

# Egyptian Messenger

The Egyptian Messenger, published by the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, with offices in Steeleville and Murphysboro, providing electric service to Southern Illinois.

## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### VANDALISM

Since a high percentage of our lines are in rural areas, they are subject to firearm vandalism. Every year we have a number of cases of damage to insulators, meters or security lights due to gun shots, and some result in outages at a later date. An insulator that is cracked or broken due to a gun shot may fault during a rain shower and cause the line breaker to open. The result is an outage and an inconvenience to the members.

**The monetary cost to the cooperative** and its members has not been that great on an annual basis, but we are greatly concerned that eventually the shooter or an innocent bystander may be injured due to someone damaging the electrical system with gun shots. We are having a particular problem in the Lenzburg substation area with someone shooting out security lights at a road crossing and recently entering the substation and shooting out the wholesale power metering system. For someone to be messing around in our substations is in itself dangerous enough, but to be shooting at equipment inside the station is extremely hazardous. Since the person who did the shooting entered the station, I suspect that a pistol was probably used to do the damage. I assume that because the shooter would have had to crawl over the fence and he probably wanted to get closer to his target.

**It is virtually impossible** for us to catch someone shooting our equipment because the shooting is usually done at night and we are not out and about at night unless we have an outage. So, we must rely on the local law enforcement personnel and on you, the member. If you hear gunshots during the night or see someone around our substations who shouldn't be there, let us know. Also, while it may not be a fair characterization, we assume that the vandals are probably young people and if you have a young son that has firearms, please caution him about the hazards of shooting electric utility equipment. While he may not intend to do so, his target practice may result in someone becoming

seriously injured and no one wants that to happen.

Sometimes it is difficult to tell whether or not a broken insulator has been hit by a bullet or has been struck by lightning, but in most cases a broken or cracked insulator will eventually result in an outage. As an example, during the past year we rebuilt a section of line south of Steeleville and the new line was constructed as a three-phase line with all new material. Since its completion, we have had two insulator failures on the same phase and on the same pole. In both cases the insulator was broken and while we could not determine for sure as to what caused the damage, it is too much of a coincidence for it to be lightning damage. In any event, we had two outages on a new line that we would hope would not have those kind of outages and some members were inconvenienced.

### 1991

We have not closed the books for 1991 as yet, but we do know that it was a record year in terms of wholesale power purchases. For the first time in the history of the cooperative it exceeded 200,000,000 in wholesale kwh purchases and the final figure will be around 204,000,000. That is considerably in excess of my budget estimate for the year and I guess I have to attribute the gain to January and February being a little colder than the year before and a fairly warm July. The number of new members has been rising very slowly and while the growth does account for some of the gain in overall usage, most of the gain is probably due to existing members using more for one reason or another. Since we have not closed the books, we do not know at this point how the cooperative ended the year from a financial standpoint. One would think that a large increase in kwh usage would translate to large margins, but for the first 10 months we sold the final block in the residential rate at 5.0 cents per kilowatt-hour, which is close to our wholesale delivered cost of around 4.7 cents per kilowatt-hour. Thus, if most of the growth is due to your using more and you already use over 500 kilowatt-hours per month, our level of margin on the increased usage is small. I think the cooperative will have a respectable year and the level of margins will be in the range I think they should be, but they will probably be down from some recent years.

**The Rural Electrification Administration** did not act on our loan application in 1991, but indications are that the loan application is being reviewed at the present time. REA has a backlog of about 18 months, so our application should be getting close to the head

of the list. As I reported before, the loan application funds will be used to reimburse the general fund for expenditures that were made to construct system improvements the past two years. We have made excellent progress on the items that were in the loan application and about all that remains is approximately three miles of the Giant City Road rebuild. If ground conditions permit, we should have most of that completed by spring.

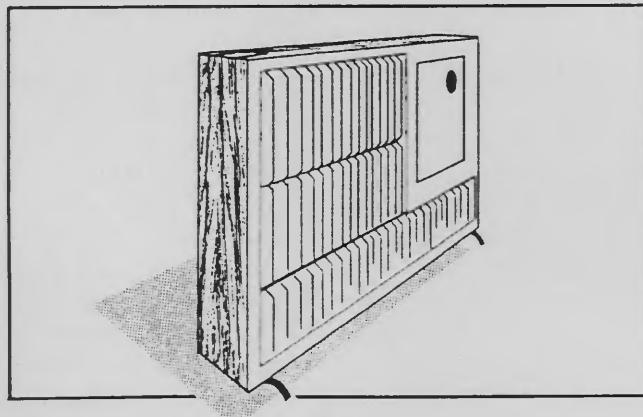
#### PREPAID METERING

The pilot prepaid metering project is going well thus far and we have 24 meters installed. We have not encountered any major problems to date and in a few months we will survey the members with prepaid meters to determine their reaction and opinions. From what we know right now, I believe that we will proceed with this type of metering in special situations. Those situations that would lend themselves to prepaid metering would be high turnover rental property and those accounts where we have repeated collection problems or the member has difficulty budgeting for a power bill on a monthly basis. I do not anticipate that we would make the metering available or require it for the general membership as a whole. It is not cost effective

to require it for someone that can and does pay on time each month. Nor are we staffed to handle the extra workload that would be associated with having everyone on prepaid metering. Right now we handle approximately 11,000 bills a month and are geared for that level. If everyone had prepaid metering, I think that we could expect that they might average two or three cards a month. Thus, instead of handling 11,000 payments a month, we could be handling 30,000 a month and that would mean a great deal more counter traffic and mailing activity. So, if we go with this system, it will be with the problem accounts first and we will build on our experience. Outside of the pilot group, where we were looking for a good cross section of members, we do not intend to install any prepaid meter where it is not cost effective.

