

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)

Construction

All construction, of course, is new. But it is not always done into new territory or even for new business. In fact, the majority of our construction projects are done to replace or upgrade old, outmoded facilities.

For example, early in the cooperative's formative years a single-phase line was built along the Danvers-Yuton road to begin serving some mighty happy farmers with the first electricity they had ever had on the farmstead. Fifty years later, that section of line had reached the end of its long and useful life and needed to be rebuilt with a heavier, three-phase line to handle the greatly expanded load.

And so, construction foreman Chuck West and his line crew were dispatched to plant the new poles and string the new cable to upgrade the line.

1



Photo 1: Late on a warm fall afternoon journeyman lineman Jerry Hall and Keith Hospelhorn (l-r) untie and drop the old single-phase wire prior to pulling the pole and preparing it for transport to the pole yard and retirement. Notice the old poles have been leaned toward the field so that the new line could be constructed without shutting off the power.

Photo 2: Construction foreman Chuck West finishes the reconstruction by winding the 1940s vintage "copperweld" wire onto a spool for transport to the service building and eventual scrapping.

2

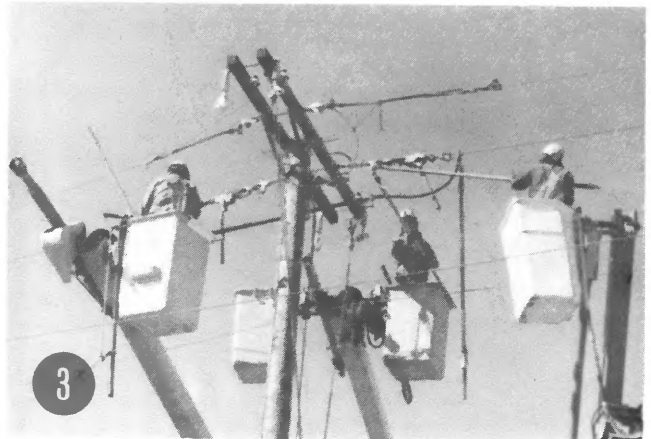


Photo 3: When the city and state decided to close Ireland Grove Road at its west end and build a new access to it, we had to raise our line on the north side of Veterans Parkway to accommodate the entrance to the proposed commercial development there.

While the name of the new, short thoroughfare that serves as the intersection of the new access is Easy Street, construction foreman Roger McKeon and his crew found that it was not so easy to raise the lines.

The reason—with so many businesses and homes served from this 12,500 volt circuit, changing out the poles had to be done without turning the power off.

(Left to right) McKeon, journeyman linemen Bruce Hill and Robert Fisher gingerly juggle a "hot" 12,500-volt line into a "dead-end" position. Notice that all work is being done with non-conducting fiberglass "sticks" while the three men stand in buckets of the same material.



3

Dirty power?

Where does line power get corrupted? Users should not necessarily blame their utility, sunspots, or lightning. Most power-line disturbances that affect computers originate inside a user's own facility. That's the conclusion of a recent study done by Best Power Technology's National Power Laboratory (NPL).

Using dual monitors, NPL has tracked powerline disturbances at the point-of-entry (POE) and at the point of utilization (POU) at more than 95 different locations across the country. Both monitors are time-synchronized and equipped with modems. All data is transmitted to NPL's laboratory.

Early results show that almost 50 percent of all electrical disturbances originate inside a building. Of the 1,915 disturbances recorded at the POU, only 1,020 of them were also recorded at the Point of Entry.

The initial POE/POU data gives conclusive evidence that many power disturbances are caused by on-line loads. These disturbances can damage or disrupt sensitive electronic components.

In the near future the National Power Laboratory will offer this service on a contractual basis to industrial, commercial and even residential accounts.

from best Power Technology's November 1991 Newsletter (Editor's Note: Normal utility load-switching operations that cause power surges, sags, and outages, often less than one thousandth of a second long, are nothing new, but they rarely fazed older equipment. Equipment and computers of more recent vintage containing delicate computer chips with microscopic wiring are more susceptible.)

Don't run into this guy

Attention, snowmobilers: Guy wires on utility poles can be hard to spot as you speed across the countryside. When skimming over the white landscape this winter, be alert for obstacles such as trees, fences, other snowmobilers and utility pole guy wires. Keep alert, because these guys can hurt you.

Hackneyed words and phrases

The publication Bottom Line Communicator recently took note of a national survey of business managers which asked what phrases and words have become stale from overuse.

Among those on the trite tally are: agenda, competitive edge, dialog, done deal, fast track, finalize, hands-on, impact, input, interface, know-how, major breakthrough, networking, no-brainer, proactive, state-of-the-art, user-friendly, win-win, and world-class.

Safety quiz

True or False? Four plugs in a socket is average.

False: One or two plugs in a socket is the maximum — four is dangerous. But even one appliance, like an iron, can overload some sockets. It depends on the current draw versus the capacity of the circuit. Get some professional advice if needed.

History of electricity

(continued from previous issues)

1835—Thomas Davenport, a 35-year-old American blacksmith, invents the electric motor, but he regards it as a "toy" because it performs no useful work.

1844—Samuel F.B. Morse builds the first practical telegraph. Telegraphy had been invented several years earlier by Joseph Henry, but he failed to patent it. Morse's invention was the system of dots and dashes that came to be known as Morse Code. The telegraph was one of the first applications of electricity to technology.

1876—The U.S. Patent Office issues Patent No. 174,465 to Alexander Graham Bell. It is the most valuable patent ever issued. At the Centennial Exposi-

tion in Philadelphia, Emperor Pedro II of Brazil tries the telephone, drops it in disbelief and says, "It talks!"

1878—Thomas Edison promises to perfect an incandescent lamp within six weeks, but he doesn't anticipate the problem of finding a material for filament inside his light bulb. He tries more than 1,600 different filaments, including hair from an assistant's head, before discovering one that didn't burn too rapidly—ordinary cotton sewing thread, which would burn brightly for about 40 hours. Soon electric lights are being installed in public buildings and homes, and this message is placed with them: **This room is equipped with Edison electric light. Do not attempt to light with match. Simply turn key on wall by the door. The use of electricity for lighting in no way affects the soundness of sleep.**

Four directors nominated for reelection to board

On December 17, the Nominating Committee met at the cooperative's office to nominate candidates for four board positions to be filled by election at our 54th annual meeting next month.

The Committee nominated the following members for election: Gary Frankeberger, District I; Ralph Steiger, District II; Stephen Schertz, District III; and David Foulke, District V.



The Nominating Committee pauses prior to their deliberations. From left to right, standing: Leo Miller, Paul Malone, Robert Hopkins, Carl Hinthorn; seated: Gary Moncelle, Ronald Porth, Alvin Lamar, Dale Leggett.

Plan to attend our 54th annual meeting

The cooperative's 54th annual meeting will be held on Saturday, February 29, at Bloomington High School. Registration will be from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Coffee and donuts will be served during registration. The meeting will begin promptly at 10 a.m.

Dinner reservations are required. Complete the accompanying reservation form and return it to the office no later than February 27. It will fit in nicely with your bill payment.

You will soon receive the annual meeting notice booklet. Be sure to bring the booklet with you on February 29 to speed up your registration time.

There will be drawings for prizes throughout the meeting. A special "early bird" drawing will be held for those members who register between 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

All members of the cooperative are owners and your attendance at and participation in the meeting is encouraged.

Check the date February 29

FEBRUARY 1992						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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Annual Meeting Bloomington High School

Plan to attend the 54th annual meeting

Cut out the reservation form and return it to the office by February 27.

54th annual meeting Saturday, February 29, 1992

Please make _____ dinner reservations for

_____ Member name (please print)

_____ (Map location number)

Keep the home fires burning — safely

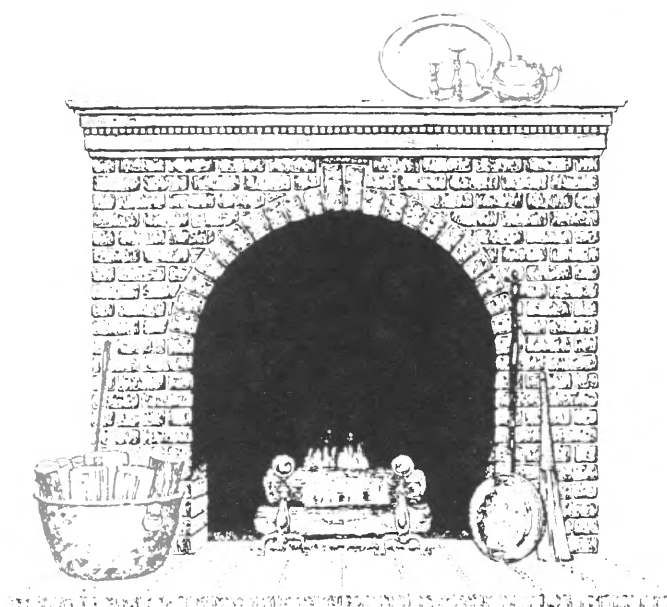
There's a certain charm about a wood fire, but with household fires on the increase, a number of safety steps are necessary to burn wood safely.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, fires have particularly increased in rural areas, where wood-burning stoves are used in many homes.

A chimney fire starts when deposits of creosote — unburned gases which have condensed inside the stovepipe and chimney — ignite and burn. Creosote is often produced when wood burns slowly, as is generally the case in the airtight stoves now on the market.

Using common sense and following some basic rules are important ingredients in maintaining a wood stove.

- Inspect the flue and breeching (where stovepipe connects into flue) monthly during the heating season, and clean it as necessary. The flue should at least be cleaned at the beginning of the heating season and once more about halfway through.
- Clean your stovepipe as often as necessary, perhaps monthly. To see if it needs cleaning, take it apart (number the sections so you can put it back the same way) and look at it. Or, try tapping the pipe with your finger or with a piece of kindling. If it pings, it's probably clean; if it thuds, it's dirty. Tap all around the pipe and for the entire length of it because the top may be clean and the bottom may be dirty.
- Burn only dry wood (seasoned at least six months). Burning green wood is a source of creosote build-up, and it gives you less usable heat.
- If you must burn green wood, burn a hot fire with an unrestricted airflow for at least 30 minutes **every day**. Do **not** begin this practice unless you are sure your stovepipe and chimney are clean.
- Invest in a smoke detector, preferably two. One should be located high on the wall or on the ceiling near the stove. The other should be located in your bedroom or in the hallway near the bedroom. Test the detectors monthly.
- Maintain a good draft for your stove.
- If you have an airtight stove, you can also try to cut off air to a chimney fire by shutting the draft controls.
- Do not use a draft regulating damper (barometric damper) for a solid-fuel heating system. Although they help to improve efficiency, in the event of a chimney fire, barometric dampers make it difficult to cut off all air flow.
- Do not burn trash or old Christmas trees in your stove.
- Do not store flammables (paint, kerosene, lighter



fluid, etc.) near the stove. And do **not** use them to start fires in your stove.

- For safety purposes, install one well-fitted damper in the stovepipe about six inches from where the connector pipe enters the chimney. (Dampers are good for cutting off air to a chimney fire.)
- Watch your damper. Sometimes they can close down and send smoke into the house.
- Use a spark screen if you leave the doors open. Do not leave the stove unattended if you leave the doors open. (Small sparks may escape into the room past the spark screen.)
- Keep small children from playing near stoves.
- Watch for hot ashes and live coals when cleaning out your stove. Use a metal container for ashes.
- Attach an inexpensive magnetic oven thermometer to the stovepipe where it exits the stove. Generally, temperatures of 250-400 degrees indicate good efficiency. Above 400 degrees could be dangerous. Below 250 degrees indicates likely creosote build-up.
- Do not try to dry out your wood on top of or next to the stove.
- Do not overheat your stove by burning too many hot fires for too long a time.
- Keep a couple of fire extinguishers (CO₂ or chemical, not water) near the stove.
- Know your fire procedures: post the fire department number next to the phone in big print; pick an assembly point outside the house and make sure all family members know that they are to gather there in case of fire (so you can get a head count); and know how to operate the fire extinguishers.

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

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The cooperative idea is successful — and it is right

With our 54th annual meeting just a few days away, it is altogether appropriate to present a portion of a presentation given by Darold Wulfekoetter on the occasion of another annual meeting many years ago of the Osage Valley Electric Cooperative. His message held true then as it holds true today.

“Long ago, John Donne, an English clergyman spoke these eloquent words: ‘No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. . . . And any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in all mankind. Never send to know, therefore, for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for me.’

“Many years ago, this man of God understood what really would make civilization advance. He understood that either people will advance together, each one contributing an individual share of the load, or they will not advance at all. He knew what people should be aiming for, but he did not know how they might join together to hit their target.

“The organized cooperative, as we know it today, is the vehicle that can channel the efforts of many into a single purpose, a single direction. Cooperatives are the purest expression of a free people operating a business to serve their consumer needs.

“In 1938 some energetic and dedicated people had an idea. The idea was to bring electricity to the rural areas of West Central Missouri. Osage Valley Electric Cooperative was born.

“The people had the vehicle, a rural electric cooperative, and they had the conviction and enthusiasm for an idea that they believed to be completely right. That idea was that by working together, they would be able to provide the rural areas with reliable electric service at the lowest cost possible.

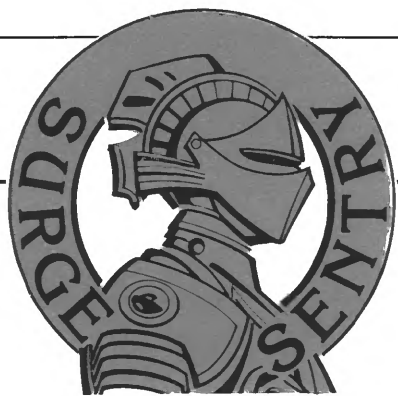
“All cooperatives are owned by the people they serve and are subject to their control. The cooperative way is a good, fair and right way to do this.

“We have developed a good rural electric cooperative, and we must labor endlessly to emphasize that this cooperative does not run by itself. Because you own it, you need to shoulder an owner’s responsibility by learning what is going on. As an owner, you are obliged to get into the act, to get involved.

“That, really, is what the annual meeting is all about; it is the open door to exercise your ownership control. Your collective contribution of shared thinking and creativity is the real strength of Osage Valley.

“This cooperative was established by people who had a need and a desire for a better life through the magic of electricity. They were very successful, but, for the most part, those people are gone. It is now your responsibility to make this cooperative stronger by becoming involved and by giving your cooperative your support.”

Come to the meeting on the 29th to take part in one of the few purely democratic institutions still operating — shoulder your responsibility.



Surge Protection!

Where you want it.
When you need it!
Only from your cooperative.

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 some planning is done and a few precautions are taken.

When the power goes off, the first thing to do is to 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 reconnect those circuits to insure that the outage is over.

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 used in good stead, but carefully. If the heater has a flame, ventilation must be provided.

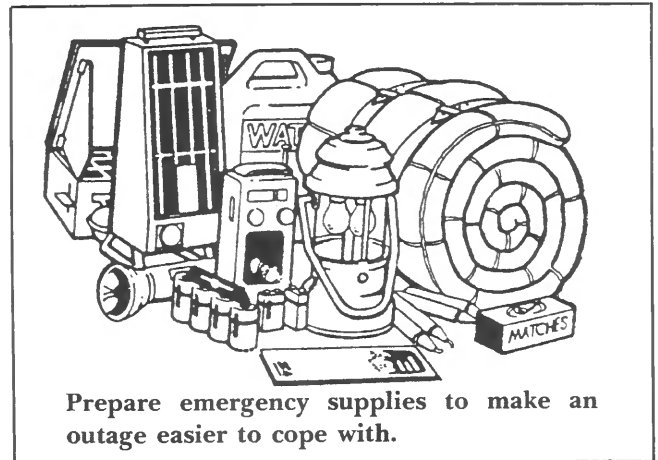
3. During an extended outage, use one room (preferably one on the sunny side of the house with few windows) in the house to conserve as much heat as possible. Open curtains during the day—close at night.

For light

1. Know where the flashlight and fresh batteries are.

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

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



Prepare emergency supplies to make an outage easier to cope with.

For food

1. Stock supplies of food such as canned meat, tuna, powdered milk and juices, cereal, peanut butter, crackers.

2. Fill plastic jugs with water.

3. Should have throw-away plates, plastic silverware and a manual can opener.

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 the 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 creature comforts. 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.

Plan to attend our 54th annual meeting

Members of the cooperative are its owners and your attendance at and participation in the cooperative's 54th annual meeting is encouraged.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, February 29, at Bloomington High School. Registration will be from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Coffee and donuts will be served during registration. The meeting will begin promptly at 10 a.m.

Reservations are required for the dinner that will be served in the high school cafeteria at the conclusion of the meeting. Complete the accom-

panying reservation form and return it to the office no later than February 27.

You should have received the annual meeting notice booklet. Be sure to bring the booklet with you on February 29 to speed you through the registration line.

There will be drawings for prizes throughout the meeting and a special "early bird" drawing will be held for those members who register between 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Electric Heat Consumers*

NOW! Qualify for the 3.5 Dual Heat rate cheaper than you ever thought possible.

Use a Thermal Storage System
Call Member Services for all the details

*Members using baseboard, furnaces or heat pumps

Empty house — high bill?

To a member one of the most confusing situations occurs when, after being away from home for a week or two, he or she returns to find the electric usage hasn't changed much at all. The fact is that an empty house can consume just as much energy as a full one.

An empty house kept at 55 degrees won't use much less energy for heating than an occupied house kept at 68 degrees. Cooking, baths, clothes washing and drying, television watching, lighting and even bodies contribute more heat to a home than we realize. An empty house doesn't have these contributors to help maintain the 55 degree setting and consequently the heating plant has to operate that many more hours to keep up with the thermostat demand.

It's even possible for electric usage to be greater than normal while a member is absent. For example, a member leaves on winter vacation after a month of mild weather and low usage. The weather then turns cold for the duration of the absence and the member realizes upon returning that the usage of an empty house has actually increased.

Typically, the response is to call the office and complain of an inaccurate reading or of a broken meter. But please, before you call, think about what the weather was like while you were gone and keep in mind what it can do to increase your electrical usage.

History of electricity

(continued from previous issues)

1882—The modern age of electricity is born on September 4th when Edison's Pearl Street Station begins operating in lower Manhattan. It is America's first central power station and the beginning of the electric utility industry. The first home lighted by electricity is that of J.P. Morgan, a director of the new power company.

1884—Englishman Charles Parsons invents the turbine generator, which is capable of producing huge amounts of electricity.

1886—Fed up with the servants breaking her good china, Josephine Cochrane, wife of a wealthy Illinois politician, patents a steam-driven dishwashing machine. Hotels and restaurants order the machines, which soon begin using electric motors, but homemakers are unresponsive. Market research in 1915 reveals that homemakers like doing the dishes by hand. The home dishwasher market will not boom until the 1950's.

1888—The first electric streetcar line begins operating in Richmond, Virginia. One electric motor replaces four horses and makes the horsecar obsolete.

1890—The world's first judicial electrocution is held in the Auburn, New York, prison on August 6th. William Kemmler, a convicted ax murderer, is executed. Kemmler is unable to sleep the night before because workmen are still building the death room, and when he arrives at the appointed hour, they still aren't finished, so he sits in a witness chair and watches the final preparations for his own death.

1890—Emperor Menelik II of Abyssinia puts in an order for three American electric chairs as part of his national modernization program. When the chairs arrive, His Highness is shocked to learn that they won't work because Abyssinia has no electricity. Determined to make the best of a bad situation, he adopts one of them for his imperial throne.

Plan to attend the 54th annual meeting

Cut out the reservation form and return it to the office by February 27.

54th annual meeting

Saturday, February 29, 1992

Please make _____ dinner reservations for

(Member name (please print))

(Map location number)

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Energy saving tips

Food refrigeration consumes about 24 percent of the electricity used in the home. When choosing a refrigerator, freezer, or refrigerator-freezer, consult the Energy Guide label on the unit to find one that consumes energy efficiently. And, even though they are "old hat," let's review the steps to take to avoid wasting refrigeration energy.

When using your refrigerator-freezer, keep the temperature of the refrigerator section between 38 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit and the freezer section at 5 degrees. Keep doors open a minimum amount of time to avoid using energy unnecessarily. Allow hot foods to cool slightly, but not much longer than 20 minutes, before putting them in the refrigerator or freezer. In addition, cover all liquids stored in the refrigerator. In frost-free models, covered dishes prevent moisture

evaporation and consequent frost buildup.

