



Howard Schweighart, EIEC manager of operations, surveys damage to the Fisher substation feeder line.

EIEC hit by another ice storm

Comments by Wm. David Champion, Jr.

During 1991, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative experienced three ice storms. The first occurred in January and the second, which was the most devastating, occurred in March.

On December 2 freezing rain began to fall, and our system began sustaining some damage.

The next day brought blizzard-like winds and extreme cold temperatures that caused many ice laden lines to snap. In spotty areas, poles began to break. For the third time in 1991, we found ourselves in the middle of another ice storm. Before the day was over, the cooperative had several hundred members who were out of service.

Affected by this storm were members residing in an area from Gilman to south of Rantoul and from the east side of our system (the north edge of Danville to Milford) to the west of our system (north of Mahomet to Fairbury).

Because the winds died down on December 4, our line crews were able to make good progress. By 10 p.m. that evening, all co-op members had their electricity back on.

Fortunately, we were able to restore service without

calling in additional help. EIEC crews and two contractor crews, who are building line for us, did all the work. While working this storm, we began using an outage call system, which improved the method of collecting outage information. It is also used to keep track of all outages that occur for any reason so that we have a history on all accounts and can pinpoint problem areas.

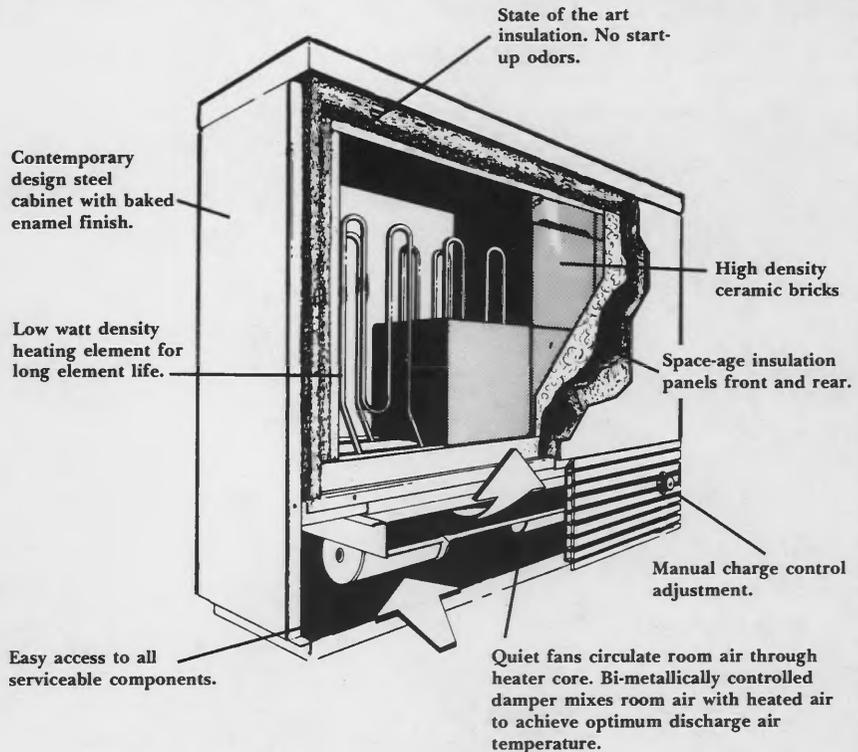
Heavy icing and strong winds brought the north main feeder line out of the Fisher substation to the ground. It was necessary to back feed electricity from another substation to members on that three-phase line. On December 5 the line crews set six large poles and rebuilt the damaged three-phase line.

Millions of dollars in expenses have been incurred by the cooperative this year to make initial ice storm restorations and do follow-up maintenance. Hopefully, next year will be better for the cooperative and we will not be burdened by the financial ramifications created by storms and disasters.

We want to thank our members for the information they provided to help us in our recent restoration activities. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Electric thermal storage (ETS) heater

1. Special alloy heating elements use off-peak electricity to heat . . .
2. . . . ceramic bricks which efficiently store the heat until it is needed.
3. Glass fiber and microtherm insulation keep the heat inside of the unit.
4. A quiet, low velocity fan is activated when the room thermostat calls for heat. Room temperature air is drawn into the unit and heated as it is circulated around the hot bricks.
5. A bimetallic damper mixes additional room air with the hot air inside to provide an even, comfortable flow of warm air into the room through . . .
6. . . . the air discharge grille at the bottom of the unit.



The electric thermal storage heating concept

Ideal supplement for electrically heated homes

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative purchases electric energy from Soyland Power Cooperative for re-sale to our members. During the coldest winter evenings, a peak load condition is often reached, driving the cost to provide the electricity "sky high." Also, much of the remaining time, at night for instance, equipment generating electricity is not used at full capacity.

Eastern Illini and its members can help both problems by taking advantage of the electric storage heating concept. Electric storage heating systems allow you to use electricity only during off-peak times to create heat, at only 2.9 cents per kilowatt-hour. The heat is stored and then drawn upon during the day or the on-peak time as needed. Installation of one to three of the units maintains the comfort level in rooms most often occupied during control periods.

How the system works

During off-peak periods, the storage heating unit is charged when electricity is automatically switched on to heating elements surrounded by a high-density

ceramic core within the well-insulated unit. When the room thermostat calls for heat, a small fan in the base of the unit circulates room air around the hot core and gently blows warm air into the room guaranteeing a consistent discharge temperature, even though the core heat changes. The unit stores enough heat to warm your home for 12-16 hours — plenty to get you through to the next on-peak period.

Greater comfort for less

Electric thermal storage heating is a clean, safe, comfortable and reliable method of heating your home. The savings are realized by taking advantage of off-peak Dual Heat electric rates offered by Eastern Illini. With storage heat you purchase electricity during "off peak" hours for as much as 60 percent less than normal electric rates. This heating choice is growing in popularity because it is 100 percent efficient and provides consumers with considerable savings and heating costs. For more information, call (217)379-2131 or 800-824-5102.

Standby power

Insurance against Mother Nature

Purchasing a standby generator is comparable to buying fire insurance — you may never need it, but it is invaluable when trouble arrives.

Although our electrical system is highly dependable and reliable, it is subject to the whims of Mother Nature — tornadoes, ice storms or destructive high winds.

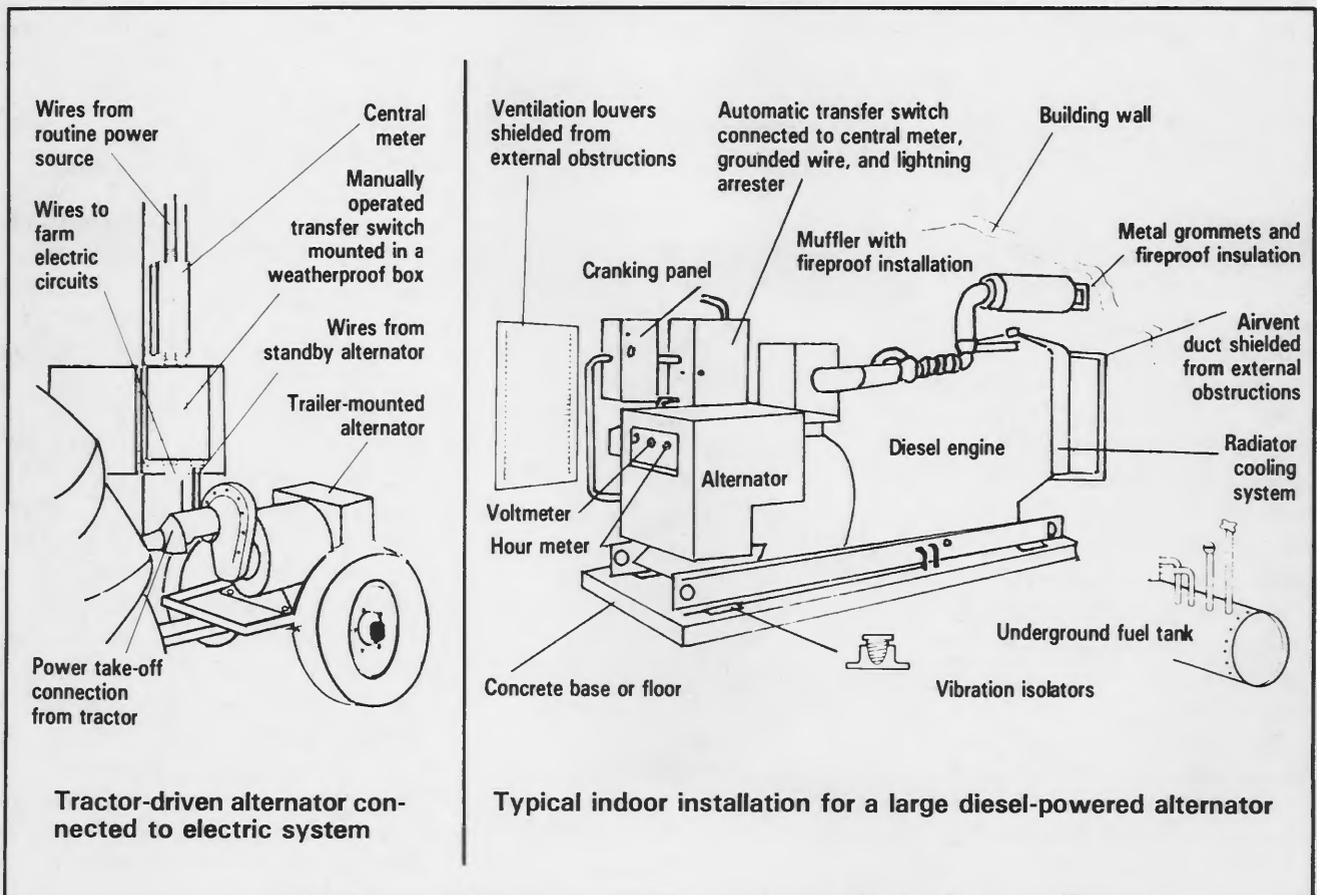
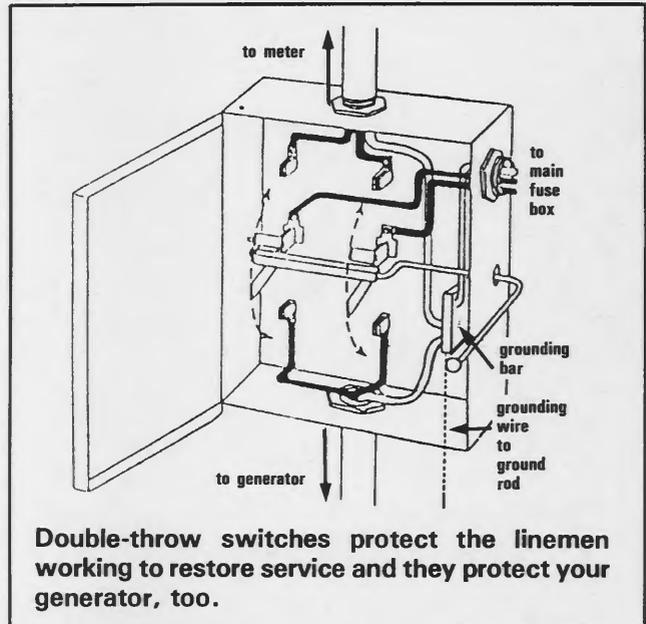
How well are you prepared to handle a prolonged outage? Now is the time to take inventory of your home and farm. Determine how you would pump water, milk cows, handle feed, keep pipes from freezing, as well as provide heat and ventilation for livestock. How will you heat your own home, keep frozen and perishable foods from spoiling and operate sump pumps and other necessary equipment?

Now is the time to sit down and carefully inventory your electrical needs. Assume that you will experience extended outages that could cause you not only inconvenience, but also financial loss. The cooperative does not sell standby generators, but we do have personnel available to help you analyze your load and make proper recommendations. And also remember, that standby generators are not normally stocked in any quantity, so don't plan on purchasing one after an outage occurs.

Remember, too, the installation of any standby equip-

ment requires a positive double-throw type of switch. Operating a standby generator without a properly installed double-throw switch is extremely dangerous and could result in death and/or financial liability.

Let us help you guard against any of those "acts of God" no one can foresee.



Board meeting report

The board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative held its regular monthly meeting at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton on December 23, 1991.

Minutes of the November 30, 1991, regular board meeting were approved. The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending November 30, 1991, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,436,591, Total Operating Expenses \$1,315,202, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,511,456, Operating Margins (\$74,865), Total Margins (\$58,950) and Total Year-To-Date Margins (\$466,491).

During November 70 members joined the cooperative and 76 terminated their memberships.

A report of the December 3 Land Use and Facilities Committee meeting was given by director Donald Reitz. The committee reviewed the proposed 1992 capital budget and recommended its adoption. After discussing each line item the committee report was approved.

Director Bradley J. Ludwig highlighted the Member and Public Relations Committee meeting that was held December 6. Member and public relations activities were discussed and an information and institutional advertising budget for 1992 was established. The committee report was approved.

Reporting on the December 6 Annual Meeting Planning Committee meeting was director William P. Raber. The committee had met to review and finalize plans for the March 14, 1992, annual meeting. This report was also approved.

President Thompson reported that the Executive Committee had met on December 12. The board went into Executive Session.

Howard Schweighart, manager of operations, reported on the activities of his department. Even though it took three months to clean up after the March ice storm, EIEC line crews and contractor crews have constructed over 100 miles of single and three phase lines throughout the co-op's service area. Around 11,000 poles have been inspected and 200 miles of line have been surveyed. Defective poles are being replaced by the line crews. Schweighart indicated that it took three days to restore service to all members that had lost power during the December 2 ice storm. The outage call system that was implemented during this storm improved the method of collecting outage information from members. In 1992 the operations department plans to build around 140 miles of line and will continue to use contractors for line construction and tree trimming.

Manager Wm. David Champion, Jr., updated the board on legal activities. In addition, he reported that the nominating committee ballots were counted by tellers on December 20, the Rural Electrification

Administration has approved the work plan amendment, REA has completed an audit of the cooperative's work plan and loan documents and found that all loan funds were spent appropriately, the seven year meter test cycle has been completed, a dividend of \$49 has been received from Illini F.S. and 272 EIEC members registered at the Farm Progress Show. He also provided the board with a copy of a letter that he had received from a member who had been without power during the recent ice storm and an outage summary for October.

In other action, the board approved the purchase of a truck from Rieger Motor Sales at Forrest, replacing damaged underground line with underground where feasible and damaged overhead with overhead, entering into a three phase time-of-day contract with Anchor Grain, Anchor, and a three-phase interruptible contract with Urban Sand and Gravel, Paxton.

Director Larry Anderson gave a report on the December 10 safety meeting that he attended. The recent ice storm, outage call system, voltage detection devices and the OCR replacement program were discussed. Videos were shown on transformer specifications, the wiring of distribution systems and three-phase transformer banks and their applications. The seriously injured employee has been discharged from the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and is now a resident of Carle Arbours in Savoy where he is taking therapy. Manager Champion also provided a written report on December job training and safety activities.

The December 19 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board meeting was summarized by director Larry Anderson. A National Rural Electric Cooperative Association resolution concerning REA financing and privatization was discussed. Financial, legislative and legal reports were given. Approval was given to have Sangamon State University update the 1989 IEC Market Survey. Anderson advised that he had attended a facilities needs committee meeting and that the committee had recommended blacktopping the south parking lot at the AIEC.

A report of the December 18 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting was given by director Gene Warmbir. Chuck Gill and Rich Bowman from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, Washington, D.C., discussed the payment of CFC's capital credits. Marketing, Illini Community Development Corporation, SCADA, and Power Supply reports were also given. A Power Supply Training Program at AIEC in Springfield will be given for G&T directors on January 7 and 8 and then repeated on January 9 and 10. A written report of the December 18 SPC board meeting was provided by manager Champion.

