes  
Sharon Gibbens  
George A. Gibbs  
Jimmy D. Giffin  
Larry A. Gilbert  
Robert J. Greenwood  
Theresa Hargett  
Lindell R. Hickey  
Walter Holderbaum Sr.  
Richard M. Holloman  
Duane Jackson  
Lowell Johnson

Thomas Kliora  
Bob Long  
William A. Marshall  
Gary Mausey  
Lola Maxi Mendenhall  
Heather M. Nelson  
Robert Penninger  
Joseph C. Portell  
Jeff Potter  
Anthony Robertson  
Elizabeth L. Shimp  
Elbert A. Steinsieck  
Ernest Summers  
Margaret Tanner  
Jesse Taylor  
Darla Trustee  
Raymond Walker  
Scott R. Wargel  
Robert L. Wiedwilt  
Brian Woodworth  
Angela Yates  
David J. Carmain



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611, or 800-833-2611. These numbers are monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.

**Outage Map • Call toll-free 800-833-2611**



# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

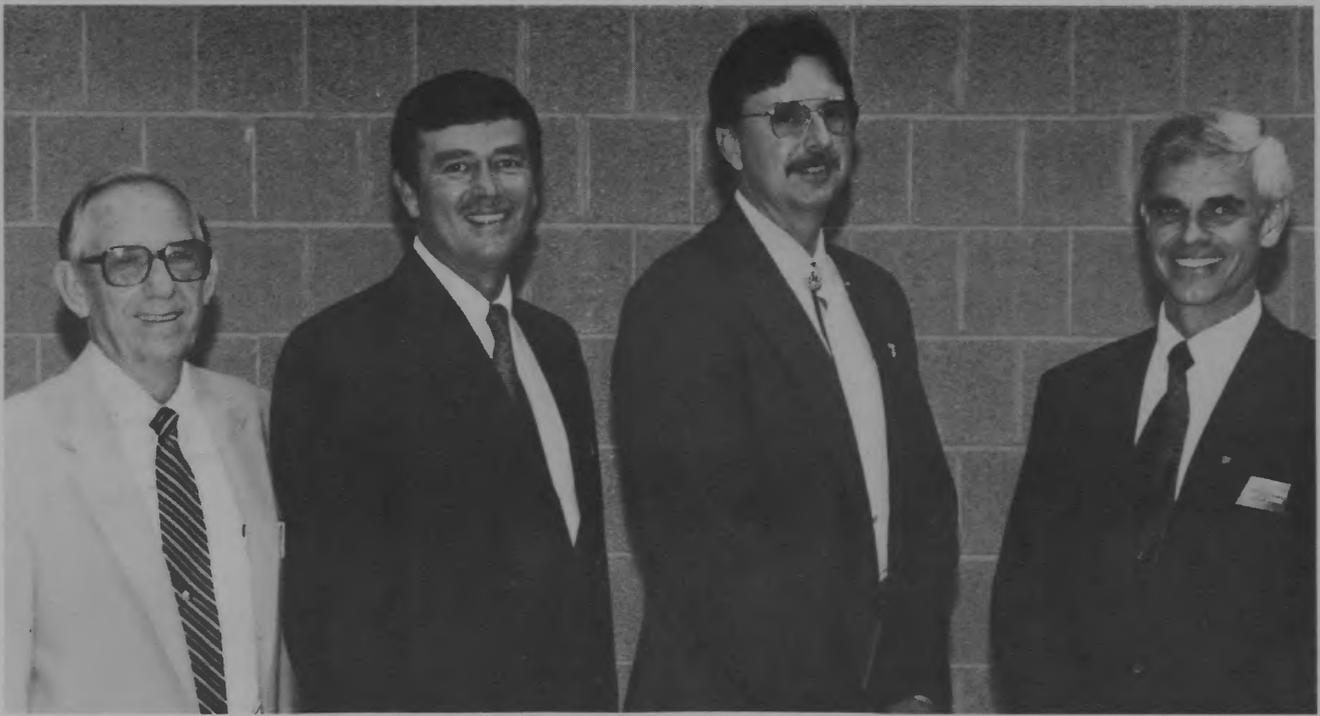
James M. "Mick" Cummins

In August of each year, Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative holds its Annual Membership Meeting. This event is one of the distinct differences between your Cooperative and investor-owned utilities. Investor-owned utilities have annual meetings, but they are "shareholder" meetings—not consumer meetings. Larger "shareholders" typically exert a much greater influence on the direction of corporations than do small shareholders. In a cooperative, however, each member has one vote, regardless of his/her financial status. In Illinois, one investor-owned utility holds its annual shareholders meeting in Springfield at 12 noon. Your cooperative holds its annual meetings in Saline County at 7 p.m. to enable working members to attend. The investor-owned utility referred to, calls itself the "home-town power company" and yet some of their board members, live in Arizona, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C. In addition, some of their directors are corporate executives and bankers, and all are typically very large shareholders of the corporation. Southeastern's Board Members come from diverse backgrounds. Some are farmers, others are small businessmen, some are employees of local companies, and some are retired. However, your Trustees

have two things in common: they all live in Southern Illinois, in the District they represent, and they have one membership in the corporation, just like every other member of Southeastern. At our annual meetings, the membership is advised on the progress made in operating your Cooperative. Unlike the investor-owned, there is no report on the value of our stock or profit projections for coming years, since cooperatives have neither stocks nor profits. Cooperatives do have financial reports which are issued to each member attending the annual meeting and each year the financial report is reviewed and revenues and expenses are detailed. In a cooperative, an excess of revenue over expenses is referred to as margins, and is allocated for refund to the membership on a time schedule as determined prudent by the Trustees and management.

At a utility annual meeting, shareholders attend because each has an interest in seeing the corporation profit as much as possible. In a cooperative, members attend because each has an interest in receiving quality electrical service at a reasonable cost.

Thanks for attending the 53rd Annual Meeting of your Cooperative!



Three of the four area men who were reelected to the board of trustees of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative are pictured with James M. "Mick" Cummins, manager of the member-owned utility. From left are Roy D. Wise of Harrisburg, Gary Hise of Golconda, James "Jamie" Scherrer of Shawneetown and Cummins. Williams S. Richardson of Ewing was unavailable for photos. The men were reelected at the cooperative's 53rd annual meeting, held Tuesday, August 6, at Southeastern Illinois College near Harrisburg.

## Cummins: No rate hike in 1991

Four area men were reelected to the Board of Trustees of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative at the 53rd annual meeting Tuesday, August 6, at Southeastern Illinois College. Reelected were William S. Richardson of Ewing, Roy D. Wise of Harrisburg, James Scherrer of Shawneetown and Gary W. Hise of Golconda.

In addition to electing trustees, some 1,250 members and guests heard some good news: There will be no increase in electric rates in 1991.

James M. Cummins, manager, told his audience that 1990 had been a good year for Southeastern, with kilowatt-hour sales increasing 7.4 percent over 1989's sales, and with growth in all categories.

While the immediate past looks good, and so does the present, Cummins noted that there is some very real concern for the future.

"We are very concerned about the clean air act and its effect on our local economy," he said, adding,

"studies by the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources indicate that as many as 21,000 jobs could be lost in the state by 1995. We are an integral part of the area economy and will exert every effort to burn locally produced coal," Cummins stressed.

He noted that several articles had appeared in the last year or so, particularly in the national press, concerning the impact the rural electrification program has had on the federal budget deficit.

"This is a complex subject," Cummins said, "but I would like to summarize a few points. Rural electric co-ops receive subsidies in the form of low-interest loans, which equate to about \$50 per year per member served. Investor-owned utilities, or IOUs, receive subsidies in the form of accumulated tax benefits, which equates to about \$65 per customer served, per year. Now that's a \$15 advantage to the IOUs for each consumer. Co-ops serve about 11 million members in the

U.S. If they became customers of the IOUs, it would cost our government an additional \$165 million annually," he said.