To maintain a refrigerator-freezer properly, keep the condenser coil clean and unobstructed. Provide adequate space behind, above, and on the sides of the appliance for proper air circulation. And, be sure the appliance is standing level so that the door seals properly. To detect an imbalance, place a small spirit level or glass of water on top of the unit. Check the door gaskets to make sure of a tight seal by placing a dollar bill against the frame and close the door. If the bill drops out, or if it can be pulled out with a very gentle tug, the door should be adjusted or the gasket should be replaced. Defrost the freezer compartment before ice becomes ¼ inch thick to avoid increasing the compressor's work load and the cost of operation.

When buying a freezer, consider a chest-type rather than an upright. A chest-type allows less cold air to escape when it is opened than an upright.

When you first turn your freezer on, set the control in the medium range then adjust it to a colder or warmer setting as needed after several days' use. For efficiency's sake, avoid setting the temperature too low. A setting of 0 degrees F is recommended.

Satellite TV Programming

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative • Bloomington, Illinois • Phone 800-322-6541
Satellite dish needed \$10.00 Hook-up fee

Package 1

23 channels for \$18.95 per month Add Netlink for \$4.70/mo.

G1-12 Arts & Entertainment G1-9 ESPN G1-22 Discovery Channel
G1-11 Family Channel G1-8 Headline News G3-20 Lifetime (East) F3-17 Lifetime (West)
G1-2 Nashville Network G3-19 Nickelodeon (East) G3-22 Nickelodeon (West) F3-11 Prime Network (Sports)
G1-15 WWOR-New York G3-14 USA Network (West) G3-13 Weather Channel G1-18 WTBS Atlanta
G1-15 WWOR-New York G3-5 WS8K-Boston S3-5 KTVT-Dallas G1-3 WGN-Chicago
S3-9 PIX-New York F2-4 WABC-ABC Network F2-2 WBBM-CBS Network F2-12 WXIA-NBC Network
G3-17 MTV (East) G3-15 VH-1

Package 2

13 channels for \$10.95 per month Add—Netlink for \$4.70/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.

G1-7 CNN News G1-9 ESPN G1-11 Family Channel
G1-8 Headline News G3-20 Lifetime (East) F3-17 Lifetime (West) G3-19 Nickelodeon (East)
G3-22 Nickelodeon (West) G1-2 Nashville Network G1-21 USA Network (East) F3-14 USA Network (West)
G1-18 WTBS Atlanta S3-5 KTVT-Dallas G1-3 WGN-Chicago S3-9 WPIX-New York

Package 3

10 channels for \$8.95 per month Add—Netlink for \$4.00/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.

G1-12 Arts & Entertainment G1-7 CNN News G1-22 Discovery Channel G1-9 ESPN
G1-11 Family Channel G1-8 Headline News G1-2 Nashville Network G1-21 USA Network (East)
F3-10 USA Network (West) G1-3 WGN-Chicago G1-1B WTBS Atlanta

Our premium channels

HBO East & West (G1-23 & F3-13) Cinemax East & West (G1-19 & F3-23) Disney East & West (G1-4 & G1-24)

The Movie Channel East & West (G1-10 & G1-14)

Showtime East & West (G1-5 & G1-16)

1 Premium—\$7.95 2 Premiums—\$14.95 3 Premiums—\$20.95
4 Premiums—\$27.95 5 Premiums—\$33.95

Additional favorites

Satellite Sports Network — 12 Sports Channels — \$8.55 per month
Skyline Silver — \$3.00 per month — Coast-to-Coast Superstations G1-15 WWOR New York — S3-3 WSBK Boston — S3-15 KTLA Los Angeles

Prime Time 24 — \$3.95 per month for the three major networks G3-17 & G3-18 MTV + G3-15 VH-1 — \$2.75 per month
F2-2 CBS + F2-4 ABC + F2-12 NBC Arts & Entertainment G1-12 — \$0.50 per month with Package 2 only

Netlink — 5 channels from Denver for \$5.95 per month S3-15 KTLA Los Angeles — \$1.05 per month
F1-2, 4, 6, 12, 14 Weather Channel G3-13 — \$.50 per month

WTBS Superstation Atlanta G1-18 — \$1.75 per month

Rural TV equipment dealers

Griffin Satellites
Carlock
Ph. 309-376-3471
Anderson Satellites
Norris
Ph. 309-647-4259
Twin City Satellites
Shirley
Ph. 309-829-8986

Central Illinois Satellite
Atlanta
Ph. 217-648-2256
L & J Satellites
Canton
Ph. 309-647-9518
Pendleton Home Entertainment
Astoria
Ph. 309-759-4463
P&M Communications
Decatur
Ph. 217-877-2235
McKinsey's TV
Chenoa
Ph. 815-945-5851
Viasat Communications
Normal
Ph. 309-452-7916

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)



Consumer-members of Corn Belt Electric have returned four incumbent directors to three year terms on the cooperative's board of directors. Shown with Corn Belt Electric's manager J.D. Reeves, standing left, are Stephen Schertz, El Paso; Gary Frankeberger, Bloomington; Ralph Steiger, Delavan, and David L. Foulke, Maroa.

Annual meeting draws good crowd — Four directors reelected to board

Members of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative received plenty of good news during your cooperative's 54th annual meeting February 29 in Bloomington. Cooperative officials reported its central Illinois service area continues to see steady economic growth. Along with that steady eco-

nomie growth, the cooperative saw a solid increase in energy sales during 1991, Corn Belt leaders noted.

"We're pleased to see the continued growth in our membership that's primarily from new subdivisions being developed in and around

Bloomington and Normal," Rae F. Payne, board president, noted. "Our area continues to grow and this growth of the twin cities is projected to continue."

Both Payne and J.D. Reeves, cooperative manager, noted that Corn Belt Electric is continuing to expand along with the Bloomington-Normal area. The cooperative's membership grew from 12,530 to 13,117 last year, an annual increase of 4.68 percent.

"Since the end of 1987, our membership has grown by 1,773 members, or 15.6 percent," Reeves noted.

Energy sales were also strong during 1991, increasing about 9.5 percent over 1990's figures. The cooperative sold more than 188-million kilowatt-hours of electricity to its members during 1991, compared to 171-million kwh during 1990.

Gary Frankeberger, secretary-treasurer, noted that an increase in heating and cooling days last year, plus the increased number of consumer-members, helped contribute to the high energy sales. "This new growth for our area helps all members because these extra sales help keep down rates for all of us. We can spread out our fixed costs of operation over a larger base of the membership," Frankeberger said.

Payne emphasized that Corn Belt Electric's goal is to provide the best possible service to the members at the lowest cost possible — but he noted that the cooperative also provides other key services that improve rural quality of life.

Corn Belt Electric provides satellite television programming at a reasonable rate "so even the most rural members can view the same quality

television and programming of their big city neighbors." Payne said cooperatives are also working to improve rural water supplies, rural health conditions and education in non-metropolitan areas.

Cooperative manager Reeves told the members that Corn Belt Electric will keep them apprised of new findings about the impacts of electric and magnetic fields (EMF).

"Electric and magnetic fields have been with us forever, but since we've had electricity in our everyday life, we have even more exposure to EMF," Reeves said. He noted that there is yet no documented evidence of negative effects to humans from EMF, although some studies indicate the possibility of harmful effects.

"As we find out more information, we'll provide that to you, the members, so you can make your own decisions about EMF," Reeves said.

Corn Belt Electric members reelected four directors to the governing board. Gary Frankeberger of Bloomington, Ralph Steiger of Delavan, Stephen Schertz of El Paso and David Foulke, Maroa, were returned to three-year terms on the cooperative's governing board. More than 350 members and guests attended the cooperative annual meeting at Bloomington High School.

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative provides electric service to 13,117 consumer-members who reside in McLean, Woodford, Tazewell, Logan, Macon, DeWitt, Piatt, Ford, Livingston and Champaign counties. The cooperative's 62 employees maintain 2,872 miles of electric lines across its service territory.



The co-op's board of directors posed for an annual portrait after the meeting. Seated from left are: Rae Payne of Towanda, Stephen Schertz of El Paso, Gary Frankeberger of Bloomington and Janice Reimer of Carlock. Standing from left are: Jeffrey D. Reeves, manager, David L. Foulke of Maroa, John Tompkins of LeRoy, Michael Killian of Lexington, Scott D. Baum of Clinton, Myron Erdman of Chenoa, Thomas Johns of Delavan, Ralph Steiger of Delavan and William S. Bach, attorney.

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS CORN BELT ELECTRIC

History of electricity

(continued from previous issues)

1899 — John S. Thurman obtains a patent for a "pneumatic carpet renovator." It is the first motor-driven vacuum cleaner. There were pre-electric cleaners that used bellows to suck up dirt; they were inefficient, and many required two persons to operate.

1901 — The first electric typewriter is produced.

1902 — Willis H. Carrier invents the air conditioner. He begins producing them commercially in 1914, and his first big customers are movie houses and restaurants. Retailers discover that shoppers stay longer in air-conditioned stores, and employers find that workers come early and stay late in air-conditioned offices.

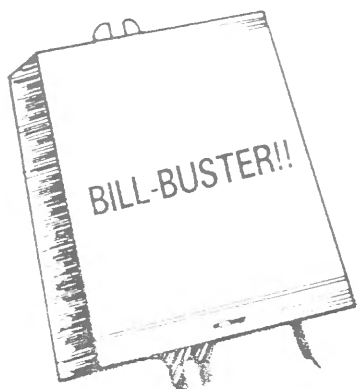
1905 — Earl Richardson, a meter reader for a California power company, finds there are two reasons homemakers are not buying the new elec-

tric clothes irons. They are too heavy — some weigh 15 pounds — and they can't be used in the daytime because there is no power. At this time, electricity is used almost solely for lighting, so most power companies run their generators only between sunset and sunrise.

Richardson first develops a lightweight iron and then persuades the power company to provide electricity during the day on Tuesdays. This is the beginning of 24-hour electrical service. Homemakers buy Richardson's first irons, but they complain that the devices don't distribute heat evenly — that they have a "hot point." Richardson corrects the flaw and then uses it to name his new company.

1906 — General Electric markets its first range, a wooden table with 30 plugs and switches powering a frying pan, an oven, double boilers, pots, a coffeemaker, a toaster and a waffle iron.

To save a watt
When it's hot . . .
What do you install?



This summer save \$50
on your cooling bill
Call the office for details

Electric heat consumers*

NOW! Qualify for the 3.5 cent Dual Heat rate
cheaper than you ever thought possible.

Use a Thermal Storage System

Call Member Service for all the details

*Members using baseboard, furnaces or heat pumps

Do you know where your tax dollar goes?

1. Among the following large state programs, which has experienced the most rapid increase in spending?
 - a. Public Aid
 - b. Elementary and Secondary Education
 - c. Mental Health
 - d. Corrections
2. Approximately how many workers are employed by the State of Illinois to administer its many programs including the operation of state universities?
 - a. 58,000
 - b. 78,000
 - c. 128,000
 - d. 168,000

The answers:

No. 1. The correct answer is d. In fiscal 1990, Department of Corrections spending from the General Funds was more than 2.2 times fiscal 1981 spending. Over the same interval, spending by the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities increased 58.7 percent, the State Board of Education 50.2 percent, and the Department of Public Aid 46.6 percent. (Comptroller's Records)

No. 2. The correct answer is c. As of January 1991, there were 127,755 employees of state agencies. Of these, 41,962 worked for educational institutions. The largest state department was the department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities with 13,721 employees. (Comptroller's Records)

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Are you curious about how you are going to use your weekend time now that football season is over? Are you serious about using your electricity most efficiently this summer? Let's combine those two thoughts with a few things that must be done before the hot and humid weather sets in.

Clean all the fans you use to ventilate or to keep cool such as the attic power vent, whole house fan, furnace fan, floor fan, oscillating fan and the fan in the outside unit of the air conditioner or the window unit. Most importantly, don't forget the fan in the dehumidifier.

And, when you clean the fan that also means cleaning the motor too. In the case of the outside or window air conditioner, the dehumidifier and the furnace fan, clean the coils also. Cleaning the coils allows the air to pass more freely through

them thus increasing the efficiency even further.

Now don't groan. Cleaning is part of operating a household whether you own it or rent it. These things must be done to get the most cool for your energy dollar. Besides that, it's not all that difficult and can be very fulfilling.

All you need is a vacuum cleaner with hose, a pail of warm, soapy water, a car washing mitt to protect the hands, maybe a stiff utility brush or an old paint brush and some basic tools to take things apart if it makes the cleaning job easier.

Why clean them anyway? Simple, the cleaner the fan blades the more air they'll move. Also, the cleaner the motor, the cooler it runs. The cooler it runs the more efficiently it operates.

One more reason to clean these electrically operated appliances now — if you should accidentally get the motor or controls wet in the cleaning process there is ample time for them to dry after reassembly before you have to use them.

And while you're at it, give the coils and compressor of the refrigerator and the freezer a good vacuuming too.

Thunderstorms are coming!!

Protect your delicate electronics with a sentry

**Surge Sentry
Only \$99.00**

And only from
your Cooperative

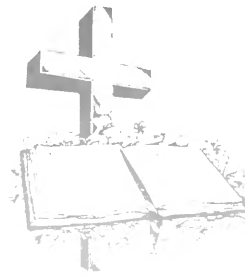


Office closing

The offices of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, April 17, in observance of Good Friday.

In the event of an electrical emergency, please phone our dispatcher for service.

1-800-322-6541



Big investment — small return

Rural electric cooperatives may be the most capital-intensive segment of the most capital-intensive industry, an analysis of figures compiled by the Rural Electrification Administration shows.

REA's 1990 statistical report on its borrowers shows that the combined capital of generation and transmission cooperatives (e.g. Soyland Power) and distribution co-ops (e.g. Corn Belt Electric) was \$58,228,240,000 while revenue for that year for distribution co-ops was \$13,361,186,000.

That means rural electrics must spend about \$4.50 for every dollar they earn annually, according to John Alexander, an analyst for the power supply services division of the Cooperative Finance Corporation's loan department.

A recent report on IOU's (investor-owned utilities such as Illinois Power Company) shows

that they must invest about \$3.08 to earn \$1 of annual revenue.

Rural electric cooperatives show higher investment costs because cooperative power plants are newer and have expensive, state-of-the-art emissions-control equipment. Revenues are lower because cooperatives serve an average of five consumers per mile of line (Corn Belt Electric ⁵ 4.57) compared with IOU's, which serve 32 consumers per mile. Rural electric cooperatives serve about 11 million meters. That means cooperatives have "several thousand dollars of investment for each consumer," says NRECA economist Don Smith. "By any measure, that's a huge amount of investment."

—from Rural Electrification Magazine

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)

Corn Belt will lower your cooling costs!

You read it right. Your cooperative can lower the cost of cooling your home this summer by \$50! That could be as much as 25 percent of your total cooling bill!

How can they do that, you ask?

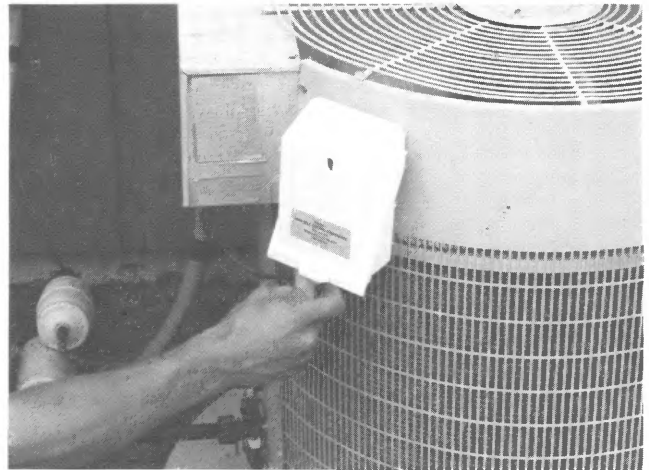
Easy, we say.

Phone the office and ask to have a free BILL-BUSTER!! installed. We said it was easy.

And using BILL-BUSTER!! is even easier. You don't do anything. In fact, you'll even forget it is there. More than 2,600 other members have.

The easiest part of the whole thing is seeing the \$25 credits on your August and September bills (July and August usages).

To beat the rush and to make sure it's installed in time for your July credit, call the office TODAY and ask for a BILL-BUSTER!!

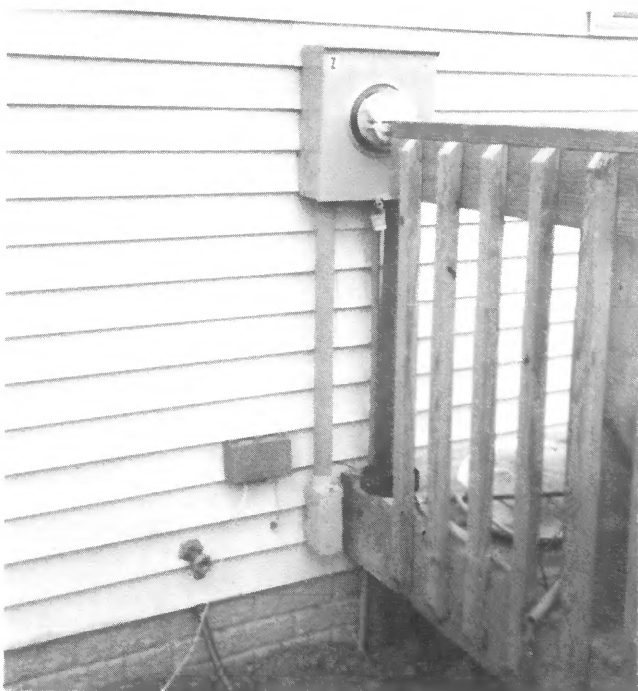


BILL-BUSTER!! installs very neatly on the outside unit of your central air conditioner.

Deck building time

It's a proven fact that, in the springtime, a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of building a deck.

A few words of advice and caution though are



offered to that young man as the plans are being drawn.

Keep in mind that we may have underground wiring running to your home in just about the area you will build the deck. So, . . . long before you get the spade and shovel out of storage, give us a phone call and ask to have those underground lines located. Then you can dig with peace of mind.

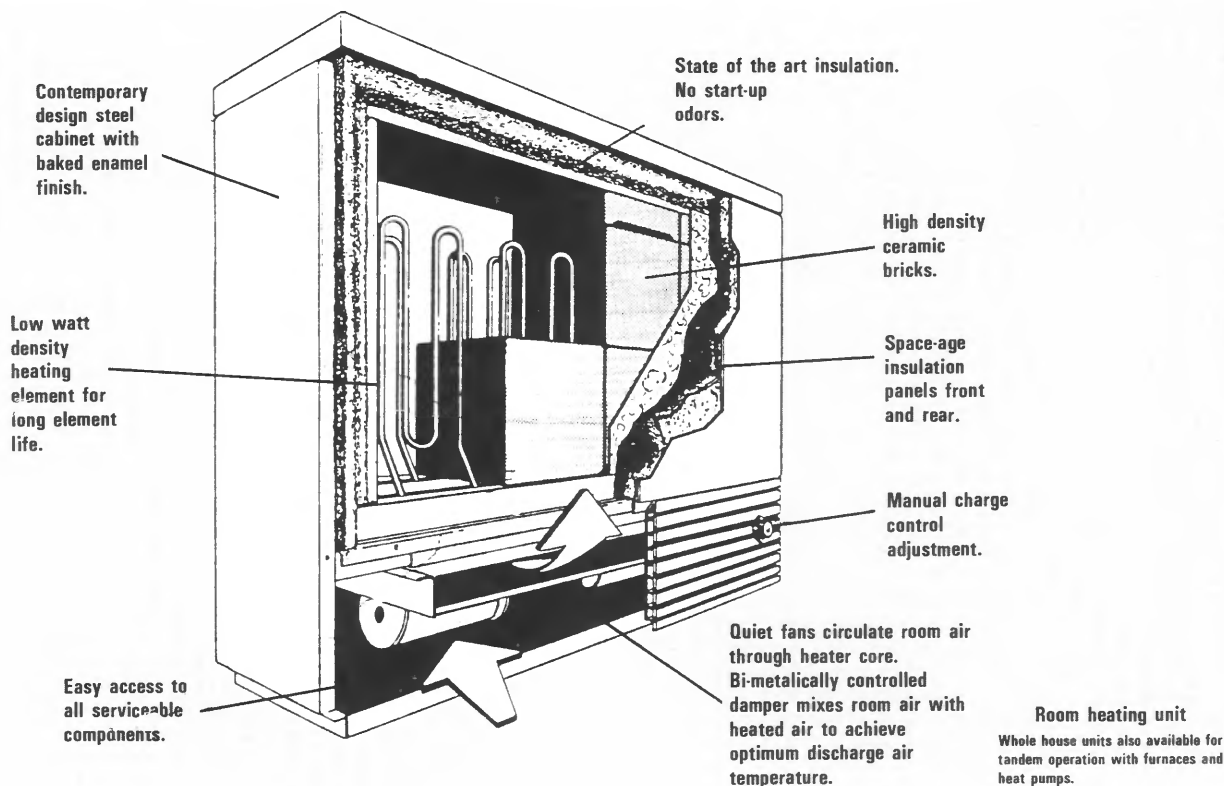
In addition, when planning the deck, make sure it or the railing doesn't interfere with our access to the meter. As the accompanying photo so clearly shows, a mismeasurement or poor planning can result in some embarrassment initially and additional work to correct the error.