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

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 14, 1992

Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School, Paxton

All members will receive a weather station

Grand prize

Two Sepco 80-gallon water heaters

Door prizes

Kentucky Fried Chicken served
From 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

The election of four directors

Live line safety demonstration

Paxton-Buckley-Loda Show Choirs to entertain

Directed by Nila Hensley

Baby-sitting service

Blood pressure checks

Diabetes screening

Children's I.D. program

Bargain corner

Marketing displays:

System:GT

Dual Heat

Sepco water heater

Wheel of value

Pedal power

Satellite equipment and programming



A coyote stands under some of the many ribbons John has won in competition.

Milford man enjoys offbeat job

John Brassard has one of those jobs that many of us envy—he has turned sort of a “sub-hobby” into a full-time job. While his hobby was

hunting, the spinoff was taxidermy, and that’s what he does from “The Whitetail Shed,” a shop at his place just over a couple of miles northeast

of Milford.

“I got interested in taxidermy because I had done a lot of hunting, particularly bowhunting,” he says,

"and I wanted to preserve my trophies. I started doing my own to keep costs down, and found that I enjoyed it a lot."

From there it was a fairly logical step to start doing work for others. "I wanted to do it right," he says, "so I did a lot of studying, and talked to some good taxidermists. There are a lot of really good taxidermists in Illinois, and several of them helped me a lot. And I went over to Iowa to study with Joe Meder, who's probably the best taxidermist in the country."

John notes that taxidermy is somewhat easier to do than it was many years ago, because there are good "forms" available, and taxidermists years ago had to make theirs, usually out of paper mache' over a framework. He notes that basically, taxidermy involves tanning a hide and affixing it—correctly—to the form. Now, there are good urethane foam forms that will make a beautiful trophy.

"Even so," he says, "taxidermy's more of an art form than just a job, and you have to do it right. That's why I urge my customers to give me plenty of time. If you're going to do a deer's head right, you'll need to put about a month in it, although you can do a lot of them at about the same time."

One of John's favorite trophies is a pronghorn Antelope that he



Wm. David Champion, Jr., EIEC manager, left, listens as Brassard discusses the finer points of taxidermy. Jeannie Kingston, EIEC information specialist, is in the center.

bagged from just 20 or so yards using archery equipment. He has it in his shop, in a glass case. "It's kind of a 'habitat,'" he says, "because I've put some sprigs of grass around it and it's on the kind of soil that it would lie in out there. I've also got a whitetail deer in a habitat, but there's not really a good market for them. I did mine because I enjoyed doing them."

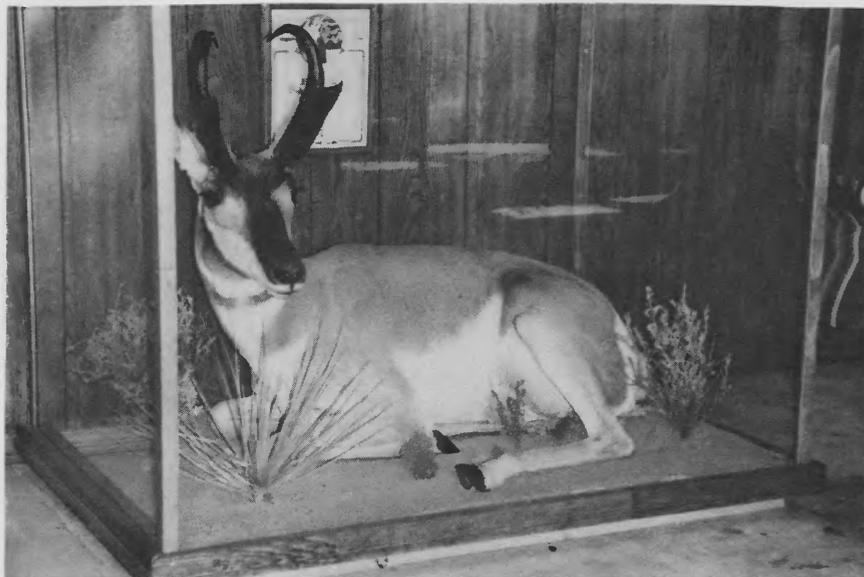
By far most of the work he does involves deer heads, and he does about 100 a year. "Every once in a while somebody will bring in a

caribou or a coyote or something like that," he says, "but they're few and far between."

He tries to stick to the larger mammals, and avoids smaller animals like rabbits and squirrels. "I have friends who like to do that kind of work," he says, "and I refer potential customers to them. The same is true of birds and fish. I enjoy larger mammals, particularly deer, and try to stick to them."

While he's not particularly enthusiastic about mounting smaller animals, he does tan hides, and adds that there's a booming business in hides. "Coyote hides are especially big now," he says, "and I sell quite a few of them. It's surprising how big a comeback the coyotes have made over the last several years. While I tan a lot of coyote hides, I farm some of that out, too, and sell hides that others tan for me."

John's preference for deer becomes obvious when you drive into his yard. He has a pen behind the shop where there are a few deer. "I keep them because they're nice to study," he says, "and the kids like them, too. My wife, Sue, and I have two children. Melissa is six, and J.D. is five. It's nice to be able to have a job that enables me to keep deer for them to enjoy."



A pronghorn antelope from out West is one of John's fine trophies. He took this one with a bow and arrow, and built a "habitat" for it.

Board meeting report

The regular monthly meeting of the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton on January 28, 1992.

Minutes of the December 23, 1991, regular board meeting and Executive Session were approved. The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending December 31, 1991, including the following information was also approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,568,237, Total Operating Expenses \$1,480,065, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,700,883, Operating Margins (\$132,646), Total Margins (\$98,250) and Total Year-To-Date Margins (\$564,741).

After discussion, the board approved using the cooperative's previous years' non-operating margins of \$540,741 to offset this year's loss of \$564,741.

In December 67 members joined the cooperative and 73 terminated their memberships.

Manager of engineering Kenneth E. Watkins reported on the activities of his department. Watkins described each of his employee's duties and complimented them on their performance. He also stated that the seriously injured employee in his department is scheduled for additional surgery but is doing very well. During the past year, his employees staked 99 miles of line throughout the cooperative's service area. This was a big accomplishment because three months were lost due to the ice storm and cleanup. Even though the cooperative is pursuing an aggressive line building program, Watkins stressed the importance of line maintenance. Because of a state road widening project, five miles of line will need to be moved. Cost comparisons on building line were provided by Watkins. He added that the engineering department will begin working on a new two-year work plan.

Manager Champion presented a 1992 Operating Budget to the board for their consideration and explained each line item. After a thorough discussion, the budget was approved.

Information on current litigation was provided by manager Champion. He also reported on the success of the Live Line Safety Demonstration. Because of cost cutting measures, manager Champion indicated that rebates have been reduced from \$500 to \$250 and effective March 1, 1992, the price of an 80-gallon Sepco

water heater will be increased from \$145 to \$175. A \$335,000 note to the Rural Electrification Administration has been paid in full. Outage summary reports for November and December and a report of the December National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation board meeting were furnished to the board.

In other action, the board approved work orders from March 1991 through July 1991 and special equipment work orders from April 30, 1991, through December 31, 1991, and amending Regulation 1, Application for Membership and for Electric Service.

Manager Champion reported that two members had registered complaints concerning the policies and regulations of the cooperative. These were discussed and taken under advisement.

Due to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting being held in Anaheim, California, February 9-12, the board selected vice president Byers as the NRECA delegate and director Larry Anderson as the NRECA alternate. President Thompson was selected as the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation delegate and vice president Byers as the CFC alternate.

During January, first aid and CPR classes were given to recertify all employees. Manager Champion also provided a written job training and safety activities report for January.

Because of inclement weather, director Larry Anderson was unable to attend the January 16 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board meeting in Springfield.

Director Warmbir summarized the January 22 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting. Reports were given on Finance, the Tri-County Community Development Corporation, SCADA, WaterFurnace of Illinois, Power Supply and legal activities. NRECA, CFC and Guaranteed Funding Corporation voting delegates and alternates were selected. Soyland's annual meeting is scheduled to be held March 19, 1992, at Jumer's in Bloomington. Manager Champion provided the board with a written report of the January 22 meeting.

The next meeting of the EIEC board will be held March 2, 1992.

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

Changes to marketing programs

Due to the expenses your cooperative incurred to restore service and clean up after the March 1991 ice storm, a number of cost-cutting measures have been adopted. As part of these reductions, the following changes have been made to our marketing programs:

Effective immediately, the rebates given for dual heat and geothermal installations will be reduced from \$500 to \$250.

Beginning March 1, 1992, the price of the 80-gallon Sepco water heater will be increased from \$145 to \$175 plus tax.

Eastern Illini

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217-379-2131 or 800-824-5102



Corrine Turner is pictured with one of her refinished pieces — the table and chair set that got the whole operation going many years ago. She has learned a lot since then, and written a refinishing booklet.



Corrine displays yet another piece of furniture that has seen better days, and has been allowed to go downhill. As can be seen, it looks as good as new, now.

Trial and error teaches furniture restoration

A grandmother's passion for furniture painting led, in a roundabout way, to a home-based business for a Monticello woman. Corrine Turner, a lifelong area resident, learned her craft by trial and error.

"It all started," she says "when my aunt, Irene Dunaway of Bement, gave me a table and four chairs that had once belonged to my grandmother, who loved to paint."

That love of painting was evident by the numerous coats of paint on the table and chairs, and Corrine set out to remove them. It turned out to be a laborious project.

"I went to the library for books on how to strip furniture" she says, "and started working in

our back yard, trying the things the books suggested. There were so many different things to learn. After three summers of work with different methods, the table and chairs were finished to their original beauty."

Even though the furniture is well over a century old, the family still uses it daily.

With the table and chairs satisfactorily completed, Corrine started to look for other things to work on, learning something new with every job. She still reads every refinishing and antique book or pamphlet she can find.

"Our home is filled with furniture I've refinished," Corrine says, "and I go to farm and estate sales and pick up dilapi-

dated pieces to redo because they're a real challenge. Every piece has its own personality and history, and they all mean a lot to me because I put a lot of time and work into them. My son, James, helps me with some of the repairs."

When she ran out of furniture to work on in her own house, Corrine started on that of friends and relatives. Friends of friends admired her work and asked her to refinish woodwork and furniture for them.

And as word of her expertise spread, Corrine started taking on bigger jobs, like stripping and refinishing all the woodwork and doors in a 15-room house. People from as far away as Chicago and from all the nearby

Use the earth to your advantage



Your most efficient energy source for home heating and cooling isn't oil, gas or wood. It's the Earth. Your most efficient heating and cooling system is the geothermal system. It gets its energy from the sun's heat stored within the soil around your house — a constant energy supply. In the winter, the system absorbs warmth from the soil and transfers it to your home through a simple coil of liquid-filled pipe buried in your yard. This exchange is reversed in the summer to cool the house. Take advantage of a safe, clean and efficient option that's 3 to 4 times more efficient than fossil-fuel.

By installing a geothermal system you will be able to:

- **Take advantage of the cooperative's new all-electric geothermal rate of 5 cents a kilowatt-hour. The rate is guaranteed until August 31, 1994.**
- **Apply for a \$250 rebate.**
- **Borrow up to \$7,000 for seven years at 5 percent interest through the ERC loan program to finance the installation of a geothermal system in your existing home. Loans are not available for new construction.**

EIEC members . . .

- ★ save on the cost of a new electric 80-gallon water heater.
- ★ earn credit on your monthly bill.

\$175.00 plus tax

From your cooperative

**Purchase a
new SEPCO
energy
efficient
water
heater
from EIEC**

- earn an \$8 monthly credit with a radio-controlled switch

**For details, call our Member Services Department
toll-free 800-824-5102.**

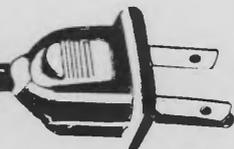
8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday through Friday except holidays

Need a new water heater?

You can purchase a stone-lined 80-gallon Sepco water heater from your cooperative for \$175 plus tax. This price includes a 10-year warranty on the tank and delivery to your home. If a 50-gallon or a 30-gallon unit meets your needs, you can purchase these smaller units for \$145 plus tax.

Do you have an electric water heater?

If you do, let us install a radio-controlled switch on your new or existing electric water heater to control the hours of operation. You will receive an \$8 credit on your bill each month if you use more than 500 kilowatt-hours a month. This is a savings of \$96 per year.



Use it in good health

Electricity is very safe, economical, clean, dependable and efficient.

To stay safe you must be aware of the hazards of electricity and use it wisely.

Here is a brief list to help you take that bit of care—so you can use all the electrical power you need, with confidence.

- Never use electrical appliances near a tub or sink. If an appliance falls into water, do not reach for it. Unplug it from the outlet immediately.
- Do not plug too many appliances into one outlet. Overloaded wires may

overheat and cause a fire.

- Do not patch frayed appliance and extension cords. Replace them.
- Do not run cords behind radiators, through doorways, around pipes, near metal objects or where they can cause someone to trip.
- Major appliances such as automatic washers and dryers should have their own circuit and be “grounded” with a 3-prong plug.
- Always unplug small appliances after using them.

Board meeting report

The board of directors of the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative held its regular monthly meeting at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton on March 2, 1992.

Minutes of the January 28, 1992, regular board meeting were approved. The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending January 31, 1992, including the following information was also approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,739,652, Total Operating Expenses \$1,515,420, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,738,012, Operating Margins \$1,640, Total Margins \$16,219.

During January 65 members joined the cooperative and 59 terminated their memberships.

Jeannie Kingston, information specialist, reported on the activities of her department. Her department provides the manager and other staff members with secretarial services. She complimented secretary Glenda Frette on her performance. Kingston coordinates the annual meeting, essay contest and other cooperative functions. She indicated that the annual meeting notices were mailed February 28 and that all arrangements have been made for the meeting. Kingston also prepares the center section of the Illinois Rural Electric News, Power Lines, Communicator and news releases.

A member addressed the board concerning a complaint.

Manager Champion provided the board with the following information: An update on legal activities; the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation has notified the cooperative that they have adopted new criteria for converting variable interest rates on loans to fixed rates; a large surcharge billing has been received from Central Illinois Public Service Company for the two former cooperatives; a cost comparison on employees and contractors constructing lines; a \$16.35 check has been received from Rural Electric Supply Company, Madison, Wisconsin; a report showing the occupational injuries and illnesses that occurred in 1991; new employee Matt Eisenmenger has been inducted into the Eagle Scouts; and that a tree replacement pro-

gram is being tested.

The board approved hiring the firm of Ledbetter and Toth, Springfield, Missouri, as the consulting engineering firm of record; selected director Warmbir and manager Champion as the Soyland Power Cooperative directors and director Ludwig as the alternate SPC director; and amended Regulation 3, Deposits.

The board went into executive session.

A report on the February 13 safety meeting and Electric Hazard Recognition program was given by director Ludwig. Manager Champion furnished the board with a written job training and safety activities report for February.

Highlights of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting held in Anaheim, California, on February 9-12 were given by those that attended. The board was advised that the 1992 NRECA Director's Conference will be held in Hilton Head, South Carolina, on March 21-25; the NRECA Course 530.2 — "Board Planning and Controlling," will be held at AIEC in Springfield on March 10-11; and the NRECA Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C., on May 3-6.

Because of a conflict with the NRECA annual meeting in Anaheim, California, director Larry Anderson reported that the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives did not hold a board meeting during February.

Director Warmbir, director Ludwig and manager Champion reported on the February 19 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting. Reports were given on Finance, SCADA and Power Supply. Committee appointments were made.

President Thompson thanked director Larry Anderson for his dedicated service to the cooperative and the rural electrification program and added that his input and wise decision making ability would be missed.