Wise, president, noted that SEIEC is working hard to keep its system in good shape. "We did a lot of system upgrading this past year," he said, "and we replaced 1,776 poles. We have also rebuilt several of our old lines, some of which were part of the original 1939 system.

"We are also continuing an aggressive forestry right-of-way program, with chemical control, hydro-axing, and clearance work on existing lines. The main goal of this system improvement program is to provide a better quality of service and reduce outages as much as possible for our 18,700 members."

Wise also noted that a 3,000 square-foot addition to the office building, the first substantial addition in many years, was working out well and should satisfy the co-op's needs for office space for several

*(Continued on page 12d)*



The Phelps Brothers, a gospel quartet, entertained.



Director Jamie Scherrer gets his blood pressure checked.



Everyone had to register, primarily to verify a quorum, but also to qualify for the \$10 credit allowed those who attend, and to be eligible for prizes.



Larry and Diane Brown won the color TV. Mrs. Brown is pictured with SEIEC's Greg Cruse.



Roy D. Wise, president, gives his report.



There was a good crowd, and James M. "Mick" Cummins, at the lectern, gives his address.

(Continued from page 12b)

years.

David Ramsey of Omaha, secretary-treasurer, also said that 1990 had been a good year. "Our operating revenue and patronage capital came to \$32,200,121 last year, as compared to \$30,589,606 the year before," he said, adding, "Our total operating expenses were

\$30,342,687, or \$1,574,152 more than the year before. Our net margins this year come to \$4,599,871, or \$979,234 more than for 1989. We paid out \$377,213 in taxes," he added.

After the meeting the board met in reorganizational session and elected Victor Knight of McLeansboro president, Kenneth R. Webb of

Tunnel Hill vice president and Ramsey, secretary-treasurer.

Entertainment for the meeting was provided by the Phelps Brothers, an Eldorado Gospel group.

Larry and Diane Brown of Thompsonville were the grand prize winners, taking home a color TV.

## Welcome new members

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in June 1991!

Charles G. Bruce  
John Korotasz  
Beth A. Volle  
Figgie Natl Resources  
Coal Valley Mining Co.  
Sherry L. Adams  
Louis J. Bacak  
Charlotte Belford  
Janet Bryant  
Mary Camden  
James Dean Faulkner  
Tony Fehrenbacher  
Melissa L. Haney  
Michael D. Harner  
James K. Harriss  
Tammy Hill  
David Holman  
Jeremy D. McFarland  
Jeff Moake  
Roger Morse  
Aleta L. Navarro  
Vicki Denise Owens  
Bryan Phillips  
William H. Rawlings  
Ed Schenck  
Marvin D. Shore  
Robert Staley  
Steven B. Steffo  
Herbert Tarlton  
Jimmy D. Wallace  
Chrisma N. Woolverton

Alma Hopper  
Cherish M. McPhail  
Ruth Ann Barnard  
Lola L. Burnside  
Lois B. Flowers  
Linda Hickey  
James Wade Hudgens  
David Mapps  
Richard W. Pell  
Kenneth D. Phillips  
Allen M. Pyle  
Walter Shults  
Ronald S. Steelman  
Tom Varland  
Larry Basler  
Keith Tabor  
Bruce A. Todd  
Ray Black & Sons Cons.  
Jimmie L. Adkins  
Farris Alexander  
Harry Bayless  
John F. Bittle  
Lowell Faulkner  
Leroy Gibb  
Paul D. Hungate  
Gaylen Jackson  
James Brent Lance  
Lon H. Miller  
Robert M. Montgomery  
Robert A. Owens  
Gorden E. Ralph

John D. Rennie  
Joseph O. Sikon  
Scott R. Slinkard  
Shelly Taylor  
Daniel W. Vaughn  
John M. Webb  
Don West  
Charles E. Adams  
Duane Anderson  
Barbara Arrowood  
Walter Blackwell Jr.  
J.T. Blandford  
Glenn Brand  
Roy P. Brammer  
Ford Childers  
Vera M. Clayton  
Shirlyn Cuttrel  
John Daciola  
Richard D. Debacher  
Pete Drone  
Mike Eader  
Philip W. Eilken  
Noma Frost  
Dorothy L. Gray  
Darrell Griswold  
Margaret Gwaltney  
Heather Halaska  
Wayne G. Hartmann  
Jason W. Hill  
Dewey Wayne Hogan  
Tracy Horton

Jeffrey A. Jones  
Lucille Jones  
Steven R. Kalaher  
Brian Kennedy  
James F. Lamphere  
John A. Lawrence  
Olin E. Lebrage  
Terry L. McCann  
Tracy L. Mezo  
Frank E. Miller  
Robert E. Miller Sr.  
Jeff Pecord  
Robert O. Ray  
Scott Reck  
Michael B. Reed  
Thomas C. Reynolds  
Craig Richardson  
Harold D. Richardson  
Jerry K. Riepshoff  
Victor Rodriguez  
Geraldine Rutherford  
Sharon Semon  
Ollen O. Smith  
John Stout  
US Bureau of Mines  
Lydia West  
M. Wayne Wiemer  
Thelma Travis  
Barry O. Williams  
Glenn Winemiller  
Dianna Ziemak

James D. Bailey  
Beverly Bell  
Robert C. Brown  
Robbie Chamberlain  
Chris Craig  
Darrell S. Ello  
Willie B. Grimes  
Larry L. Hall  
Jan Hamilton  
Dana L. Hogan  
Jeanne Kirkendoll  
Wm. G. Knowles Const Co.  
Charlotte Kruger  
Kevin L. Nix  
Donna Noffsinger  
Randall W. Rabe  
Steve Rann  
Susan Roberts  
Donald E. Roy  
Sharon C. Smith  
Lynette Staley  
Robert A. Steveson  
Charles Strasburger  
Valerie Wallace  
D.B. Walter  
Wayne R. Williams  
Tina Worth

## If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

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2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is between the "OFF" and "ON" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, re-trip the breaker to the

"ON" position.

3. If you still do not have power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-800-833-2611, 24 hours a day. Please give the party answering, your name, phone number and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.

# Call toll-free 1-(800)-833-2611



# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

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James M. "Mick" Cummins

In the past month more newspaper articles have appeared questioning the need for the REA loan program and the need for cooperative enterprises in our economy. Such articles are not unique, for they have appeared on a periodic basis since May of 1935 when the program was established.

At that time almost six million farms were operating without electricity. The rural electric loan program was initially created to make loans to private utilities, state agencies, public utility districts and cooperative associations. Despite the availability of loan funds, the private utilities declined to utilize them, and for the most part ignored rural America. One utility executive even said, "Let the farmers build their electric cooperatives and when they fail, we will buy them at ten cents on the dollar."

Now some 56 years later, some utility executives are crying "sour grapes" and would still like to buy the cooperatives for ten cents on the dollar. From the tone of the aforementioned newspaper articles, apparently the utility executives have solicited some help to their cause.

This is understandable, however, considering the comparable service and rates provided by your Cooperative, despite our lower return on investment.

Residential Illinois Power Company customers who used 1,000 kilowatt-hours of energy in July of this year paid a power bill of \$104.37; CIPS residential customers using the same amount paid \$96.43, and Southeastern members paid \$82.70.

The figures quoted for CIPS and Illinois Power include fuel adjustment and taxes. Southeastern does not charge fuel adjustments to residential users, but the \$82.70 does include all applicable taxes.

So the next time you pick up a newspaper with an article challenging the purpose of the rural electric loan program, think for a moment about your electric rates and service, and then ponder on what they would be if there were no cooperatives to serve as a yard stick.