We must have access to the meter for reading and for maintenance. Please try to remember this as you plan any construction.

Memorial Day

The offices of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 25, to commemorate Memorial Day.

In the event of an electrical emergency, please phone 1-800-322-6541.



Electric heat consumers

Electric heat consumers can use a unique, newly introduced storage heater to qualify for the Dual Heat rate and reduce their winter heating costs by up to 60 percent.

This equipment uses electricity to heat high-density ceramic bricks at night. The next day, after the power is shut off to the regular electric

heating equipment in accordance with the Dual Heat rate, the thermal storage heater delivers the stored heat to the living space.

It's an inexpensive way to qualify for the 3½ cent per kilowatt-hour Dual Heat rate and a super method of keeping warm during our peak hours.

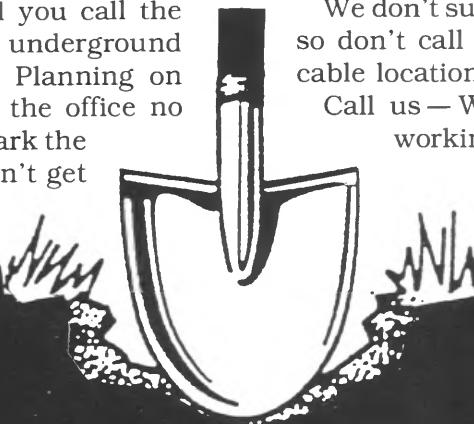
Call the office for more details.

Digging the dirt

Don't dig in your yard until you call the cooperative office if we have underground wiring in your neighborhood. Planning on planting some weekend? Call the office no later than Wednesday. We'll mark the location of the cable so you don't get into trouble.

We don't subscribe to the J.U.L.I.E. service, so don't call them for underground electric cable location.

Call us — We can help. But, give us two working days to schedule your locate.



CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS CORN BELT ELECTRIC

History of electricity

(continued from previous issues)

1907 — An electric device is introduced that improves upon an art developed 5,000 years earlier by American Indians — corn popping. The advent of the electric corn popper coincides with another development, motion pictures, and the two become closely linked.

1910 — Electric clothes-washing machines are introduced, but they have to be filled manually and drained by bucket. Though truly automatic washers are about 25 years away, liberation from one of the great drudgeries of human existence is in sight.

1912 — S.I. Russell patents an electric pad to warm the chests of tuberculosis patients; the electric blanket awaits only further development and marketing.

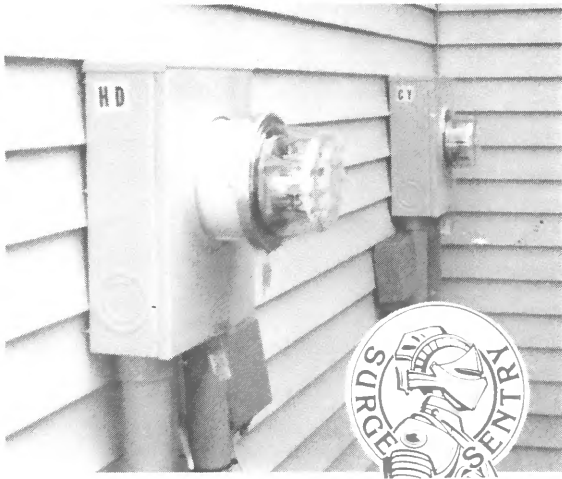
1913 — The first home refrigerator goes on sale in Chicago.

1917 — Clarence Birdseye develops freezing as a way of preserving food.

1918 — The electric heater is introduced.

1920 — Two companies in Racine, Wisconsin — Hamilton Beach and Racine Universal Motor — offer electric hair dryers. Both devices are made possible by a small, low-powered motor the firms had developed for another new product — the food blender, which is still on the drawing boards. Hair dryers will gain steadily in popularity, but the market booms in the 1960s when men start wearing their hair long.

And still, over 90 percent of America's farms are without electricity.



SURGE SENTRY

Installed in meter base HD to protect the valuable and delicate electronics in this member's appliances and home entertainment equipment from lightning induced and other high-voltage surges.

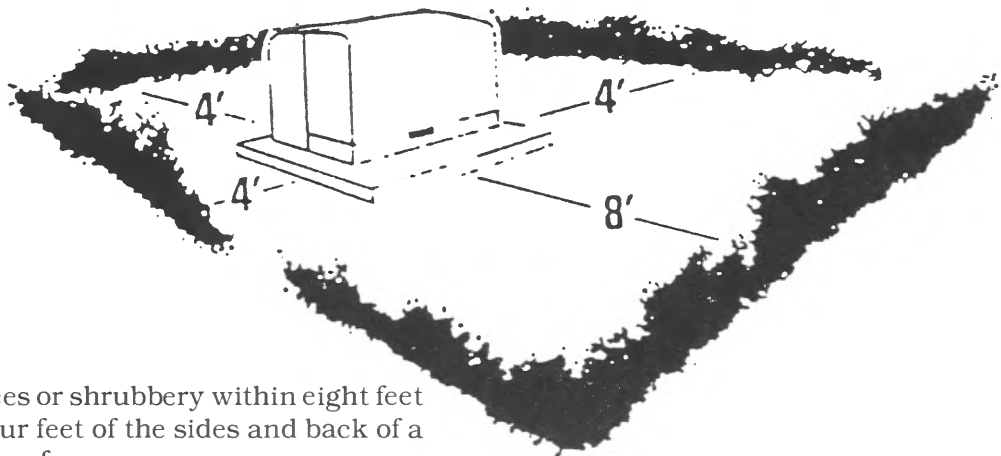
SURGE SENTRY

Only \$99 installed.

And, only from

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative

Please be cooperative



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

Our linemen need adequate elbow room to juggle some 7,200 volts during an outage or to perform maintenance on the transformer.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Get ready for summer

Disconnect, clean and store those humidifiers, stock tank heaters, pumphouse heaters, sump pump lamps, chicken brooders, and pet house heating. In short, stop and think of all those things you plugged in last fall for comfort or convenience, search them out and unplug them.

Clean leaves and debris from around the outside air conditioning unit. Shut the unit off at the main-panel or the outside disconnect, take the cover off and hose the inside out too. Get rid of all the accumulated dirt in there. Consider having a serviceman tune the unit. You do it for your car. Do it for your best summertime friend. The biggest reason air conditioning units "lose their cool" is

they are low on gas. A low level of freon will cause the unit to run longer to do the cooling job, using more kilowatt-hours. And you won't even know it until you get the bill for it.

Climb up in the attic to make sure the vents are open to allow air to circulate freely. Check the soffit vents in particular. Winter winds have been known to move loose insulation into the soffit, completely blocking the vents. Worse still, the wind may have blown the loose insulation toward the middle of the attic leaving only dry-wall between you and 100 plus degree attic temperatures.

If you have a power vent up there, by all means clean the blades. Dirty blades lower the ability of the fan to move the amount of air it's rated to do. Install a thermostat on it if it doesn't have one. A few kilowatt-hours used in venting the attic means many, many fewer to be used in the air conditioner, more comfort in the living space, and less wear on the air conditioner.

Satellite TV Programming

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative • Bloomington, Illinois • Phone 800-322-6541
Satellite dish needed \$10.00 Hook-up fee

Basic Package 1

24 channels for \$19.95 per month Add Netlink for \$4.70/mo.

G1-7 CNN News G1-9 ESPN G1-22 Discovery Channel
G1-8 Headline News G3-20 Lifetime (East) F3-17 Lifetime (West)
G1-11 Family Channel G3-19 Nickelodeon (East) F3-11 Prime Network (Sports)
G1-2 Nashville Network G3-22 Nickelodeon (West) G1-18 WTBS Atlanta
G1-21 USA Network (East) G3-13 Weather Channel G1-3 WGN-Chicago
G1-15 WWOR-New York S3-3 WSBK-Boston S3-5 KTVT-Dallas
G1-18 WTBS Atlanta F2-2 WRAL-CBS Network F2-12 WXIA-NBC Network
G3-9 WPIX-New York G3-18 MTV (West) G3-15 VH-1 G1-13 Country Music TV

Basic Package 2

14 channels for \$11.95 per month Add—Netlink for \$4.70/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.

G1-7 CNN News G1-22 Discovery Channel G1-9 ESPN G1-11 Family Channel
G1-8 Headline News G3-20 Lifetime (East) F3-17 Lifetime (West) G3-19 Nickelodeon (East)
G3-22 Nickelodeon (West) G1-2 Nashville Network G1-21 USA Network (East) F3-10 USA Network (West)
G1-18 WTBS Atlanta S3-5 KTVT-Dallas G1-3 WGN-Chicago S3-9 WPIX-New York
G1-13 Country Music TV

Basic Package 3

11 channels for \$8.95 per month Add—Netlink for \$4.00/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.

G1-7 CNN News G1-22 Discovery Channel G1-9 ESPN G1-11 Family Channel
G1-11 Family Channel G1-8 Headline News G1-2 Nashville Network G1-9 ESPN
F3-10 USA Network (West) G1-3 WGN-Chicago G1-18 WTBS Atlanta G1-21 USA Network (East)
G1-13 Country Music TV

Our premium channels

HBO East & West (G1-23 & F3-13) Cinemax East & West (G1-19 & F3-23) Disney East & West (G1-4 & G1-24)
The Movie Channel East & West (G1-10 & G1-14) Showtime East and West (G1-5 & G1-16)
1 Premium—\$7.95 2 Premiums—\$14.95 3 Premiums—\$20.95
4 Premiums—\$27.95 5 Premiums—\$33.95

Additional favorites

Satellite Sports Network — 12 Sports Channels — \$8.55 per month
Skyline Silver — \$3.00 per month — Coast-to-Coast Superstations G1-15 WWOR New York — S3-3 WSBK Boston — S3-15 KTLA Los Angeles
Prime Time 24 — \$3.95 per month for the three major networks
G3-17 & G3-18 MTV + G3-15 VH-1 — \$2.75 per month
F2, 2, 4, 6, 12, 14
Netlink — 5 channels from Denver for \$5.95 per month
Arts & Entertainment G1-12 — \$0.50 per month with Package 2 only
WTBS Superstation Atlanta G1-18 — \$1.75 per month
S3-15 KTLA Los Angeles — \$1.05 per month
Comedy Central — \$.50 per month with any basic package
Weather Channel G3-13 — \$.50 per month

Rural TV equipment dealers

Griffin Satellites Central Illinois Satellite P&M Communications Viasat Communications
Carlock Atlanta Decatur Normal
Ph. 309-376-3471 Ph. 217-648-2256 Ph. 217-877-2235 Ph. 309-452-7916
Anderson Satellites L & J Satellites McKinsey's TV Tony's Satellite Service
Norris Canton Chenoa Hudson
Ph. 309-647-4259 Ph. 309-647-9518 Ph. 815-945-5851 Ph. 309-726-1899
Twin City Satellites Pendleton Home Entertainment
Shirley Astoria
Ph. 309-829-8986 Ph. 309-759-4463

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)

Automated outage reporting system to be installed

Corn Belt Electric has taken a giant technological leap in its continuing efforts to better serve its growing membership.

Soon to be installed at the office is an automatic phone answering device that has the capacity to process up to 500 outage calls per hour during and after our periodic ice and wind storms.

This machine will take most of the frustration of the past out of the chore of reporting a power outage. No longer will a member have to sit at a telephone and repeatedly, hour after hour, dial the office in hopes of catching an unused line. An occasional busy signal will still occur with this new system. But chances, are, the second call will get through.

Here is how it works. When the power goes off react as you normally would. Check your own breakers and fuses. If they are o.k., check to see if the neighbors' power is also off. If that indeed is the case, call the office using our toll free number — 800-322-6541.

A pleasant, digitalized voice will answer the phone with the greeting: "You have reached the outage reporting system of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative. In order to provide faster, more efficient service, your call is being handled electronically. To obtain the quickest response please follow all instructions carefully.

"We are aware of the following outages. If the problem you have called to report is one of these you may hang up and be assured that our crews are responding and will work until all members have had power restored. (The voice will then

recite the list of areas affected by the outage.)

"If you are calling from a touch-tone telephone, please press the number one now.

"If your phone does not have the touch-tone feature or if you wish to speak to an operator, please remain on the line." (You will then be connected to an operator.)

After that brief introduction, the reporting of an outage from a touch-tone telephone is simply a matter of following the instructions given by the voice. For example, it will ask you to enter your telephone number, identify the type of problem you are experiencing, and finally to recite the name and address belonging to that phone number. Usually the call is completed in less than two minutes.

The member's telephone number is the key to the efficient operation of the system. The machine uses the phone number to locate the correct map location number in our billing computer and then prints an outage report so the dispatcher can easily direct a crew to the scene of the problem.

The next couple of months we will be asking you to write your telephone number on your bill stub. This will enable you to utilize the new outage reporting system. If you have already provided us with your phone number, we thank you very much.

While we are not looking forward to a major storm, we are anxious to try out our new system. We know that you will be as pleased as we at the speed and simplicity of reporting an outage.

Two youths to Washington, D.C.

The topic for our 33rd Youth to Washington essay contest was **Electric and Magnetic Fields — Is There a Health Risk After 100 Years?** Some scientists say yes. Most say no. And so it went with our 10 finalists this year. Some said yes and some said no. But, regardless of opinion, the intent of the annual event for high school sophomores and juniors was realized March 18 as two bright, articulate and poised youngsters were chosen to represent your cooperative in the nation's capitol this June.

Brian Harmon and Brian Schoppe, both from the English class of Mr. Tom Wells of Heyworth High School, will join some 60 other essayists representing Illinois electric cooperatives for a weeklong tour of the city's treasured landmarks, meetings with our elected representatives and a possible audience with President Bush. A dinner-dance while cruising on the Potomac River will be the social highlight of the trip. The students will even leave the United States for a few hours as

(Continued on page 12d)



The students who represented CBEC toured Springfield and met with Senator John W. Maitland, Jr. of Bloomington and Representative Gordon L. Ropp of Normal. From left are, chaperone Debbie McCameron, Brian Schoppe of Bloomington, Jennifer Moreland and Elizabeth Poppe of Heyworth, Senator Maitland and Representative Ropp, Brian Harmon, Gwen Porter, Michael Marlett and Dan Williamson, all of Heyworth, and chaperone Tom Moore.

Rural Electric Youth Day

Commenting that he is "highly interested in programs that work for rural youth," Governor Jim Edgar proclaimed April 29 as Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day. And seven of the finalists of our 33rd Annual Essay Contest thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations as did their 200 counterparts from throughout the state. Brent Wright of Delavan High School, Scott Grant of Heyworth High School and John Baines of University High School were unable to attend.

Included in the busy day's activities were visits to the state capitol, Lincoln shrines, the new State Library, the Supreme Court Building and a stroll through the neighborhood of the Lincoln Home. The highlight of the tour of the capital were meetings with Senator John Maitland, Representative Gordon Ropp and Representative Robert

Olson to discuss some current items of concern to the essayists. They received insights into the "hard sledding" ahead for these dedicated legislators as they attempt to solve the state's pressing problems.

A luncheon in their honor at the Springfield Hilton featured an inspirational address by Illinois' Lieutenant Governor Bob Kustra. Mr. Kustra urged the students to become involved in local and state issues even at this early age.

Late in the afternoon, our tired but still enthusiastic group concluded Youth Day '92 and returned to Bloomington. Corn Belt Electric Cooperative is proud of all of this year's essay contestants. You are a credit to your generation and you are all winners! We thank all of you for your efforts.

Financial aid available to weatherize homes

Now is the time to begin improving your home to make it more energy efficient. Of course, that takes money. But help is as close as a telephone call to a helping hand agency in your locality.

Weatherization aids such as insulation, weatherstripping and energy efficient doors and windows are available free to qualifying families. That includes, for instance, a family of four with an annual income less than \$17,438.

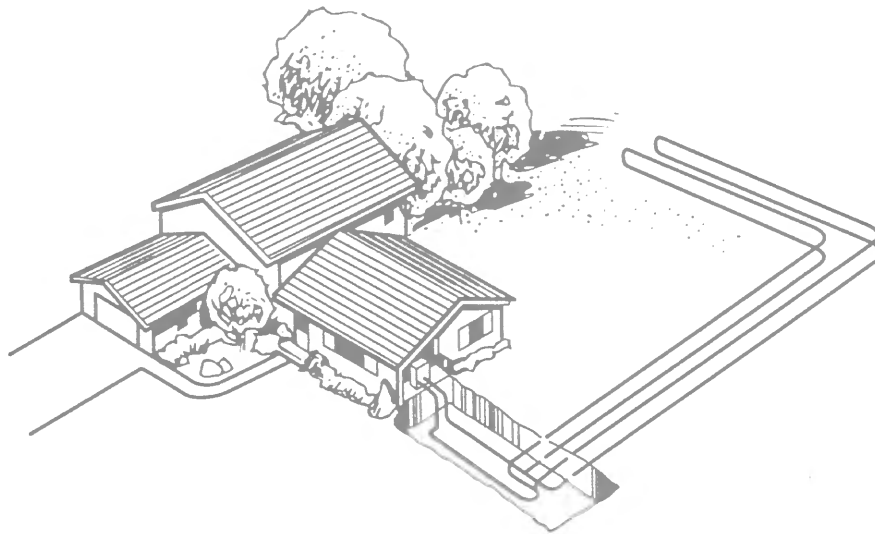
An advantage to working with the agencies listed below is that the funds are available to those living in town or in the country, in mobile homes, and even to those renting apartments and houses. Senior citizens, people with disabilities and households that participate in the Low Income Energy Assistance Program are given priority for the federal money.

To obtain more information about the program contact the agency serving your county.

<u>County</u>	<u>Agency</u>
DeWitt	Central Illinois Economic Development Corp. 325 South Chicago St.
Logan	Lincoln — Phone 217-732-2159
Piatt	Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corp. 1122 East Marietta St. Decatur — Phone 217-428-2193
Macon	
Ford	East Central Illinois Community Action Program 501 North Kimball St. Danville — Phone 217-443-2705
Livingston	Mid-Central Community Action, Inc. 923 East Grove St. Bloomington — Phone 309-829-0691
McLean	
Tazewell	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission 632 West Jefferson St. Morton — Phone 309-266-9941
Woodford	

So don't be bashful. Call today to apply for these funds. Tightening up an apartment, mobile home or a house makes it more comfortable in summer and winter and will not cost as much to cool and heat.

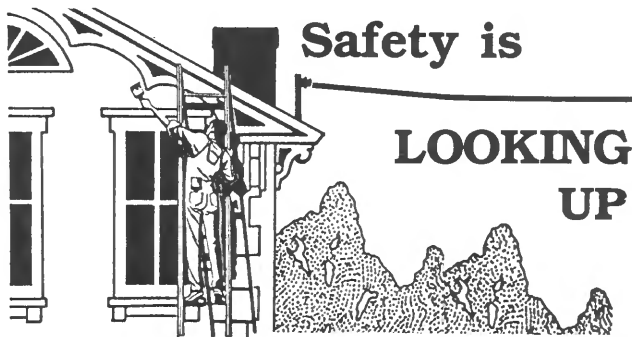
**Your best heating and air conditioning value begins with a G.
But it certainly isn't Gas.
It's Geothermal.**



If you would like to discover the many advantages of a geothermal system for heating and cooling your home, contact Corn Belt Electric Cooperative for a free brochure and a list of dealers serving our service territory.