The next meeting of the EIEC board will be held March 31, 1992.

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

towns have furniture she has restored. She buys antiques and restores them for sale at area shows.

"It doesn't take me three years to complete a job any more," she says. "Over the years I've learned which products and tools are the best to use on all the problems I find in old furniture. I do the stripping with a flow over tank, a tank that's 7 feet by 10 feet and only 1 foot deep. The

stripper flows over the furniture from a hose with a brush on it and back down into a bucket. It's filtered, comes back up through the hose again and over the furniture. We have a big metal building behind the house that I work in, so I don't have to work in the basement or back yard any more."

What started out as a hobby some 30 years ago has now become a small business.

"It's hard work," she says, "but I really enjoy it. I've written and published a booklet on "Refinishing Made Easy." If I had had this booklet when I first started out, it would have been a lot easier.

"Enthusiasts can reach her at RR 3, Box 58, Monticello. You can receive a copy of Mrs. Turner's booklet "Refinishing Made Easy" by sending \$6.50 to the above address.



Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Manager Wm. David Champion, Jr., (right) congratulates Harold M. Loy, Beaverville, following his election to the EIEC board at the cooperative's annual meeting of members March 14. Loy will take the place of Larry D. Anderson, Donovan, who retired from the EIEC board after 21 years as a cooperative director. Behind Loy and Champion are reelected directors Gene P. Warmbir, Clifton; L. Dean Ward, Champaign, and Charles D. Day, Jr., Bement. The three were reelected to three-year terms on the board.

Annual meeting well attended

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative members elected three incumbent directors and one newcomer to the organization's governing board during EIEC's fifth annual meeting March 14.

Nearly 1,000 members and guests attended the meeting at Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School in Paxton.

Incumbent directors Gene P. Warmbir of Clifton, L. Dean Ward of Champaign and Charles D. Day, Jr., of Bement were reelected to three-year terms on the board. They are joined by

Harold M. Loy, Beaverville. Loy fills the position previously held by Larry D. Anderson, Donovan. Anderson was first elected as a director of Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative in 1971 and is a past president of the board. He has served as an EIEC director since the consolidation of EIPC and Illini Electric Cooperative in 1987 and served 21 years as a cooperative director.

EIEC officers updated the members on the cooperative's activities during the past year and its financial condition.

Robert D. Thompson, board president, told the members that 1991 was a difficult year for Eastern Illini Electric.

The ice storm that damaged much of EIEC's electric distribution system March 12, 1991, caused nearly \$1.9 million in unexpected expenses, Thompson said. Unlike a similar ice storm in 1990, EIEC was unable to receive any federal emergency funding last year.

"That ice storm was a major loss for our cooperative and it has put us in a financial bind,"

the board president said.

Because of the cooperative's financial position, the EIEC board approved an overall average 5.8 percent rate increase that took effect in February. "This rate increase wasn't something that the board of directors wanted to do, but because of the storm and our overall financial condition, we didn't have any choice. This action should put the cooperative back on course," Thompson said, noting that the rate increase was the first in nine years for internal needs.

"When you think of all the other day-to-day expenses that have increased over the past nine years, it's been quite an accomplishment for the cooperative to hold the line on rates. The consolidation has been a big factor and it has helped us to reduce our expenses."

Treasurer Herbert L. Aden, Newman, told the members that EIEC didn't issue capital credits checks last year because of the cooperative's financial position. Due in part to the storm damage, the cooperative had an operating loss of nearly \$565,000 last year.

Wm. David Champion, Jr., EIEC manager, said the cooperative's board and management has initiated an extensive cost-cutting campaign to reduce and minimize expenses without impacting service. "We took a look at ourselves to see if there were areas where we could reduce our expenses," Champion said. "As a result we've tried to become more efficient in managing our time and making certain that we don't utilize more equipment than is needed from job to job. We've also reduced our material waste and cut back on our promotional costs, such as rebates and advertising. And we will continue to look for areas in which we can save even more."

The manager said that economic development would help to curtail the need for future rate increases. Eastern Illini and its power supplier, Soyland Power



Larry Anderson retired after 21 years as a director.

Cooperative, have been active in a rural development program called "Rural Partners," which is funded through a major grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Ford County is one of just 12 counties in the state that has been selected to participate in the Rural Partners program.

"Hopefully through programs like this one we can bring some new business into our area, helping to provide some new jobs and new electric loads that will spread our fixed costs and provide our members with some rate relief," the manager said.

Champion also emphasized the importance of EIEC's load management and marketing



Robert D. Thompson, board president

programs which are vital elements in curtailing rates and costly electric load demand peaks that occur in the hottest summer and coldest winter months.

"Nothing helps a marketing effort more than happy members helping others through word of mouth," he said. "As we add more and more members to these programs we are promoting efficiency. These special programs allow members to take advantage of very reasonable rates, while allowing the cooperative to allow for off-peak energy sales growth."

Speakers during the annual meeting also included Julie Bury of Milford, Leslie Ingold of Paxton and Johanna Biggs of Buckley, winners of EIEC's 1991 Youth to Washington essay contest. The cooperative annually sponsors three area students to participate in the week-long tour to the nation's capital.

"The Three-City Singers" and "Blue and Gold Unlimited," show choirs from Paxton-Buckley-Loda schools, entertained the members during the meeting.

Two EIEC members — Viola Lucht of Milford and August C. Wolfe of Chebanse — were grand prize winners. Each won a \$75 bill credit. Danielle Schomhe of Loda assisted EIEC personnel with the prize drawings.

Following the meeting the EIEC board met in a reorganizational session and reelected its current officers for 1992. The officers include: Robert D. Thompson, Paxton, president; Laverl Byers, Tuscola, vice president; Marion Chesnut, Rossville, secretary; Glenn R. Anderson, Kempton, assistant secretary, and Herbert L. Aden, Newman, treasurer.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative provides electric service to more than 12,500 consumer-members on more than 4,500 miles of lines located in 10 eastern Illinois counties.

IS A KILOWATT-HOUR?

is the unit for measuring electrical energy or generated and is equal to 1000 watts. A uses 1000 watts for one Kilowatt of electrical one hour is said to have used one Kilowatt-hour.

light bulb uses one Kilowatt-hour in 10 hours
 25-watt heater uses one Kilowatt-hour in only one
 keeping all 10 of these 25-watt bulbs lit for
 also equal to one Kilowatt-hour — worth only
 cents!

IF ELECTRICITY COULD BE SOLD...

To generate enough electricity to

- Hair Dryer for 5 minutes
- Microwave for 10 minutes
- Coffee Maker for 12 hours
- TV for 2 hours
- Electric Skillet for 1 hour
- Central Air Conditioning for 1 hour

How much could be stored and supplied must be available when



Scenes from your annual meeting



Board meeting report

On March 31, 1992, the monthly meeting of the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the March 2, 1992, regular board meeting and executive session were approved. The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending January 31, 1992, including the following information was also approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,748,291, Total Operating Expenses \$1,333,383, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,547,712, Operating Margins \$200,579, Total Margins \$212,398 and Year-To-Date Margins \$228,617.

During February 40 members joined the cooperative and 54 terminated their memberships.

Auditor R.L. Quint from Mission, Kansas, discussed the results of the audit his firm had conducted on the cooperative's records as of December 31, 1991. He indicated that a number of tests had been performed to verify information, and that the cooperative's records had been found to be in good order. The board accepted the auditor's report.

President Thompson furnished the board with committee assignments. He announced that the Annual Meeting Planning Committee will meet April 6 and that the Audit and Finance Committee will hold a meeting April 10.

Manager Champion presented a telecommunications system proposal for consideration. Assisting in the presentation were Technical Development Group employees Jeff Tankersley and Frank Crego. After a lengthy discussion, the proposal was approved.

Administrative assistant Wenona Gumbel reported on the activities of her department. She is responsible for the administration of benefits for the cooperative's 70 employees. Gumbel provided information and statistics on the various employee benefit plans. She processes new employees, makes changes for current employees, handles termination and retirements and is the IEC Federal Credit Union loan officer.

The board authorized the purchase of voltage source equipment from Electronic Development Corporation, a cab and chassis from Rieger Motors, a digger derrick from Telelect and two pole trailers from Vermeer Sales and Service.

In other action, the board approved placing the cooperative's insurance with Federated Rural Electric Insurance; executing REA Form 300 — Review Rating Summary; entering into an agreement with Ledbetter, Toth and Associates, Inc., Springfield, Missouri, to serve as the engineering

consultant of record and to prepare a 1993-1994 work plan; entering into three-phase contracts with Specialty Antenna Site Resources, Inc., Cedar Crest, New Mexico for three microwave towers located near Watseka, Paxton and Fisher; and elected Marion Chesnut to fill the unexpired term of Larry Anderson as the AIEC director and Laverl Byers as the AIEC alternate director.

Manager Champion provided the board with the following information: An update on legal activities; a follow-up on Central Illinois Public Service Company surcharge billing, that the cooperative plans to make a refund to several accounts that were over billed, and that James Huff, Sr. from Mississippi has been nominated to be the new Rural Electrification Administrator.

On March 12, a safety meeting and an all employees meeting were held at the cooperative's headquarters. Director Bauer attended the safety meeting and a foremen's meeting that was held the same day. Manager Champion furnished the board with a written job training and safety activities report for March.

Reporting on the 1992 NRECA Director's Conference held at Hilton Head, South Carolina, on March 21-25 were directors Anderson, Ludwig and Ward. Directors Chesnut and Ludwig provided information on NRECA Course 530.2 — "Board Planning and Controlling" that they had attended at AIEC in Springfield on March 10-11. The NRECA Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C., on May 3-6. Directors Thompson, Byers, Ludwig, attorney Fraker and manager Champion plan to attend.

Director Chesnut reported that he had attended the AIEC board meeting in Springfield on March 19. Reports were given on the financial operations, activities of the Illinois Farm Electrification Council, energy, environment and engineering department and legislative activities. The AIEC board also discussed the resurfacing of the parking lots, the NRECA annual meeting and the NRECA Legislative Conference.

Director Warmbir, alternate director Ludwig and manager Champion attended the March 18 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting in Bloomington. Reports were given on Finance and Power Supply. An activities report was given by the president. Soyland's annual meeting was also held that same day.

The next meeting of the EIEC board will be held April 21, 1992.

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

Eastern Illini

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Eight area students representing Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative are pictured with Representative Tim Johnson on Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day in Springfield on April 29. From left are Aaron Lohnes, Hoopeston; Jessica Denham, Milford; Darin Bohlmann, Milford; Bob Nuckols, Director of Paxton Park District; Eric Schleef, Milford; Representative Johnson; Chad Schweighart, Champaign; Kathy Martenson, Loda; Ryan Fuoss, Thawville; Clarice Joles, Armstrong, and Jeannie Kingston of Eastern Illini Electric. Schweighart went on the trip as a "Willie Wiredhand" student. "Willies" are sponsored by parents or other relatives, rather than being sponsored by the cooperative.

Three win Washington, D.C. trip

Three area high school students have won all-expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C., this summer in Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's "Youth to Washington" tour essay contest.

The contest judges selected Darin Bohlmann and Eric Schleef, both sophomores at Milford High School, and Kathy Martenson, Loda, a junior at Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School, as grand prize winners.

The three were top participants among eight finalists in Eastern Illini's essay banquet, held April 13 at Lakeview Country Club, Loda. This year's essay topic was "Rural Electrification—Building a Better Quality Life for Rural America." The eight students, their parents and sponsoring teachers, and cooperative directors and staff members attended.

In addition to winning the Washington trip, Bohlmann won

a \$200 savings bond for having the highest score in the contest. The other two winners of the tour, Schleef and Martensen, received \$100 and \$75 savings bonds respectively.

The remaining five finalists each won \$50 savings bonds. They are Jessica Denham, Milford, sophomore at Milford High School; Ryan Fuoss, Thawville, sophomore at Ford Central High School; Clarice Joles, Armstrong, sophomore at Armstrong High School; and Aaron Lohnes and Jamie Miller, both of Hoopeston and sophomores at Hoopeston-East Lynn High School.

Chad Schweighart, Champaign, will also travel to Washington, D.C., as a "Willie Wiredhand" student.

The eight finalists participated in "Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day" in Springfield on Wednesday, April 29, with

students and their chaperones touring historic sites, the State Capitol, and meeting their legislators.

Wm. David Champion, Jr., Eastern Illini manager, thanked the students for their interest in the Youth Tour program and the cooperative.

"The contest offers these young people a chance to tour Springfield and Washington, to learn more about their government and meet their elected leaders. This is Eastern Illini's way to contribute to the future of our area," he said.

Judges for the contest were Dave Hinton, associate editor of the Paxton Record; Tom Moore, member services/marketing representative at Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, Bloomington; and John Freitag, Youth Tour director at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield.

Rural Anchor business turns

Garth Golden, a rural Anchor farmer and tournament fisherman, had a problem that many fishermen have: He often saw various lures that looked like they would catch fish, but they weren't available in the sizes or weights he wanted. Or, when those factors were right, the colors weren't.

As a result of the frustration he felt in such situations, he now heads up a "cottage industry," catering to fishermen who want just that special lure. Many of his lures are made up of scrap lead, and some of that lead comes from wheel weights used to balance wheels on cars. Operating from a couple of sheds on his farm, he makes and sells some 35-40 different kinds of baits.

Anyway, he notes that he had been doing a lot of fishing. In fact, there was a time when he went to 27 fishing tournaments a year. "I was buying an awful lot of lures," he says, "and I was spending a fair amount of money. I decided I could save some money, and get more of the sizes and colors I wanted, if I started making my own."

So he got into lure making in a small way, just to take care of his own needs. "Before I knew it," he says, "my brother-in-law got to admiring them, and asked me to make some for him. Then a couple of friends got interested, too. Then the owner of a store asked if I could make a few for him to sell. Everything kind of mushroomed from there."

For some time, the firm made lures from lead, with latex skirting, and has been known to use three to five tons of lead in a good year. Now, Garth has started adding Styrene lures to his line, too, to meet the need for floating lures.

His wife, Connie, plays an important part in the business. "She's my wife, head salesperson, bookkeeper, production manager and jack-of-all-trades," Garth says, "and I'm not kidding."

He notes that Golden Baits are sold in all or parts of eight states, and Connie does a lot of the deliveries. "We have a short northern route, a short southern route and a long southern one," he says, "and somebody's almost always on the road serving them."

While Golden Baits are sold in a vast part of the Midwest under the Golden brand, Garth points out that they're sold all over the U. S., under different brands.

"A lot of times a person will get a bait on the market and it'll just catch fire like you wouldn't believe," he says, "and then they'll farm them out to everybody they can, to serve the market as well as they can. We make a lot of baits for others, in that kind of situation." It's kind of hard to figure out what it is that will get a fish's attention," he says, "and it's really hard to figure out what it takes to just make them go crazy, like they sometimes do."

Garth adds that the bait business is a lot like farming, in that there's a lot of variety involved, and it's seasonal, too.

"It's funny," he relates, "because we have to be well ahead of the season to take care of the market. We make ice fishing lures here, and you need to get a good stockpile built before the season begins, so the best time to make ice fishing bait is in the middle of the summer. It feels kind of funny to sit here in the sweltering weather and make lures for guys who are

going to be freezing when they're using them."

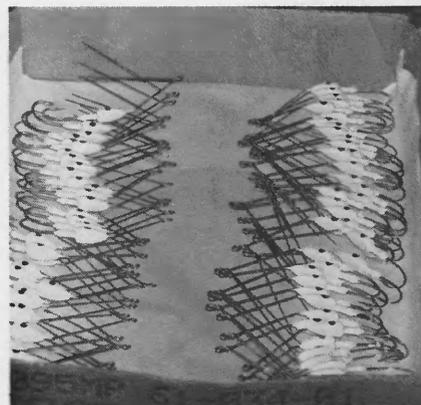
It's like farming in another way, too," he adds, "in that there doesn't seem to be a great deal of money in it. I've been at it for 20 years, and it pays a wage to me and Connie and others in the family, but I just keep plowing the profits back in, to serve the market better. I started out with about \$600 worth of equipment, and I shudder to think how much I've got invested now."