Gibbons Creek



Ohio River from Cave-in-Rock State Pa



Camel Rock—Garden of the Gods



Pasture and shed



Ohio River from Tower Rock



Country farm enroute to Garden of the G

# 'Shawnee Hills on the Ohio'

It's no secret that Southeastern Illinois is rich in beautiful scenery: that's partly why many of us live here. It's also no secret that the area could use a little more income.

With that in mind, John Schultz, district ranger, Elizabethtown Ranger District, cooked up the idea of a "scenic byway" in the area. While he is largely responsible for

this particular scenic route, the "Shawnee Hills on the Ohio" byway, he's quick to point out that the original scenic byway idea wasn't his.

"The idea came about because people like to drive just to see the scenery," he says, "and because of the growing realization that more and more people are taking one-to-

three-day driving trips periodically, instead of a big annual vacation.

"The idea came about as a way to promote driving in those areas that are rich in scenic beauty, and that pack enough scenery into a route that can be covered in a day or so of fairly leisurely touring," he says.

Scenic byways are specific routes, designed for touring, and specially



**Devils Smoke Stack—Garden of the Gods**



**Historic Mansion Hotel—Golconda**



**Shawnee Hills from High Knob**



**Ohio River from Rose Hotel information center—Elizabethtown**



**Tug exiting lock at Smithland locks and dam**

marked as such. Most are over good, hard-surfaced roads that aren't heavily traveled. There are about 180 scenic byways in some 44 states, and the number keeps growing.

Chrysler Corporation's Plymouth Division, as interested in promoting driving as anyone, signed on as the first major sponsor of the program, and funded a brochure promoting

the idea, with brief descriptions of each of the routes. There has been an update produced, and another is on the drawing board. The new Illinois route, which runs entirely through areas served by Southeastern, is expected to be in it.

Schultz, who came to Elizabethtown from Michigan, is probably uniquely suited to help choose a scenic byway

here. "It helps that I came from somewhere else," he says. "People who live here know it's beautiful here—it's part of the reason they stay. But some of the unique features may be lost on them. For example, I saw a barn along one of the roads that was unlike any I'd ever seen before, and it would be of interest to people who are interested in barn architecture. And there's a kind of scenery here that I didn't know existed in Illinois."

Anyway, in order to have a route declared a scenic byway and mentioned in brochures and travel literature, it's necessary to submit a detailed proposal spelling out what a visitor might expect to see along the roadway. In addition to pretty scenery, there needs to be a good mix of natural, historical and cultural features, too.

The route begins at Mitchellsville, six miles south of Harrisburg, and winds its way through 70 miles of scenery, ending at Smithland locks and dam.

"It meanders through the Shawnee Hills region," Schultz says, "then drops from the hills to follow the Ohio River, which is rich in cultural and historical value. A section of the byway parallels the 'Trail of Tears National Historic Trail', too.

"The byway is intended to exhibit a good selection of the most beautiful views in Saline, Gallatin, Hardin and Pope counties, Schultz says, and also captures the dichotomy of the Shawnee Hills region and the bottomlands of the Ohio River floodplain as well as the interface of the two.

"The scenic views from the hills represent a mix of pastoral settings and rugged hills similar to what you'd see along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia," he adds, "but the route along the river has an entirely different character. Quaint river towns rich in cultural history dot the riverside, and topography is rolling to flat as you weave in and out of the river's floodplain."

"In addition to boasting some of the most scenic views in Southeastern Illinois, the route is within five miles of most of the major

recreation sites and points of interest in the counties it passes through, and the last ferry crossing on the Ohio River can be used to access the byway route near Cave-in-Rock State Park," he says.

The towns of Cave-in-Rock, Elizabethtown, Rosiclare and Golconda are spaced along the route, and all the roads are hard surfaced, except for spurs to Tower Rock, High Knob and Illinois Iron Furnace. Much of the route has been either widened or resurfaced

recently, or will be soon.

Schultz notes that Pope and Hardin counties don't have major commercial and industrial bases, and that even a modest influx of tourists should be beneficial to the area economy.

"National Forest and state camp and picnic areas provide facilities for tent and trailer camping, and there are a few private campgrounds that provide showers, dump stations and electric hook-ups," he says, adding, "the number

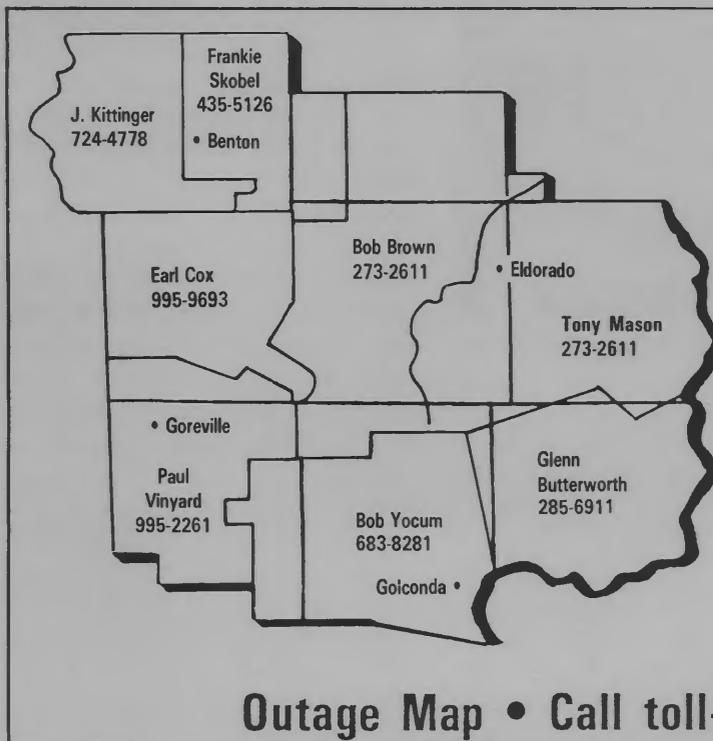
of these is slowly increasing in response to local and statewide tourism development initiatives. There are a few small motels and restaurants along the route, and a new restaurant and two new modern campgrounds are in the planning stages."

Before long, as the byway becomes more well-known, it's a safe bet that more people will be driving along it—and many will be seeing scenery they didn't know existed in Illinois.

## New members

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in July 1991!