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative

1502 Morrissey Drive, P.O. Box 816
Bloomington, Illinois 61702-0816
Telephone 309-662-5330 or 800-322-6541



Safety is

**LOOKING
UP**

Springtime, and things are looking up. Snow and cold are behind you. And you'll be up for home projects — UP in a tree cutting out dead limbs, UP on the roof cleaning our gutters, UP a ladder scraping old paint off your house.

In the midst of these busy weekend chores, safety is top priority. So, when you're climbing that tree, walking on the roof and moving that ladder — LOOK UP. Make sure you and your work tools clear any overhead electric power lines. A moment of caution can add up to a longer life.

BILL-BUSTER!! NOW

You have until June 19 to sign an agreement for BILL-BUSTER!! installation to be sure of getting the \$25 credit for July usage.

Agreements received after June 19 will be honored in July. But, the July \$25 credit will not be available — only the August \$25 credit.

So, if you want to save BIG BUCKS on your cooling costs this summer and every summer, call today and ask for BILL-BUSTER!!

Memorial Day

The offices of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 25, to commemorate Memorial Day.

In the event of an electrical emergency, please phone 1-800-322-6541.

A message for ladies only

Ladies, this is the mowing season — the time of the year when the old lawnmower really gets a workout. It's also the time of year when many of the little copper wires that run down the sides of our poles are severed. Those copper wires are not there for decoration. They truly do serve a purpose. What they do is route high-powered lightning surges from our lines into the earth. This helps to protect the appliances and home entertainment equipment in your homes from being damaged.

You see, when the little copper wires down the sides of the poles are severed they will no longer carry lightning surges to earth. Now every surge has got to go somewhere. Guess where many of them go. Yep — right into your home — into your appliances. Come to think of it, that's what the Surge Sentry we sell is for — a sort of final defense against surges. But this isn't a commercial for Surge Sentry.

We know that the mowers you ladies use are not the culprits. No, the culprits are those big mowers your husbands use. They're big and cumbersome and not easy to handle around

obstacles. Consequently, the little copper wires that run down the sides of our poles get severed. And it goes without saying who gets the first complaint when you don't have a meal ready after a good thunderstorm.

So here's our message to you ladies. Nag your hubbies to be extra-extra-extra careful when they mow around our poles. The appliances they save just might be yours.

(Continued from page 12a)

they tour the lavish Saudi Arabian Embassy. All of this is arranged through the auspices of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, of which Corn Belt Electric is a member.

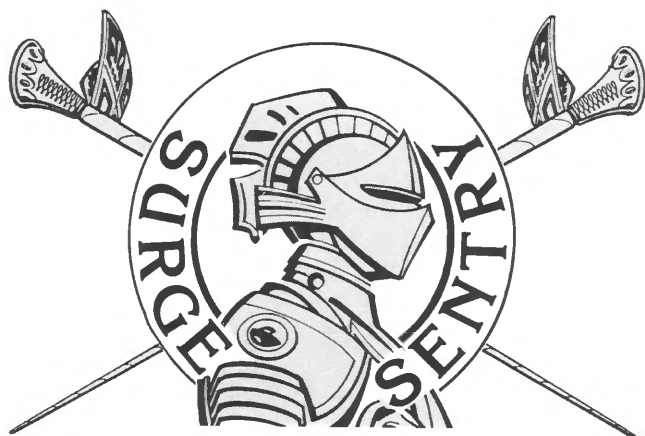
And, of course, seven of the 10 finalists travelled to Springfield on April 29 for Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day festivities (see story on page 12b).

Every year, the members of our board of directors and of our staff are impressed with the intelligence and the perspective of the contest participants as they apply their minds and talents to express their opinions on difficult and controversial topics. We are proud to be associated with them.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Satellite TV Programming</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Corn Belt Electric Cooperative • Bloomington, Illinois • Phone 800-322-6541 Satellite dish needed \$10.00 Hook-up fee</p>	
<p>24 channels for \$19.95 per month Add Netlink for \$4.70/mo.</p> <p>Basic Package 1</p> <p>G1-12 Arts & Entertainment G1-11 Family Channel G3-22 Nashville Network G1-21 USA Network (East) G1-15 WWOR-New York S3-9 WPIX-New York G3-17 MTV (East)</p> <p>G1-9 ESPN G3-20 Lifetime (East) G3-22 Nickelodeon (West) G3-10 USA Network (West) S3-3 WSBK-Boston F2-4 WABC-ABC Network G3-18 MTV (West)</p> <p>G1-22 Discovery Channel F3-17 Lifetime (West) F3-11 Prime Network (Sports) G1-18 WTBS Atlanta G1-3 KTVT-Dallas F2-2 WRAL-CBS Network G3-15 VH-1</p>	<p>G1-22 Discovery Channel F3-17 Lifetime (West) F3-11 Prime Network (Sports) G1-18 WTBS Atlanta G1-3 KTVT-Dallas F2-2 WRAL-CBS Network G1-13 Country Music TV</p>
<p>14 channels for \$11.95 per month Add—Netlink for \$4.70/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.</p> <p>Basic Package 2</p> <p>G1-7 CNN News G1-8 Headline News G3-22 Nickelodeon (West) G1-18 WTBS Atlanta G1-13 Country Music TV</p> <p>G1-22 Discovery Channel G3-20 Lifetime (East) G1-2 Nashville Network S3-5 KTVT-Dallas</p>	<p>G1-9 ESPN F3-17 Lifetime (West) G1-21 USA Network (East) G1-3 WGN-Chicago</p> <p>G1-11 Family Channel G3-19 Nickelodeon (East) F3-10 USA Network (West) S3-9 WPIX-New York</p>
<p>11 channels for \$8.95 per month Add—Netlink for \$4.00/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.</p> <p>Basic Package 3</p> <p>G1-12 Arts & Entertainment G1-11 Family Channel F3-10 USA Network (West)</p> <p>G1-7 CNN News G1-8 Headline News G1-3 WGN-Chicago</p>	<p>G1-22 Discovery Channel G1-2 Nashville Network G1-18 WTBS Atlanta</p> <p>G1-9 ESPN G1-21 USA Network (East) G1-13 Country Music TV</p>
<p>Our premium channels</p> <p>HBO East & West (G1-23 & F3-13) Cinemax East & West (G1-19 & F3-23) Disney East & West (G1-4 & G1-24)</p> <p>The Movie Channel East & West (G1-10 & G1-14) Showtime East & West (G1-5 & G1-16)</p> <p>1 Premium—\$7.95 2 Premiums—\$14.95 3 Premiums—\$20.95 4 Premiums—\$27.95 5 Premiums—\$33.95</p>	
<p>Additional favorites</p> <p>Satellite Sports Network — 12 Sports Channels — \$8.55 per month Skyline Silver — \$3.00 per month — Coest-to-Coest Superstations G1-15 WWOR New York — S3-3 WSBK Boston — S3-15 KTLA Los Angeles Prime Time 24 — \$3.95 per month for the three major networks F2-2 CBS + F2-4 ABC + F2-12 NBC Netlink — 5 channels from Denver for \$5.95 per month G3-17 & G3-18 MTV + G3-15 VH-1 — \$2.75 per month F1-2, 4, 6, 12, 14 Arts & Entertainment G1-12 — \$0.50 per month with Package 2 only WTBS Superstation Atlanta G1-1B — \$1.75 per month Comedy Central — \$0.50 per month with any basic package Weather Channel G3-13 — \$.50 per month</p>	
<p>Rural TV equipment dealers</p> <p>Griffin Satellites Carlock Twin City Satellites Shirley</p> <p>Central Illinois Satellite Atlanta L & J Satellites Centon</p> <p>Pendleton Home Entertainment Astoria McKinsey's TV Chenoe</p> <p>Tony's Satellite Service Hudson Ph. 309-726-1899</p> <p>Ph. 309-376-3471 Ph. 217-648-2256 Ph. 309-647-9518 Ph. 309-829-8986</p>	

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)



Surge Sentry

What are all these sensitive electronics built into our appliances and home entertainment equipment? Well, over the years the progressive electronics industry has compressed a truckload of old wiring circuits, tubes and other rugged electrical gadgets onto tiny silicon chips and boards called microprocessors.

These microprocessors don't operate at the 120 volts of the home electrical system. Yes, I know they are plugged into 120-volt outlets but they would burn up with even that much power. Instead, each has a converter that reduces 120-volt electricity to about 5 volts. And there lies the problem.

Sometimes a lightning strike on or near our distribution lines can cause a high-voltage surge that will go through our protective devices and through the electric switchgear in the home so quickly that the equipment simply doesn't have time to react. Now, when a 7,000, 8,000 or 9,000

volt surge charges into your 120-volt house wiring system, something has to give. It's kind of like a monster wave smashing into a small coastal village. Those little microprocessors don't stand a chance. They become what the food industry calls "fast fries." That's just what happens to them. They are instantly transformed into very expensive but worthless electronic junk.

But Surge Sentry can stop this needless waste. Installed in your meter base, the sentry will keep watch for high-powered surges up to 10,000 volts and within two-billionths of a second will shunt the nasty old things away from your home and into the ground.

A happy ending to a potential disaster and you won't even know the drama took place.

For your peace of mind, phone the office today and ask for a Surge Sentry. It's only \$99 installed and only from Corn Belt Electric Cooperative.

Equipment in the home that Surge Sentry will protect

- Computers, printers, fax machines
- VCRs
- TVs
- Stereos
- Kitchen appliances with solid state controllers —
ranges, dishwashers, ovens, microwaves
- Intercoms, security systems
- Clothes washers with solid state controllers
- Garage door openers
- Radios (plug-in)
- Answering machines
- Direct-wired smoke alarms
- Programmable thermostats
- Telephones
- Dimmers, motion detectors, solid state timers

Vacations and electric bills

The fifth of every month is the date your electric bill is due. If the fifth happens to fall on a weekend the following Monday is the due date.

Now then, vacations are almost always planned weeks, if not months, in advance. They are not spur of the moment decisions. With that in mind and you know you are going to be gone over the fifth of the month please make sure your electric bill is paid before you leave.

Either mail the payment to the office or use the

convenient drive-up, drop-in facility at the front of our building. With either method the cooperative and you are assured that there will be no late payment charges, disconnections, trip charges, hurt feelings, etc. etc.

And if you're lucky enough to be able to get away for three or four weeks at one time, call the office to get an estimate of your charges then follow the old payment routine of using the Postal Service or drive-up, drop-in the payment.

Coping with a summer outage

Summer storms, winter storms and storms in between. They all bring one thing in common — **power outages!** You don't like them. We certainly don't like them. But just like our relatives — out here on the prairie we're stuck with them. Thank goodness summer storms are much kinder to us than those in winter.

Outages are strange. They can plunge an area into darkness, or they might only cause the lights to go dim and stay that way. In many ways a dim outage is the worst kind because it indicates low-voltage power coming into your house. Low-voltage is very hard on electric motors. When this condition occurs, disconnect or shut off any appliance with a motor (see list below). By doing so, you could save some hefty motor replacement costs.

Unless a tornado is the cause, summer outages tend to be quite local and short-lived. But almost all of the suggestions given for coping with a winter outage will apply during the cooling season.

Most important is to ensure that your electronic appliances will not be damaged by a voltage surge when the power is restored. Appliances with electronic components are much like light bulbs. The components begin deteriorating the first time the appliance is used. After many (sometimes only a few) hours of use these components will fail. A slight voltage surge, as the power is restored, could very well be the "straw that breaks the camel's back." So don't take chances. Unplug those appliances.

You can make your next extended outage more bearable if you keep the following on hand and easily accessible:

A. Your map location number for a few more months. We will soon have our new answering

machine in place for which you will need to use only your telephone number.

B. Something to provide illumination — candles, flashlights, lanterns

C. Food that can be grilled

D. Battery-operated radio

E. A wind-up alarm clock

F. Plastic jugs for portable water

If the duration of the outage is such that keeping frozen foods frozen becomes a worry, perhaps an investment in a supply of dry ice would be in order. There are two suppliers in our service territory — M. Capodice and Sons in Bloomington and Continental Carbonics in Decatur. They are listed in the white pages of the respective phone books.

Following these suggestions will make it easier to cope with a summer power outage. Think ahead and prepare for an emergency by having a plan in your household. Remember to stay calm. Your electricity will be on as quickly as possible because your cooperative employees will work around the clock to restore service.

Low voltage

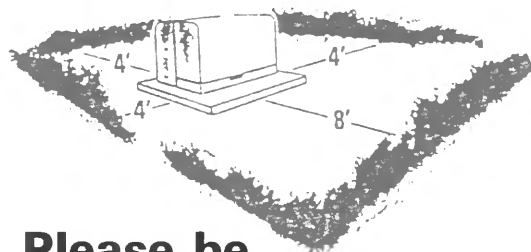
Will not damage

Lights
Stoves
Toasters
Water heaters

Will damage

Air conditioners
Computers
Compactors
Dishwashers
Disposers
Dryers
Freezers
Furnaces
Hair dryers
Pumps
Refrigerators
TVs
VCRs
Washers

If it has a motor on it or in it, shut it off or unplug it during a low-voltage situation!



Please be cooperative

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

Safety quiz

True or False? The rubber tires on tractors and riding lawn mowers make it unnecessary to take the time to allow static electricity to "bleed" from them before adding fuel.

False: Several minutes must be allotted before refueling to allow the static electricity to disperse to atmosphere. The electricity can spark, ignite the fumes from the fuel and cause an explosion.

Independence Day

The offices of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, July 3, to celebrate Independence Day.

In the event of an electrical emergency, please phone our dispatcher at 1-800-322-6541.

DUCK!



That's the smart approach to power lines

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

Come and cheer the 3rd annual



Heart of Illinois Sports Challenge

Fund-raising athletic competition for persons with mental retardation who live in DeWitt, Ford, Livingston, McLean, and Woodford counties.

When: Saturday, July 25

Where: Ash Park — Normal

Sponsorship donations appreciated

For sponsorship information contact:

Barb Alldridge

Heart of Illinois Special Olympics

109 E. Olive

Bloomington — Ph. 309-823-4260

Satellite TV Programming

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative • Bloomington, Illinois • Phone 800-322-6541
 Satellite dish needed \$10.00 Hook-up fee

Basic Package 1

24 channels for \$19.95 per month Add Netlink for \$4.70/mo.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| G1-12 Arts & Entertainment | G1-7 CNN News | G1-22 Discovery Channel |
| G1-11 Family Channel | G1-8 Headline News | F3-17 Lifetime (West) |
| G1-2 Nashville Network | G3-19 Nickelodeon (East) | F3-11 Prime Network (Sports) |
| G1-21 USA Network (East) | G3-22 Nickelodeon (West) | G1-18 WTBS Atlanta |
| G1-15 WWOR-New York | F3-10 USA Network (West) | G1-3 WGN-Chicago |
| S3-9 WPIX-New York | S3-3 WSBK-Boston | F2-12 WXIA-NBC Network |
| G3-17 MTV (East) | F2-4 WABC-ABC Network | G1-13 Country Music TV |
| | G3-18 MTV (West) | |
| | G1-9 ESPN | |
| | G3-20 Lifetime (East) | |
| | G3-22 Nickelodeon (East) | |
| | F3-10 USA Network (West) | |
| | G1-2 Nashville Network | |
| | S3-5 KTVT-Dallas | |
| | G1-3 WGN-Chicago | |
| | G1-11 Family Channel | |
| | F3-17 Lifetime (West) | |
| | G1-21 USA Network (East) | |
| | G1-3 WGN-Chicago | |
| | G1-18 WTBS Atlanta | |
| | G1-9 ESPN | |
| | F3-19 Nickelodeon (East) | |
| | F3-10 USA Network (West) | |
| | S3-9 WPIX-New York | |

Basic Package 2

14 channels for \$11.95 per month Add — Netlink for \$4.70/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| G1-7 CNN News | G1-22 Discovery Channel | G1-11 Family Channel |
| G3-20 Lifetime (East) | F3-17 Lifetime (West) | G3-19 Nickelodeon (East) |
| G1-2 Nashville Network | G1-21 USA Network (East) | F3-10 USA Network (West) |
| S3-5 KTVT-Dallas | G1-3 WGN-Chicago | S3-9 WPIX-New York |

Basic Package 3

11 channels for \$8.95 per month Add — Netlink for \$4.00/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| G1-12 Arts & Entertainment | G1-7 CNN News | G1-22 Discovery Channel | G1-9 ESPN |
| G1-11 Family Channel | G1-8 Headline News | G1-2 Nashville Network | G1-21 USA Network (East) |
| F3-10 USA Network (West) | G1-3 WGN-Chicago | G1-18 WTBS Atlanta | G1-13 Country Music TV |

Our premium channels

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| HBO East & West
(G1-23 & F3-13) | Cinemax East & West
(G1-19 & F3-23) | Disney East & West
(G1-4 & G1-24) |
| The Movie Channel East & West
(G1-10 & G1-14) | Showtime East and West
(G1-5 & G1-16) | |
| 1 Premium — \$7.95 | 2 Premiums — \$14.95 | 3 Premiums — \$20.95 |
| 4 Premiums — \$27.95 | 5 Premiums — \$33.95 | |

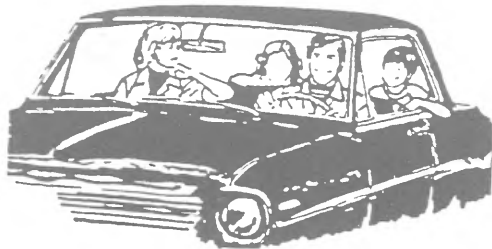
Additional favorites

- Satellite Sports Network — 12 Sports Channels — \$8.55 per month
 Skyline Silver — \$3.00 per month — Coast-to-Coast Superstations G1-15 WWOR New York — S3-3 WSBK Boston — S3-15 KTLA Los Angeles
 G3-17 & G3-18 MTV + G3-15 VH-1 — \$2.75 per month
 Arts & Entertainment G1-12 — \$0.50 per month with Package 2 only
 WTBS Superstation Atlanta G1-18 — \$1.75 per month
 Comedy Central — \$0.50 per month with any basic package
 Weather Channel G3-13 — \$.50 per month

Rural TV equipment dealers

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Griffin Satellites
Carlock
Ph. 309-376-3471 | Central Illinois Satellite
Atlanta
Ph. 217-648-2256 | Pendleton Home Entertainment
Astoria
Ph. 309-759-4463 | Tony's Satellite Service
Hudson
Ph. 309-726-1899 |
| Twin City Satellites
Shirley
Ph. 309-829-8986 | L & J Satellites
Canton
Ph. 309-647-9518 | McKinsey's TV
Chenoa
Ph. 815-945-5851 | |

ENERGY SAVING TIPS



Going on vacation? If you expect your electric bill to be lower because of your absence, better follow these suggestions:

- Turn off the electric water heater
- Turn off the air conditioner
- If you have two refrigerators, transfer all food into one, then unplug the empty one. Besides

- saving electricity by not using the empty one, the full refrigerator will operate more efficiently.
- Turn off or unplug all those automatic appliances that do not need to operate in an empty house — cable or Rural TV equipment, attic fan, pool pump, well pump, dehumidifier, waterbed heaters, etc.

The only way to use **no** electricity is to trip the main breaker. That will shut everything off. But for most of us, that is not a viable option.

To reduce usage shut off everything that doesn't absolutely need to be on because while you're away the automatic appliances will continue to automatically operate.

And keep in mind, when you come home, you will turn everything on again. All those appliances you use to maintain comfort, clean the clothes, cook with, etc. will operate for a number of hours to restore equilibrium to the house. Consequently most, if not all, of those kilowatt-hours you saved while on vacation will be used to get back into the before-vacation routine.

Summer rate soon

Just a reminder to all members that the summer rate will be in effect beginning July 1. That means that all of the kilowatt-hours you use in July and August will cost 11.8 cents each plus the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment. This is the highest-priced power that the cooperative buys for its members all year.

We can be thankful that our summer rate applies for only two months. Investor-owned elec-

tric utilities have summer rates lasting up to four months.

You can still lower your electricity costs \$25 in August by having a free BILL-BUSTER!! installed on your central air conditioner. Then, next summer, we'll credit your account \$25 for July and \$25 for August usages. Phone the office and ask for BILL-BUSTER!!

Basketball tournament!!

The 3rd Annual 3-on-3 Hoops for Homes Basketball Tournament is scheduled for downtown Bloomington July 18 and 19. This Saturday and Sunday event raised \$9,600 last year for the McLean County affiliate of Habitat for Humanity. HfH is a not-for-profit organization that builds and renovates homes and sells them with interest-free loans to low-income families.