Like farming, making lures has its interesting moments, he adds, and a venture into the export market was a case in point for Golden Bait. "I had an opportunity to ship some lures to Japan," Garth says, "and everything was done from Osaka. They wrote and told exactly what they wanted — so many thousand lures — and spelled out that they wanted them skirting, boxed in bulk and ready to go. All they wanted to have to do was to take them out of the box and sell them.

"Everything was done by letter, all from Osaka. And everything was done with Japanese firms. The instant they got to Chicago, it was all Japanese. They really went out of their way to see to that. And while everything had been cordial, they really worked hard to beat the price down. All in all, it was an education. I think some of the people who farm work out to us are probably shooting for the Japanese market."

He adds that there are several people who work for the firm, but who do most of their work at home. "We put a fair amount of money into the neighborhood economy," he says.

wheel weights into fish baits



Clockwise from above: A box of partially completed baits awaits further work. Garth Golden, right, discusses the finer points of lure making with Wm. David Champion, manager of EIEC. Connie does a lot of office and delivery work. Garth attaches a skirt to a lure.



Board meeting report

The monthly meeting of the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held April 21, 1992, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the March 31, 1992, regular board meeting were approved. The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending March 31, 1992, including the following information was also approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,485,159, Total Operating Expenses \$1,385,431, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,642,687, Operating Margins (\$139,528), Total Margins (\$218,030) and Year-To-Date Margins \$100,587.

During the month of March, 86 members joined the cooperative and 68 terminated their memberships.

Director Aden reported that the Annual Meeting Planning Committee met on April 6. The committee reviewed the March 14 annual meeting and made tentative plans for the March 13, 1993, annual meeting. The board approved the report.

On April 10 the Audit and Finance Committee met to examine the cooperative's accounts and review expense statements, cash receipts, disbursements and supporting data. Director

Chesnut indicated that all records were found to be in order. The committee report was approved.

An update on legal activities was given by manager Champion. He provided information on the CIPS surcharge billing and results of the "Youth to Washington" essay contest. He indicated that \$27,159.62 had been received from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation and that Creditor's Discount & Audit, Inc., Urbana, has changed its procedures for collecting the cooperative's delinquent accounts.

Manager of Finance and Accounting J. Brandon Jackson discussed his department. The utilization of new software has resulted in greater efficiencies in the accounting area. Jackson explained the ramifications involved in transferring the cooperative's long-term debt from fixed interest rates to variable interest rates. After discussion, the board approved switching all notes, except two at 7 percent, to a variable interest rate. Because of this action, 100 percent of the long-term debt will be on the variable interest rate.

In other action, the board approved adding an interruptible load to Pork Power, Inc., Cissna Park, and hiring summer help for the operations department.

Director Byers reported on the "Back Power Program" that he attended on March 14. As part of the cooperative's wellness plan, all employees participated. It was conducted by Dave Diederich, Director of Training and Safety for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Manager Champion furnished the board with a written job training and safety activities report for April.

Manager Champion indicated that arrangements have been made for the NRECA Legislative Conference which will be held in Washington, D.C., on May 3-6.

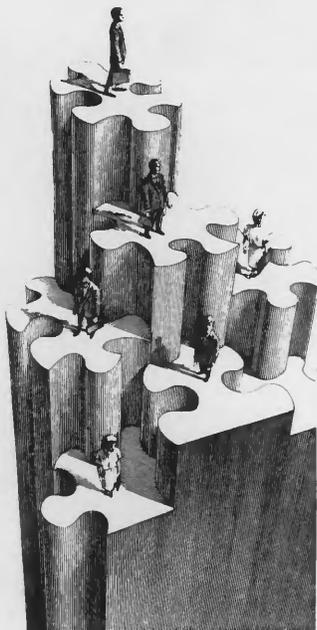
A summary of the April 16 AIEC board meeting was given by director Chesnut. Initial budget proposals for 1992-93 were presented. Other topics of discussion included a CFC update and evaluation, proposed joint Soyland Power Cooperative and Illinois Power Company marketing activities, the "Youth to Washington" tour, IEC Continuing Education Program, projects of the Energy Environment and Engineering Department, legislative activities and current litigation.

Director Warmbir gave highlights of the April 15 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting that he and manager Champion attended in Decatur. Reports were given on legal activities, finance and power supply.

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

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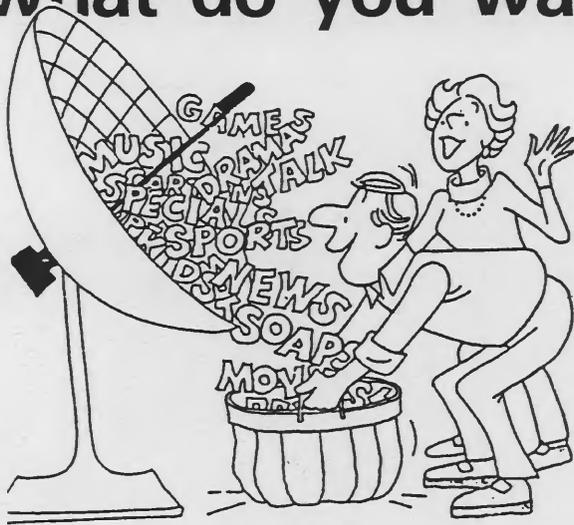
Once you've reviewed them, you'll choose electricity. When electricity is your power of choice, you've chosen the safe, dependable, cost-effective alternative. No flames or fumes in the house. No fuel tanks to fill or sudden shortages. Just set the thermostat and relax.



Apprentice linemen complete 'climbing school'

Two employees of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative developed their skills recently during a "climbing school." Shown with instructor Alan Pinkstaff, standing foreground, are, from left, Matt Eisenmenger and Dave Shirley, both apprentice linemen. They learned efficient and safe pole climbing techniques and took classroom courses in electrical theory and application. The intensive, two-week school, sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, was held at Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, April 20-May 1.

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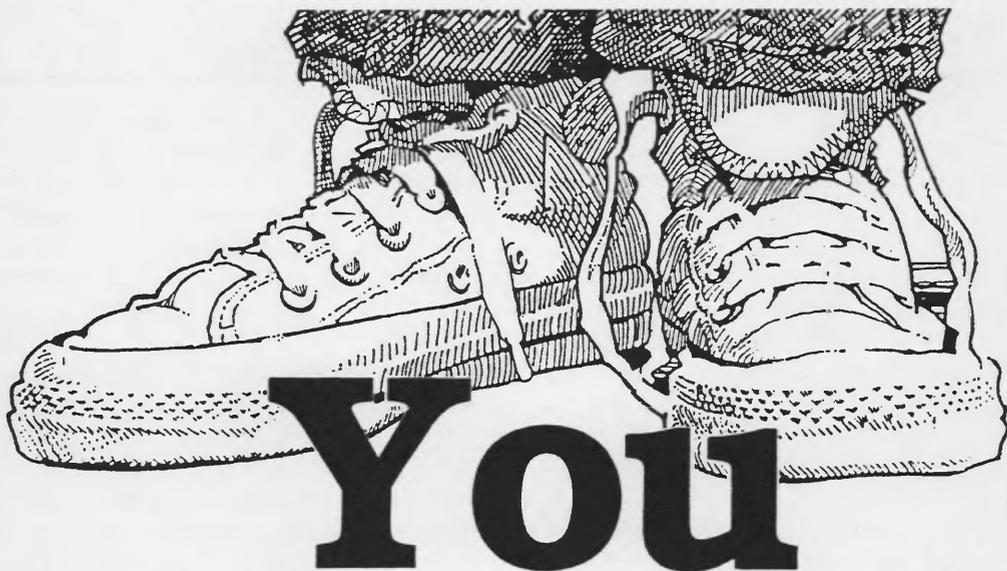
Why isn't my bill less? I've been on vacation

When you return home from that fun-filled vacation and receive your electric bill for the time you were gone, you may wonder why your bill isn't less.

Unless you make special arrangements, your home will continue to use electricity whether you're there or not. Unless you turn off your air conditioner, it will continue to maintain the temperature on your thermostat. Your refrigerator and freezer will continue to run and your water heater maintains its temperature, too. Well pumps, sump pumps, attic fans, electric clocks and lights that are left on for security also continue to use electricity.

When you return home, you have extra loads of soiled clothes that need to be laundered, which makes up for not using the washer and dryer while you were gone.

If you want to reduce electrical consumption while you are away, you should turn off the electric water heater, air conditioner and any other nonessential users of electricity. Otherwise, your electrical use will remain about the same.



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Board meeting report

On May 26, 1992, the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative held its regular monthly meeting at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the April 21, 1992, regular board meeting were approved. The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending April 30, 1992, including the following information was also approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,551,257, Total Operating Expenses \$1,178,359, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,402,695, Operating Margins \$148,562, Total Margins \$175,945 and Year-To-Date Margins \$276,532.

In April, 76 members joined the cooperative and 87 terminated their memberships.

Prior to the board meeting, the Annual Meeting Planning Committee met to select an attendance gift for the March 13, 1993, annual meeting. Director Aden indicated that the committee had chosen a sturdy ice cream scoop. The board approved the committee's recommendation.

Current litigation activities were discussed by manager Champion. He also provided an update on the CIPS surcharge billing and indicated that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has denied a rehearing of the case and that the entire amount of \$339,057.30 is due.

Manager Champion reported that the conversion of the cooperative's long-term loans from fixed to the variable interest rate with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) will become effective June 1.

According to manager Champion, the closing was held on May 21 for the purchase of the three tower sites at Fisher, Paxton and Watseka. He indicated that an environmental audit has been conducted, frequency coordination is going well and leasing activities will begin on these towers. We will begin moving our antennas from leased sites to our own towers in the near future.

Other information provided by the manager included survey results on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting, the "Smart Homes" concept, compliance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act" and that 10 part-time employees have been hired for the summer.

Manager Champion indicated that the coopera-

tive is still having a service problem in one area. He has initiated discussions with Soyland Power Cooperative to remedy this situation. He also provided information on an outage that had occurred.

In other action, the board approved terminating the deferred compensation plan since it is no longer utilized by any of the employees.

All employees participated in the second wellness program entitled "What's Gonna Getcha?" at the cooperative on May 15. Director Ward attended and gave an accounting of the meeting which was conducted by Dave Diederich, Director of Training and Safety for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. A written job training and safety activities report for May was provided by manager Champion.

Highlights of the NRECA Legislative Conference held in Washington, D.C., on May 3-6, were given by manager Champion and attorney Fraker. They indicated that they had very good meetings with the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

On May 21, Soyland Power Cooperative held an Ally Appreciation Day in Decatur for people and organizations who are contributing to local community development activities. Manager Champion and the directors who attended indicated that it was a very good event.

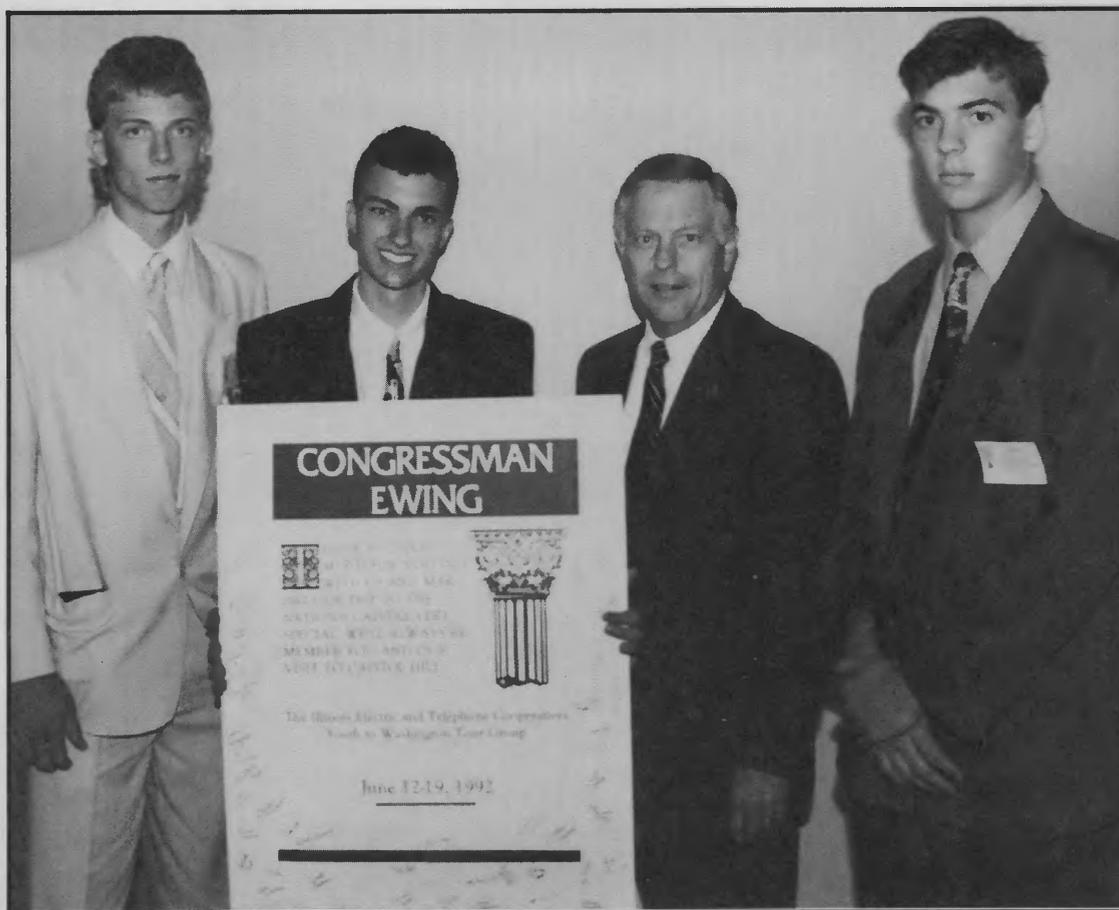
A summary of the May 21 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board meeting was given by director Chesnut. The budget proposals for 1992-93 were discussed. The successful bidder on the general insurance coverage was Federated Rural Electric Insurance Corp. Other items discussed included participation in the NRECA Legislative Conference, plans for the "Youth to Washington" tour, activities of the Energy, Environment and Engineering Department, legislative developments and regulatory matters.

Reporting on the May 20 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting was director Warmbir. Information was provided on the financial statements, the Clinton Power Station, SCADA system, power supply, and an executive session was held. Manager Champion furnished the board with a written report of the meeting.

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

Office closing

The offices of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.



Tour participants meet Congressman Ewing

Three students representing Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative on the 1992 Youth to Washington Tour witnessed their government in action during the week of June 15, meeting with Congressman Tom Ewing of Pontiac in the nation's capital. The students were part of a contingent of 62 outstanding youth leaders from downstate Illinois who participated in the annual tour of Washington, D.C., sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois. They presented Congressman Ewing with a special Youth Tour poster signed by participants. From left are Darin Bohlmann and Eric Schleeef, both of Milford, Congressman Ewing and Chad Schweighart of Champaign, who paid his own way as a "Willie Wiredhand" student. During the week-long trip to the nation's capital the students visited the National Cathedral, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian museums, Ford's Theatre, George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, Supreme Court, F.B.I. headquarters, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, National Geographic Society headquarters and a number of memorials and monuments. They were greeted by foreign diplomats during a unique reception at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia. En route to Washington, D.C., they toured the Civil War battlefields at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.