Linda Copher	Roger Herpel	Richard Williams	Richard P. Kreher	Michael D. Johnston	Steven L. Sine
Dorothy Murdoch	Joanna A. Hinkle	Thomas J. Wolf Jr.	Mark Krekeler	Peggy E. Linnan	Tommie Seiner
Robert H. Beck	Lisa R. Keener	Jodi L. Zaczek	Gary L. Lawrence	Wallace B. Marshall	Robert M. Potier Jr.
Anthony L. Calcaterra	H. Alex Kelley	Martin Baine	James Anthony Long	Kenneth Miller	Roger Meister
Roy L. Estes	Carlos Kerley Jr.	Jewel Campbell	Gina Marlow	Anthony L. Mitchell	Phoenix Energy, Inc.
James E. Gibbons	Paul Koehne	Gregory Edwards	Donald L. McNeal	John W. Potts	Herbert Krumrey
William L. Grant	Sharon Kubitz	Randy Deal	Ebbie Miller	Mark Ramey	Jeffrey Mich Jerkins
Roy Hofer	Mildred T. Lance	Dixie Joslin	Kevin Miner	Elmer D. Robinson	Joel R. Floyd Sr.
James C. Larose	Martha G. Leach	Louis Mobley	Albert N. Novara	Rita K. Stormont	Karen B. Towle
Mark Potts	Michael F. Malin	Terry L. Moore	Forrest H. O'Connor	Rose L. Street	Joseph Ballard
Rick Beall	Garry L. May	Ivan H. Pyle	Shardi D. Oxford	Bobbie Jo Taylor	James E. Rodd
Roger Bennett	Richard Meyer	Carl Sellars	J.C. Patterson	Gary Paul Vickery	Scott Williams
Donna Sue Black	Lester E. Murray	Marion G. Welch	Doug Phelps	Julie Walker	Fred Doerr
Tom Bubanovich	Denise Ozee	David A. Zmuda Sr.	Dena R. Simpson	Anita M. Yarrington	Timothy Cooper
Gordon Carter	Carl Don Phillips	Melvin Hamilton	Martha Jane Skaggs	Donald O. Bryant	Bob Mathis
Richard M. Caudle	Roy W. Peebels	Ellen M. Alvey	Randy Smith	James W. Davis	Racheal Dennis
Mark W. Clendenin	Steve Puckett	Homer Caldwell	Bill Stanley	Chester H. Hemme	Rebecca Poirot
R.L. Colyer	Rhonda Rose	Darlene Celestino	Jerry Trousdale	James T. Kelton	Ken Coker
Gregory G. Cowsert	David Sainz	David Chamberlain	C. Doug Vance	Andy Knight	Virgil Colson
Lesa C. Crisler	Donald W. Smith	Jeffery D. Chatham	Gregory Warren	Larry Dale Marrs	Donna Fine
Cruse Brothers	John Snyder	Juanita Dameron	Tom Barton	Kenneth A. Rice	Scott Hargett
Cletus D. Dodd	Tracy Sturm	Douglass D. Dawes	Stephen W. Buckman	Clarence D. Seiler	Rick W. Shaw
Sabia E. Etienne	The Invest House Real	Harold Delaney	Edward M. Buerger	Carl L. Steele	Beverly Jo Sims
Jack Frasier	Stacey Tisch	Double "M" Campground	Daryl Gostowski	Roger Tippy	The Family Tradition
Webb Gaskins	David Torres	Jerry R. Eberhardt	Charles E. Gray	Dennis Sharp	Mark Vickery
Andrew J. Gonzalez	Bertis R. Trammell	Mark Fromm	Melissa A. Greenrod	Windy Oaks Farm,	Michael Winget
Richard D. Green	James C. Turner	Adolph Gavel	Shannon Haynes	c/o Michael Cox	Beverly Millenbine
William J. Heibredner	Thom W. Vanhorn Jr.	Vernita Hawkins	Tamri Huckelberry	Paula Sauerhage	Donna Carman
William O. Henshaw	Jesse Williams	Austin Jennings	James F. Ingram	Susan K. Vinyard	



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3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611, or 800-833-2611. These numbers are monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.

**Outage Map • Call toll-free 800-833-2611**



# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins



October is "Cooperative Month" and the spirit of "Cooperativeness" is alive and well. Your Cooperative was established to provide electric service to rural Southeastern Illinois; something local power companies would not or could not do. Today, in the Soviet Union, we are witnessing cooperation which will enable Soviet citizens to do for themselves what their government would not or could not do. Across America and across Illinois, people are involved in cooperative economic development projects. In Franklin County, Illinois, citizens are striving to develop an energy park which could employ as many as 1,000 people. In Sesser, Illinois, residents are attempting to construct their own prison facility with plans of leasing it to the State. In Eldorado, a group of area residents are working to revitalize their community through "Operation Bounce," a project which

has already attracted several unique new businesses.

Despite the varying nature of these projects, all have several things in common. First, all are attempts to improve quality of life by attracting employment. Secondly, all were initiated by area people who realize that "prosperity comes only to those who hustle while they wait." Finally, there are no large grants or government loans involved (to date) in any of the projects.

Will any of these projects succeed? Hopefully all will. If any one of them succeeds, the area will benefit. If they all fail, the experience gained from the cooperative efforts of those involved could lead to success in future progress.

There was a man who failed in business twice, and had a nervous breakdown at the age of 27. He ran for Congress, and was defeated twice. He ran for the Senate, and was twice defeated, but he persevered and at age 51, after a series of failures, Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States.

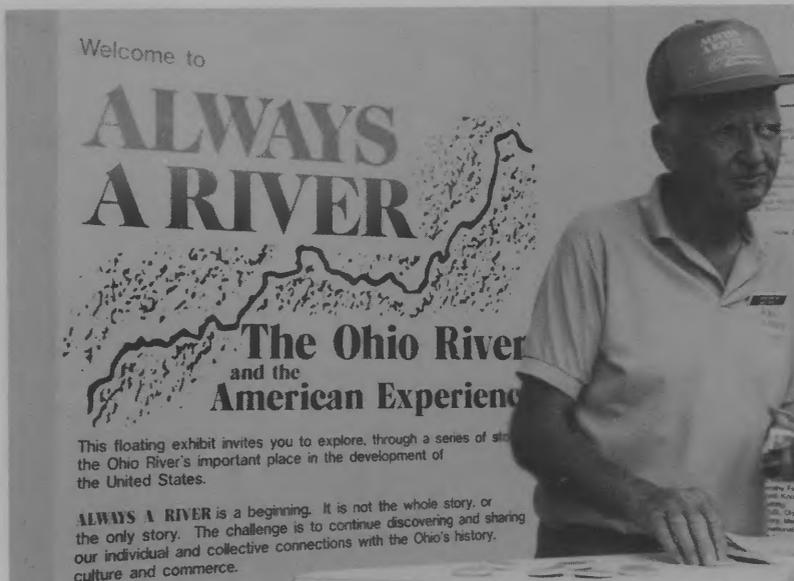
Lincoln believed that individuals should band together to accomplish collectively what they could not accomplish individually—he believed in cooperativeness. October is Cooperative month.



The exhibit was built on a regular river barge, lent by TVA and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Here it's shown set up to the Golconda Marina.

# 'Always a River'

## v i s i t s G o l c o n d a



The sign at the entryway explains what the exhibit is all about.



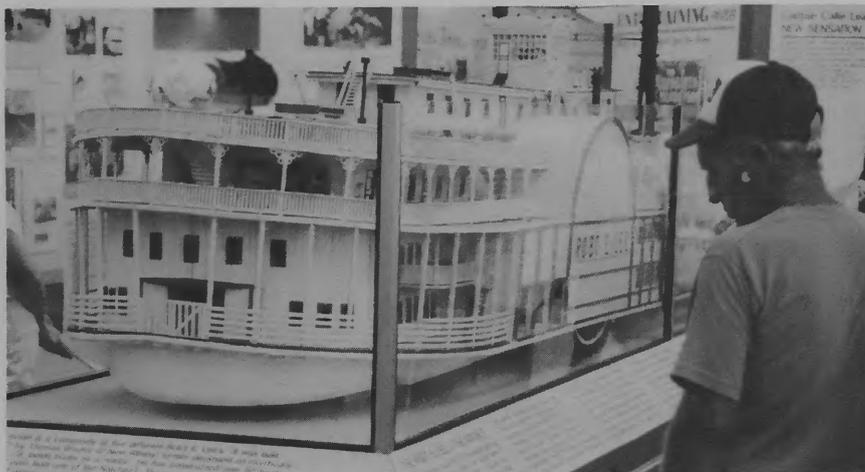
Students from Pope County High School's National Honor Society helped during the exhibit's stopover, handing out information. Here, Lesli Neal, left, and Jennifer Leach take their turns.



Some of the exhibits were photo spreads, and this one was local. The picture boards show the Golconda Marina, Pope County history, the floods of 1913 and 1937, and the age of steamboats on the river.



While some exhibits urged visitors not to touch or sit, this one invited participation, and a schoolboy took advantage of the opportunity to explore the wheelhouse of a modern towboat.