Competition, in addition to the 3-on-3 tourna-

ment, includes Slam-Dunk, 3 point shooting and free-throwing.

And HEY! This isn't just for big-boys! It's for girls too! Matter of fact, any boy, girl, male or female eight years old or older can and should enter.

Interested? Get a team together and phone 309-829-3341 for more information and entry forms to compete in Hoops for Homes.

Hang in there!

Whenever things don't always go right for you, take heart from the following:

The best basketball players make only about 50 percent of their shots.

Major-league baseball players make it to first base only 25 percent of the time — and that includes walks.

Top oil companies, even with the help of expert

geologists, must drill an average of 10 wells before finding oil.

A successful actor is turned down 29 out of 30 times after auditioning for roles in TV commercials.

Winners in the stock market make money on only 2 out of every 5 investments.

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)

Why is my bill higher than my neighbor's?

An age-old question that has as many answers as there are families. And, at this time of year, with air conditioners striving to keep us comfortable and accounting for the bulk of the electric bill, the answers multiply.

For example: the neighbor may have a newer or a more efficient model air conditioner; they may keep the cooling system cleaner for higher efficiency; the ductwork in their home may have been more precisely and adequately sized; their serviceman could be more meticulous in maintaining their equipment; conceivably, their builder was a better craftsman and built their home "tighter" to keep the "cool" in and the "hot" out; maybe their children are trained to close the doors tightly when entering or leaving the house; possibly their air conditioning equipment is sized exactly to fit their home; it could be that their insulation contractor was more experienced in how to adequately do the job; perhaps the scuttle hole into their attic is sealed and insulated; they might have more insulation in the attic; maybe they have purposely shaded the outside unit of their air conditioner; it might be that they have trees shading the southern and western sides of

the house; possibly they have fewer windows on the southern and western sides of the house; they could have an expansive overhang on their house for sun shielding and shading of the sides; maybe they have shrubbery planted around the foundation of their home to absorb some of the sun's heat; it could be that they don't set their thermostat as low; possibly their cooking, cleaning and entertainment habits are different; conceivably, their ductwork is not leaking the conditioned air into spaces that are not to be conditioned; perhaps their air conditioner has exactly the right amount of gas in it; maybe they have a BILL-BUSTER!! installed that grants them a \$25 dollar credit on their electric bill.

You get the idea. The answers to a very simple question can be almost endless. We haven't touched yet on the efficiency and cleanliness of the refrigerator, freezer and clothes dryer in a home. Nor have we explored the possibility of ill-fitting storm windows and failed gaskets around outside doors. We didn't mention adequate attic ventilation or any number of other energy-saving maintenance chores that must be done to ensure lower utility bills.

Electric heat consumers can save

Members who rely on electric baseboards, furnaces or heat pumps to heat their homes can slash their heating bills by at least 45 percent by installing one thermal storage heater, which will qualify you for our Dual Heat rate. That rate is three and one-half cents per kilowatt-hour; quite a savings when compared to your present costs.

A thermal storage heater is simply an attractive metal case filled with space-age insulation surrounding high-density ceramic bricks. One unit is installed in the most-used space in the home (usually the family room/kitchen area). The ceramic bricks are heated at night. During our peak demand period the next day the power is automatically shut off to the regular electric heat equipment. At that time the thermal storage unit, controlled by a thermostat, will begin to release

the stored heat to the space. After our peak period has passed, power is restored to the regular heating equipment.

The house remains comfortable and the cost of heating electrically drops dramatically.

You really should explore the possibilities of this easy method of qualifying for the Dual Heat rate.

Call the Member Services Department today for complete details.

Safety Quiz

True or False? You never have to worry about fire started by lightning strikes once a lightning protection system is properly installed.

False: Once it is installed a regularly scheduled inspection program should be established to check for breaks or worn spots on the wires and corrosion at all wire connections, especially at ground connections.

Survey: High regard for rural values and lifestyles

Americans still idealize rural America despite the highest level of pessimism about the United States in the last 20 years, says a survey released in June by the Roper Organization for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

"Americans feel a great affinity for rural America, and especially admire the qualities of the people living there," says a summary of the survey.

Bob Bergland, executive vice president of NRECA, which represents 1,000 consumer-owned utilities in 46 states, says NRECA commissioned the survey to help guide rural electric cooperatives in their efforts to strengthen their communities.

"Electric cooperatives, besides providing at-cost electricity, have always been in the business of building communities," says Bergland. "We continue to want the children of families who grew up with us to have a future close to home."

The survey found that nearly three-fourths of the people feel that in general in this country "things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track."

More than one-fourth of the people say the American Dream is not really alive, and 81 percent think the country "has lost or is starting to lose its traditional values."

Americans feel more positive about their own communities with 47 percent saying their community is on track. Rural Americans, however, are the most optimistic about their neighborhoods,


with six out of 10 rural Americans saying their community is on track.

The rest of the country seems to agree that rural areas are the keepers of American values. They see rural America as clean and wholesome, less-stressful, and with stronger personal values.

The strongest rural asset is its people, says the survey. The Roper summary reports that, "Rural America is where the public feels people possess many admirable characteristics, such as a strong sense of family, commitment to community, responsibility as citizens, strong religious beliefs, and resourcefulness. By consensus, rural Americans are more likely to be warm and friendly, honest in their business dealings, to be concerned about the problems and needs of others, to get real fun out of life, to be in good health, and to have a close-knit family."

But people also recognize rural problems, saying they aren't anxious to move to the country because of concerns about health care, police protection, and public transportation. The general public tends to agree that opportunity is in the city.

The survey finds that rural Americans are well-aware of these shortcomings, but that they are happy with where they live. "No other Americans are as satisfied and as enthusiastic about their community as are rural Americans," say Roper's analysts.



**Come in
under the wire**

Look up and live . . . safely!

On the farm, the phrase "coming in under the wire" can mean getting out of the field before a rainstorm opens up.

More importantly, it also means making sure your farm equipment gives plenty of clearance to electric power lines overhead. Electricity is a safe and reliable co-worker on the farmstead—if caution is used.

When moving machinery, look up—and live.

Come one — come all

To Mackinaw's Annual
Mack-Ca-Fest

July 31 through August 2

Friday — Saturday — Sunday

Friday Nite _____

Pork Chop Dinner

Dancing to the music of the Jack Vieley Band

Saturday _____

Basketball and horseshoe tournaments

Parade at 2:00 p.m.

Barbeque Chicken Dinner

Dancing to the music of

the Friendly Persuasions

Sunday _____

Community Church Services at 11:00 a.m.

Bratfest in the park at noon

Talent show and other entertainment

all afternoon

Carnival rides Friday nite through Sunday

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS CORN BELT ELECTRIC



Before



After

Rights-of-way

Driving through our section of the Prairie State can be deceiving. It seems that trees are gathered only around the farmsteads. However, as an electric utility, we know better. There are enough wooded areas within our ten-county service territory to keep two, and sometimes three, forestry crews behind in their work year-round.

Below are "before" and "after" photos of a right-of-way for a single-phase feeder line in the vicinity of Clinton Lake. A crew worked nearly a week to clear the under and overgrowth from around our poles and wire. And this was a relatively mild

case. There are tracts where trees have completely engulfed our distribution facilities to the extent that a pole line is not even visible.

Now there are some who will look at the photos and say that the effort was too thorough, that so much clearing wasn't necessary. There are suspicions that those same "some" are the first to complain (and loudly at that) when there is an outage because of tree limbs taking down or otherwise interfering with our lines.

But we'll take the abuse because it is an expensive, time-consuming task that must be done if we are to have any chance at all of providing dependable, reliable service.

Warning signs of household electrical problems

- Fuses need replacement or circuit breakers need resetting frequently
- Electric panels contain fuses or circuit breakers rated too high for the wiring in branch circuits. A circuit to a typical room is 15 to 20 amps
- Lights dim or the size of your television picture shrinks often
- Bright light flashes or sparks come from your electrical system
- Sizzles, buzzes, or unusual sounds come from the electrical system
- Switch plates, outlet covers, cords, or plugs are hot or discolored from heat
- Plugs are so loose that they wobble or pull out of the receptacle easily. A poor contact such as this

can cause overheating

- You feel a shock or a mild tingle from the electrical system when touching an appliance or metal outlet cover
- Electrical cord insulation is cut, broken, or cracked

Further information is available through your local electrical inspector, fire department or Corn Belt Electric Cooperative. In addition, contact the National Safety Council at 1-800-621-7619, or the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-2772. You may also order a 50-cent, 35-page booklet titled, "Home Wiring Hazards", by writing to the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 4314, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

The chart may be of interest if you're trying to reduce your cooling costs. The recommended minimum setting for your thermostat is 78 degrees. The chart indicates the percentage increase or decrease in operating costs above and below the recommended setting.

Want to increase the efficiency of your air conditioning system? Cooled air is heavy — right? Being heavy, it will naturally settle to the lowest spot in the conditioned space. So try this if you have a two-story house and the air return registers are high on the walls.

First, block off the return openings in the upper story. This stops the hot air near the ceiling from being returned to the furnace coil to be re-cooled. Realistically, you only need to cool the lower four or five feet of the space in the bedrooms anyway.

Next, close the outlet registers on the first floor. The furnace fan is now pushing all the cooled air to the upper story. The air trickles down the stairs to the first floor where it is drawn into the return

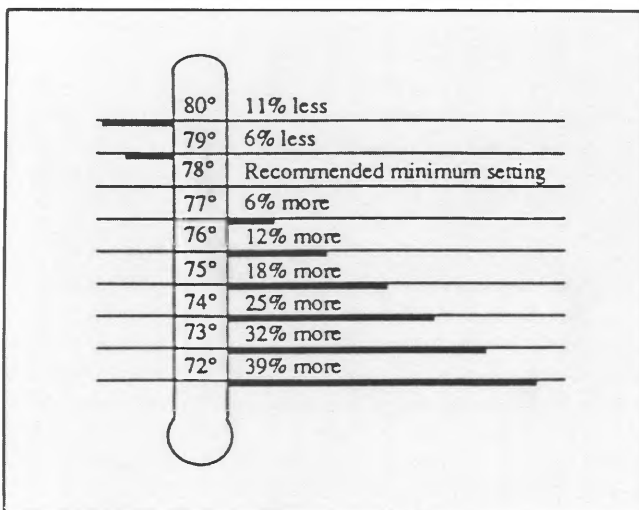
ducts to be recirculated.

The air conditioning unit runs less if the air it is cooling is already cool.

Want a little more efficiency? Go into the basement and arrange for the really cool air that has settled there to be drawn back into the fan cabinet.

The same idea works for single story homes with basements.

Of course, these adjustments will have to be undone when the cooling season is over.



Big Rural TV news

Some of your favorite channels are moving to a new satellite.

Hughes Communications has recently launched a new satellite. It is called Galaxy V (G5) and is located at 125 degrees west longitude. Many channels that you currently watch on Galaxy I (G1) are now broadcasting on the new G5 satellite. These

channels will broadcast signals on both the G1 and G5 satellites through July. This dual feed period will give you time to locate the new G5 satellite and to reprogram your descrambler.

Not all G1 services will move to G5 however. Some will remain on G1. Below are the new lineups:

Galaxy V (G5)	
G5-1	The Disney Channel (east)
G5-3	Trinity Broadcasting
G5-4	Sci-Fi Channel
G5-5	CNN
G5-6	Superstation TBS
G5-7	WGN
G5-8	HBO (west)
G5-9	ESPN (primary feed)
G5-11	The Family Channel
G5-12	The Discovery Channel
G5-13	CNBC
G5-14	The Movie Channel (west)
G5-15	HBO (east)
G5-16	Cinemax (west)
G5-17	TNT
G5-18	The Nashville Network
G5-19	USA Network (east)
G5-20	BET

G5-21	Mind Extension University
G5-22	Headline News
G5-23	Arts and Entertainment

Galaxy I (G1)	
G1-1	Comedy Central (east)
G1-5	Showtime (east)
G1-6	ESPN (alternate feed)
G1-10	The Movie Channel (east)
G1-11	EWTN
G1-13	Country Music Television
G1-15	WWOR
G1-16	Showtime (west)
G1-17	New Inspirational Network
G1-19	Cinemax (east)
G1-20	Galavision
G1-23	HBO (east)
G1-24	The Disney Channel (west)

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)

Number please?

The Cooperative now has its new, automated telephone-answering computer installed, and it is ready to process up to 500 incoming calls per hour during and after our recurring winter and summer storms.

It is a marvel! An electronically produced voice, upon answering the call, will introduce the caller to the quick and easy method by which an outage is to be reported, as well as reciting the locations of outages that we are already aware of. The voice will ask a question and direct the caller to respond by pushing an appropriate number on the touch-tone phone. Users of rotary dial phones or instruments without the touch-tone feature will automatically be connected with one of our dispatchers or a message can be left on a tape recording.

This thing will really speed up the time it takes for a member to report an outage. Your call will take only a few minutes to complete. A busy signal and the frustration of reporting an outage

will be greatly reduced.

However, the machine will not work for you (or for us) if your telephone number is not in our computerized billing system. Without your phone number the computer cannot determine who you are or where you are. In short, the caller will have to wait an indeterminate time to talk to an outage representative or leave a recorded message.

So please, enter your telephone number in the appropriate space on your bill stub the next time you write a check to the cooperative. If you have already done so, we thank you very much.

If you have an unlisted number and do not wish to give it to the cooperative, please give us a call and we'll assign you a number you can use to communicate with the computer.

Outages are always an inconvenience. Historically, alerting the office to an outage has been almost as great an inconvenience. After using our new answering machine you will agree that the reporting of it is now a minor one.

We're a JULIE subscriber now

That's right. Corn Belt Electric Cooperative is now a subscriber to the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators service (JULIE). The cooperative can no longer accept requests to locate our underground wire.

And, you know, it's not a bad idea. With virtually all utility companies burying many of their facilities these days, an organization like JULIE was needed. Now, a homeowner or a contractor can make one call to JULIE and have the electric, telephone, cable TV, natural gas, water and sewer lines located before any digging or excavation begins.

Just think of it. With one phone call to JULIE all the concern for safety, the worry over repair expense and the embarrassment of digging into a utility's equipment is behind you. That energy can now be put into the project.

So in the future remember: **Do not call Corn Belt Electric to have underground lines located. Call the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators service (JULIE) at**

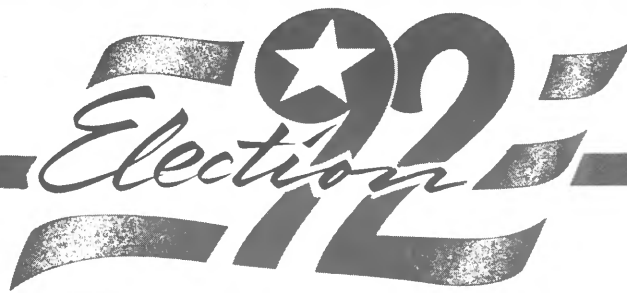
1-800-892-0123 at least 48 hours before you expect to dig. The cooperative can no longer accept requests to locate our underground wire.



When you call JULIE, have the following information at hand:

1. The county, city or township, and section number where the digging will be done. This information is found on your property tax bill.
2. The address and description of the excavation project.
3. The date and time work will begin.
4. Your name, telephone number and address.

For your peace of mind, phone JULIE at 1-800-892-0123 before digging. You won't regret it!



Get involved!

It's decision time for America again. By the end of this year, we will have elected (or re-elected) a president, all 435 members of the House of Representatives and a third of the Senate. Countless state and local races will round out the ballot.

As small town and rural residents go to the polls in the first election after the 1990 Census, the rural vote is all the more important. That count found the countryside losing influence relative to big urban areas and the newly redistricted nation is likely to have even fewer true rural representatives than ever before.

But that's no reason to turn our backs on the process. If anything, it gives us ever stronger incentives to take a more active role.

Candidates respond to the people who help them win office. Showing them rural Americans take an active and informed role by voting in large numbers is just entry-level politics.

We can — and must — do more. What can you do?

Let the candidate put a sign in your yard. Show up at campaign offices to stuff envelopes, type letters and otherwise help out the candidate of your choice. Host an event at which your candidate can meet your neighbors and try to make converts to the cause.

By doing this, you earn a chance to talk to the candidate about the things that matter:

- Rural economic development. The countryside took a beating during the 1980s, and the economic recession that swept the United States in the past year hit with particular force in rural

areas. Rural America doesn't need a lot of money from Washington or the statehouse, but it does need attention, advice and full support for programs already on the books. Make sure your candidate understands that a strong rural economy is a basic ingredient of a powerful national economy, and let your candidate know you expect support for effective rural development efforts.

- Financing for rural electric cooperatives. Rural development projects can't get off the ground without the basic service provided by our nation's 1,000 rural electric co-ops. For more than 50 years, these systems have made responsible use of one of the most successful government programs in U.S. history, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Make sure your candidate realizes how important REA is to preserving the quality of life and future vitality of rural America.

- Environmental issues. Nothing is more important than the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land we live on. Rural Americans treasure their clean countryside, and they don't want to endanger it. However, they also understand that hasty legislative action driven by brute political force instead of science and horse sense poses dangers, too. Make sure your candidate is ready to act responsibly when confronted with environmentally popular proposals of unknown cost.

It's decision time again. Let's make sure rural America has a voice in 1992.

By John Vanvig—Rural Electric News Service

History of electricity

(continued from previous issues)

1922 — The blender is invented in Racine, Wisconsin, for the purpose of making milkshakes. Its appeal is limited until 1936, when it comes to the attention of bandleader Fred Waring, who underwrites the development and marketing of the Waring Blendor — so spelled to distinguish it from the competition. Legend holds that Waring wanted the blender to liquefy fruits and vegetables for a relative who had difficulty swallowing; in fact, he used the blender to make his favorite

drink, the daiquiri.

1922 — Philo T. Farnsworth, a 16-year-old Idaho high school student, works out the basic principles of television. He shows it to his science teacher, Justin Tolman, who doesn't take the boy seriously. But his design is adopted when RCA begins experimenting with television, and in 1930 Farnsworth applies for and receives a patent for his cathode ray tube. This, coupled with the invention of a superior camera, enables RCA to begin an experimental television station in New York.

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS CORN BELT ELECTRIC

LET'S WAVE THE FLAG FOR AMERICA'S WORKERS!



It's time to celebrate Labor Day and take off our hats to the nation's labor force.

As we enjoy another festive Labor Day with family and friends, let's take a moment to recognize the folks who keep America working from coast to coast. That's you, us and everyone else in our community.

We especially wish to recognize our consumer-owners whose active involvement and concerns have helped us serve our community better.

So take a moment to reflect upon the meaning of this holiday. And then have a happy and joyful day.

Office closed

The offices of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, September 7, in honor of Labor Day.

In the event of an electrical emergency, please phone our dispatcher at 1-800-322-6541.

Six Steps to Safety



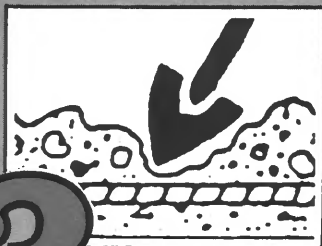
1

Follow the 10-foot rule



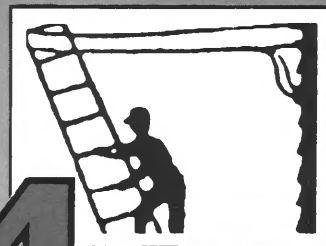
2

Don't panic; remain calm



3

Call JULIE before you dig



4

Lines and ladders don't mix



5

Be aware of what's overhead



6

Avoid downed power lines

Don't put your life on the line

Is your crop dryer ready?

Don't wait till you start harvesting to find out if your crop dryer is going to operate properly. Take a few minutes now and run through the following checklist. It may save you hours or even days of harvest delay.

- Inspect all wiring and panels for worn insulation, loose connections and worn-out circuit breakers. Also, check to be sure grounding wires are properly connected and not broken.

- Make sure all guards, shields and overcurrent devices are properly installed and secured.

- Check for worn bearings, pulleys, gear boxes, belts, shafts, etc. Pay particular attention to excess play in motor bearings. Bad bearings can ruin a motor.

- Lubricate all equipment before you start it.

If you are not sure of where to lubricate or what type of lubrication to use, consult your equipment dealer.