From left, Jeff Kuhn and Larry Stahlberg lead Wm. David Champion, Jr., manager of EIEC, and Jeannie Kingston, information specialist, on a tour of the facility.

Dewey is home to ag research facility

For many years, Ciba-Geigy has been well known as the producer of a long list of agricultural products intended to improve the efficiency and profitability of farming operations around the world.

A small operation near Dewey, in northern Champaign County, works to see that the compounds the company comes up with will work in this area, notes Larry Stahlberg, senior research scientist at the facility.

Stahlberg notes that the parent company, which is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, has its overall national headquarters in New York, with the ag division being headquartered in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"The company was deeply involved in dyestuffs and pharmaceuticals for many years," he says, "and it got into the agricultural chemicals business in the 1940s. We set up our operation here in 1987 with 80 acres. We added another 40 acres about a year later."

The idea behind the operation

is to grow hundreds of different small plots of different crops, and then work with them to find herbicides and pesticides that will enable them to grow strong



The facility uses a lot of seeds of all different kinds in its research efforts.

and healthy. There are some 4-5,000 plots, ranging from small to tiny, where such things as canola, potatoes, sugar beets, dry beans and sunflowers are planted and nurtured, along with the more commonplace staples such as corn, soybeans and sorghum.

"We'll grow a healthy plant," Stahlberg says, "then we'll inoculate it with a disease, so we'll know for sure that it has that specific disease. Then we try to find a cure for it, that will leave the plant healthy."

"Naturally, we want a compound that has a short persistence and low application rates," he says, "because it's very important to minimize the environmental impact of the product. They need to be safe, easy to use and affordable, too."

It's a tall order to fulfill all those requirements, and it takes a lot more than just a "shotgun" approach. It's important to know the various characteristics of different plants and how they react to a wide range of chemicals

— and why. Stahlberg is well suited to work in such a project, having bachelor's and master's degrees in plant science. He worked for 17 years at a similar facility in York, Nebraska, before coming to Dewey.

There are six full-time workers at the operation, and three college students are there for the summer. Like most agricultural operations, the research station has its share of seasonal ups and downs. "Things will slow down during the winter," Stahlberg says, "and we'll do a lot of lab work indoors. We'll have a series of planning meetings, too, to make plans for the spring and summer, when we're really busy. Our needs change every year, so the meetings are very important."

He notes that while agricultural research is interesting, it can be challenging, too. "Our chemists may synthesize, say, 15,000 compounds, and some 200 of those may show some promise in the greenhouse. Then we'll take them and try them in a real world situation, and see what happens. A lot of them are winnowed out during that part of the process, and we keep working with the ones that still look good.

"In the long run," he says, "probably one compound in 40,000 may make it through the whole process and get a label — or be registered for sale by the Environmental Protection Agency. By then, Ciba-Geigy may well have a good eight to 10 years — and maybe as much as \$15 to 20-million — invested in it. Even then, your troubles aren't over.

"Some insects and diseases develop a resistance to the product," he concludes, "and you have to deal with that, too. Some of them have been around a long time, and they're going to be around for a long time to come. This line of work can be kind of fun, but it can be frustrating, too. At least there's always a challenge!"



Deborah Gorvin works with potted plants growing under fluorescent lights.



Jim Benson drives a tractor, while Larry Zang works on a small plot.



There are many test plots ranging from tiny to fairly large.

Board meeting report

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held on June 23, 1992, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the May 26, 1992, regular board meeting were approved. In addition, the statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending May 31, 1992, including the following information was also approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,435,468, Total Operating Expenses \$1,109,807, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,328,052, Operating Margins \$107,416, Total Margins \$117,420 and Year-To-Date Margins \$383,952.

In May, 86 members joined the cooperative and 76 terminated their memberships.

President Thompson stated that the Land Use and Facilities Committee will meet July 7 and the Audit and Finance Committee will meet July 14.

An update on current litigation activities was given by manager Champion. He also reported that the CIPS surcharge billing had been paid in full. A progress report was given on the communications development schedule which includes erecting a tower on the Pestoum property. The board ratified the tower bids.

The board was provided with a survey evaluation report that had been prepared by Unteed, Nelson, Slack and Anderson, Architects, Ltd. This report identifies areas in the headquarters building that need to be changed so that the cooperative will be in compliance with the "Americans With Disabilities Act."

The board also received a work order inspection report which was prepared by the consulting engineers, Ledbetter, Toth & Associates, Inc.; Federated Insurance Company's loss control inspection report; a summary of work completed in 1991; grain drying loads added in 1991; and a summary of annual meeting expenses.

Manager Champion reported that the cooperative is working with its consulting engineer to resolve a service problem in one area.

The board went into executive session.

In other action, the board approved entering into a three-phase contract with Marlin Johnson of Sheldon; executing a contract with Electric Lab, Mattoon, to test the cooperative's three-phase meters; contributing to the Cooperative System

Integrity Fund of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation; and participating in a new edition of the book "Architects for Rural Progress," which will be published by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

According to manager Champion, line crews are working 10 hours a day. This is working well and resulting in greater efficiencies.

A written job training and safety activities report was provided by manager Champion. He indicated that a safety meeting had been scheduled for June 18 but was postponed because employees worked all night on June 17 to restore electricity to storm damaged areas of the system.

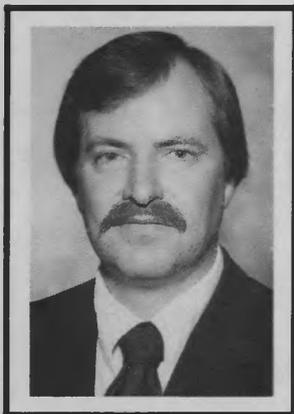
The AIEC annual meeting will be held on August 25-27 in Springfield. Director Chesnut was elected as the voting delegate to the AIEC annual meeting and director Byers was elected as the alternate. Director Chesnut was elected as the NRECA voting delegate and director Byers as the alternate. Director Chesnut was elected to serve a two-year term on the AIEC board of directors and director Byers was elected as the alternate. Director Byers was also elected as the Director Candidate and Chairman of Delegates for the Illinois Statewide Power Cooperative annual meeting.

Director Chesnut gave highlights of the AIEC board meeting that he attended on June 18. The 1992-93 AIEC budget was approved. Director Chesnut indicated that the EIEC board needed to take action on the AIEC's dues assessment. After discussion, the EIEC board approved paying the AIEC's dues assessment in two installments. In addition, director Chesnut reported that Nationwide Insurance Company had contributed \$2,171.49 to the AIEC Job Training and Safety Program. The Region V annual meeting, the AIEC annual meeting, activities of the Energy, Environment and Engineering Department, legislative developments and the IEC Continuing Education Program were also discussed.

The June 17 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting was reported on by directors Warmbir and Ludwig and manager Champion. Reports were given on the financial statements, the Clinton Power Station, SCADA system, power supply, and an executive session was held.

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

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will hold a geothermal open house August 19 at Bill and Marla Becker's home near Homer Lake. See the August issue of Power Lines for more information.



Champion

General Manager's Comments by Wm. David Champion, Jr.

Because power poles and pole grounds have been damaged by lawn and field mowers, the cooperative has had to replace several hundred poles. These replacements have been very costly. We estimate that it costs around \$250 to replace a single-phase pole. Several hundred poles brings that figure to around \$50,000. If we have to replace a three-phase pole, the cost is much greater.

While mowing, it is very important not to get too close to the poles. Deep gouges weaken poles and make them very susceptible to decay. In most cases, they have to be replaced.

With fall elections approaching, signs will be appearing everywhere. Unfortunately, utility poles seem to be a convenient place to post political signs, sale bills and announcements. The sharp nails, tacks and staples that are used to affix these signs create hazards for our linemen. Even though they use bucket trucks to perform many tasks, there are still occasions when they have to climb poles. A protrusion on the pole can cause a lineman's climbing hooks to cut out, which may result in serious injury. Nails, tacks and staples also create a threat to insulated rubber gloves and other safety equipment which are used to protect employees from electric shock. If the safety equipment becomes punctured or torn, its insulating value is lost, and the employee could receive a serious or fatal shock.

We have even found electric fences attached to co-op poles. This damages our poles and presents a very serious hazard to

our employees, which will not be tolerated.

When mowing around power poles, we ask that you be careful. Damaging them in any way will increase our maintenance expenses and will affect the cost of your electricity.

Please refrain from attaching items to our poles and posing a serious threat to our employees.

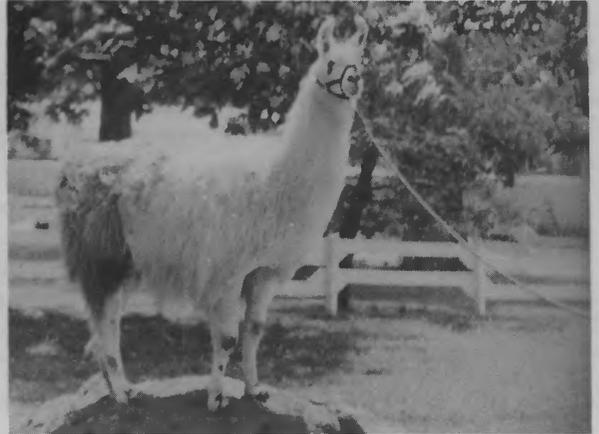
Remember, power poles bring electricity to you, and our employees keep your electricity flowing.





Watch for

crossing



llamas



Jeannie Kingston cuddles an affectionate llama, one of 25 at the Burns place near Watseka.

Travelers heading west out of Watseka on Route 24 may be treated to an unusual sign, if they keep their eyes open and read the signs. Art and Greta Burns have "Llama Crossing" signs set up by their farm so motorists can be on the lookout.

The Burnses got into the llama business in 1987 in an effort to diversify their operation, which was made up largely of an implement dealership and a Hereford cow-calf herd. The shaggy beasts have since become much



more than just a part of the business, though, Art says.

"Once into the business, we found the llamas were even more interesting and lovable than we had ever anticipated. They are easy to care for and eat very little. We have 25 llamas on about 10 acres and we have to mow the grass, as they don't

even keep it eaten down. A bale of hay will feed a llama for two weeks. We train them to lead, drive, pull a cart, and so on. Our grandkids love them.

"Every one of them has a personality," he explains, "and they're all different. They'll really grow on you. In fact, I've come to like them so much that Greta and I, and our herds lady, Connie Butzow, have set up a 'Love a Llama Club' for area kids. We set it up so kids could come here and learn how to care for the animals and how to show them in competition. We had 18 kids come for the lessons once a week last year, and we're still at it."

Art and Greta have been asked so many times why they got into the llama business that they've put together a little answer sheet to give to people who put the question to them. And they always have some Llama Association literature handy to pass out, too.

Art notes that a good part of

the pleasure of dealing in llamas has to do with the kind of people you meet at events all over the country. "Jack McMillan, of the Seattle Seahawks, is a llama enthusiast," Art says, "and he shows up at a lot of the shows and sales we go to. So does Dennis Weaver, who used to be on the old 'Gunsmoke' TV series, and who has starred in several others since."

He notes that a show was set up in Tecumseh, Okla., several years ago, and that it outgrew the facilities there in no time. It has since moved to the Ak-Sar-Ben complex at Oklahoma City, where there's enough room to accommodate the growing number of llama lovers.

The animals generally have a lifespan of from 15 to 20 years, Art says, and grow to a weight of some 280 to 450 pounds. They'll average about 40 to 45 inches at the shoulder when full grown. They weigh about 20 to 35 pounds at birth, and are usually delivered during daytime without assistance. Since they're native to the harsh weather of the Andes Mountains, they're hardy enough to withstand tem-

perate climate easily and don't present any unusual health problems.

"People often ask what they're used for," Art says, "and there are any number of uses for them, including just pleasurable companionship. But they're used for breeding stock, to carry loads, to pull carts and wagons, for wool production, and for therapy, too."

He adds that the woolly creatures are intelligent and easy to train. "It takes just a few repetitions, and they'll pick up and retain many behaviors such as taking a halter, being led, getting into and out of a vehicle, pulling a cart, or carrying a pack," he says.

They're good pack animals, boasting a fair amount of sure-footedness, and they are able to carry a respectable load. "They'll carry anywhere from 50 to 120 pounds," Art says, "and do it well. But they're just not big enough to be ridden by adults, although kids can ride them."

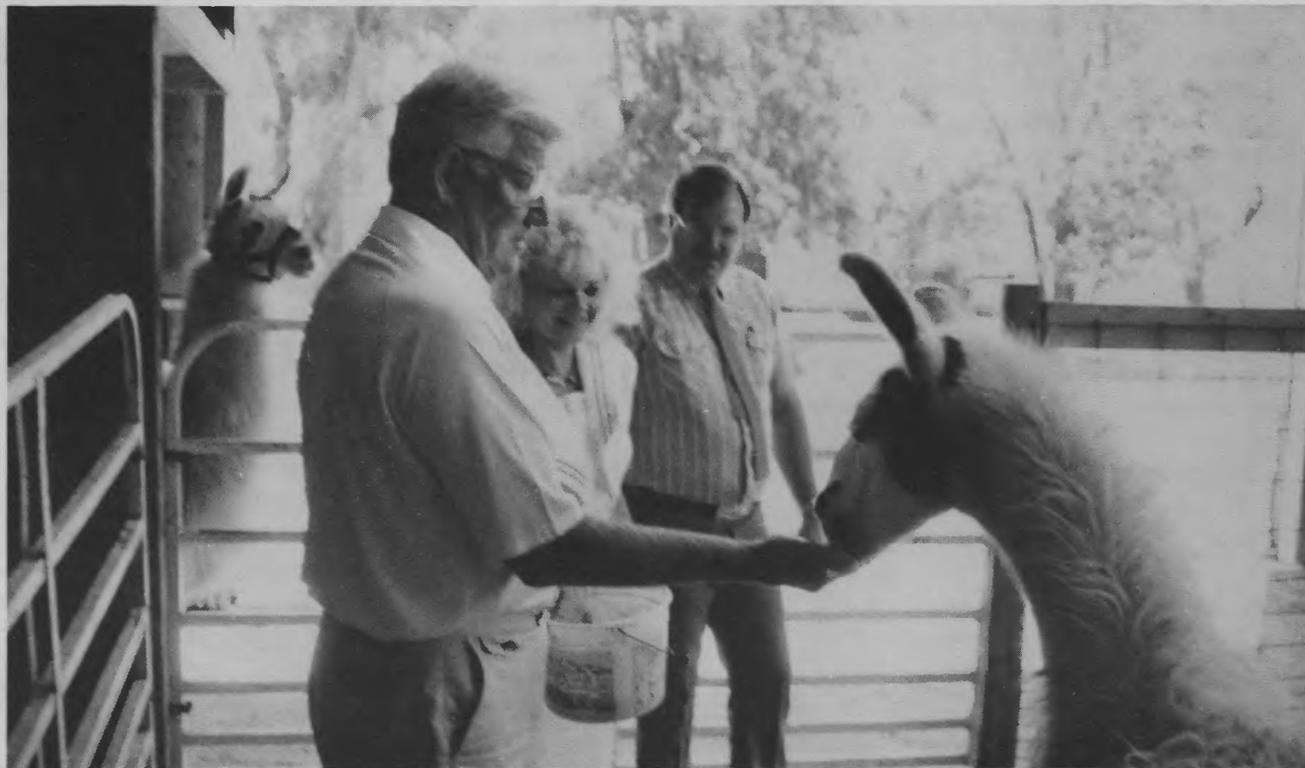
They're sociable animals, gentle and curious, with a streak of independence. Their calm na-

ture and easygoing personalities make them easy for people to handle, even children, Burns says.