#### Office closings

Our offices will be closed on Wednesday, February 12, for Lincoln's Birthday, and Monday, February 17, for Washington's Birthday (President's Day).



### Use care when using portable heaters

Portable space heaters help us keep costs down while keeping warm. However, all portable heaters present some danger. Since they give off heat, parts of them will be hot and will burn someone touching them. All may ignite nearby flammable materials so keep a couple of feet away from them. All portable heaters require special care when used in the presence of children. Special care should be taken with electric heaters to keep them away from water, because water and electricity make a lethal combination.

**Do** choose a certified heater.

**Do** make sure it is properly connected.

**Do** read labels and follow all warnings and instructions.

**Do** keep clear space around the heater.

**Do** keep a window or door partially open at all times when you use an unvented fossil fuel heater.

**Don't** use or store flammable liquids near any portable space heater.

**Don't** put clothes on or over the heater to dry.  
**Don't** use a heater as a "foot warmer," as the surface may be hot enough to cause burns.

**Don't** stand close to a heater while wearing long robes, nightgowns, or other clothing that may catch fire.

**Don't** let children play around the heater.

**Don't** put the heater in locations where people can bump into them or trip.

**Don't** let dirt build up inside the heater.

**Don't** use a portable electric heater in a bathroom.

**Don't** forget regular inspections.

#### Statement of nondiscrimination

"Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association has filed with the federal government a compliance assurance in which it assures the Rural Electrification Administration that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the rules and regulations of the Department of Agriculture issued thereunder, to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program and the operation of its program and the operation of its program facilities. Under this assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color, or national origin in its policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including rates, conditions, and extension of service, use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants of the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operation of this organization."

"Any person who believes himself, or any specific class of individuals, to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VII of the Act and the rules and regulations issued thereunder may, by himself or a representative, file with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or the Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250 or the organization, or all a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed not later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Rural Electrification Administration extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purpose of the rules and regulations."

# WaterFurnace Field Day

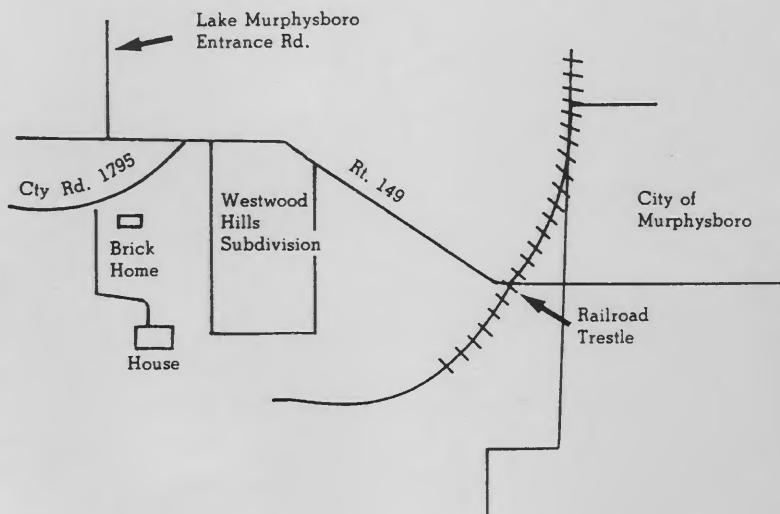
Date: February 1, 1992

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Home of Bryce Cramer

Sponsored by: Williams Heating and Air Conditioning

Directions: Go west out of Murphysboro on Rt. 149,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to top of the hill, turn left on County Road 1795 (approximately 200 yards east of the Lake Murphysboro entrance road). Go 300 yards to the lane on the west side of brick home on the left, turn left on lane and follow lane 1,000 feet.



## Add a heat pump and save

If you heat with gas or oil and are going to replace your central air unit or are considering the installation of central air in your home, you should consider an add-on heat pump. Egyptian Electric offers a \$300 rebate to members who install an add-on heat pump unit in conjunction with their gas or oil furnace. The rebate is also available to new home builders where an add-on heat pump is installed with a gas or oil furnace.

Perhaps you believe your heating system should have provided more heat for the hard-earned money you spent on fuel last winter. Or maybe you're thinking about installing or replacing your central air conditioner. In both cases take a look at the efficient add-on electric heat pump. Only the heat pump can provide year-round living comfort, supplying nearly 80 percent of your home heating needs and all of your cooling requirements.

The heat pump does not produce heat. It simply transfers it. In the winter the pump extracts heat from the cold outside air and pumps it into the house. And it does it efficiently, too. For every kilowatt-hour the pump requires to operate, it produces the equivalent

of anywhere from one to three kilowatt-hours in heat, depending upon conditions. That 100 percent to 300 percent efficiency is the highest of any heating system available, well above the 65 percent seasonal efficiency of the average oil furnace in use.

During the cooling season, the heat pump reverses its cycle and pumps heat outdoors like a conventional air conditioner. And the advantage of its "reverse" is that you don't have to buy a separate unit for cooling.

### How do I qualify for the rebate?

To qualify, contact either the Murphysboro or Steeleville office prior to installation. You will be asked to sign a rebate application and will be given a certification form to give to your heating and air conditioning contractor. When your heating and air conditioning contractor has installed the heat pump, he should send the certification form to Egyptian Electric. Egyptian Electric will then issue a check to you, made out to you and your contractor.