A visitor examines a painstakingly made composite model. This side-wheel steamer, the Robert E. Lee, was not a model of one boat, but took elements from five boats with that name that plied the river at various times "when steam was king."

The "Always a River" exhibit that came trekking slowly down the Ohio River nosed its way into Golconda at a particularly good time—just in time to help the Pope County seat celebrate its 175th birthday.

The exhibit, which started its three-month cruise down the 981-mile waterway in Pittsburgh on May 22, stopped at 21 cities and towns along the way.

While Golconda took advantage of the exhibit's visit to celebrate its

founding, the happiness usually associated with birthdays was mixed with solemn remembrance, too. Several Indian teepees on the courthouse lawn housed the dancers who performed both days of the event. While there, they dedicated a memorial honoring the Cherokees who died in the area during their forced relocation from the Carolinas to the Oklahoma Territory in 1838-1839.

Shipped west along what has come to be known as the "Trail of

Tears," the Indians were moved in a dozen wagon trains which crossed the river at Golconda. Hundreds were forced to winter there in miserable conditions. Many died and were buried there.

There were ceremonial dances, and John Ketcher, deputy chief of the Cherokee Indian Nation, was on hand to dedicate a Trail of Tears mural and historical marker. An open-air trading post was set up, and did a brisk business.

While all that was going on, the exhibit was sitting at the Marina. It was a barge, 32 feet wide and 154 feet long, much like those that ply the river in herds virtually all the time.

But this one was special. The barge itself, on loan from the Tennessee Valley Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was fitted out with a structure designed to hold many different exhibits, and to encourage a traffic flow that would enable people to view all the exhibits in an orderly fashion. The captain, Dana Young, was on hand to greet visitors. He's been an Ohio River captain for 50 years.

On-board exhibits pointed out the fact that the Ohio River's contribution to America's growth is not

at all well-known, and sought to change that fact.

While many think of the Ohio as a small river, it is in fact a good-sized one, draining nearly one-fifth of the United States. It was "the way west" when roads were unheard of, and carried a fair amount of traffic when the Missouri and upper Mississippi were part of the unknown wilderness.

Even today, the Ohio River system, including the lower Mississippi, carries more commodities than any other system in the U.S.

School children and senior citizens were admitted to the exhibits free, and there were a goodly number of both on board at any given time. Paying customers shelled out a dollar to tour the

exhibit, and there were many of them, too.

Part of the idea behind the exhibit was to show the various cultures that have risen and fallen along the waterway, how the river has changed over the years, how river transportation has evolved, and what changes might be made in the future.

Visitors were treated to the sight of a model of the Paul G. Blazer, a modern towboat, and a 10-foot long model that's named the "Robert E. Lee." The sidewheel steamer is not an actual model, but rather a composite of five different Robert E. Lees that plied the river during the age of steam.

There was a mockup of a control room from one of today's towboats, complete with radar screen, and a

wheelhouse from a steamer. Visitors were encouraged to poke and probe.

More recent history includes a flood that Pope Countians—and many other people along the river—still talk about. There were several videotapes that dramatized the events of 1937, when there was five feet of water in the courthouse square in Golconda—and in all the buildings in the low-lying parts of town, too. A narrator in one of the films mentioned that the water had risen four inches in an hour, and was still coming.

As mentioned, the exhibit was intended to tell many things about the river, and one of the most important messages was that the river is a blessing—although a mixed one.

## Welcome new members

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in August 1991!

Charles E. Winters, Jr.  
Jack C. Emberton Jr.  
Dan Atkins  
Randy L. Rice  
Randall Tanner  
Antioch Assembly Ch.  
David C. Audas  
Betty Austin  
BMS Farms  
Lisa Bowen  
Randy Branche  
Kevin R. Conkle

Jerred S. Cook  
Eddie D. Cox  
Linda Sue Cox  
Steve Cummins  
David A. Duncan  
Jennifer L. Frailey  
Donald G. Furlow  
Frederick D. Gammon  
Julie Gooden  
Eric Haney  
Christina Hanley  
Ellen Hebbeler

Lawanda F. Hill  
Stephanie Hogan  
Carolyn Holloway  
Jennifer Holmes  
Ken Lomax Enterprises  
Theodore C. Kliora  
Benjamin Kubitz  
Wayne L. Kuhlmann  
Jim Lacroix  
Roy W. Lamar  
Quang Lindle  
Tina Miller

W.L. Mosby  
Olga Valley Foods  
Terry Drr  
Eva F. Palmer  
David Pedigo  
Ernest Phillips  
Enos B. Rauckman  
Terry Wayne Ray  
John Reece  
Richard D. Sanders  
James Thompson  
Ronnie Todd

Lee Williams  
Amy L. Wright  
Richard J. Yancey  
Rhonda D. Stone  
Steven E. Barger  
Danny R. Bloodworth  
Lisa M. Brown  
Kevin S. Buffington  
Jack Crooks  
Rosalee Fields  
Virgil Handkins  
Paul C. Lambert

John P. Lemmons  
Herman D. Lyle Jr.  
Monte Morris  
Steven Newton  
Raymond D. Rogers  
Curtis M. Runge  
Frank Schneidinger  
James R. Smith  
Brad D. Stacey  
Sona Thomas  
Billy R. Williams  
Williamson Co. FP Dist.

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# Call toll-free 1-(800)-833-2611



# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins

Most of us, at one time or another, have debated over whether to buy an item from a large corporation or a small local business. Many large corporations have established longevity and can offer their products at lower cost. However, large corporations can be difficult to deal with, especially when there's a problem with the purchased product. Successful smaller businesses, on the other hand, have built their reputation, and survive on their ability to provide service, even though some of their products are higher in cost.

Your electric Cooperative is unique because it is a totally local corporation with a local board of directors and almost 19,000 local member-owners. Your Cooperative employs 86 local residents and has local offices in Benton, Eldorado, Golconda, Marion and Rosiclare.

Southeastern is small when compared to our giant investor-owned neighbors, but our stature increases somewhat through our federation with Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative at Dongola, Egyptian Electric Cooperative at Steepleville and Southern Illinois Power Co-operative at Marion. Collectively this group supplies electrical service to over 39,500 homes, farms, businesses and industries in Southern Illinois. It

operates and maintains over 7,000 miles of electric lines and employs 271 local residents.

Southeastern is also one of 26 distribution electric cooperatives which comprise the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, an organization whose members collectively serve 215,000 Illinois customers through 53,447 miles of electric lines and employs 1,150 Illinois residents.

In addition, these Illinois cooperatives and electric cooperatives in 45 other states are members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), a non-partisan, non-profit, private service organization of 1,000 rural electric cooperatives who collectively serve over 11 million customers, operate 2,178,530 miles of electric lines and employ 57,962 individuals.

The benefits of such associations are almost innumerable. Among the services offered are training, insurance and safety programs, legislative research and representation, and more. We live in a rapidly advancing technological society. What worked yesterday probably won't work tomorrow and employee training is required to keep pace. Both the NRECA and AIEC offer it, not only to  
*(Continued on page 12d)*

# Area woman returns from California to build B&B

Sona Thomas is back home. While that may seem fairly unremarkable to some, it's an important thing for her. She's been gone for more than 35 years.

Although she was born in Danville, Mrs. Thomas calls Rudement home. Her family moved there when she was 11 years old, and she attended an old one-room schoolhouse there.

Bob Butterworth is back home, too. For him, the old home place was his grandfather's 84-acre farm, which is also near Rudement. He'd been gone a long time, too. Mrs. Thomas, who graduated from high school in 1954, married and moved to Colorado, where she started her family. "Our first two sons were born there," she says, "and we lived there for 10 years. Then we moved to California, where our third son was born. We lived in Novato, which is in the San Francisco Bay area."