Always there's the question: Do they spit? "Yes," Art explains, "they do, although it's not nearly as frequent an occurrence as a lot of people seem to think. Spitting is a way of saying, 'Get lost!' It's usually used to get rid of unwanted suitors or to ward off a perceived threat. Actually, the most common use is simply to establish mealtime pecking order!"

He adds that llamas who have been subjected to excessive human handling will spit at people if they feel threatened.

Art notes that if there is one disadvantage to llamas, it has been their high cost, but that's changing, he says. "For a long time they were pretty expensive, and that scared a lot of people away from them. Prices have started to soften in the last year or so. They're not cheap, but at least they're more affordable. That will make it easier for others to get involved in the business, and that will make things better for everyone."



Art Burns, left, feeds a llama while Jeannie Kingston, EIEC information specialist, and Wm. David Champion, Jr., manager of EIEC, look on.

Board meeting report

On July 28, 1992, the regular meeting of the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the June 23, 1992, regular board meeting and executive session were approved. The board went into executive session.

In addition, the statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending June 30, 1992, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,356,132, Total Operating Expenses \$1,222,612, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,443,656, Operating Margins (\$87,524), Total Margins (\$78,491) and Year-To-Date Margins \$315,461.

In June, 83 members joined the cooperative and 73 terminated their memberships.

Director Raber, chairman of the Land Use and Facilities Committee, reported that the committee had met on July 7 and discussed the laws regulating underground fuel storage tanks, compliance with the "Americans With Disabilities Act" and utilization of the cooperative's land at the recently acquired tower sites. The board approved the committee report.

The Audit and Finance Committee met on July 14. Chairman Warmbir indicated that the committee had examined the accounts of the cooperative and reviewed expense statements, cash receipts, disbursements and supporting data in accordance with the cooperative's bylaws. All records were found to be in order. The report was approved by the board.

Manager Champion informed the board that the cooperative would begin random drug testing of CDL drivers to comply with state and federal regulations. He indicated that effective January 1, 1994, federal law will require utilizing payroll deduction for future employee child support payments. Other information provided by the manager included a rate comparison prepared by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and that a contractor has been hired to inspect and repair underground enclosures, pedestals and transformers. He did not have any new information to report on legal activities.

In other action, the board approved transferring 154 accounts totalling \$27,349.52 from accounts receivable to the accumulated provision for uncollectible accounts (collection activities will not stop on these accounts), executing a subor-

dination agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation so that they can use the cooperative's surface rights, amending Policy 327 — Sexual Harassment and entering into a three-phase contract with David Rothermel north of Gifford.

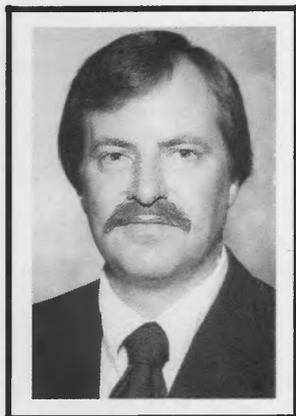
On July 9, a safety meeting was held at the cooperative's headquarters. Director Loy represented the board at that meeting. That afternoon an all employees meeting was held. On July 14, the safety committee met. Manager Champion furnished the board with a written job training and safety activities report for July.

Director Thompson reviewed upcoming seminars, conferences and meetings: the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative will present a Direct Broadcast Satellite Seminar at the AIEC headquarters in Springfield on August 5; the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association will hold a "Law and Leadership Course in Kansas City, Missouri, on August 18-20; all arrangements have been made for the AIEC annual meeting on August 25-27 in Springfield; and the NRECA Region V meeting will be held at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, on September 15-17.

Director Chestnut summarized the AIEC board meeting that he attended on July 16. Alternate Director Byers and Manager Champion also attended. Manager Champion, who is a National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative director, gave a presentation on Direct Broadcast Satellite. He was assisted by Chris Downen, a DBS field representative for NRTC. Reports were given on finance; energy, environment and engineering activities; the 1992 Youth Tour; and legislative and regulatory developments. Plans for the AIEC annual meeting were reviewed.

A report of the July 15 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting was given by Director Warmbir. In addition, Alternate Director Ludwig and Manager Champion attended. On August 17, Kent Wick will become the general manager of Soyland. The Soyland Board heard financial, power supply, and Clinton Power Station reports. A line of credit with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation was extended. Voting delegates were selected for the AIEC annual meeting in August. A written report of the meeting was provided by Manager Champion.

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



Champion

General Manager's Comments by Wm. David Champion, Jr.

Nominating Committee process begins

Even though the cooperative's next annual meeting will not take place until March 13, 1993, Nominating Committee activities begin in October. Members of the committee will be invited to attend the October meeting of the board of directors so that they can observe the board in action. Being a director of a \$40 million business is a big responsibility and commitment. The board of directors that you have selected from each of the 13 directorate districts establishes policies, sets rates and guides the operations of the cooperative.

During December, Nominating Committee elections will be conducted by mail balloting in Directorate Districts 3, 4, 7 and 11. Director elections will be held in

Directorate Districts 1, 5, 10 and 12 at the March 13 annual meeting. Members who are currently serving as directors in those districts are: William P. Raber of Saybrook, District 1; Donald Reitz of Gilman, District 5; Marion Chesnut of Rossville, District 10; and Laverl Byers of Tuscola, District 12.

When the Nominating Committee met last year, they requested that we include an item in one of our publications asking members who are interested in being a candidate for the Nominating Committee election or the board of directors election to contact them. If you are interested in being a member of the Nominating Committee or serving as a director, please contact one of the following committee members:

Nominating Committee

- District 1 Dan Eyer, RR 1 Box 30, Anchor, IL 61720
- District 2 Richard Haag, RR 1 Box 114, Cullom, IL 60929
- District 3 Robert D. Berns, RR 2 Box 60, Clifton, IL 60927
- District 4 Kevin G. Hamrick, RR 1 Box 93, Donovan, IL 60931
- District 5 Robert Schoolman, RR 1 Box 195, Gilman, IL 60938
- District 6 David Burklund, RR 2 Box 36, Paxton, IL 60957
- District 7 Kenneth J. Hieser, RR 1 Box 66, Foosland, IL 61845
- District 8 Larry Roberts, RR 2 Box 150, Penfield, IL 61862
- District 9 John Wilkening, RR 1 Box 78, Cissna Park, IL 60924
- District 10 John W. Clark, RR 1 Box 182A, Rossville, IL 60963
- District 11 Donald A. Cordts, RR 1 Box 87, Atwood, IL 61913
- District 12 Eugene Kamradt, RR 1 Box 191, Tolono, IL 61880
- District 13 James W. Young, RR 1 Box 63, Newman, IL 60942

Remember, this is your cooperative and you have a voice and vote in cooperative matters.

It's your participation that keeps the cooperative truly locally controlled.



Big interest at geotherm

The interest was high at the geothermal open house held Wednesday, August 19, at the new home of Bill and Marla Becker, near Homer in Champaign County. The event was co-hosted by Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative (EIEC), WaterFurnace of Illinois and Ed Hovel, the WaterFurnace dealer who installed the system.

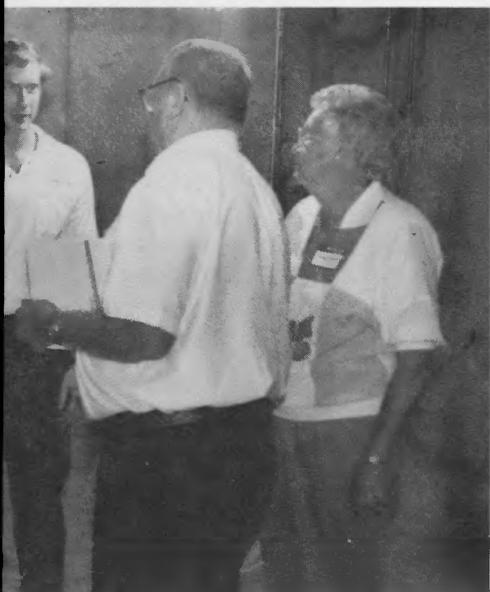
"The crowd amounted to some 75-85 people," said Pat Gallahue, member service and public relations representative for EIEC, "and the people who were there were really interested

in the system and our presentation. It was a successful effort."

Steven Hancock, manager of member and public relations for EIEC, gave a brief presentation on the system, noting that the cooperative has several different rates to enable members to save on their electricity costs, and that a geothermal system would be a good buy for anyone, regardless of who their power supplier was.

Hancock explained that EIEC and, in fact, most other electric suppliers pay different prices for the electricity they sell,

depending on whether the energy is sold during times of heavy demand or during times of light use. "The heavy-use times are called 'peaks'," he said, "and electricity is expensive during those times, 'the other times are 'valleys.' Most electric utilities hope to control the amount of electricity they sell during peaks and increase sales to fill the valleys. These systems are designed to do just that. Our objective in getting involved in this program is to save you money on your electric bills by keeping you off the



Clockwise from left: Two boys test the strength of the plastic piping. WaterFurnace representative Sonny Hampton talks about different kinds of piping, while installer Ed Hovel, left, and EIEC's Steve Hancock listen. Hovel discusses the installation with John Comer of Urbana. The Beckers' new home. Jeff Hovel talks to Ervan and Freda Nibling of Monticello. The piping from the underground "field" joins at a manifold near the house.

closed loops," Hovel said. The only difference is in how they're installed. One is a horizontal loop, which the Beckers have had installed here. We trenched five different ditches, each about five feet deep and 250 feet long. The fluid circulates through them and stays inside the piping. There's no need to find a place to get rid of excess water, or to drill a second well.

"A vertical loop is exactly like a horizontal loop," he emphasized, "in that the heat transfer medium is sealed in the piping and stays there. The only difference is that the loop is buried in a hole about four feet wide and 150 feet deep, instead of being laid out in a big field. You decide which way to go by which costs the least and the land availability. The vertical loop is more practical if you only have a little land to deal with. Otherwise, the systems are exactly the same, except that the vertical loop doesn't require quite as much piping as a horizontal loop in the same application. That's often offset by the fact that it costs more to drill holes than it does to trench."

Hancock summed up by noting that the system offers several advantages. "It's both a heating and cooling system," he stressed, "and it provides most of the domestic hot water needs, too. And changing from heating to cooling is as simple as flipping a switch. We think that the payback period for a geothermal unit will come quickly, and the savings after that will add up fast."

Members who want to explore geothermal possibilities should contact EIEC. We have the expertise and literature to get you off to a good start whether you are building a new home or remodeling your present one. Call us at (217) 379-2131 or (800) 824-5102, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, for more information.

al open house

peaks, while enabling you to use a lot of off-peak, low-cost electricity."

Hovel, the installer, outlined the different kinds of geothermal "loops," noting that there are four different ways to take advantage of the natural warmth or coolness of the earth. "If you have a good well," he said, "and somewhere to get rid of excess water, you can have a system installed fairly reasonably. The water just comes out of the well, runs through the system and goes out into a creek or pond or whatever.

"Another system involves burying a long loop in a good-sized pond. That kind of loop is called a 'closed pond loop,'" he added."

A closed loop, he explained, doesn't involve the use of groundwater, but uses a mixture of water and antifreeze solution that circulates continuously through the system as it runs, picking up warmth and delivering it to the home — or vice-versa — depending on whether it's in the heating or cooling mode.

"There are two other kinds of

Board meeting report

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held on August 24, 1992, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the July 28, 1992, regular board meeting and executive session were approved. The board went into executive session.

In addition, the statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending July 31, 1992, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,413,814, Total Operating Expenses \$1,396,433, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,619,154, Operating Margins (\$205,340), Total Margins (\$194,546) and Year-To-Date Margins \$120,915.

Manager Champion pointed out that the CIPS surcharge billings in the amount of \$339,057.30 have been held in a deferred account and not reflected on the financial statements. He had contacted the cooperative's auditor and requested permission to reopen the cooperative's 1989 books and expense the CIPS surcharge billing in that year because it was associated with the 1989 power costs. According to the auditor, federal accounting standards will not permit the books to be reopened for that purpose; and therefore, the surcharge must be expensed in 1992. Consequently, the \$339,037.30 will be reflected on the August 31, 1992, financial statements.

During July, 108 members joined the cooperative and 89 terminated their memberships.

President Thompson announced that the Executive Committee will meet September 11 and the Land Use and Facilities Committee will meet September 21.

Manager Champion and attorney Fraker explained an offer to settle the EPA case. The board approved the settlement agreement.

In other action, the board approved entering into an interruptible three-phase contract with Peoples Gas Light & Coke north of Mahomet and au-

thorized payment of the 1992-93 dues to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Manager Champion indicated that modifications were needed on the Sidney substation to prevent water from standing when a heavy rain occurs and that the matter is being studied. In addition, he provided an update on the pole testing program and a summary of 1991 real estate taxes paid in 1992. He stated that the people who had attended the geothermal open house were very interested in the concept.

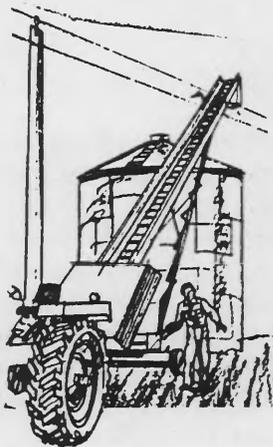
A safety meeting was held at the cooperative's headquarters on August 13. Director Bauer represented the board at that meeting and reported that they had discussed work site protection and flagging procedures. Employees were tested on their knowledge of these procedures. A written August job training and safety activities report was provided by the manager.

Director Ward was selected as the NRECA delegate and vice president Byers as the alternate for the Region V meeting which will be held at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, on September 15-17. Director Byers was selected as the delegate and director Ward as the alternate for the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation meeting that will be held in conjunction with the Region V meeting.

Because the AIEC board had not met, director Chesnut did not have an AIEC report.

The August 19 Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting was attended by director Warmbir, alternate director Ludwig and manager Champion. Financial, power supply, Clinton Power Station, marketing, and economical development reports were given. NRECA and CFC delegates and alternates were selected for the NRECA Region V meeting. Manager Champion provided the board with a written report of the meeting.

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



Are your grain bins ready?

This is another one of those years for farmers. If the weather cooperates, we could have a pretty good crop year.

Regardless of the size of the crop, however, it is important that you thoroughly check the electrical equipment for your grain handling and storage equipment.

Make sure that the motors are oiled, the augers are greased, fuse boxes are cleaned out and connections are checked before the harvest starts. Once the work begins, you don't need a breakdown that could have been averted with maintenance before hand.



Champion

General Manager's Comments by Wm. David Champion, Jr.

The world of satellite TV is changing

Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) is a term that you will be hearing a lot about in the future. This is a new frequency which has been allocated by the FCC for satellite broadcasting of higher powered signals. Since the signals are higher powered, that means the antenna required for receiving the signal can be much smaller than the sizes we have seen in the past. Although the early dishes were 10 feet to 12 feet in diameter, the new DBS dish will be 18 inches in diameter. The cost for the small 18-inch dish will be \$700, much less than the large dishes that cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

The new DBS satellite will be launched by Hughes Communications in December 1993, and programming will be available in early 1994. The program availability will include pay-per-view movies starting every half hour so the consumer can watch the movie of his choice without a long wait, and pay-per-view sports. The consumer will be able to subscribe on a monthly basis to cable-like programming on 17 channels and up to three premium channels such as HBO, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, Showtime and Disney. Contracts for this type of programming are currently being negotiated so the exact programming is still unknown. By the time the project is launched, there may be as many as 150 channels to choose from with the 18-inch dish sitting in a stationary position pointing at the DBS satellite.