Please contact your nearest cooperative office for any questions you might have. Remember, Egyptian Electric is here to serve you, its members.



HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP  
HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828  
TELEPHONE 736-2211 / 643-5110  
1-800-44RURAL

## BASIC SERVICES

<b>EXPANDED BASIC</b>	\$19.35		Arts & Entertainment	G1-12
	\$12.95		CNN	G1-07
		<b>G1 BASIC</b>	Country Music Television	G1-13
			Discovery	G1-22
			ESPN	G1-09
			Family Channel	G1-11
			Headline News	G1-08
			Nashville Network	G1-02
			USA	G1-21
			WGN	G1-03
			WTBS	G1-18
			KTVT	S3-05
			Learning Channel	F1-02
			Lifetime	G3-20
			Nickelodeon	G3-19
			Nostalgia	F4-21
			Travel Channel	F1-09
			Weather Channel	G3-13
			WPIX	S3-09
			Black Entertainment	F1-20
			MTV	G3-17
			Prime Network	T3-17
			VH-1	G3-15
			WABC	F2-04
			WBBM	F2-02
			WXIA	F2-12
			WSBK	S3-03
			WWOR	G1-15

Any Basic without ESPN    \$1.00 Less

## PREMIUM SERVICES

<b>PT24</b>	WABC - New York	F2-04
\$3.95	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12
<b>SKYLINE</b>	KTLA - Los Angeles	S3-15
\$3.00	WSBK - Boston	S3-03
	WWOR - New York	G1-15

<b>NETLINK</b>	KCNC - Denver	F2-22
\$5.95	KMGH - Denver	F2-03
	KRMA - Denver	F2-18
	KUSA - Denver	F2-01
	KWGN - Denver	F2-17
<b>HBO</b>	East	G1-23
\$7.95	West	F1-13
<b>CINEMAX</b>	East	G1-19
\$7.95	West	F1-23
<b>SHOWTIME</b>	East	G1-05
\$7.95	West	G1-16
<b>MOVIE CHANNEL</b>	East	G1-10
\$7.95	West	G1-14
<b>DISNEY</b>	East	G1-04
\$7.95	West	G1-24
<b>SSN</b>	Home Team Sports, HSE, KBL, MSG, Midwest Sports, Pass, Pacific Sports, Prime Network, Prime Sports NW, Prime Sports, Prime Ticket, Sport South Sunshine Network	

Any two of  
HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Movie Channel, or Disney  
\$14.95

Any three: \$20.95; Any four: \$27.95; All five: \$33.95

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday)  
CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER  
NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434  
or Murphysboro 684-2143.  
AFTER OFFICE HOURS:  
STEELEVILLE AREA — Call 965-3437. If there is a delay, please remain on the line until the call

is answered.

MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call 684-2144.

THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.

5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

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### WINTER BILLS

The January bill payments are coming in this week and as usual, we have received a number of calls from members who thought that there was just no way that they could have used that much electricity during the past billing period. Many of these calls were from members who might have been on vacation or students who went home on break, and consequently, did not occupy the residence during a substantial part of the billing period. Typically, they felt that since they were not there, energy usage should have been down drastically, especially in view of the fact that they turned down the thermostat.

While it is true that the heating system will run less when the thermostat is turned down, it does not mean that it will not run at all. If you set the thermostat at 55 degrees and the outside temperature is 20 degrees, the heating system must make up the temperature differential. If it did not, the residence would cool down and would reach the outdoor temperature if no heat at all were added. Without any heat in operation, everything inside the residence would freeze in cold weather and if you were coming back from break or vacation, you would most likely be coming back to ruptured water pipes and water damage. A reduction in the thermostat setting of fifteen degrees will mean that the heating system will not have to make up that part of the temperature differential, but part of that gain will be lost due to the fact that you are not there putting body heat into the room. While body heat may not seem like much, I am sure that all of us have been places where we have experienced a room getting overly warm because of the number of people in it. You do not notice the same increase in your residence because of the amount of space as opposed to the number of people in it, but your body is contributing energy in the form of heat to the room.

Aside from the heating system, other appliances will also run in your absence. While they may not run as

much because you are not there to use hot water or to open the refrigerator door, hot water heaters and refrigerators will continue to operate in your absence. We purchased a new refrigerator and since it is not as quiet as the old one, I have become more cognizant of how much it runs and it is surprising how much it does run even though the door may not have been opened for a couple of hours. It may be more efficient and use less electricity than the old one, but it is going to run quite a bit whether I am there to open the door or not. If I sat and listened to the water heater, I would probably find the same to be true.

The primary thing to consider in reviewing your electrical usage is to bear in mind the period covered by the bill and what the weather was like during that time. For those of you that do not read your own meter, the approximate billing period is from the twelfth of the month to the twelfth of the next month. You probably receive your bill around the twenty-fifth or twenty-sixth, so some of the weather that drove your bill happened four to six weeks before you actually received it. All of us tend to forget those ten and fifteen degree days when we get the bill and it is around fifty degrees and sunny.

Weather is, however, the factor that has the greatest impact on your bill and temperatures alone do not tell the whole story. While degree days computations are a relative measure, they do not factor in wind and overcast skies. Energy use will increase considerably on cloudy days as compared to sunny days of the same temperatures. The effect of solar heating on the roof and windows of a residence can make a big difference in daytime heating requirements and I think we all recall how few days of sunshine we have had during much of December and January. We have also had some wind, which will really contribute to a home's heat loss as it rushes by windows and other areas that are not well insulated.