- Test it. Run through a complete drying cycle to see that all timers and switches operate properly. Let the motors run for several minutes to heat and distribute the new lubricant. Start the dryer at least twice to be sure the starting capacitors perform properly.

- If you have added new or larger motors, it would be a good idea to check with the Engineering Department to make sure the electrical service is adequate to handle the additional load.

- Don't forget to check over any fossil fuel-fired equipment used in conjunction with the dryer.

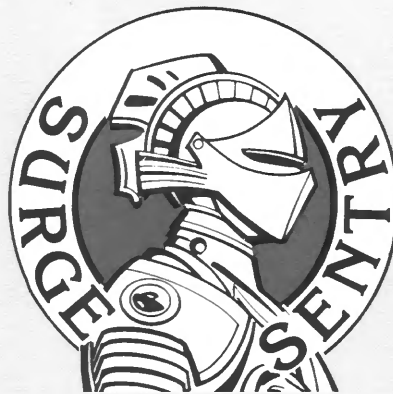
To have underground cable located



Typical electricity use of computer components in the home

Components	Power (Watts)	Typical Use (kwh/Year)	Comments
Monochrome monitor	25-30	100-200	
Color monitor	90-100	360-400	
PC central processing unit	70-90	300-400	using floppy disks
IBM PC AT central processing disk	70-90	300-400	using hard disks
Macintosh central processing unit	40	100-200	uses less because there is no fan
Dot matrix printer idle	10-20	40-80	
Dot matrix printer printing	20-50	30-50	
Laser printer	400	100-300	
Modem	20	50-90	

ORDER



NOW!

Don't wait until after your electronics are zapped by lightning.

Call the office today.

Safety quiz

True or False? It is safe to use extension cords and multi-outlets to increase your electrical capacity.

False: It is extremely hazardous to overload electrical circuits by using extension cords and multi-plug outlets. Electrical fires spread quickly and are difficult to control. Use extension cords only when absolutely necessary and then use heavy duty ones. Avoid using multiple outlets.

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)

Outage reporting system Automated answering device installed

The cooperative's automatic telephone answering machine is standing by and ready to serve the membership during and after the next major storm.

The computer-like device can actually process up to 500 incoming calls per hour. It's all done automatically, accurately, simply and quickly because the member-caller determines the information given.

The machine is just a marvel! No longer must a member dial the co-op number repeatedly to report an outage and receive busy signals in response. Sure, occasionally all lines will be tied-up but the reporting system is so rapid that the next try will surely get through.

A lady with a very pleasant voice answers our phone and asks the caller to kindly follow the directions that will be given. She will then recite the areas that we know are out of power. At that

point, if the caller realizes that his/her area has been mentioned, he/she may hang up assured that our crews are working on the problem.

If the caller's area was not in the list the outage may then be reported. The lady will ask questions and the responses are given by pressing the appropriate numbers on the touch-tone phone. An individual outage reporting process can be completed in two minutes or less.

Those members whose phones do not have the touch-tone feature may leave a message on the recording device.

The answering machine is a wonder when one remembers the frustrations generated in the past in trying to report a loss of power. We certainly do not look forward to widespread outages but we are eager for our membership to discover for themselves just how much more convenient this new system is.

Corn Belt is with JULIE

Now that your cooperative subscribes to JULIE, one phone call to that Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators service will result in having the underground utilities on your property located and marked that may be in the way of your excavating project. Excavating in this case means using spades and shovels. Most utilities are buried shallow enough to be well within the range of those implements.

When JULIE is called at 1-800-892-0123 they will need the following information:

- **If a member lives within a city limits:** the county, city and street address where the digging will be done.

Safety Quiz

True or False? On a farm or ranch, there should be at least 50 feet of open space between buildings.

False: As a general rule, there should be at least 100 feet of open space between buildings to prevent fire from spreading.

- **If a member lives outside the city limits:** the county, township and section number where the digging will be done. That information is on the tax bill.

- A description of the excavation project.
- The date and time work will begin.
- Your name, telephone number and address.

So, in the future, at least two working days before you begin digging remember to gather the information outlined above and then call JULIE at 1-800-892-0123.

Do not call Corn Belt Electric. We can no longer accept requests to locate our underground wire.

To have underground cable located



4-H electric project competition

The 1992 McLean County Fair is now history. The carnival is gone, the buildings are empty and the grounds are clean once more. But the spirit of 4-H still lingers.

That spirit — To Make The Best Better — was much in evidence again this year at the Electric Project Competition and the judges found it just as difficult as in the past to choose the exhibits to send to the state level of competition.

After all exhibits had been tested and inspected, and after much discussion Tom Lowe of the Ardent Tillers 4-H Club was chosen Outstanding Electrical Exhibitor. Rodney Winterland of the Space Age Pioneers 4-H Club was selected as having entered the Outstanding Electric Exhibit.

At the Illinois State Fair, Christy Bates and Rodney Winterland earned the Award of Excellence as well as Superior Ribbons for their

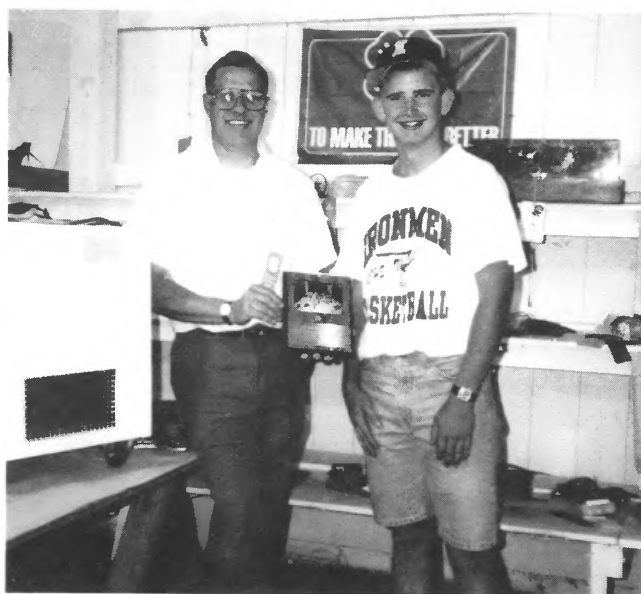
projects. Congratulations to Christy and Rodney.

All 4-H youngsters should be given a pat on the back for the time, talent and energy they devote to their projects. A resounding round of applause is in order for those seemingly tireless 4-H Leaders who guide and teach. And a very special thank you to the parents of these 4-H kids for the encouragement and assistance given.

A note to you parents who have youngsters at home with time on their hands. Introduce them to 4-H. You don't have to farm or even live in the country. In fact, it's estimated that 70 percent of the kids in 4-H are now from non-farm homes — urbanites or suburbanites. Simply call the Cooperative Extension Service for your county to get the details on the closest 4-H club to your home. You and your child will never regret it.



Richard Johnston of Emmett-Scharf Electric Co., Bloomington, presents the Outstanding Electrical Exhibitor trophy to Rodney Winterland of the Space Age Pioneers.



Tom Lowe of the Ardent Tillers receives the Outstanding Electrical Exhibit trophy from Jim Woods of Illinois Power Co.



Thinking of stealing electricity?

Don't do it. Here's why.

● You can and probably will get hurt.

1. Bad burns at a minimum.
2. Possible loss of a limb or other appendages.
3. Death from electrocution.

● You can and probably will get caught.

1. Meter tampering or circumvention
2. Theft of electricity — less than \$150
3. Second offense
4. Greater than \$150

Sentence	Fine
6 months	\$ 500
1 day	1,000
1-3 years	10,000
2-5 years	10,000

It's really not worth it!!

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS CORN BELT ELECTRIC

Satellite TV Programming

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative • Bloomington, Illinois • Phone 800-322-6541

Basic Package 1

Add Netlink for \$4.70/mo.

24 channels for \$19.95 per month
 G5-23 Arts & Entertainment
 G5-11 Family Channel
 G5-19 Nashville Network
 G1-15 USA Network (East)
 G3-17 WFOR-New York
 G3-17 MTV (East)
 G5-5 CNN News
 G5-22 Headline News
 G3-19 Nickodeon (East)
 F3-10 USA Network (West)
 S3-3 WSBK-Boston
 F2-4 WABC-ABC Network
 G3-15 MTV (West)
 G5-12 Discovery Channel
 F3-17 Lifetime (West)
 F3-11 Prime Network (Sports)
 G5-6 WTBS-Atlanta
 G5-7 WGN-Chicago
 F2-12 WXIA-NEC Network
 G1-13 Country Music TV

Basic Package 2

Add - Netlink for \$4.70/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.

14 channels for \$11.95 per month
 G5-5 CNN News
 G5-22 Headline News
 G3-20 Nickodeon (West)
 G5-19 USA Network (East)
 S3-5 KTVT-Dallas
 G5-12 Discovery Channel
 F3-17 Lifetime (West)
 G5-19 USA Network (West)
 G5-7 WGN-Chicago

Basic Package 3

Add - Netlink for \$4.00/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.

11 channels for \$8.95 per month
 G5-5 CNN News
 G5-22 Headline News
 G5-7 WGN-Chicago
 G5-12 Discovery Channel
 F3-17 Lifetime (West)
 G5-19 USA Network (East)
 G5-6 WTBS-Atlanta

Basic Package 4

G5 - Fixed Dish

10 channels for \$8.95 per month
 G5-5 CNN News
 G5-22 Headline News
 G5-6 WTBS-Atlanta
 G5-9 ESPN
 G5-19 USA (East)

Our premium channels

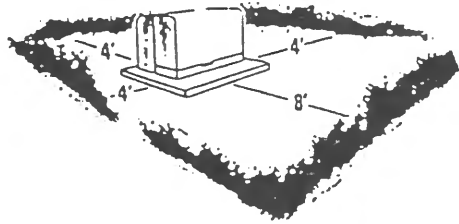
HBO East & West (G5-15 & G5-8)
 Cinemax East & West (G1-19 & G5-16)
 Disney East & West (G5-1 & G1-24)
 The Movie Channel East & West (G1-10 & G5-14)
 Showtime East and West (G5-24 & G1-16)
 1 Premium - \$7.95 2 Premiums - \$14.95 3 Premiums - \$20.95 4 Premiums - \$27.95 5 Premiums - \$33.95

Additional favorites

Satellite Sports Network - 13 Sports Channels - \$8.55 per month
 Skyline Silver - \$3.00 per month - Coast-to-Coast Superstations
 Prime Time 24 - \$3.95 per month for the three major networks
 WFOR-New York G1-15 - WSBK-Boston S3-3 - KTLA-Los Angeles S3-15
 *MTV G3-17 & G3-18 + VH-1 G3-15 - \$2.75 per month
 Netlink - 5 channels from Denver for \$5.95 per month
 F1-2, 3, 6, 14, 23
 Arts & Entertainment G5-23 - \$0.50 per month with Package 2 only
 KTLA-Los Angeles S3-15 - \$1.05 per month
 Weather Channel G3-13 - \$0.50 per month with Package 2 or 3

Rural TV equipment dealers

Central Illinois Satellite
 Altona Ph. 217.648.2256
 Caruck Ph. 309.376.3471
 L&J Satellites
 Twin City Satellites
 Shirley Ph. 309.823.8986
 Pioneer Home Entertainment
 Altona Ph. 309.759.4463
 McKesey's TV
 Canton Ph. 815.945.5851
 Tony's Satellite Service
 How Ph. 309.726.1839
 Vcast Communications
 Normal Ph. 309.452.7916



Please be cooperative

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

Call Member Services for a list of recommended plants.



To have
underground
cable located

October is Cooperative Month

"Home-grown and people-owned" defines your local cooperatives. And they're part of a network of 47,000 throughout the United States.

Co-ops serve about 120 million people — nearly half the U.S. population — and have been providing goods and services, efficiently and economically, for many, many years. For example, there are co-ops for electric and telephone service, housing, insurance, food, health and day care, farm marketing and supply, credit unions and news services.

Owned by those they serve, co-ops can be found everywhere from coast to coast. Whether they're big or small, co-ops are committed to meeting people's needs and helping their communities prosper.

So check out your local, home-grown co-ops; they're working hard for you and your neighbors.



ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Caulking time

It's been estimated that each house in this country has enough cracks and crevices around doors, windows and the foundation letting air in (or out) that, if added together, would equal an open window two foot square.

To close the window the homeowner must recaulk those small chinks after removing the old caulk with a chisel or screwdriver. A heat source may help to soften the old caulk. Once it is removed use a wire brush to remove dirt and old paint and you're ready to recaulk.

But don't remove the old caulk until a new supply is on hand. And there is the confusing part. There are so many to choose from. There are now five common generic types of caulk and they come

in colors. When most homes were built, even a few years ago, there were only two types. And the manufacturers are constantly improving and refining their products. In the future there may be even more types. As a matter of fact, there is now on the market a product called Lexan that is said to be beyond silicone. Some previously unpaintable silicone caulks are not paintable. But read the label before you buy. If it doesn't say it's paintable, don't paint it.

Perhaps the following descriptions will take the mystery out of selecting the caulk that is best for your use. They are listed from the cheapest to the most expensive but read on before you allow that criteria to determine your choice.

For large or deep cracks canned urethane foam is available. Or, preformed, foam backer rods or oakum can be used.

In any event, the experts contend that a dollar spent for caulk today will save a dollar a month for life.

Product	Advantages	Disadvantages
Oil-base \$.75-\$1.00 per tube	Cheapest Use inside or out Paintable	Poor flexibility Do not use where joints will expand or contract Long curing time — 24 hours Need solvent to clean up Less than 5 years life
Latex \$1.00-\$1.25 per tube	Easy cleanup with water 1 hour curing time Paintable	Less than 5 years life Interior use only
Butyl-rubber \$1.75-\$2.00 per tube	Excellent choice for exterior use Provides airtight, waterproof seal Good for high moisture applications — chimneys, foundations, etc. Up to 10 year life	Up to one week curing time Not recommended for interior Not paintable Need solvent to clean up
Acrylic-latex \$1.75-\$2.00 per tube	Good flexibility Less than 1 hour cure Interior or exterior Water cleanup Paintable 5-25 years life depending on blend	Not for high moisture areas Bonds less well to metal and non-porous surfaces
Silicone \$3.90-\$4.90 per tube	Waterproof-weatherproof 20-50 years life Least shrinkage Can be applied at most temperatures Resists temperature extremes Most flexible	Most aren't paintable Need solvent to cleanup Poor performance on cedar and redwood Smelly, irritating during application Not for use on masonry

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)

New phone-answering machine installed

We are in the midst of a communications technology revolution of unprecedented proportions. Using satellites, fax machines, car phones, fiber optics, people phones, call forwarding, call waiting, etc., etc., instantaneous communication is now within the grasp of all. Why, even Corn Belt Electric has joined the ranks of owners of hi-tech phone service.

Our new high-speed phone answering machine can process up to 500 incoming calls an hour and will be particularly useful during and after major storms when mass outages are to be expected. It will never get tired, never take a break and never, never get testy with a caller.

A lady with a pleasant voice will answer our phone and ask a series of outage-related questions

that can be answered by the caller pushing the appropriate buttons on his/her phone. Of course, this requires a telephone with the touch-tone feature. Those callers whose phone service lacks this feature will be directed to leave a message on the recording machine.

The outage can be reported quickly; the cooperative will have all the information it needs to dispatch a crew to the sight to begin the restoration of power; and the frustration of past outage reporting efforts will be greatly diminished.

However, keep in mind that the lady in the machine will not dispense any "small talk" during the conversation as was the case in years past when real, live personnel answered the phones. She is all business!

Call JULIE for underground wire location

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative can no longer accept requests from members to locate our underground wire on their property. Oh, we still will find and mark the path of our wire but our members now must call the **Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators** service (**JULIE**) to have the job done. This is a company that coordinates locating requests for all the utility companies in the state. One call does it all!

You should call **JULIE** at **1-800-892-0123** at least two working days before you begin digging and you should have the following information to give them:

- If the digging is to be done within the city limits: the county, city and street address.
- If the digging is to be done outside city limits: the county, township and section number.
- A description of the excavation project.
- The date and time the work will begin.
- Your name, telephone number and address.

So please call **JULIE** to have underground wire located.



Help with electric bills

The purpose of the Low Income Illinois Residential Energy Assistance Partnership Program is to help low income members pay for the electricity they consume each month. If you anticipate that you'll have difficulty paying your electric bill this winter, contact Corn Belt Electric or the agency in the following list that serves your county.

<u>County</u>	<u>Agency</u>
DeWitt Logan Piatt	Central Illinois Economic Development Corp. 325 South Chicago Lincoln Phone 217-732-2159
Macon	Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corp. 1122 East Marietta St. Decatur Phone 217-428-2193
Ford	East Central Illinois Community Action Program 501 North Kimball St. Danville Phone 217-443-2705
Livingston McLean	Mid-Central Community Action, Inc. 923 East Grove St. Bloomington Phone 309-829-0691
Tazewell Woodford	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission 632 W. Jefferson St. Morton Phone 309-266-9941

Signs on power poles create safety hazards



With fall elections just around the corner, political signs will be popping up just about everywhere—along roadsides, in yards and on buildings. Unfortunately, some of these signs will be nailed or stapled to your cooperative's power poles. This creates a serious safety hazard for our employees.

A lineman climbing a pole with nails, tacks and staples driven into it can easily hit one of these fasteners with one of his climbing hooks causing it to slip out of the pole. The result is always a serious injury either from a fall or from "skinning the pole"—that is, in reflex, gripping the pole with arms and legs and sliding down collecting splinters

and also ripping flesh on the nails.

Nails and tacks are also a threat to the insulated rubber gloves that our personnel use to protect them from electric shock. Should these gloves become punctured or ripped, the insulating quality is lost and the employee could receive a fatal shock.

We ask all candidates for office and their enthusiastic campaign workers to resist putting signs and posters on our power poles.

And it's not just election posters that are nailed to our poles. Most folks think the poles are a perfect place to nail sale signs, yard sale notices and similar announcements. Please don't do it.

Farms without farmers

The latest figures from the Census Bureau and the Department of Agriculture show that 4,591,000 people lived on farms in 1990, which is 24 percent less than the 6 million people who lived on farms in 1980.

And not everyone who lives on a farm is a farmer. The report found that 55 percent of employed farm residents worked at something other than farming. Contrast these numbers with the 1890 census, which found 39 percent of this country's 63 million people on farms. Today, only 1.9 percent of the population lives on farms.

One hopeful note: the income of farm households is getting closer to that of non-farmers. In 1990, the median income of farmers was \$28,824, just \$84 less than the median income of those who don't farm.

(From September 1992 issue of Rural Electrification magazine)

Electric Insulators Are Poor Targets!



What do you know about you as a taxpayer?

Here are some things you probably didn't know about Illinois taxpayers:

If you paid approximately \$838 in Illinois State Income tax for 1990, you were average.

5.1 million Illinoisans paid \$4.2 billion in individual income taxes for 1990.

6,143 Illinoisans had adjusted gross incomes greater than \$1 million.

Between 1981 and 1990 consumer prices rose 43.8 percent. State and local taxes climbed 80.7% per person in Illinois.

The number of single taxpayers increased by over 750,000 between 1975 and 1990.

The number of married taxpayers dropped over 170,000 in the same period.

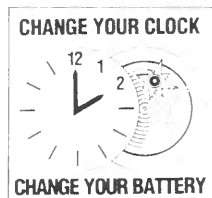
About 45 percent of the state's tax filers were married.

(From "It's Your Money" by Dawn Clark Netsch, Comptroller, State of Illinois)

Reminder Reminder Reminder

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS this month.
Set your clocks BACK ONE HOUR
on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

This would also be an excellent time to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors.



Reminder Reminder Reminder

Dirty humidifiers may cause health problems

Consumers should be alert to possible health hazards resulting from dirty room humidifiers, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The CPSC has found that bacteria and fungi often grow in the tanks of portable and console room humidifiers and can be released in the mist. Breathing dirty mist may cause lung problems ranging from flue-like symptoms to serious infection. This information is of special concern to allergy or asthma sufferers whose symptoms may be increased.

Film or scum appearing on the water surface, on the sides or bottom of the tank, or on exposed motor parts may indicate that the humidifier tank contains bacteria or fungi. A crusty deposit or scale may also form within the tank or on parts in the water. This scale is composed of minerals that have settled out of the water creating a surface on which bacteria or fungi may grow.

Minerals can also be released in the mist and settle as fine white dust. This white dust may contain particles that are small enough to enter the lungs. The health effects from inhaling this humidifier dust are not clear; any impact on human health will depend upon the types and amounts of minerals found in the water used.