As a member of the board of directors representing Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin on the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), I am really excited to finally see rural consumers having the opportunity to receive cable-like pro-

gramming at cable-like prices. It appears that those who will be providing the DBS service will be able to do so for a basic 17 channel programming price of \$12.95 per month. If they choose to lease the small dishes and associated equipment, they should be able to retail the lease at \$12 per month. So that means that for \$24.95 per month, rural consumers can receive cable-like programming without an expensive investment in a dish.

NRTC has worked very hard at getting cable legislation passed which would require programmers to sell their programs at competitive prices and allow us access to all programs. Even though the cable bill passed both the House and the Senate, the President vetoed the bill. On October 5, a two-thirds majority of the Senate and House voted to override the veto.

The DBS project is being headed up by Hughes Communications, the largest satellite manufacturer in the world. There are also two other key players involved. The dish equipment will be manufactured by Thompson Electronics, a division of RCA, and the equipment will be built in their Indianapolis facility. The other player is NRTC, who will be spearheading the distribution to the rural areas through its members.

EIEC is a member of NRTC and would be eligible to provide this service; however, based on a recent survey of a sampling of our members, we feel that the commitment of resources would outweigh the level of interest that was shown in the survey. This is not to say that if the circumstances requiring a large commitment of resources were

(Continued on page 12d)

Glimpses of yesterday's America

Outside the small frame cottage, an ocean of cornstalks rustles gently in the warm Midwestern breeze. Inside the cottage, a colorful New England village — hundreds of miles and a couple of eras away — slowly comes to life brushstroke by brushstroke.

There, on a thin board, a high-stepping mare pulls a hay wagon full of girls in bonnets and happy boys. Cows mingle in front of a white picket fence. Crowning a green hill in the background, a church oversees a northeastern hamlet as its inhabitants go through their daily paces. Is that the distant ringing of the church bell?

Linda Nelson Stocks knows, because it is her world. From the middle of the cornfield near Fisher, she creates rustic New England scenes that dwell in her imagination.

Her world is becoming more and more well-known to others. Governor Jim Edgar knows that world. A Stocks print hangs in his home, a gift to his wife. TV's "The Golden Girls" know that world. A Stocks calendar hangs on a door of their kitchen scenery. Visitors from Japan know that world. They once showed up on Linda Stocks' doorstep and purchased two of her paintings.

Stocks ranks seventh in sales among artists of top-selling calendars in the U.S. Stocks' work, in the "primitive" style of Grandma Moses, was once a pastime. Today, her commitment to calendars and lithograph prints means a constant parade of deadlines.

"It started as a lark," she says, seated in the north window light

of her studio. "Now, so many people are involved, so many are depending on me to get my work done. Now, it's really serious. I can't say, 'Oh, I don't feel like painting.' But, I'd do this even if I didn't get paid."

Stocks' early life did not necessarily forecast her artistic career. Five generations of her family have lived on this farmland. She attended Fisher schools and studied home economics at Michigan State University for two years. She married, Leonard, a civil engineer, and they and their two daughters lived in various cities in Illinois and the East Coast until 1973. The family returned to the Illinois farm to help her father, who was ill. He died within a year and the Stocks family assumed the farm work.

Still, in childhood Stocks loved to hear her grandmother's stories of the horse-and-buggy days, and she explored the countryside. She has always loved children and animals (two German shepherds are studio companions). And, she spent many hours with crayons, watercolors and oils. These hues of her past eventually mixed to color her future. In 1979, Stocks received a book of paintings by Grandma Moses as a Christmas gift. It prompted her first try at painting a primitive scene — a rural setting in which a family brings home a Christmas tree aboard a horse-drawn sleigh. More paintings followed. With no formal art training, she taught herself at the easel.

"I had to learn, 'Do I paint the house on the background, or paint the house first and fill in

the background around it?' It took several hours to create the details of a window," she says.

During a family trip to Wisconsin, Stocks visited a Milwaukee gallery featuring primitive art. Her daughter revealed to the owner that her mother did similar work. The owner invited Stocks to send some photos.

"I thought they were just being nice," she recalls. Nine months went by before she took the offer. In three days, the gallery was on the phone. The Stocks family packed up a mobile home with paintings and



headed to Milwaukee. At the gallery, they began to unload the paintings when, to Stocks' astonishment, a woman approached and asked to buy the second painting out of the trailer.

"I said, 'Don't you want to see the others?' and she said, 'No, I'll have this one.' I'll never forget that."

Requests for her paintings began to grow. One buyer was a Milwaukee housebuilder, Bob Lang, a native of Danville. He thought somebody should make a calendar out of this woman's work. Then, he took the job on himself. Despite an utter lack of printing experience, Lang contacted Stocks, bought paper, found a printer and printed 8,000. They sold out, launching not only Stocks' calendar business but Lang Graphics, now one of the leading publishers of calendars and cards in the country.

The calendar became an annual project, demanding 12 new paintings a year. B Dalton Bookseller, which chooses 50 to 60 kinds of calendars to sell from among almost 6,000 available, includes Stocks creations in its supply. They have ranked seventh for five years.

She states, "One of the biggest satisfactions is that it is consistent. When my calendar first was number seven, there was a calendar representing the 'Miami Vice' TV show. That was the No. 1 selling calendar that year. They're gone now."

In addition to the calendars, four paintings are done each year for limited edition prints, with 1,500 in a single edition. The Stockses and their assistants, Alyssa and Donna Coffin, oversee the painstaking quality process and the customer orders. And then, there's still the planting and harvesting to get done.

Stocks works in the remodeled cottage across the road from her home. She starts by penciling a layout on white paper.

"All the scenes are from my imagination. We go out East and I see the doors, windows and architecture, and put them together. You can't improve on what the men did designing these buildings 200 years ago. I also enjoy painting farm scenes one might have seen in the Midwest many years ago."

Though the deadlines hound her, she finds peace in bringing these scenes to life. "I feel that when I sit here and paint this work, when I really let my imagination go into the picture, I can imagine what these people are doing."

Stocks acknowledges that she wants to be successful, "but not necessarily to make a great deal of money. . . . I don't want my work to be out of people's affordability. I want it to be available to young couples decorating their first home."

Her artwork decorates homes both real and make believe. There was excitement the day the Stockses saw one of her calendars on the kitchen door of "The Golden Girls." Bob Lang sent a new calendar to the show and received "a nice note from Betty White."

Stocks' career has helped add the unexpected to her daily routine. There was the afternoon an assistant director called from a Hollywood television studio. Preparations were under way for taping a Christmas episode of "Look Who's Talking." In one scene, a baby was going to point to the holiday date — on one of Stocks' calendars. The caller was seeking permission to use it.

That's one of the things Linda Nelson Stocks enjoys about this line of work, the unusual experiences it generates.

"You sit here in the middle of a corn field wearing old clothes with paint on them, and you're talking to an assistant TV director in California."



Linda Nelson Stocks in her studio

Board meeting report

On September 22, 1992, the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative held its regular monthly meeting at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the August 24, 1992, regular board meeting and executive session were approved. The board went into executive session.

In addition, the statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending August 31, 1992, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,587,146, Total Operating Expenses \$1,330,435, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,547,678, Operating Margins \$39,468, Total Margins \$46,755 and Year-To-Date Margins \$167,669.

In the month of August, 87 members joined the cooperative and 86 terminated their memberships.

Director Raber reported on the September 21 Land Use and Facilities Committee meeting. The newly acquired tower sites and the underground fuel storage tanks at the Paxton facility were discussed. The committee recommended leasing the tillable portion of the land at the tower sites and established prices. In addition, they recommended fibreglassing the inside of the existing fuel storage tanks and installing protection on the outside of the tanks. The board approved the committee's recommendations.

Manager Champion reported that a random sampling of the cooperative's members had been surveyed to determine if there was sufficient interest in a new type of rural television service called Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS). The survey indicated that around 39 percent of those members surveyed were interested. After a lengthy discussion, the board decided not to proceed with the DBS project.

According to manager Champion, the new 1993-94 construction work plan should be ready to be approved at the October board meeting. He also provided the board with the following information: the cooperative had received a \$1,441 check from United Utility Supply Cooperative, Louisville, Kentucky, which represents a 20 percent cash payment of the 1991 patronage dividends of \$7,206; a five-year Key Ratio Trend Analysis from the National Rural Utilities Coop-

erative Finance Corporation; and a Borrower Statistical Profile for 1991 from the Rural Electrification Administration.

In other action, the board approved work orders from August 1991 through February 1992 and special equipment from March 1991 through August 1992, hiring Electric Laboratory and Sales in Mattoon to test single-phase meters in Region 2, renewing the membership in the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, participating in the Operations Internship Program, and adding a new Ford County Coordinator for the Rural Partners program.

President Thompson advised the board that he and manager Champion had traveled to Indiana and had given a presentation to two cooperatives that are very interested in consolidating.

Director Aden summarized the September 10 safety meeting that he attended. Alan Pinkstaff, safety instructor from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, discussed statewide accidents. All operations personnel participated in pole top rescue training. Manager Champion provided a written job training and safety activities report for the month of September.

It was the consensus of the board that the AIEC annual meeting held on August 25-27 had been a good one. Vice president Byers, who had served as the delegate for the Illinois Statewide Power Cooperative annual meeting, reported dissolution of that organization had been tabled until next year. Directors Byers, Ward, Warmbir and manager Champion indicated that the NRECA Region V meeting held at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, on September 15-17 was one of the better meetings they had attended.

Highlights of the organizational meeting of the AIEC board were given by director Chesnut. The same officers were elected to serve until the next annual meeting which will be held in August 1993. An audit report was given and participating in the Youth to Washington tour was approved.

Because the Soyland Power Cooperative board meeting will be held on September 23, no report on their activities was given.

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

(Continued from page 12a)

to change, that we would not reconsider direct participation in the project. I'm confident that we would be very interested in providing the service if at all possible.

I feel comfortable that someone will be providing the service within the EIEC service area because NRTC is attempting to have complete coverage of

the United States.

Please don't be confused, there are companies advertising Direct Broadcast Satellite service availability who are not telling the truth. The only DBS project that has been licensed by the FCC is the project that I have just described.

I will try to keep you updated with more details as the project progresses.

Survey discussed at Rural Partners meet

Ford County Rural Partners met October 28 at the Gibson City Elementary School for a progress report on its economic development activities, and to recognize some of those who have worked to make the program a success.

Rural Partners, the Illinois Coalition for Rural Community Development, is a group sponsored by the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The mission of the organization is to unite public and private organizations involved in rural development and through shared interest and resources provide coordinated leadership for community development and economic progress in small towns and rural areas in Illinois.

The program is set up in several "modules," and the first module dealt with identifying present and emerging leaders, and beginning their training. The second module enabled some of the emerging leaders to flex their community development muscles by taking a survey to ascertain local needs as perceived by local people.

The Ford County SCAN Committee was set up with that goal in mind. SCAN stands for Systematic Community Assessment of Needs, and Karen Rhodes, Mayor of Gibson City, headed up the effort. "We sent out 387 survey forms to Ford Countians, and received 283 back, she said adding, "That's a 71 percent return rate, and we think that shows a good, solid commitment. We'd have been pleased with a 60 percent rate, and we were really happy with

how well we did."

As part of the survey, 75 business owners and 129 high school seniors were also questioned. Survey results indicated a willingness, and an openness, for county-wide cooperation and planning to improve the county. Eleven percent of those polled believed the county was just fine as it is.

While most of those surveyed thought Ford County was a good place to live, they saw room for improvement, especially in the area of opportunities for shopping. Businesses, for the most part, were holding their own, with services actually showing a healthy growth. The high school seniors indicated that they would like to return to the county after completing their education, but were afraid they

wouldn't be able to because of a lack of employment opportunity. More vocational and high-tech training in the high schools would help, they suggested.

During the meeting, 18 persons were recognized for their efforts, and three were singled out for special recognition. The three were Karen Rhodes, mayor of Gibson City, Brenda Pacey, associate director of Lincoln Trail Library System from Paxton, and Julie Fesenmaier, Rural Partners/Kellogg consultant from Champaign. Steve Hancock, manager of member and public relations for EIEC, conducted the meeting. He is the Ford County Rural Partners team leader. Manager Wm. David Champion, Jr., is liaison to the Program Advisory Committee.



The three area women who received special recognition at the Rural Partners (RP) meeting last month are pictured receiving their awards from Steve Hancock, EIEC manager of member and public relations and Ford County Rural Partners team leader. From left are Hancock, Karen Rhodes, mayor of Gibson City, Brenda Pacey, associate director of the Lincoln Trails Library System, and Julie Fesenmaier, RP consultant from Champaign.



Frank Snow, site superintendent, stands in the back of a pickup truck to spell out the rules and regulations of the hunt for some 120 hunters. The site can handle some 145 hunters a day, and often does.

Pheasant hunters flock to wildlife area

The Iroquois County State Wildlife Area is a multi-purpose recreation area in the northeast corner of Iroquois County, near the town of Beaverville.

This time of year it becomes somewhat single-purpose, as pheasant hunters come from miles around to try their luck and skills on the elusive birds.

Frank Snow, site superinten-

dent for the past 17 years, notes that the area is made up of some 2,480 acres, but that pheasant hunters can hunt on only some 2,000 acres.

He notes that the place is popular with hunters in the know for a very important reason: The season there opens a week before the regular pheasant season, and opened even

earlier this year, on October 28. "That's one reason people come here," he says, "and another is that we're close enough to Chicago that hunters can come here without making a long, expensive trip. And it's a good place to hunt, too."

Snow notes that pheasants are raised for release and that the area closes early enough in the day that personnel are able to release birds late in the afternoon for hunters who come the following day.

"We're set up to handle some 145 hunters a day," he says, "and most of the time we have about that many. In the afternoon before a hunt, we release about 220 birds, both hens and roosters, and let them settle in overnight."

Hunters must check in each morning and pay a fee. Those who are familiar with the site can ask for a preferred hunting area. Many just ask Snow for "a good one." They leave their



Frank Snow, left, site superintendent, points out different hunting areas to EIEC manager Wm. David Champion, Jr., center, while the site's wildlife biologist, John Cole, looks on.

hunting licenses at the office and wait for a short indoctrination and safety lecture by Snow, before they set out to different areas.

He stands in the back of a pickup truck, shouts for attention, and tells all the hunters the ground rules. Specifically, the rules are that all hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange on their upper bodies, this is a shotgun-only hunt, the guns must be "plugged" so their magazines hold no more than three shots, there is to be no shooting of sitting birds, and that there is a daily bag limit of two birds of either sex. Successful or not, hunters must check out before leaving, and any birds that are bagged must be banded before they are taken out of the area.

"You can go to your stations now," he says, "but hunting must not begin before 9 a.m. sharp. When it's legal to hunt, we'll drive around the area in our truck, blowing the horn. Until then, you must wait in your designated parking area."

With those rules spelled out, a migration begins for the parking — and waiting — areas, where hunters unlimber their guns and get ready. Those with dogs give them last minute pep talks, and settle down to wait. It doesn't take long, and soon they're on

their way.

Snow remarks that it is interesting to him to note that there are more women hunting than there were in the past. "Ten years ago or so," he says, "they were a rarity. Now, you almost always see a couple in a day's hunting group, and often there are more than that. Once in a while there'll be as many as 10 in a day."

While pheasant hunting is the big thing in late October and early November, the area is also used by other hunters. Dove hunters can hunt there during the statewide season without permit or fee, and squirrels can be bagged from September 1 to September 30, also without fee or permit. The area has archery and firearm deer seasons, and offers pheasant, quail and rabbit shooting without permit or fee from two days after the close of the controlled pheasant season for five consecutive days. Rail, woodcock and snipe are also hunted there, as are raccoons, opossums and coyotes.

Even with all the emphasis on hunting, there is more to the Iroquois State Wildlife area, Snow says. "We have several designated picnic areas," he relates, "and they have tables and grills located in shady areas convenient to parking. There are sanitary facilities in most areas,

but there are no shelters. Drinking water is available at the headquarters building, and there is a concession stand that operates during the hunting season.