But she wasn't terribly comfortable there, and began returning occasionally to the hills and valleys of Southern Illinois, where she felt more at home.

"I'm very religious," she says, "and I came here to find peace, and to try to find out what God had in mind for me. I was right here, when He gave me the name for my place, although He didn't tell me then—it was three years ago—what kind of place I was supposed to have."

At about the same time, Bob had grown tired of living in other places, too, and felt the incredible pull of Southern Illinois. "I bought the old home place from my grandfather's estate," he says, "and I felt that I had a purpose here."

Bob, a Navy SEAL, had spent 11 years in Spain, six in Hawaii, another six in France, and had lived in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He felt it was time to come home. And, he'd noticed something a lot of other people are noticing, too: Southern Illinoisans who've been gone for literally decades are coming back. To stay.

He felt that his place would be an ideal one for many of them, and set out to develop it, with underground utilities and the amenities people have come to need. He set out to create Sally Holler Estates, a development of tracts ranging from two and one-half acres on up.

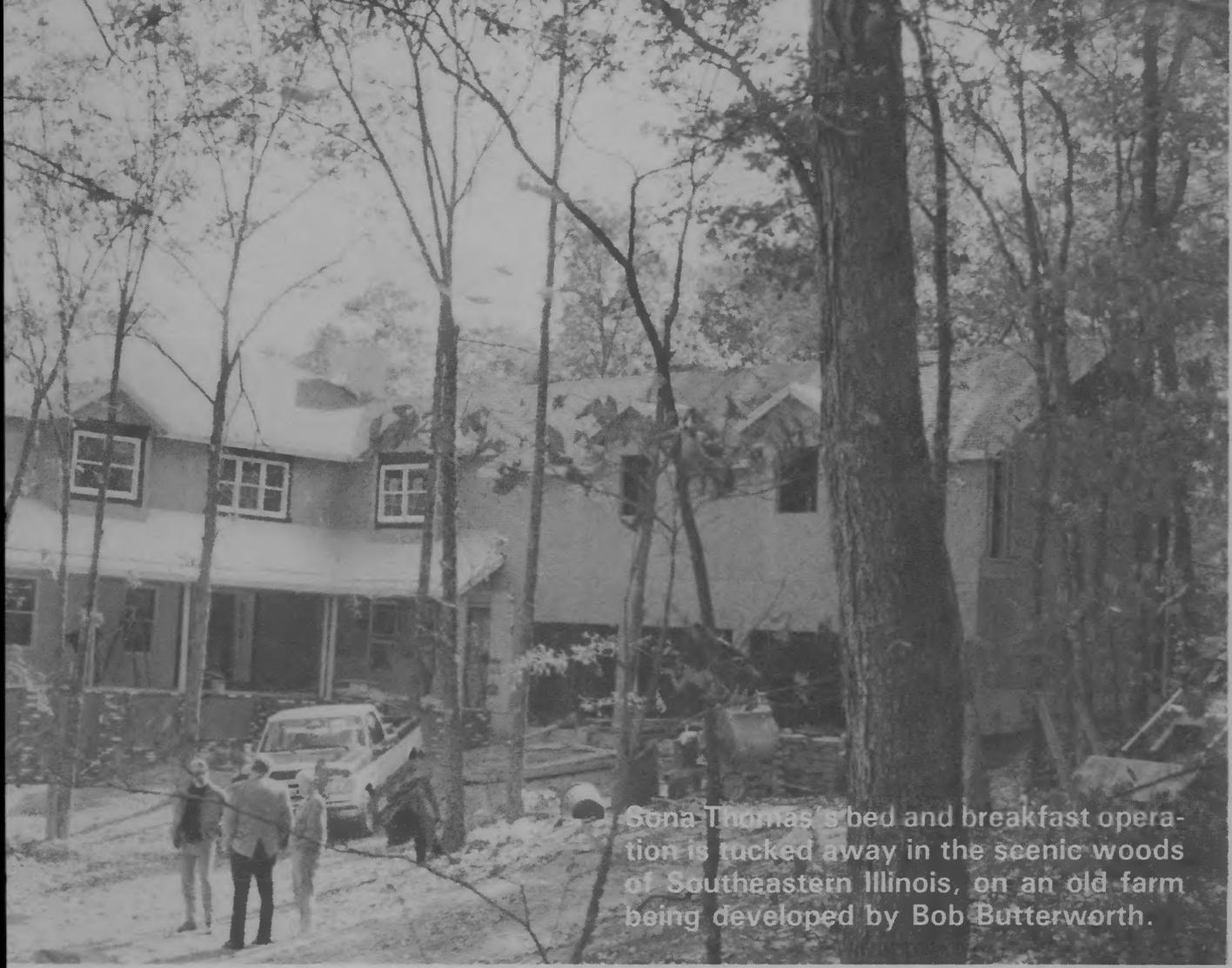
SEAL derives from the idea of sea, air and land, where such men are trained to operate, he notes, and he'd had years of experience in diving and parachuting. "That was my forte then," he says, "and now

my forte is developing this property and making it so people can enjoy it," he says.

He notes that Sally Holler Lake, which is on the property, was where he learned to swim, when he was



**Ray Harbison, left, manager of member services and industrial development for SEIEC, talks to Bob and Sona about her new business and, which has yet to really get underway, and Bob's, which is going strong. He's developing Sally Holler Estates, a residential development.**



Sona Thomas's bed and breakfast operation is tucked away in the scenic woods of Southeastern Illinois, on an old farm being developed by Bob Butterworth.

five years old. "It's a pretty old lake, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC, in the 1930s," he says, "and as a kid I remember picnicking there. I've loved swimming ever since, and that's part of why I went into the Navy and got into the divers' program."

He spent 32 years in the military, and retired in 1986.

Not too long after that, Sona learned the name of her place, the House of Nahum. She was out in the woods there, when she learned where it was supposed to be. The Lord said, "You're home," she says, and revealed to me that I should set up a bed and breakfast place here. I sold my place in Novato and got started. Nahum, incidentally, means 'peace' or 'comfort'."

Her oldest son, David, a carpenter, did the architecture for the 4,000 square-foot structure, which will have three—or four in a pinch—units. The building is

designed so each room has its own bath. She has definite ideas of what a good bed and breakfast should be, and hers doesn't include a lot of television. "There's going to be a great room," she says, "and there'll be a good-sized TV in it. The individual rooms won't have their own sets. Part of the idea is to get people to interact with other guests, and part is just to get away from the world's cares. In fact, there's going to be a big sunroom, where people can gather and do puzzles and play games. There's a big wraparound porch for people to sit on, too."

She notes with a laugh that her porch boasts a special swing. "It was a real antique," she says ruefully, "and I saw it out in California and thought it'd look great on the porch. So I bought and dragged it all the way back here. I saw one for sale near here, every bit as nice and a lot more handy, for just \$32. Anyway, it'll add a nice touch."

Her property backs up to Shawnee National Forest, she notes, offering a beautiful view of the woods and animal life there. "I tell people it's 'nestled in the woods neighboring the Shawnee National Forest,'" she says. She hopes, sometime in the not-too-distant future, to build a gazebo near the little creek that flows by the house. "I think it'd be nice to be able to do weddings there, and things like that."

Bob and Sona are part of a growing phenomenon, in that they're returning home after years of being away, and are moving into a countryside made more attractive partly by the fact that there's plenty of electricity here to make it more liveable. We expect that as people like Bob come back to develop places like Sally Holler Estates, and as people like Sona come back to build their own businesses, the area will continue to grow. We're pleased to be a part of it.

(Continued from page 12a)

employees, but also to directors ... and all of it is designed to enable your cooperative to be better managed, and more effectively operated.