To reduce the possibility of health hazards from dirty room humidifiers, the staff of the CPSC recommends that you take the following precautions:

- Do not allow film and scale to develop in your humidifier. If possible, change the water in your

room humidifier daily. Empty the tank before you fill it. If the tank is not removable, clean it often according to manufacturer's instructions.

- Use distilled or demineralized water in your room humidifier to reduce the buildup of scale and the release of dust; tap water contains more minerals. Use demineralization cartridges or filters if supplied or recommended for use with your humidifier.

- Drain and clean the tank of your room humidifier before you store it. Clean it after summer storage. Remove dust on the outside of your unit.

- Clean your room humidifier well and often during the heating season. Be sure to unplug the humidifier before cleaning. Follow the manufacturer's suggested cleaning methods. If chlorine bleach or a disinfectant is used, make sure to rinse the tank well to avoid breathing harmful chemicals. Use a brush or other scrubber to clean the tank. Be careful not to damage the motor or to scratch the inner surface. Clean or replace sponge filters or belts when needed.

- Maintain the relative humidity in your home between 30 and 50 percent if possible. Humidity levels above 60 percent may allow moisture to build up indoors and condense on surfaces, where bacteria and fungi can settle and grow. You can measure humidity with an instrument called a hygrometer, available at your local hardware store.

Nomination for board of directors

The board of directors are elected by the members of the cooperative. They represent the membership in the operation of the organization. Each year the terms of at least three directors expire. A nominating process begins in October that culminates in the election at the annual meeting of members willing to fill the vacancies.

The following is a synopsis of the procedure outlined in the BYLAWS of the cooperative whereby a director candidate is chosen. At the October board meeting the members of the board of directors will confirm a slate of Nominating Committee members made up of not more than 11 active members of the cooperative. The committee members will be listed in the December issue of Rural Electric News magazine by name, address and district. This committee will meet not less than 90 days nor more than 140 days prior

to the annual meeting. Any member interested in being nominated to run for election to the board of directors should contact a Nominating Committee member prior to their selection meeting. The Nominating Committee may nominate no more than two individuals for each expiring directorship term.

An active member may also be nominated for election to an expiring directorship term by petition. Any 15 active members of the cooperative by their petition may propose the name of any qualified active member of the cooperative as an additional nominee. Nominating petitions must be filed at the cooperative's office not later than 24 hours before the annual meeting. No additional nominations shall be made from the floor.

The election takes place at the annual meeting.

This is a short summary of information found in the BYLAWS. Any member interested in more information may contact the cooperative for a copy of the BYLAWS.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Last month in this space we spoke of the importance of using caulk to close the two-foot square open window that almost all houses have. That window is represented by all the cracks and crevices around doors, windows and foundations. We also presented a list of the five generic caulks available to a homeowner and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

This month, let's explore the caulking chore a little further with some time-honored and well-tested tips on the equipment to use and how to use it most effectively.

Consider buying an open-sided friction-drive caulking gun. The friction drive has a thumb release button that allows you to quickly release pressure on the tube of caulk to stop the flow. The old ratchet drive guns require a quick twist and pull on the plunger rod to stop this drool.

The goal of caulking is to fill a gap while leaving as neat a line of caulk as possible. As mentioned last month, old caulk must be removed using a chisel or screwdriver and then the dirt and old paint should be wirebrushed from the surrounding surfaces.

There are two basic techniques to use in caulking. One is the "push" method. The other is to "pull" the caulking gun along the crack while filling it. The push method requires the tip of the tube of caulk to be cut from opposite sides at about 45 degree angles. The pull method requires only one cut across the nozzle at 45 degrees. Either method works well and which is used depends upon which is most comfortable for the individual.

History of electricity

(continued from previous issues)

1926 — Toastmaster comes out with the first home pop-up toaster; national newspaper and magazine ads say: "This amazing new invention makes perfect toast EVERY TIME! Without watching! Without turning! Without burning!"

1928 — The Milam Building, the world's first air-conditioned office building, opens in San Antonio.

1930 — The average annual residential consumption of electricity in the United States is 484 kilowatt-hours.

1930 — The Postum Co., having taken over Clarence Birdseye's company, begins making frozen foods for the first time—under the trade name of Birds Eye.

The object is to completely fill the crevice.

Tips for better caulking

- Don't buy cheap caulk. You'll just be caulking again in a few years. Expect to spend \$3 to \$5 per tube. See the list of caulks in last month's issue.

- Bead width is controlled by how much you cut off the tapered spout of the caulk tube. Make this opening slightly smaller than your intended bead.

- Gun angle is important. Too low an angle produces a lumpy, irregular bead that just sits on the surface. Too steep and the nozzle tip scrapes caulk out of the joint. About 60 degrees is correct. But experience is the best teacher. Start at the back of the house and by the time you get to the front you'll be a pro.

- Caulk will adhere best if it has three points of contact—two sides and a back. If the crack is deep this will make for slow travel while you apply the caulk. Of course, if the crack is too deep, then foam backer rod, oakum or, if it is a real gap, foam-in-place urethane in a can is available.

- Applying a long bead of caulk takes several squeezes of the handle. Each new squeeze disrupts the flow. So try to release and resqueeze at a logical break such as the start of the next piece of siding or the corner of a window.

- Clean excess caulk from the nozzle regularly. A dirty nozzle will tend to mess up the bead.

- Caulk any opening through an outside wall such as for cable TV, electrical or water meter wires, dryer vents, etc. and all joints where the siding butts cornerboards or masonry. For a thorough job, caulk thresholds and consider treating the space where the rim joist plate meets the foundation wall.

Remember: the experts say that a dollar invested in caulk will save you a dollar a month for life.

1931 — The first electric can opener is invented.

1931 — Jacob Schick, remembering his Army days in Alaska when he had to crack through a layer of ice to begin shaving, markets the electric razor. Depression America buys only 3,000 of them.

And still less than 10 percent of American farms had electricity while 100 percent of the farms were electrified in Holland and Switzerland; 90 percent in France and Germany; and 70 percent in New Zealand.

Safety Quiz

True or False: Frayed electrical cords can be made safe by wrapping the exposed area with electrical or duct tape.

False: Taping does not make frayed electrical cords safe. Frayed cords should be replaced immediately.

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)

Member Advisory Committee meeting

The October 7 meeting of the Member Advisory Committee also included our area meter readers. New committee members Don and Norma Frischmann of Bloomington were introduced.

General manager Jeff Reeves explained the background on the cost to the cooperative of electricity purchased for the membership and the direct effect that cost has on our rate structure.

The cooperative buys power on a long-term contract from Soyland Power Cooperative — a generation and transmission co-op. Soyland is composed of and jointly owned by 21 distribution cooperatives — including Corn Belt Electric — and its mission is to provide a dependable supply of bulk power.

Our cooperative joined Soyland in the mid-1970's as a result of the reluctance of the investor-owned utilities (from whom we had been purchasing power for decades) to negotiate long-term supply contracts. In the process of securing stability of supply, Soyland acquired a 22 megawatt (22 million watts) coal-fired generating sta-

tion near Pearl, Illinois, and 32 megawatts of combustion turbine and diesel capability; negotiated "as-if-owned" agreements with Illinois Power and Central Illinois Public Service for 484 megawatts of their generating capacity; and purchased 125 megawatts of I.P. Co.'s. Clinton station then under construction.

Very prudently then, long-term electricity supply was procured.

But at a price. The original estimate of cost for the Clinton plant was \$400 million. Soyland's 20 percent share would have been \$80 million. Due to many unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances, the actual cost of Clinton when completed in 1987 was over \$4 billion! This single investment has had more impact on our cooperative than all other events in our 54 year history.

Currently, for every dollar charged the membership for power, 69 cents is used to pay for the product. Twelve cents pays the direct salaries of the employees and the remainder purchases the material and equipment to serve the members.

Locating underground wire

Phone JULIE at 1-800-892-0123 to have our underground cable located and be sure to have the following information at hand:

- If a member lives within a city limits: the county, city and street address where the digging will be done.
- If a member lives outside the city limits: the county, township and section number where the digging will be done. That information is on the tax bill.
- A description of the excavation project.
- The date and time work will begin.
- Your name, telephone number and address.

Having the utilities located gives the member a chance to do the digging maybe a few feet from the marked utility path and forget all about uncovering one of the cables, wires or pipes.

Office closed



The offices of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

For assistance in the event of an electrical emergency, please phone

Local 662-5330 or
800-322-6541 or 800-879-0339

Outage reporting — How to do it

We have, for a number of months now, been advertising our automatic phone answering machine and asking you to verify your phone number as it is shown on your monthly statement. The two are linked you know. The machine uses the phone number to locate your account in its data-base memory.

Thank you for your attention to this detail. When the remaining 15 percent understand that the phone number is the key to reporting an outage quickly, we are hopeful they will provide us with their phone numbers.

Now let's discuss how to most efficiently use the phone answering machine. Most importantly, your telephone must have the capability to use touch-tone dialing. If your's is of relatively recent vintage (last 10 years or so), it almost certainly does have. Somewhere on the appliance is a switch labeled tone-pulse (T-P). That switch must be in the tone position in order to use the touch-tone feature.

In addition, you must also subscribe to the service from your telephone utility. GTE charges a \$10 hook-up fee plus \$.97 per month for their TOUCH CALL. Other providers have similar names and similar charges.

With the touch-tone signal acquired, communicating with our machine is very easy, fast and orderly.

When our phone is answered, use your touch pad to enter your area code and phone number. You do not have to wait for the lady with the pleasant voice to finish telling you to do it. When you complete that chore she will direct you to

touch the appropriate number on your phone to describe your particular outage problem. With that simple procedure, your outage is reported and recorded — within seconds.

The machine will isolate your account and automatically print an outage report that indicates your map location number and all other pertinent information about your electrical service. The dispatcher will know exactly where to send a repair crew and, based upon your touch-pad responses, can often tell them where to look for the cause of the outage.

Members whose phones have the tone-pulse (T-P) switch mentioned earlier but have either not subscribed to the tone from their supplier or who live in an area where the service is not offered can still employ their touch-pad to use our machine. When the phone is answered, reposition the switch lever from pulse to tone and communicate with the touch pad only.

Members with phones lacking touch-tone capability or who have unlisted phone numbers may leave a message on a 20 second recording. Begin the message with your Map Location Number followed by any information pertinent to the outage. Please speak clearly so the message can be quickly and accurately transcribed by the outage dispatcher. If the message is not understood, a crew cannot be sent to restore your power because they won't know where to go.

Keep in mind that you are dealing with a machine. It is incapable of holding a conversation and it certainly can't say "Huh"?

EMF — case closed!

Researchers from three Colorado universities have found that there is no solid evidence linking electric and magnetic fields with cancer or other problems.

Scientists at Colorado State University, the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the University of Denver screened 11,783 articles on electric and magnetic fields in 270 publications.

Although there was no conclusive link between EMF and health problems, some of the research implied a correlation, says Edward Dauer, president of the National Center for Preventive Law at the University of Denver and a participant in the study.

"The problem is that some of the work is suggestive, but it can't be taken as very strong evidence because so many other possibilities have

not been ruled out," he says. Other factors may be causing health problems that are attributed to EMF, he says.

In a related development, a panel of scientists in Connecticut have found no proof that EMF caused cancer in people living near a Connecticut Power and Light Company substation in Guilford, Conn. Several years ago the town was the focus of a series of articles on EMF by New Yorker magazine writer Paul Brodeur.

from Rural Electrification Magazine — October 1992

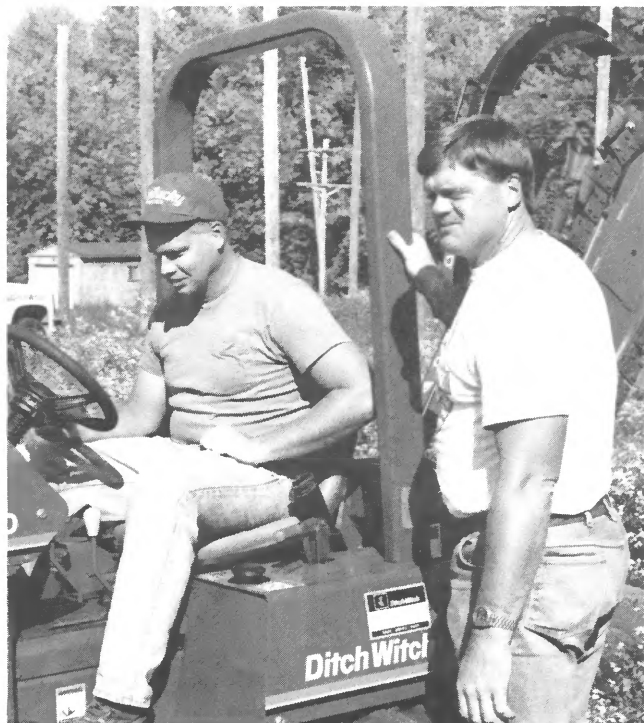
To have underground cable located



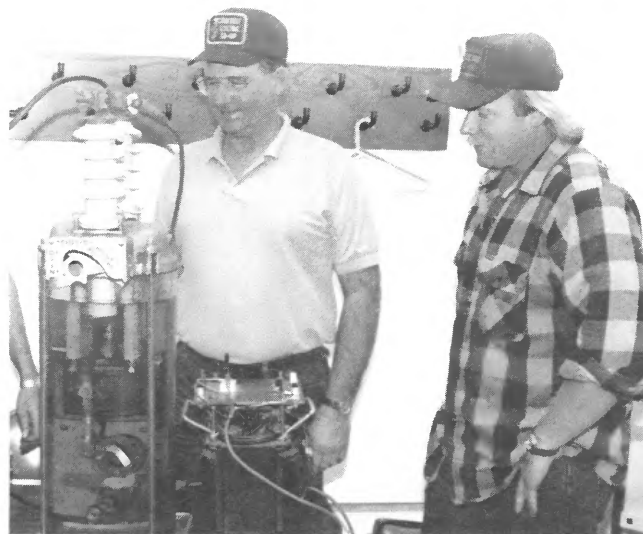
Call two working days before digging is to begin

Hot Line School — The learning never stops

The article about the Hotline School on page 12 reiterates the need for constant schooling in the art and the science of overhead and underground construction and maintenance practices. This year seven Corn Belt employees from the operations department participated — some as students and some as instructors.



Journeyman linemen Scott Farmer (left) and Keith Hospelhorn check out a small trenching machine that is used in "tight quarters."



Construction foreman/instructor Chuck West (left) discusses the internal parts of a breaker switch with apprentice lineman Gary Abfalder.



Construction foreman/instructor Dick Albert (right) explains to linemen apprentices Steve Rosenthal (left) and Mike Butler the business end of a "hot stick" used to work on and with high-voltage lines.

Satellite dish maintenance

Here's a list of winterizing tips for your satellite dish and equipment from Orbit magazine.

1. Check all mounting bolts for tightness. (This should be done in the spring also.)

2. Protect the feedhorn with a cover. Covers can be purchased from most satellite dealers and can be easily installed.

3. Cover the feedhorn opening with a cap. Any non-metallic material can be used to fabricate a cover if a replacement cap is not available.

4. Inspect all wires, cables and connections. Use a waterproof sealant to cover all connections and any small gashes in wires and cables.

5. Move the dish so the actuator arm is ex-

posed. Clean the arm and dry it thoroughly. Inspect it for wear and replace if necessary. A non-adhesive lubricant, such as graphite, should be used to lubricate the arm.

6. Cover the actuator arm with a boot to protect it from ice and snow buildup. Check for cracks in an existing boot. Replace it if necessary.

7. Make sure the motor drain openings are pointed down and are unobstructed. Insulate the actuator's motor box with foam insulation.

8. Periodically brush snow out of the dish. Its weight can damage the dish and strain the actuator and the motor.

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS CORN BELT ELECTRIC

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

How can we possibly use so much electricity during the winter months? If you have ever asked yourself that question in the past, the following should be a reminder:

1. More use of lighting because of the shorter daylight period.
2. Holiday cooking and baking (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day).
3. Overnight guests for the above.
4. Additional laundry for the overnight guests.
5. More hot water required to serve the guests.
6. Indoor and outdoor Christmas lighting.

7. Electric blankets and heating pads being used during those long winter nights.
8. Heating system operating — perhaps continuously.
9. Electric space heaters in use in those hard-to-heat spaces.
10. Stock tank heaters, fountains and heat tapes are in use.
11. Clothes dryers are used more. Those in unheated spaces require longer to dry, using additional kwh's.
12. Auto, truck and tractor engine heaters being used.
13. Garage, attic, porch or basement lights not turned off and discovered hours or days later.

Don't go near the water

Not with your hair dryer, power tools, the radio, toaster or any appliance you might use in your kitchen, bathroom, laundry room or workshop.

We often take electricity for granted, and it's easy to forget that water and electricity must never mix.

So don't use appliances when you're in the

bathtub or shower, or let an electric cord trail near the kitchen sink or anywhere in the laundry room or garage where water might collect.

Look around you. Make sure it's safe to go near the water. Just a few seconds of caution can make a big difference.

Satellite TV Programming

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative • Bloomington, Illinois • Phone 800-322-6541

<p>24 channels for \$19.95 per month G5-23 Arts & Entertainment G5-11 Family Channel G5-1B Nashville Network G5-19 USA Network (East) G1-15 WWOR-New York S3-9 WPIX New York G3-17 MTV (East)</p>		<p>Basic Package 1 Add Netlink for \$4.70/mo. G5-9 ESPN G3-20 Lifetime (East) G3-22 Nickelodeon (West) G3-13 USA Network (West) S3-5 WSBK-Boston F2-4 WABC-ABC Network G3-1B MTV (West)</p>		<p>G5-12 Discovery Channel F3-17 Lifetime (West) F3-11 Prime Network (Sports) G5-6 USA Network (West) G5-7 WGN-Chicago F2-12 WXIA-NBC Network G1-13 Country Music TV</p>	
<p>14 channels for \$11.95 per month G5-5 CNN News G5-22 Headline News G3-19 Nickelodeon (East) G5-1B USA Network (East) G3-22 Nickelodeon (West) S3-5 WSBK-Boston F2-4 WABC-ABC Network G3-1B MTV (West)</p>		<p>Basic Package 2 Add — Netlink for \$4.70/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo. G5-9 ESPN F3-17 Lifetime (West) G5-19 USA Network (East) G5-7 WGN-Chicago</p>		<p>G5-11 Family Channel G3-19 Nickelodeon (East) F3-10 USA Network (West) S3-9 WPIX-New York</p>	
<p>11 channels for \$8.95 per month G5-5 CNN News G5-22 Headline News G5-7 WGN-Chicago</p>		<p>Basic Package 3 Add — Netlink for \$4.00/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo. G5-12 Discovery Channel G5-1B Nashville Network G5-6 WTBS-Atlanta</p>		<p>G5-9 ESPN G5-19 USA Network (East) G1-13 Country Music TV</p>	
<p>10 channels for \$8.95 per month G5-5 CNN News G5-22 Headline News G5-7 WGN-Chicago</p>		<p>Basic Package 4 G5 — Fixed Dish G5-12 Discovery Channel G5-18 Nashville Network</p>		<p>G5-9 ESPN G5-19 USA (East)</p>	
<p>Our premium channels</p>					
<p>HBO East & West (G5-15 & G5-B) The Movie Channel (G1-10 & G5-14)</p>		<p>Cinemax East & West (G1-19 & G5-16) Showtime East and West (G5-24 & G1-16)</p>		<p>Disney East & West (G5-1 & G1-24) 4 Premiums — \$27.95 5 Premiums — \$33.95</p>	
<p>Additional favorites</p>					
<p>Satellite Sports Network — 13 Sports Channels — \$8.55 per month Prime Time 24 — \$3.95 per month for the three major networks F2-2 CBS + F2-4 ABC + F2-12 NBC</p>		<p>Skyline Silver — \$3.00 per month — Coast-to-Coast Superstations WWOR New York G1-15 — WSBK-Boston S3-3 — KTLA-Los Angeles S3-15</p>		<p>MTV G3-17 & G3-18 + VH-1 G3-15 — \$2.75 per month Arts & Entertainment G5-23 — \$0.50 per month with Package 2 only KTLA-Los Angeles S3-15 — \$1.05 per month Weather Channel G3-13 — \$0.50 per month with Package 2 or 3</p>	
<p>Netlink — 5 channels from Denver for \$5.95 per month F1-2, 3, 6, 14, 23</p>		<p>WTBS Superstation-Atlanta G5-6 — \$1.75 per month Comedy Central G1-1 — \$0.50 per month with a basic package</p>		<p>Tony's Satellite Service Hudson Ph. 309-726-1899 ViaSat Communications Normal Ph. 309-452-7916</p>	
<p>Rural TV equipment dealers</p>					
<p>Griffin Satellites Carlock Ph. 309-376-3471</p>		<p>Central Illinois Satellite Atlanta Ph. 217-648-2256</p>		<p>Pendleton Home Entertainment Astoria Ph. 309-759-4463</p>	
<p>Twin City Satellites Shirley Ph. 309-829-8986</p>		<p>L&J Satellites Canton Ph. 309-647-9518</p>		<p>McKinsey's TV Chenoa Ph. 815-945-5851</p>	

Rural TV Programming

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative • Bloomington, Illinois • Phone 800-879-0339

Basic Package 1

24 channels for \$19.95 per month Add Netlink for \$4.70/mo.