"We have a three-fourths-mile-long hiking trail," he adds, "and a one-mile, self-guided nature trail. About one-third of that trail is accessible to the handicapped. There are also several miles of unmarked trails that wind through wooded and prairie sections of the area that have many interesting plants, animals and birds."

There is an archery range in the northwest corner of the area, and a hand trap range for those who want to warm up for the hunting season. Restricted to use by shotgunners, it's open daily except during November and December. A dog training area is available too, and is closed only from April 1 to August 1 for the protection of breeding animals.

For those who like to tear around in snowmobiles, there are some 12 miles of signed trails that are open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., when there's snow.

"While there's a lot of emphasis on hunting," Snow says, "this really is a multi-purpose area, and we enjoy having people here for other activities, too."



After registering and receiving instructions, hunters await the signal to begin the hunt.

Board meeting report

The regular monthly meeting of the board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held on October 27, 1992, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

John Clark of Rossville and John Wilkening, members of the 1993 Nominating Committee, were welcomed by president Thompson. The committee was invited to attend the board meeting to observe the board in action. On November 2, the Nominating Committee will meet to nominate directors and nominating committee candidates for the terms that will expire at the March 13, 1993, annual meeting. President Thompson asked the four directors whose terms will be expiring if they were interested in running for reelection. Directors Raber, Reitz, Chesnut and Byers responded that if nominated by the committee, they would run for reelection.

Minutes of the September 30, 1992, regular board meeting and executive session were approved. The board went into executive session.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending September 30, 1992, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,527,634, Total Operating Expenses \$1,517,032, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,829,197, Operating Margins (\$301,563) Total Margins (\$292,979) and Year-To-Date Margins (\$125,310.) Manager Champion explained that the CIPS surcharge billing had been expensed in September and created negative margins for the month. A portion of this amount will be recovered through the wholesale power cost adjustment.

During September, 125 members joined the cooperative and 103 terminated their memberships.

President Thompson announced that the Executive Committee will meet November 5 and November 16, and the Audit and Finance Committee will meet November 30.

Manager Champion updated the board on legal activities. He also provided the following information: the 1993-94 construction work plan will be presented for approval at the November board meeting; the fibreglassing of the underground fuel storage tanks will soon be completed; the communication links to the SCADA system which are located at the Fisher, Paxton, Pesotum and Woodland sites are ready to be tested; a

\$27,122.26 check from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation has been received for semi-annual interest on investments; employee Jeannie Kingston has passed the testing and portfolio requirements to become a Certified Rural Electric Communicator; and Aaron Lohnes of Hoopeston who participated in the 1992 essay contest is an exchange student in Finland and has been trading pencils furnished by the cooperative.

Manager Champion indicated that he had sent a letter to President Bush requesting that he reconsider giving federal assistance to the cooperative for the 1991 ice storm damages.

In other action, the board approved entering into a three-phase contract with Mid-America Pipeline Co. in Germanville Township in Livingston County and an interruptible economic development three-phase contract with BLT Pork, Inc. near Melvin; participating in the 1992-93 Illinois Electric Cooperatives Continuing Education program; accepting the low bid for the removal of the antennas and reflectors on the microwave towers at Fisher and Woodland; and authorizing the president and manager to sign REA Form 268, Report of Compliance and Participation.

Director Byers reported on the October 13 safety meeting that he had attended. A highlight of that meeting was a video and fire demonstration that was viewed by all employees. A written October job training and safety activities report was provided by manager Champion.

Summaries of the September 25 and October 15 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative board of directors meetings were given by director Chesnut. The annual audit report was accepted and a committee was established to review the dues assessment formula. Departmental reports were given.

Soyland Power Cooperative board meetings were held on September 23 and October 21. Director Warmbir and manager Champion attended the meetings. Financial, power supply, Clinton Power Station, marketing committee and rate committee reports were given. The firm of Deloitte Touche was selected to perform the 1992 audit. Written reports of the meetings were furnished by the manager.

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

In memory of Burdette Griffith



Griffith

its president and also held the offices of vice president and secretary-treasurer.

Burdette Griffith, a charter member and founding director of Illini Electric Cooperative, died October 23 at his home in rural Dewey. He was 98.

He was a director of Illini Electric Cooperative for 35 years. During his tenure, Griffith served several terms as

Griffith was born March 25, 1894, at McNabb, a son of Walter G. and Fannie Smith Griffith. He married Mable Glenn in 1921. She died in 1978.

He began farming in the Dewey and Fisher area in 1932 after attending the University of Illinois. He was one of the first farmers in the county to use a combine to harvest grain. Griffith was also a member of the Fisher school board, the Champaign County Farm Bureau and the Co-op Locker Service. He was a charter member of the Fisher Lions Club.

Eastern Illini

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General Manager's Comments by Wm. David Champion, Jr.



Champion

On behalf of your cooperative's board of directors and employees, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a new year filled with good health, happiness and prosperity.

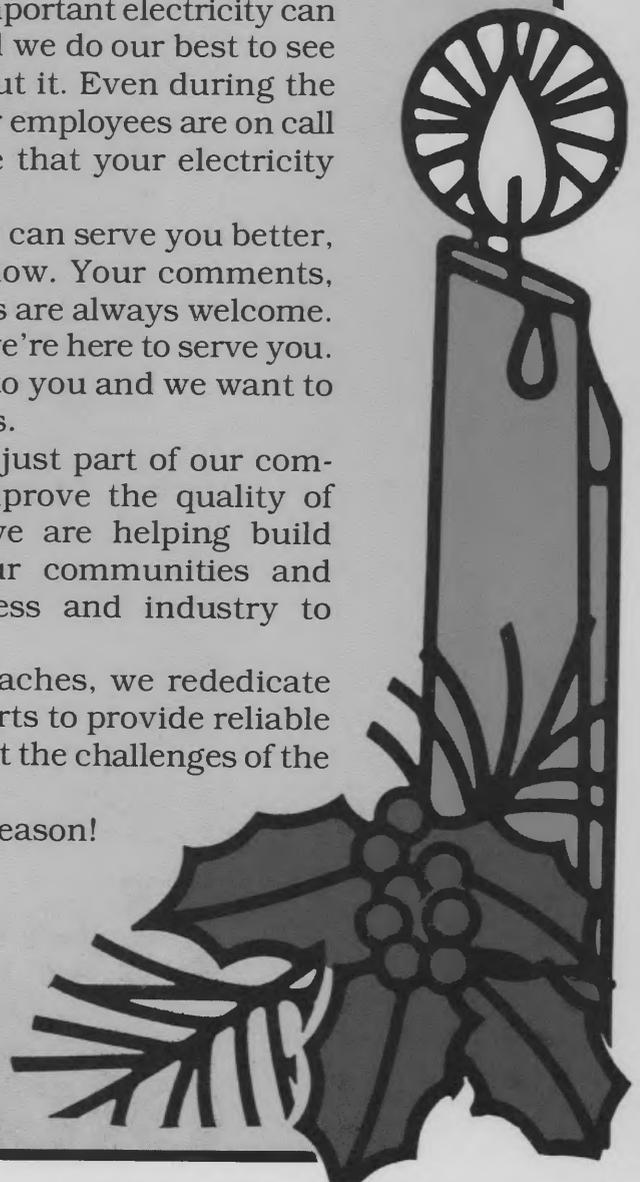
It is our commitment to provide you with the most efficient and economical electric service possible. We know how important electricity can be in your daily lives, and we do our best to see that you are never without it. Even during the festive holiday season, our employees are on call at all times to make sure that your electricity keeps flowing.

If you see a way that we can serve you better, we want you to let us know. Your comments, suggestions and questions are always welcome. Whatever your concern, we're here to serve you. The cooperative belongs to you and we want to meet your growing needs.

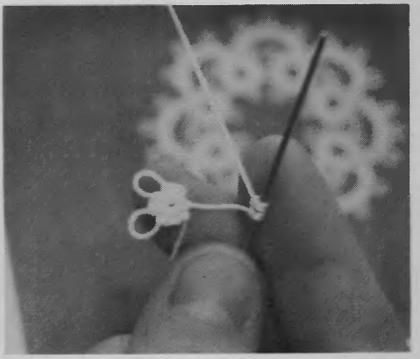
Providing electricity is just part of our commitment. In order to improve the quality of life for our members, we are helping build the infrastructure in our communities and encouraging new business and industry to locate in our area.

As the new year approaches, we rededicate our commitment and efforts to provide reliable electric service and to meet the challenges of the future.

Have a joyful holiday season!



Right: A Christmas tree angel wears a dress Barb tatted just for her. Barb bought the angel at a department store and cut away its original dress to make this creation. Below: Once you know how, it's a simple matter of tying a few basic knots — over and over — to make "poor man's lace."



Rescuing an old art form

The almost-lost art of needle tatting has been pulled back by a thread from the brink of extinction. Barbara Foster of rural Paxton has resuscitated the craft by writing two books about how it's done. The funny thing is, she originally set out to learn smocking!

"I went to a smocking class in Chicago with a friend," she says, "and it was one of those all-day things where you have a morning session doing one thing, and an afternoon session doing something else. My 'something else' was tatting. I had assumed it was going to be a shuttle tatting class," she relates, "and I was astonished when they handed me a needle. I didn't have any idea of what to do with it. Incidentally, there are two ways of making 'poor man's lace' — one is with a needle, and the other is with a shuttle."

She notes that the class was a little unsatisfying in that they got her off to a good start, but left her with nowhere to go.

"The woman who taught the smocking class was a certified

needle tatter," Barb says, "and she was an older lady who had learned from her mother when she was a little girl. We begged her to set up another class, to get us going better."

Six months later, the woman offered a class, and Barb made it a point to go to it.

"It's strange that needle tatting is so much less popular than using a shuttle," she says, "because needle tatting is much easier to learn and a lot simpler to do, too. And it goes faster. Shuttle tatting became popular partly because it was the trendy thing to do in the middle of the last century. Back then, members of the royal families of Europe would decorate their shuttles with fancy stones, and they made a point of going through some elegant moves as they tatted. People ate it up. Since there wasn't much you could do to fancy up a needle, it wasn't fashionable."

With a couple of workshops behind her, Barb set out to find more needle tatting literature, and quickly learned that it is almost completely nonexistent.

"I went to the rare book section of the library at the University of Illinois," she says, "and managed to find one book. I realized that if needle tatting were to keep going, I would have to give it a little boost."

With that in mind, Barb and her husband, Jim, who operates a used farm equipment business out of the home, set out to put together a good, well-illustrated, well-thought-out book for those who were interested. Jim took the pictures, Barb ran the typewriter, and before they knew it, they had a pair of manuscripts ready to take to the printer. They had 1,000 two-book sets run off.

"We're in our third printing now," she says, "and our third book is nicer. We have a color photo on the cover, the illustrations are a little clearer, and I reworked the instructions, too. We went ahead and had 5,000 sets made, since our first two printings sold out so quickly, just being advertised by word of mouth."

When she set out to find patterns, she had tough sledding in that area. It was nearly impossible to find supplies in stores, so she decided to start selling supplies, too. She has a 10-page catalog and says it offers all the supplies anybody needs to needle tat with the finest thread through the coarsest yarn.

"The needles are made overseas," she remarks, "and there are only three distributors in the entire country. I'm one of them. I've put together a kit consisting of a couple of needles, my books, and some thread, and I sell it by mail. I go to a couple of craft shows a year, but I spend most of my time at trade shows, where I can sell supplies, rather than selling my handiwork."

Those who want to learn more can write Barb Foster at R.R. 1, Box 4, Paxton, IL 60957. The telephone number is: (217) 379-3976.



Barb Foster and Wm. David Champion, Jr., EIEC manager, admire a board with samples of Barb's work. She also made the collar on her dress.

Board meeting report

The board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative held its regular monthly meeting on November 24, 1992, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the October 27, 1992, regular board meeting and executive session were approved. The board went into executive session.

The statement of revenues and expenses for the month ending October 31, 1992, including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,542,029, Total Operating Expenses \$1,794,518, Total Cost of Electric Service \$2,021,411, Operating Margins (\$479,382) Total Margins (\$442,079) and Year-To-Date Margins (\$567,389).

During October, 88 members joined the cooperative and 76 terminated their memberships.

Darold Phillips from the consulting engineering firm of Ledbetter, Toth and Associates outlined the proposed 1993-94 construction work plan. He advised that his firm had conducted a voltage analysis of the system and found it to be strong. Most of the proposed work is to continue the program of replacing old wire, which is most susceptible to damage during ice storms. Manager Champion advised that the proposed line construction will be done throughout the cooperative's system. Phillips also presented options to remedy a service problem in Region 1. Stuart Churchill, a field representative with the Rural Electrification Administration, discussed the financial aspects of the project. The 1993-94 work plan, which contained a solution to the service problem, was approved.

President Thompson announced that the Audit and Finance Committee will meet November 30, the Executive Committee will meet December 11, the Land Use and Facilities Committee will meet December 14 and the Annual Meeting Planning Committee will meet December 21.

Steven H. Hancock, Manager of Member and Public Relations, reported on the activities of his department. Through the ERC loan program, the cooperative has loaned \$532,901.10 to 270 members. Most of these loans have financed the installation of dual heat or geothermal systems. During the year, 68 rebates have been issued. The department held two geothermal field days, participated in one county fair, and has demonstrated the Live Line display. Hancock added that he is the team leader for the Ford County Rural Partners/Kellogg Coordinators Team and that they have identified existing and emerging leaders in Ford County and completed a Systematic County-Wide Assessment of Needs Survey.

Manager Champion informed the board that the insurance company who had provided insurance during the 1980s had made an offer to settle on the EPA case. After discussion, the board approved accepting the settlement offer.

Manager Champion indicated that the Nominating Committee had met November 2 and nominated can-

didates for the nominating committee election that will be conducted by mail balloting on December 3. In addition, they nominated director candidates for the director election that will be held at the March 13, 1993, annual meeting.

Other information furnished to the board included: the cooperative has loan funds that remain unadvanced from the Rural Electrification Administration, that buyout legislation has been approved which allows the cooperative to buy out REA notes and that the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation is in a position to lend the money, the manager has received a response from an agent of the White House saying that his most recent follow up request for the March 1991 ice storm damage assistance had been referred to the proper agency for their review, an additional billing has been received from CIPS for interest on the surcharge billing and a \$31,302 check has been received from Central Area Data Processing in St. Peters, Missouri, on a software development loan. Manager Champion also updated the board on land use activities.

In other action, the board approved a power requirements study; a three-phase meter testing agreement with Electric Labs and Sales Corporation in Mattoon; an interruptible contract with Woodland-Darrow Farmers Cooperative, Inc. near Milford; a three-phase interruptible contract with Galesville Elevator at Lotus; a contract with Bramel Tree Service; and that transmission loan funds be transferred to distribution loan funds.

A synopsis of the November 12 safety meeting was given by director Day. Manager Champion furnished the board with a written November job training and safety activities report.

President Thompson advised the board that the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting will be held in Dallas, Texas, on February 14-17, 1993.

Director Chesnut summarized the November 12 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board of directors meeting. Financial reports were reviewed and the feasibility of self insuring workmen's compensation was discussed. Results were given on the recent statewide marketing survey.

An informational meeting was held on November 12 at Soyland for the Soyland directors and managers to discuss specific areas of business with REA and CFC representatives who came from Washington. Alternate director Ludwig and manager Champion represented EIEC at that meeting.

The Soyland Power Cooperative board met November 18. SPC alternate director Ludwig reported that financial, power supply, Clinton Power Station, marketing committee and rate committee reports were given. Director Warmbir and manager Champion were unable to attend that meeting.

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