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives coordinates a statewide "Emergency Work Plan" enabling your Cooperative to tap an additional work force in the event of a major storm or other disaster.

The National Association maintains a professional staff to advise member cooperatives on National environmental and legal matters, as does the Statewide for matters pertaining to Illinois. These are services that few, if any, cooperatives could afford on their own.

In essence, as impossible as it seems, these associations allow your Cooperative to be small and large at the same time, enabling us to per-

form a wide range of functions such as dispatching a local utility serviceman to restore your electric service, or answering questions about how your rates compare with other power suppliers in the State and Nation.

If you have any questions about your service, give us a toll-free call at 1-800-833-2611, "We'll keep the lights on for you."

## Welcome new members

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in September 1991!

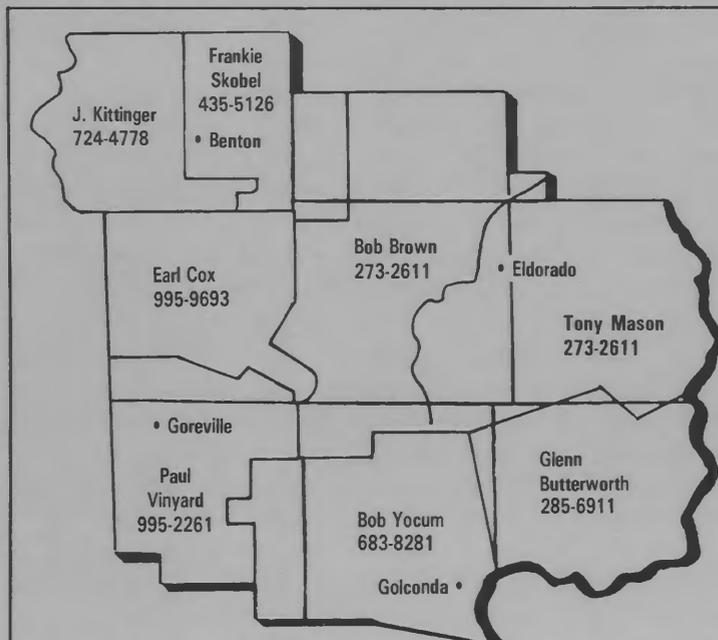
Angela K. Tite  
Shirley Ann Blades  
Jacque L. Bolen  
Linda Doty  
Louie D. Edmonds  
Ernest Hanners  
William M. Harris  
Jim Hood  
Charles Hutchison  
Dale E. Jones  
Jennifer King  
Jerry Lenon  
Sam Mitchell  
James J. Nolen  
Leona Palen  
Andrew Taylor  
J.B. Bird Jr.  
Bob Cline  
Clyde Coleman  
Wayne Deyoung  
John Haase  
Arlen Leslie  
Philip L. Angermeier  
Jamie P. Jackson  
Keifner Bros Inc.  
Crown American Petrol  
Steve Adamson  
J.B. Anderson  
Gary T. Averitt  
Diane Bard  
Mary Anne Barnouski

Jeffrey D. Beasley  
Donald E. Bennett  
Winnie Betts  
Joe B. Buchanan  
Delia D. Burk  
Darin S. Cochrane  
Kenny Cochrum  
Trevor Crabtree  
Jessica R. Dominguez  
John Dortch  
James D. Dotson  
Sam Farnam  
Billy L. Foster  
Dennis C. Gauger  
G&G Rentals  
Vivian A. Hamby  
Robert W. Healy  
Ann M. Hensel  
Tammie M. Howe  
Donald Irwin  
Joe Isaacs  
Charles Robe Kaufman  
Danny Lampley  
Donald L. Levi  
Russell Linch  
Brenda Littrell  
Audie Lynch  
Louise McInerney  
Rev. Jack McLaren  
Fred Meyer  
Joseph V. Miller

Mike Miller  
Clyde D. Milligan  
Randy Milligan  
Armilda O'Brien  
David M. Packard  
Gary E. Patrick  
Alice L. Prusaczyk  
Dorain Pulliam  
Jack E. Purdy  
Lyndall Pyle  
Cheryl A. Quinlan  
Frank Ramsey  
Desiree Reinbold  
Robert L. Sanders  
Alvin Schwartz  
Roger Scroggins  
Mike Sirach  
Patty Smith  
James L. Snider  
Linda Snyder  
Jason Eric Stacey  
Kim Stanley  
Daniel Stutzman  
Dale Swan  
Edwin F. Thomas  
James D. Tipp  
Elvis Tuttle  
James M. Weichinger  
Robert A. Weir  
Chris Wheeler  
Richard B. Williams

C. Mark Bagwell  
Dana Baltzell  
Donald M. Barker  
Carl A. Barnard  
John Bays  
Larry Joe Beardsley  
A.N. Branche  
L.E. Broeking  
Raleigh D. Colboth  
Claude D. Diamond  
Randy Dunn  
Stephen O. Ebelhar  
Sheila Eddy  
Jerry Edwards  
Marlin Farmwald  
Ora Rae Feazel  
Raymond Jer Fitch Sr.  
Donald L. Fry  
Gene Goolsby  
Delight Griswold  
Lyman R. Gullett  
Gerald T. Hanley  
Mark A. Holmes  
Gene A. Ing  
Victor M. Jennings  
Donald R. Johnson  
John S. Karnes  
Douglas G. Killebrew  
Larry Kimberlin  
David Kindlespargar  
Kimberly Laws

Barbara A. Lewis  
Ronald S. Malone  
John Maynard  
Donnie M. Miller  
Mark V. Moore  
Dick Nance  
Jack Nichols  
James E. Nolen  
Lela Partain  
Everett D. Payne  
Erwin R. Ridge  
Robert Scheffer  
Shawnee Developmt Co.  
Michael G. Shell  
Bernice A. Sherman  
Steven Shirley  
James A. Slomka  
Lisa Stacey  
Iris J. Stevens  
Melvin J. Stutzman  
Lowell E. Tedford  
Mary E. Trammel  
Clifford L. Wallace  
Roberta Wells  
Frank C. Wersells Jr.  
Charles B. Whitlock  
Frank A. Wills  
J. Milton Yoder  
William K. Ward Sr.



If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions:

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers in your service entrance panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole check the main breaker just beneath the meter. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears all right, retrip the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 618-273-2611 from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays, you may call the home of your area serviceman listed on the map at left and report power failures and emergencies only.
5. If your serviceman's home phone number does not answer or is busy, please call 618-273-2611, or 800-833-2611. These numbers are monitored around the clock to accept your emergency/outage calls.
6. Please give the party answering your call the name and location number as listed on your billing envelope and other information requested.

**Outage Map • Call toll-free 800-833-2611**



# THE SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois



## General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins

"Buy American" is once again becoming a popular slogan. Your Cooperative abides by this principle and purchases foreign products only when domestically produced equivalents are not available. The "Buy American" slogan, until recently resurrected, had become a forgotten ideal, and as a matter of fact, many politicians have openly advocated and promoted a "World Economy" for the past twenty or so years. These politicians envision a global situation in which America evolves into service economy and relegates heavy industrial manufacturing to those nations not subject to environmental restrictions, and who, for the most part, pay the equivalent of the U.S. hourly minimum wage for one twelve-hour work shift. Well the future is now, at least partially, for America has lost many of her heavy manufacturing industries, and correspondently has lost thousands of good-paying jobs with benefits. Granted, thousands of new jobs have been created by the shift from a manufacturing economy to a service economy; a service economy which, for the most part, has produced low-paying jobs without benefits—and without a tax base sufficient to support the needs and dreams of this nation.