While we would like to believe that the meter is wrong, that is seldom the case and the usage can usually be explained if we really think it through and evaluate all the facts. If you really want to see how weather can impact your usage, read your own meter at the same time every day over a month or two. Record the daily weather and after a period of time you will see what drives your bill. You will also see that some living activities such as drying clothes or having house guests or the kids home for the weekend will also impact

usage. I read someplace the other day that the best appliance in the home, from the electrical standpoint, is a teenager and having had three of my own, I can vouch for that.

### EASEMENTS

**One of the concerns** we have in providing service to you and your neighbors is the matter of getting easements. All of us enjoy the benefits of electrical service because somewhere along the line someone was willing to grant an easement to allow the construction of the power lines that deliver the electrical energy to our doorstep. When the rural electrification program first started, people were so happy to be able to receive electrical service that getting an easement was simply a matter of asking for one. Today, however, that is no longer the case and we are having increasing difficulty in obtaining the easements we need to either provide service to a potential new member or construct lines that will make our system more reliable and improve quality of service.

**In some cases** the reluctance to grant an easement is due to fears that it might reduce the value of the property or might somehow interfere with future use of the property. While we might believe that the owner's fears are unfounded, we can understand his concerns and would hope that those fears could be alleviated. What really causes us concern is that there seems to be an attitude developing in this country where we care less about our neighbors and we don't have a concern about how he might get electricity to his property so that he can build a house or use the property for some other purpose. While I hate to put it in this manner, in some instances, it appears to be a case of "I got mine, you see how you get yours."

**Regardless of the reasons** for not giving an easement, when it involves a service to a new location, it puts us squarely in the middle of a no-win situation. On the one hand, we have a prospective new member who has requested service, and on the other hand, we have a current member who does not want to give an easement. The odds are good that one or the other is going to be unhappy with us before the matter is settled. I personally believe that, as an electricity utility that

serves a defined area, the cooperative has an obligation to provide service to anyone who requests it and is willing to abide by the policies and bylaws of the cooperative. I also believe that everyone should be entitled to service and be able to use it in any manner that he chooses as long as it is in conformance with governmental laws and applicable codes.

**We have situations develop** where it appears that the reason for not granting an easement is that someone does not want anyone else living close, does not want anyone else in his view, wants the property for himself, or other similar reasons. The refusal to grant an easement is then for the purpose of trying to freeze someone out and halting development of the property. Whether or not someone should be denied electrical service for these reasons is subject to debate and your viewpoint would probably depend a great deal on whether you were the person wanting the easement or the one asked to grant an easement. We are not in a position to be judge and jury in situations such as this and do not want to be, but we would like to stay out of the middle because all we want to do is provide a service.

**It has been your cooperative's policy** not to buy right-of-way because we are in business only to provide a service and not to make money. Right-of-way that is given is for the use of the membership and there are no stockholders that benefit from the cooperative obtaining it at no cost. It gets back to the idea that everyone with electrical service has benefited from someone else granting an easement, so everyone should be expected to grant an easement if asked. That's probably simplistic, but it has worked for over 50 years. The legal side of the question is that the states decided utility services are in the common interest and have granted utilities the right of eminent domain whereby right-of-ways can be condemned. We have refrained from using eminent domain because the last thing we want to do is to drag a member into court. It is also a long and expensive procedure and though it may get a line built, I am not sure that anyone wins in such cases. I would hope that we can always work things out without having to involve the courts and that people will be willing to help their neighbors.

## Keep your home safe

Two toddlers were playing in their bathtub, splashing water at each other and blowing soap bubbles under the guise of getting clean.

Minutes later, they were dead — victims of something that, used properly, is a helpful and important part of daily life.

Those two Missouri children, ages four and two, died when a portable electric heater — placed on the edge of the bathtub to keep them warm — fell in the bath water and electrocuted them.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 340 Americans — many of them children — are electrocuted every year in accidents

involving ordinary appliances. Another 7,700 visit hospital emergency rooms for treatment of electric shocks and burns.

"The basic message is that many, many of the common problems that lead to fires and injuries can be prevented by keeping a clean house, electric-wise," a commission spokesperson says. The Missouri tragedy was not an isolated incident. Authorities report many cases of electrocution when portable heaters and other appliances fall into water in bathrooms and kitchens.

But appliances are not to blame for most accidents, experts say. Their users are. "Don't blame electricity," says an energy conservation inspector with the

California Energy Office. "I think we've found that it's usually a careless user."

Millions of American consumers probably overuse or misuse electrical products on a regular basis. Most escape unscathed, but hundreds of thousands of others don't.

Consumer Product Safety Commission statistics show the extent of the problem:

- Space heaters were blamed for 3,300 fires in 1982, resulting in 130 deaths, 370 injuries and \$35 million in property losses.
- Hospital emergency rooms treat about 2,200 injuries associated with electric extension cords annually. Half of those injuries are fractures and cuts caused when people tripped over the cords.
- Extension cords also are believed to result in about 4,900 home fires every year, killing 85 people and injuring 230 others.
- 65,000 fires occur with electric ranges and ovens each year, causing about 100 fatalities and 3,800 injuries.

Safety Commission authorities estimate that 169,000 electrical house fires each year kill about 1,100 people, injure another 5,600 and destroy more than \$1 billion worth of property.