G5-23 Arts & Entertainment	G5-5 CNN News	G5-9 ESPN	G5-12 Discovery Channel
G5-11 Family Channel	G5-22 Headline News	G3-20 Lifetime (East)	F3-17 Lifetime (West)
G5-18 Nashville Network	G3-19 Nickelodeon (East)	G3-22 Nickelodeon (West)	F3-11 Prime Network (Sports)
G5-19 USA Network (East)	G1-21 USA Network (West)	G3-13 Weather Channel	G5-6 WTBS-Atlanta
G1-15 WWOR-New York	S3-3 WSBK-Boston	S3-5 KTVT-Dallas	G5-7 WGN-Chicago
S3-9 WPIX-New York	F2-4 WABC-ABC Network	F2-2 WRAL-CBS Network	F2-12 WXIA-NBC Network
G3-17 MTV (East)	G3-18 MTV (West)	G3-15 VH-1	G1-13 Country Music TV

Basic Package 2

14 channels for \$11.95 per month Add — Netlink for \$4.70/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.

G5-5 CNN News	G5-12 Discovery Channel	G5-9 ESPN	G5-11 Family Channel
G5-22 Headline News	G3-20 Lifetime (East)	F3-17 Lifetime (West)	G3-19 Nickelodeon (East)
G3-22 Nickelodeon (West)	G5-18 Nashville Network	G5-19 USA Network (East)	G1-21 USA Network (West)
G5-6 WTBS-Atlanta	S3-5 KTVT-Dallas	G5-7 WGN-Chicago	S3-9 WPIX-New York
G1-13 Country Music TV			

Basic Package 3

11 channels for \$8.95 per month Add — Netlink for \$4.00/mo. & Prime Time 24 for \$3.80/mo.

G5-23 Arts & Entertainment	G5-5 CNN News	G5-12 Discovery Channel	G5-9 ESPN
G5-11 Family Channel	G5-22 Headline News	G5-18 Nashville Network	G5-19 USA Network (East)
G1-21 USA Network (West)	G5-7 WGN-Chicago	G5-6 WTBS-Atlanta	G1-13 Country Music TV

Basic Package 4

10 channels for \$8.95 per month G5 — Fixed Dish

G5-23 Arts & Entertainment	G5-5 CNN News	G5-12 Discovery Channel	G5-9 ESPN
G5-11 Family Channel	G5-22 Headline News	G5-18 Nashville Network	G5-19 USA (East)
G5-7 WGN-Chicago	G5-6 WTBS-Atlanta		

Our premium channels

HBO 3 HBO/HBO 2 East & West (G5-15 & G5-8) (T2-5, T2-9, T2-14)	Cinemax 3 Cinemax East & West (G1-19 & G5-16) (T2-21)	Disney 2 Disney East & West (G5-1 & G1-24) (G1-4)
The Movie Channel East & West (G1-10 & G5-14)	Showtime East and West (G1-5 & G1-16)	
1 Premium — \$7.95	2 Premiums — \$14.95	3 Premiums — \$20.95
		4 Premiums — \$27.95
		5 Premiums — \$33.95

Additional favorites

Satellite Sports Network — 13 Sports Channels — \$8.55 per month
Prime Time 24 — \$3.95 per month for the three major networks
F2-2 CBS + F2-4 ABC + F2-12 NBC

Netlink — 5 channels from Denver for \$5.95 per month
F1-2, 3, 6, 14, 23

WTBS Superstation-Atlanta G5-6 — \$1.75 per month
Comedy Central G1-1 — \$.50 per month with a basic package
Cartoon Network — \$.60 per month with basic package

Skyline Silver — \$3.00 per month — Coast-to-Coast Superstations
WWOR-New York G1-15 — WSBK-Boston S3-3 — KTLA-Los Angeles S3-15

MTV G3-17 & G3-18 + VH-1 G3-15 — \$2.75 per month
Arts & Entertainment G5-23 — \$0.50 per month with Package 2 only
KTLA-Los Angeles S3-15 — \$1.05 per month
Weather Channel G3-13 — \$.50 per month with Package 2 or 3
CNBC G5-13 — \$.75 per month with basic package

Rural TV equipment dealers

Griffin Satellites
Carlock
Ph. 309-376-3471

Twin City Satellites
Shirley
Ph. 309-829-8986

Central Illinois Satellite
Atlanta
Ph. 217-648-2256

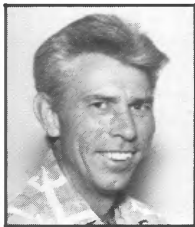
L&J Satellites
Canton
Ph. 309-647-9518

Pendleton Home Entertainment
Astoria
Ph. 309-759-4463

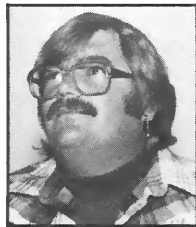
McKinsey's TV
Chenoa
Ph. 815-945-5851

Tony's Satellite Service
Hudson
Ph. 309-726-1899

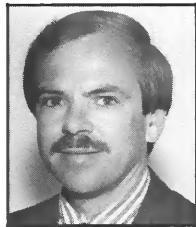
Viasat Communications
Normal
Ph. 309-452-7916



Jim Buggar
Maintenance Foreman
23 Years



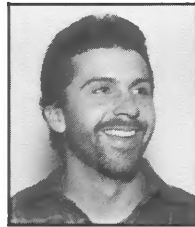
Jerry Daugherty
Journeyman Lineman
2 Years



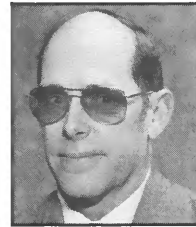
Jeff Reeves
Manager
20 Years



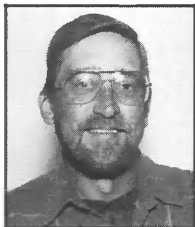
Steve Streitmatter
Journeyman Lineman
2 Years



Steve Rosenthal
Lineman App., 1st Year
2 Years



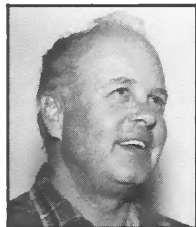
Tom Johns
Director
35 Years



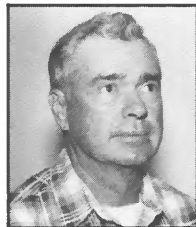
Mark Peterson
Journeyman Lineman
21 Years



David Foulke
Director
2 Years



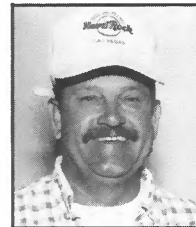
Bob Smith
Maintenance Foreman
25 Years



Roger McKeon
Construction Foreman
30 Years



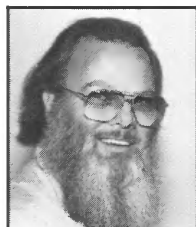
Keith Campbell
Underground Foreman
26 Years



Jerry Hall
Journeyman Lineman
15 Years



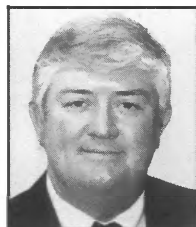
Marcella Brienen
Accounting Supervisor
38 Years



Paul Roberts
Mechanic
17 Years



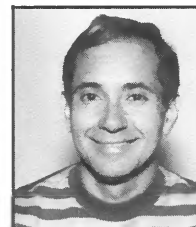
Frank Kinnison
Forestry Journeyman
17 Years



Mike Killian
Director
5 Years



Kathy Jordine
Asst. Field Engineer
18 Years



Steve Wheeler
Field Engineer
16 Years

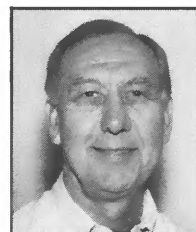
*all of you —
as and Happy New Year!!!*



Ralph Steiger
Director
6 Years



Melinda Struck
Engineering Clerk
12 Years



Jerry Durlinger
Mgr. of Member
Services, 22 Years



Debbie McCameron
Member Services Clerk
3 Years



Bob Fischbach
Mgr. of Office Services
13 Years



CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)

Insurance disclaimer

The management of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative is cautioning our members about an insurance company soliciting information from them while implying that it is endorsed by rural electric cooperatives. General manager Jeff Reeves said some co-op members have recently been contacted via the mail or telephone by a company claiming to be "a National Association of Rural Cooperative Members."

"Corn Belt Electric Cooperative is not affiliated with this company and does not in any way endorse its policies," Reeves said. The name of the company is Reserve National Insurance Company and it has no known affiliation with any rural electric cooperative.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) **does sponsor** and

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative **does endorse** several group life and health insurance plans that are offered exclusively to rural electric consumers. Each plan is underwritten by a major, financially proven insurance company. For example, the Rural Electric (RE) Group Hospital Plan is underwritten by The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York (MONY) and, nationwide, insures more than 25 million members of electric cooperatives.

For information about this and other insurance coverage sponsored by NRECA, you must phone Rural Electric Group Insurance Administrators in South Holland, Illinois, at 1-800-543-9213 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. As with all NRECA insurance plans, no agent will call you and the information is offered only at your request.

Nominating Committee appointed

The terms of three of the 11 members of our board of directors will expire at the March 27, 1993, annual meeting.

The following active members of the cooperative have been appointed as a Nominating Committee to select candidates for election to the three director positions at the annual meeting: Dale Leggett, Rt. 2, Maroa; Harlan Brucker, Rt. 2, Colfax; Paul Malone, Rt. 1, Maroa; Alvin Lamar, Rt. 2, Bloomington; Robert Hopkins, Rt. 1, Minier; Gary Moncelle, Rt. 2, Lexington; Carl Hinthorn, Rt. 9, Normal; Leo Miller, Rt. 1, Danvers; Ronald Porth, Rt. 1, El Paso; Arlis Springer, Rt. 2, Delavan; and Duane Johnson, Rt. 1, LeRoy.

The committee will meet at 11 a.m. on

Wednesday, December 23, at the offices of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative.

Active members interested in information pertaining to the nominating and petitioning processes can obtain a copy of the current By-laws by contacting the cooperative office.

Brand new journeyman lineman

We are proud to announce the graduation of our own Gary Abfalter from the lineman apprentice program. Gary is now a journeyman lineman after four years of rigorous study and on-the-job training designed to acquaint him with the intricacies of the distribution of high-voltage electricity.

Congratulations, Gary.

Office closings

The offices of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, Christmas Day, December 25, and Friday, New Year's Day, January 1.

For assistance, in the event of an electrical emergency, please phone: 1-800-879-0339.

To Have
Underground Cable
Located



Mark your calendar

19	MARCH					93
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**March 27, 1993
Annual Meeting**



Susan Andrew
Work Order Clerk
15 Years



Lynn Lauer
Accountant
2 Years



Jane Stegall
Billing Clerk
7 Years



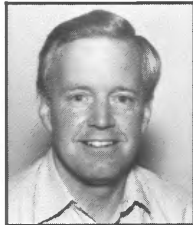
Dorothy Unger
Member Accounts
Supv., 23 Years



Scott Baum
Director
2 Years



Leslie Null
Member Accts. Rep.
1 Year



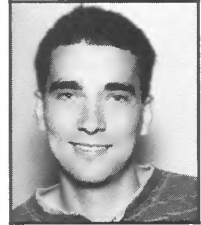
Keith Erickson
Mgr. of Eng. Serv.
19 Years



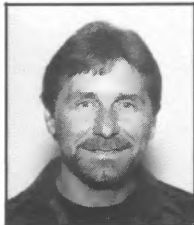
Sheri Vaughan
Member Accts. Rep.
2 Years



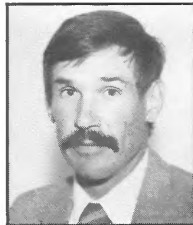
Pamela Carr
Member Accts. Rep.
2 Years



Bob Breen
Engineering Clerk
2 Years



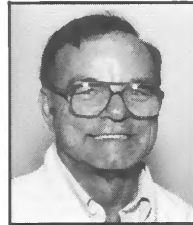
Jim Dustin
Maintenance Foreman
22 Years



Steve Schertz
Director
10 Years



Gary Abfalter
Journeyman Lineman
7 Years



Tom Moore
Member Serv./
Mktg. Rep., 5 Years



Pat Hall
Maintenance Foreman
20 Years



Gary Frankeberger
Director
5 Years



Don Golden
Maintenance Foreman
28 Years



Ron Stack
Assistant Manager
22 Years

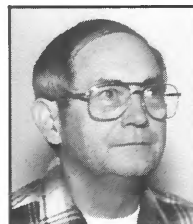
*From all of us
Merry Christmas*



Jeannie Bruns
Senior Storehouseman
5 Years



Wayne Williams
Forestry Journeyman
15 years



Lee Thomas
Mgr. of Operations
42 Years



John Sciutto
Senior Storehouseman
17 Years



John Tompkins
Director
26 Years

Members on life-support equipment

The cooperative maintains a life-support registry of members who are dependent upon electrically operated life-support equipment. But, unless we're told, we have no way of knowing that your location should be in our registry. If someone in your residence uses life-support equipment, call the office.

Of course, Corn Belt Electric cannot guarantee uninterrupted service. Make arrangements to operate the equipment manually or with a generator. In the event of a power

outage, notify our dispatcher of your medical emergency and our crews will make every reasonable effort to restore power on a priority basis to those location numbers listed in our life-support members registry.

On the other hand, if your location was once included in our registry and life-support equipment is no longer being used there, please let us know so that we can bring our list up-to-date.

Holiday energy use

How can we possibly use so much electricity during the winter months? If you have ever asked yourself that question in the past, the following should be a reminder:

1. Using interior and exterior lighting for more hours because of the shorter daylight period.
2. Much more cooking and baking for meals, parties, etc. (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day).
3. Overnight guests for the holidays.
4. Additional laundry for the overnight guests.
5. More hot water required to serve the guests.
6. Indoor and outdoor Christmas lighting.

Putting the heat on cooling

New EPA regulations that took effect this past summer prohibit the release of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HFCs), which allegedly damage the ozone layer. CFC's are used as insulating and cooling agents in refrigerators, freezers, and many air conditioners, and are used as cleaning agents in equipment production processes.

By 1995, the production and/or importation of all CFCs will be banned. EPA's new restrictions are already beginning to have an effect. For example, car owners will need to pay more to have auto air conditioning systems retrofitted with equipment that will allow the use of safer coolants. Businesses such as grocery stores will need to invest in new equipment. Mandated CFC recovery requirements also mean that air conditioning contractors will raise their prices.

DuPont, a leading producer of CFCs, is already manufacturing alternatives.

—from **The Baltimore Sun**, October 13, 1992

7. Electric blankets and heating pads being used during those long, cold winter nights.
8. Heating system operating — perhaps continuously.
9. Electric space heaters in use in those hard-to-heat spaces.
10. Stock tank heaters, fountains and heat tapes are in use.
11. Clothes dryers are used more. Those in unheated spaces require longer to dry, using additional kwhs.
12. Auto, truck and tractor engine heaters being used.
13. Garage, attic, porch or basement lights not turned off and discovered hours or even days later.

Reporting an outage

Dial-local 662-5330
Toll-Free 800-879-0339

— With touch tone —

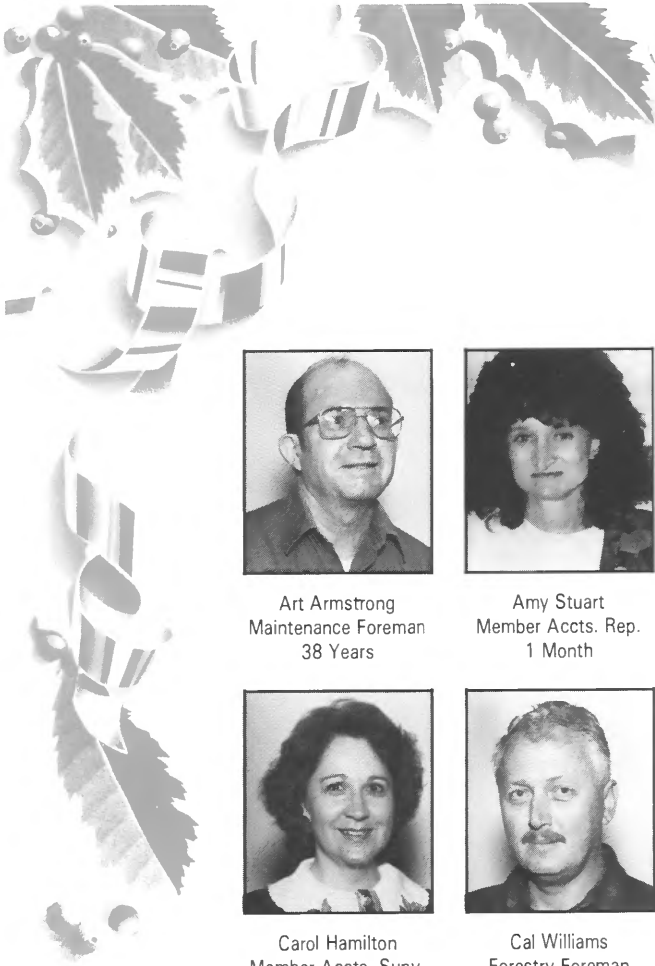
When the machine answers our phone

1. Enter your area code & phone #
2. Answer questions using touch pad
3. Hang up

— Without touch-tone —

When the machine answers our phone

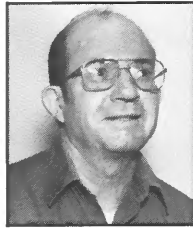
1. Listen to message
2. Report outage by voice
 - a. You have 20 seconds to record
 - b. Speak your name clearly
 - c. Tell area code, phone #
 - d. Tell map location number
 - e. Hang up



Scott Farmer
Journeyman Lineman
7 Years



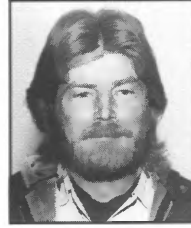
Veronica Inselmann
Member Accts. Rep.
1 Year



Art Armstrong
Maintenance Foreman
38 Years



Amy Stuart
Member Accts. Rep.
1 Month



Tim Merrill
Mechanic
14 Years



Dorothy Scott
Executive Secretary
30 Years



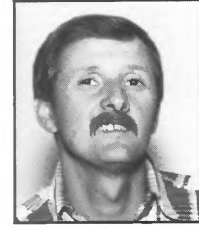
Carol Hamilton
Member Accts. Supv.
Trainee, 2 Years



Cal Williams
Forestry Foreman
21 Years



Rae Payne
Director
6 Years



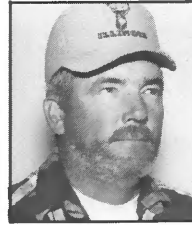
Mike Butler
App. Lineman 2nd Year
20 Years



Lyle Hinshaw
Asst. Mgr. of Operations
30 Years



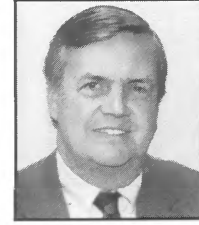
Dick Albert
Construction Foreman
26 Years



Dan Beard
Journeyman Lineman
16 Years



Janice Reimer
Director
11 Years



Bill Bach
Attorney
4 Years



Bob Evans
Right-of-way Engineer
4 Years



Chuck West
Construction Foreman
33 Years



Sandy Carlson
Payroll Clerk
10 Years



Tammy Woosley
Operations Clerk
3 Years



Myron Erdman
Director
17 Years