Nationwide, only two high school students in ten go on to complete college. In the 1960's this was no prob-

lem for Southern Illinois; our high school students simply migrated to northern Illinois, Michigan or Indiana where many found employment with Cat, Ford, General Motors or the steel mills. Those options, for the most part, are no longer available, and young people entering the job market today are fortunate to obtain service type jobs at minimum wages; many for less than 40 hours per week and most without benefits. The consequences of our loss of manufacturing industries is validated by the fact that our nation has gone from the number one creditor nation to the number one debtor nation in less than two decades. It is further evidenced by the results of a recent survey which revealed a 65 percent increase in the number of Americans without health insurance in the period from 1982 through 1986.

What can be done to reverse this situation? It appears that several steps must be taken. First, we as a nation must recognize the problem. Secondly, we must convince ourselves that we can produce equivalent or superior products, and educate our youth to produce them. Finally, we must obtain the assistance of **our** government which was established to do collectively those things we cannot singularly accomplish.



**Mick shapes a shoe. While many horses can be shod with store-bought keg shoes, most need some shaping. This shoe is being built up from a piece of bar stock.**

# Gaines trades coal mines for horseshoes

Mick Gaines was working in a coal mine, and that wasn't too bad. What was bad, he says, was wondering how long he'd have a job there. "I'd worked in one mine for quite a while," he says, "and they'd have a layoff once in a while, and I'd always wonder if I was going to be on the next one."

Later, he went to work for another mine. "It had about 450 employees when I started," he says, "and it was down to about 250 when I decided that there must be something better to do with my life."

Raised on a farm and always near horses, Mick had toyed with the idea of becoming a bronc rider on the rodeo circuit, having done fairly well as a youth, but decided against that idea. Since he'd already started shoeing some horses on a part-time basis, it seemed that horseshoeing might be something to have a look at. While trying earlier, he had found that there was a lot he didn't know about the job, and he decided to do something about that.

"I did a lot of reading," he says, "and that helped, but I knew there was more I needed to know. A lot of people think that horseshoeing involves taking store-bought shoes, or 'keg shoes', and nailing them onto a horse's foot. That's not even a good start, and I at least knew that much. I wanted to know more."

He knew that a good horseshoer, or farrier, as they're more correctly called, could do some corrective work to help horses with foot problems, and he also knew that a horseshoer who didn't know what he was doing could ruin a good horse.

With those two thoughts in mind, he set out to find a school. There aren't a great number of really good schools, and the nearest one Mick could find was the Oklahoma Horseshoeing School, a privately-



**Mick stands with one of his "customers" before beginning the shoeing process. His self-contained farrier's trailer is behind him.**

owned school in Oklahoma City. "You can take an eight-week course," he says, "but my financial situation was such that there was no way I could do that. I went for a month. We worked five days a week, twelve hours a day. For the first couple of weeks, we worked on horse legs that had been stored in a freezer. Schools buy them just for that purpose, and it gives beginners a chance to work on real horse's feet that they can't do any damage to."



**His propane forge gets plenty hot to do the things he needs to do, although he notes that coal-fired forges are more appropriate if there's a lot of forge work to be done.**

After that, they graduated to horse's feet with living horses still attached, working under careful supervision. There was a lot of classroom study, too, Mick notes, adding that horses' feet and lower legs are fairly complex, and need to be understood before corrective action can be taken with the use of special shoes. He notes that a good farrier working with a good vet can do a lot for a horse, "But it's awfully frustrating sometimes to know that a horse has a problem that's incurable," he says.

When he came home from school, Mick worked on just about any kind of horse that came in the door, but he tries to stick to race and show horses now. And he's been careful to build up his clientele so they'll keep coming back. "I think the way to build repeat business is to take your time with a horse, do the job right, and give the customer a fair shake. That's partly how I manage to keep busy the year around."

It may be surprise to some, and it certainly was to Mick's classmates in Oklahoma, but Illinois has the

fourth largest horse population in the U. S., behind California, Texas, and Oklahoma. "They were really surprised about that," he says with a chuckle, "but they were even more surprised to find that I knew anything about country music and could even play a guitar."

Most of the students were from Texas or Oklahoma, he says, and those states have boasted good horse populations for many years. Illinois, he adds, is "getting real serious" about horses, and the population is increasing all the

time, largely for racing, although show horses are popular, too.

To help take care of all those horses, Mick decided to go back to school and improve his skills with the forge. He spent two weeks, and has a propane forge on the back of his trailer now. "I used to work with coal," he says, "but it's kind of a bother, and you have to do an awful lot of forge work to make it worthwhile. I like my little propane rig, and it does all I need it to do."

His forge enables him to make custom shoes, if necessary. He starts

with a piece of common bar stock, and can whip out a pretty good horseshoe in just a few minutes. And he can make some improvements on the keg shoes, too.

While the money that he used to make in coal mining is not quite there yet, he has managed to work up a fair degree of job security, and there's a little more job satisfaction, too. He says he shoes about 1,000 horses a year, and feels good knowing they're probably a little better off, having been carefully shod by a farrier who really cares.

## Welcome new members

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in September 1991!

Charles Minton  
Susan Hart  
Judy M. Lence  
Andrew Libovsky  
Kay Mandrell  
Nancy Seten  
Mrs. W.J. Pyle  
Billy D. Stanley  
Ramona Holland  
W.H. Jeffords  
Thomas P. Asbury  
Kathy Atkinson  
Sherry Batts  
Randall L. Belford  
Melissa Charleton  
David A. Clark  
Donna Sue Davis  
Genevieve Endsley  
John Finney  
Roy Guymon  
Billy Joe Hayden  
Patricia A. Hewitt

Bruce Higginson  
Constance H. Hogg  
Terry Keedy  
Randal Kerley  
Richard L. O'Connor  
Mary Ellen Potier  
George J. Rakers  
James A. Renfroe  
Stephanie C. Rider  
Loretta A. Schuchardt  
Susan A. Stevens  
William W. Thomas  
Robert A. Trammel  
Robert E. Wilson  
Brandi S. Conner  
Mike L. Conrad  
Carroll Lowery  
Marvin Moore  
Scott Leveling  
Loy Malone  
James W. Akin  
Nancy Jo Crum

Eric Framberg  
Goldee Hahs  
Charles Hollinshead  
Larry D. Kelley Jr.  
Larry D. Lane  
Michael R. Martin  
Martha Ann Morris  
Michael D. Rogers  
Tena Stout  
Jamie L. Thompson  
David E. Ward  
Michael S. Kerley  
Tammi Akens  
Stan Binning  
Dottie J. Bolton  
Richard E. Crawford  
Donald E. Crider  
Lillie B. Crider  
Rhonda L. Denton  
Gary L. Gruening  
Ronnie E. Harmon  
Diane Heigert

Lorena I. Hogg  
Lynn Jennings  
James F. Justice  
Gary Laird  
Kenneth D. Leonard  
James H. Lorraine  
Steve McCain  
Stephen D. McGill  
Timothy W. McReaken  
John Markley  
Dale Miller  
Warren F. Miller  
Michael N. Murray  
Harold W. Dverturf  
Raymond Owens  
Francis J. Parker  
Stephen M. Proctor  
Donald E. Reynolds  
Kenneth E. Ritchason  
Ricky Don Smith  
Walter I. Smith  
James H. Smock Jr.

Joseph L. Sullivan  
Clara Darlen Trexler  
Tracy Walker  
Lori A. Walters  
Donald D. Welsh  
Jeff Whitehead  
Loretta Wood  
Richard W. Aumiller  
John Babiak Jr.  
Clarence Bagby Jr.  
Sandra K. Barrett  
Rose Cornman  
Douglas I. Edwards  
Thomas Gooden  
Mary Lou Grimes  
Marianne Hyde  
Gerald D. Larsen  
William McCarver  
Jerry D. McKay  
Joseph L. Myers  
Mary K. Walls  
Thomasina Bleyer

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