Those startling statistics have led authorities to urge consumers to inspect their houses for potential electrical hazards and to make sure they use electricity safely.

If you won't make such an inspection for your own benefit, do it for your kids. Youngsters are particularly vulnerable to electrical injuries and death.

"It's very important because electricity poses a very serious hazard for children, especially younger children," says Kathryn Kincaid, spokesperson for the National Safe Kids Campaign. "They tend to be curious and put everything they see in their mouths."

Kincaid says it takes a little work or money to child-proof a home from the potential dangers of electricity. It's just a matter of spending a few dollars on electric outlet plug covers and making sure cords and appliances are out of a child's reach.

"Just crawl around on your hands and knees and look at things from your child's perspective," she said. "See what's interesting from their level."

If parents don't do such inspections, she says, they

may find themselves taking their children to hospital emergency rooms for treatment of often serious electrical burns.

"We have parents come in with their child to the emergency room at children's hospital and say, 'What could I have done to prevent this?'" Kincaid says. "That's a horrible thing to have to say."

For more information on preventing electricity-related mishaps, write to electrical safety, Washington, D.C. 20207 or Safe Kids, 111 Michigan Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20010-2970.

Some electrical safety dos and don'ts:

- Do teach children not to play with plugs and outlets.
- Do make sure extension cords are not frayed or stiff. Don't use any that fail to pass inspection.
- Do select the proper wattage when changing a light bulb.
- Do install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in wall outlets to guard against electrocution. GFCIs are especially useful in outdoor outlets and in kitchens, bathrooms, basements and garages.
- Do cover unused outlets and extension cords lacking safety closures.
- Do insert plugs fully so that no part of the prong is exposed.
- Don't use portable heaters in bathrooms.
- Don't use portable heaters near open water or leave them in use while unattended or sleeping.
- Don't leave appliances such as hair dryers plugged in after use.
- Don't try to turn a heater into a dryer by placing wet clothing on it.
- Don't bury electrical cords under rugs, instead, move the appliance closer to the plug to keep it away from foot traffic.
- Don't use extension cords on a permanent basis or when they are still coiled or looped.
- Don't use staples or nails to attach extension cords to other surfaces.
- Don't allow an electrical cord to dangle from a counter or table top where it can be pulled or tripped over.
- Don't use lights that flicker on and off. Even occasional blinking can indicate faulty wiring.
- Don't use an appliance that has shocked you. Have it inspected immediately.

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday)  
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# Forest fire protection changes

For many years the Illinois Department of Conservation and the Shawnee National Forest — under a cooperative agreement and with the assistance of local fire departments — protected much of the private land in the 11 southernmost counties of Illinois from forest fires.

That changed on October 1. Since then, local fire departments, along with the Conservation Department, have been handling the chore. Rodney K. Sallee, Forest Supervisor for the Shawnee National Forest, emphasized that his agency will continue cooperating with the Department of Conservation and the rural fire departments to provide fire protection.

"Shawnee National Forest personnel will continue to fight fires on National Forest land," Sallee said. "The rural fire protection districts, local fire departments and the Department of Conservation will handle all fires on private, rural lands, and we will provide backup assistance as required."

Sallee notes that anyone who detects an uncontrolled or unattended fire on private land should report it to the fire protection district or the Department of Conservation. Fires on Shawnee National Forest land should be reported to the Shawnee National Forest. Telephone numbers for reporting or questions about protection boundaries are: For Department of Conservation district foresters: Ozark Project (Gallatin,

Hardin, Massac, Pope and Saline counties), 949-3729, Kinkaid Project (Jackson and Williamson counties), 687-2622.

For the Shawnee National Forest: forest supervisor's office, 253-7114, Elizabethtown Ranger District, 287-2201, Vienna ranger district, 658-2211.

Phone numbers for participating fire departments and fire protection districts in EECA's service area are listed below.

## Report fires in Williamson County to:

Lake of Egypt Fire Protection District	993-2011
Stonefort Fire Department	777-2920
Williamson County Fire Protection District	997-6541

## Report fires in Jackson County to:

Campbell Hill Fire Department	426-3012
Tower Rock Protection District	565-2400
Fountain Bluff Fire Department	763-4242
Makanda Township Fire Department	457-4131
Murphysboro/Pomona/Somerset Fire Protection District	687-2107

Maps showing detailed boundaries of each protection district may be seen at the office of the fire protection districts, the fire departments, the Illinois Department of Conservation, or the Shawnee National Forest.

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Perhaps you believe your heating system should have provided more heat for the hard-earned money you spent on fuel last winter. Or maybe you're thinking about installing or replacing your central air conditioner. In both cases take a look at the efficient add-on electric heat pump. Only the heat pump can provide year-round living comfort, supplying nearly 80 percent of your home heating needs and all of your cooling requirements.

The heat pump does not produce heat. It simply transfers it. In the winter the pump extracts heat from the cold outside air and pumps it into the house. And it does it efficiently, too. For every kilowatt-hour the pump requires to operate, it produces the equivalent

of anywhere from one to three kilowatt-hours in heat, depending upon conditions. That 100 percent to 300 percent efficiency is the highest of any heating system available, well above the 65 percent seasonal efficiency of the average oil furnace in use.

During the cooling season, the heat pump reverses its cycle and pumps heat outdoors like a conventional air conditioner. And the advantage of its "reverse" is that you don't have to buy a separate unit for cooling.

### How do I qualify for the rebate?

To qualify, contact either the Murphysboro or Steeleville office prior to installation. You will be asked to sign a rebate application and will be given a certification form to give to your heating and air conditioning contractor. When your heating and air conditioning contractor has installed the heat pump, he should send the certification form to Egyptian Electric. Egyptian Electric will then issue a check to you, made out to you and your contractor.

Please contact your nearest cooperative office for any questions you might have. Remember, Egyptian Electric is here to serve you, its members.

# Egyptian Messenger

The Egyptian Messenger, published by the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, with offices in Steeleville and Murphysboro, providing electric service to Southern Illinois.

## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### 1992

We have closed the books on 1991 and overall it was a good year for your cooperative. Even though we did not have any real extreme weather in the winter or summer, usage on the system increased considerably over 1990. Most of the increase was in the residential category and we purchased 205,456,086 kilowatt-hours from Southern Illinois Power Co-operative.

**That compares to 191,726,756 kWhs** in 1990 and is the first time that we have purchased more than 200,000,000 kWhs, so last year was a record year in that respect. With the exceptionally mild weather we have had this winter, it appears rather doubtful that 1992 will equal last year in energy usage unless we have a very hot summer and we really do not need for that to happen.

**About the only really** disappointing aspect of last year was that we had only 183 new service builds in 1991. That compares to 230 new service builds in 1990 and that equates to a drop of approximately 20 percent. I think that these figures pretty well reflect the economics of our area and there does not appear to be anything on the immediate horizon that is going to turn this situation around. We are off to a slow start in 1992 and with the shutdown of industry in Red Bud and the concern about the printing industry in Sparta, it does not lead to a great deal of optimism for our area in the near term. Hopefully everything will fall into place, but it does appear that very slow or very little growth is in the cards for the cooperative for at least the short term.

### CONSTRUCTION

The mild winter has permitted us to keep the contract construction going and we are making excellent progress on the items that are in our two year construction plan. Except for one underground line that awaits a state decision on a road change, all that is left to do is complete the Giant

City road project.

We have approximately a half mile to complete behind Lakeland church and about one mile to add on the south end, which will take the rebuild past Spring Arbor Lake and that will wrap up the rebuild on that project. Both those segments are on hold until the ground conditions improve to where we can get started with a reasonable hope of being able to continue without having to shutdown every few days.

Now that the two-year work plan construction is winding down, we will be concentrating our efforts on changing out bad poles and rebuilding some of the very old lines. We have a number of lines that are approaching 50 years in age and still have many of the original poles and copperweld conductor and these lines will be targeted for inspection. Our plan is to change out the copperweld wire with aluminum conductor and on those lines where there are a significant number of bad poles, we will simply replace the existing line in its entirety. In those cases where we do a complete replacement and the existing line is off the road in what we term private right-of-way, we are going to make every effort to work with the property owners to get the lines along the road where we can get to them in any weather.

When the system was first built, the goal was to build it as cheaply as possible and that meant going the shortest route. In many cases that also meant cutting across fields and through woods and while it may have been the cheapest at the time, it does not make it the cheapest to maintain today. Also, lines that are off the roads have to be patrolled on foot during times of bad weather and outages and that greatly lengthens the outage time.

What the emphasis on pole changeouts and the rebuilding of old lines means to some of you in the short term is that you are going to experience a number of outages while these activities are going on. It also means that we may be approaching you to obtain your permission to change the route of a line that is on your property. We ask for your patience and cooperation as we carry on these activities because they are being done to improve reliability and quality of service in your area.

If we replace a 50-year-old line with a new one,

it will probably be there for another 50 years, so we want to put it in the best possible location from a maintenance standpoint and in many cases we are going to need your cooperation and understanding.

**To give you an idea** as to what it takes to maintain a pole line, we have over 40,000 poles on the system at the present time. If we were to change out poles on a 40-year cycle, that would mean at least 1,000 poles a year and at least four for every working day of the year. Fortunately, many poles last more than 40 years, but since the system is over fifty years old, we have a lot of poles that we can not reasonably expect to get too many more years out of them.

**Thus, we plan to change out** a lot of poles in the next couple of years and sooner or later we will be in your area. A great number of the old poles are in the rural areas and are on single-phase lines, so the number of people affected by an outage at any given time will not be that great. However, as with everything else, the inconvenience to any given member when his power is off, is not lessened by the fact that others are also off. We recognize this and apologize in advance for any problems that we may cause you due to our maintenance activities.

**Whenever we change poles** or rebuild a line, the question usually arises as to who gets the old poles. The practice we follow in disposing of old poles is that the property owner has first chance at those poles that we do not plan to reuse. If the property owner does not want them, we generally give them to the first party that asks for them. If a large number of poles are involved, we would prefer that more members share in the poles, but

## Saving on food refrigeration costs

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

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

To maintain a refrigerator-freezer properly, keep the condenser coil clean and unobstructed. Provide adequate space behind, above, and on the sides of the appliance for proper air circulation.

that preference does not override the property owners first rights to the poles.

**As a rule**, we do not reuse poles that have been in the ground more than seven to 10 years and we do not bring poles in for resale because the cost of handling is more than they would be worth. We believe the cooperative's interests are best served by giving the poles to the people providing the right-of-way or to other members. All we ask is that the poles be removed from the right-of-way as soon as possible and that we be consulted as to which poles we do not want.

### ADDRESSES

Last fall we mailed over 8,000 billing packets and had only a handful come back because of incorrect addresses, so we felt pretty confident that our records were in good shape. However, if I have correctly interpreted what I read in Sunday's paper, it appears that those of you who presently have rural route box numbers, and are going to be part of a 911 system, are going to have street addresses assigned.

**We have not talked** to the postal department as yet, but it is probably pretty safe to assume that all of our address records are going to have to reflect the new street addresses. Hopefully we may be able to work something out with the post offices, as we have in the past, whereby we can get the correct information without having to obtain it from each member. If not, we are going to need your help. Judging from the article, it does appear that we have at least a year to a year and a half to make the changes, but time passes quickly, especially when you are talking about a whole county at a time.

And, be sure the appliance is standing level so that the door seals properly. To detect an imbalance, place a small spirit level or glass of water on top of the unit. Check the door gaskets to make sure of a tight seal by placing a dollar bill against the frame and close the door. If the bill drops out, or if it can be pulled out with a very gentle tug, the door should be adjusted or the gasket should be replaced. Defrost the freezer compartment before ice becomes  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick to avoid increasing the compressor's work load and the cost of operation.

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

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

# Plug in your knowledge of electric safety

Electrical safety is something we often take for granted. When situations arise that call for caution, we may not be aware of proper safety procedures. See how your knowledge of electrical safety measures up. Answer the following items either true or false.

1. Overhead electric lines are fully insulated.
2. The electric current from overhead lines can kill, but household current will only give a shock and result in no permanent injury.
3. If a live wire falls on your car, in most cases you are safe from electrical shock as long as you stay in the vehicle.
4. If a live wire falls on your car and you must leave the car because of fire or other danger, you can jump free of the car.
5. Tacking a poster (for instance, to advertise a garage sale or a political candidate) to a power pole can pose a serious hazard.
6. You can safely move a live wire using caution and a dry board or piece of wood.
7. Trees that grow up into power lines power a hazard for tree climbers.
8. Wise parents can protect their children from all hazards by constantly checking for dangers around the house and in the yard.
9. You cooperative has a telephone number you can call to report hazards 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
10. A general rule to help avoid electrical accident is to look up and stay away from overhead lines.

Here are the answers:

1. False. They are not insulated. Overhead lines along streets and roads are bare wire and should be considered extremely dangerous.
2. False. Household current can kill. Check the condition of cords. Don't overload plugs, and do not operate appliances with wet hands.
3. True. Staying in the vehicle is safe. The car tires will help act as a insulator between you and the ground.
4. True. As long as you do not provide a ground for the current, you can safely exit a vehicle by jumping so that both feet leave the car at the same time.
5. True. You can create a hazard for the lineman who may have to climb the pole. Nails, tacks and staples can tear protective equipment and make it difficult for the lineman to use climbing hooks which, in turn, could result in his falling.
6. False. Even dry wood may contain some moisture or chemicals from treatment that may conduct a current. Only your cooperative has the equipment and the expertise to safely move a live wire.
7. True. A tree climber — young or old — can be injured when the tree limbs touch energized lines. Carefully check to see if limbs are touching lines before you begin any tree-trimming.
8. False. Certainly a parent should check for hazards, but a better approach is to also educate the child about electrical dangers. After all, accidents can happen away from home.
9. True. Call Egyptian Electric Cooperative at 965-3434 anytime you see a hazard or damaged line or equipment. In order to make repairs and eliminate the hazard, we need to hear about the problem.
10. True. Many common items can become deadly when they touch an overhead line: antennas, swimming pool skimming rods, irrigation pipe and farm or construction equipment. Remind youngsters to stay away from power lines when they fly kites.

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday)  
CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER  
NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434  
or Murphysboro 684-2143.  
AFTER OFFICE HOURS:  
STEELEVILLE AREA — Call 965-3437. If there is a delay, please remain on the line until the call

- is answered.  
MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call 684-2144.  
THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.
5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

# **Electricity is controlled lightning — respect it!**

Power lines are an ever-present part of our lives today. They are everywhere because they carry the electricity which has become such an indispensable feature of modern life.

But precisely because electricity is so commonplace, we sometimes fail to respect its awesome power that flows along power lines.

Electricity, for all practical purposes, is no different from the lightning that occurs in nature. Its flow is ordinarily controlled, of course, and is entirely safe when used with proper precautions.

But, just like lightning, electricity constantly seeks a path to the ground. That's why wiring has insulation on it and why poles have ceramic or other kinds of insulators: to prevent the electricity from taking a direct path to the ground rather than through our electrically powered machinery and appliances.

And when a human body becomes a direct link between a power line and the earth, the result can be disastrous.

This is why it is so important that we not let the presence of electric power lines become so commonplace that we forget to respect the force which is carried silently along the lines.

- Flying kites or model airplanes — When kite strings or metal guide wires touch live power lines, they can provide the path-to-the-ground that elec-

tricity seeks, making the final part of its journey through the body of the person holding the string or wire.

- Tree climbing — Many youngsters have found countless hours of fun and pleasure climbing trees, but where power lines run between limbs or touch parts of the tree, fun could turn to tragedy.

- Farm equipment — When using farm equipment or moving it around, be especially careful not to let it come in contact with overhead wiring. Should this happen while you or someone else is touching the equipment, you could again provide that vital link to the ground for the electricity.

- Ladders — Be particularly careful when moving a ladder near a power line. It can easily tilt into the live wire and create a disastrous situation.

- Antennas — Being cumbersome and hard to control, antennas are especially dangerous to move about near an electric line. Use caution when installing or replacing an antenna.

In short, consider all overhead power lines dangerous, keep all objects at least 10 feet away from them, and never attempt to raise or move an electric line. Call us for any kind of assistance in dealing with live electric lines. This is our business and we know how to do it safely.

## **Look out . . . and live!**



A close pass at your field's edge may net you a few more rows, but extended farm implements can also snag a power pole guy wire. The result is a harvest of hazard. During the busy planting season and the rush of harvest—at all times—use care around electric lines and equipment. Look out...and live to see another crop grow.

# Egyptian Messenger

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## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### BUDGET BILLING

The end of May is not far off and that is the time of year when we close out the old budget billing year and start a new one. For those of you that may not be aware of it, the cooperative does offer budget billing or leveled payment billing and the best time to enter into such a payment plan is when the budget payment year begins. Starting at the very beginning of the budget year will result in the lowest average payment because you then have more months over which to spread the higher usage months. If you start in the middle of the air conditioning season or just before the heating season starts, we have to set the average bill high enough to ensure that you will owe as little as possible at the end of the budget billing year. Ideally, you would neither owe a balance at the end of the budget year or have a credit coming, but it is impossible to predict the weather that close. If you come to the end of a budget year with a zero balance, it is probably due more to luck than forecasting on our part.

I personally use budget billing for the simple reason that I then know what my utility payment will be each month. Since I am on a summer-winter type of rate at my home, my bills do have some pretty big swings and it is more convenient to pay the same amount each month. Budget billing is not for everyone, but if you believe that it has advantages for you and you would like to be placed on it, simply call one of our offices and the billing supervisor will look at your past usage and compute a monthly budget bill. If your annual bill is about \$1,800 a year, your monthly budget amount would be around \$150 per month if you start budget payments at the beginning of the budget year. Don't expect, however, to call in November to start budget payments and expect to get by with \$150 per month if you heat with electricity. Since there would be fewer months left

in the billing year over which to spread the heating usage, the average budget payment would have to be higher to get you close to a zero balance by the end of May.

### 1992 HEATING SEASON

The 1991-1992 heating season should, for all practical purposes, be over and the 1992 portion was practically a non-event as far as the cooperative is concerned. Most of the cold weather occurred in November of last year and January and February were very mild, with March being a little closer to normal. I had budgeted wholesale purchases for the first three months of this year in the amount of 58,000,000 kilowatt-hours. We actually bought 54,968,341 kilowatt-hours, so the first three months of 1992 are slightly more than 5 percent below budget. Since this is a winter peaking system, we usually count on these three months for a large portion of the year's sales and the year is off to a poor start from the cooperative's standpoint. The good news is that from your point of view the year got off to a good start, so it all evens out.

As those of you have read this column for several years know, I promote heat pumps for this area and share the information I obtain from the submetering in my house. I read the meters on November 1, 1991, and read them again today, April 8, 1992. The main backup heating strip meter showed usage of 432 kilowatt-hours. This strip operates when the compressor cannot keep up, but the usage shown on the meter is not all backup heating because the blower fan is wired such that its usage is also recorded on this meter. Thus, the backup probably operated very little this winter and most of the usage is for the blower. The secondary heating strip, which provided tempering heat for the duct work when the compressor is in defrost mode, used 264 kilowatt-hours. The compressor, which does the vast majority of the heating, used 3,402 kilowatt-hours. Adding the three meters together gives a total of 4,098 kilowatt-hours for the heating season and on the cooperatives rates that would have been about \$215. Not bad!

### 1992 RIGHT-OF-WAY WORK

In another month or so we will start up the main

right-of-way maintenance programs for 1992. This will again involve mowing brush with a hydro-ax machine and spraying. The mowing will be scattered around the system and we will probably start in the Glenn area along Route 3 and move on from there. Spraying will also be scattered over the system and we will be hitting those areas that have not been sprayed in recent years.

We recognize that not everyone agrees with our methods, but we try to do what we believe is effective, economical and environmentally safe. We use only approved chemicals and we do our best to avoid damage to crops and ornamental or shade trees. With the miles of line we have and the large amount of brush that must be controlled, hand cutting is really not an option unless we want to spend a great deal more money, money which must be obtained from the members.

We do trim in farm yards and residential areas and we use a style of trimming that is probably not the most cost effective means of maintaining right-of-ways. However, they are your shade trees and from what I have been reading, you do not like the more cost effective method. Therefore, as long as the membership is willing to pay the bill, we will trim in the manner you prefer. We would,

however, ask your cooperation in letting us take those trees that really are not shade or ornamental and in many cases are hardly more than brush and add little, if anything, to the property. We will trim the good trees, but let us take those you really don't need and everyone will benefit from better service and the cooperative's maintenance costs will be lower over the long haul.

## CONSTRUCTION

As I reported earlier, construction has continued all winter due to the mild weather and we should be wrapping up the planned projects by early summer. After that we will be heavily into changing out old poles and we already have a backlog of several hundred lined up for changeout. We will continue inspecting poles to stay ahead of our crews and the contractor and chances are that sometime during this year you may have your service interrupted by these maintenance activities. If you want the old poles that were on your property and we leave them on the right-of-way, please remove them as soon as possible. Sometimes when they are left there for very long, someone gets the idea that nobody wants them and they disappear.

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# Add a heat pump and save

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If you are considering the installation of central air in your home or if you heat with gas or oil and are going to replace your central air unit, you should consider an add-on heat pump. Egyptian Electric is offering a \$300 rebate to those members who install an add-on heat pump unit in conjunction with their gas or oil furnace. The rebate is also available to new home builders where an add-on heat pump is installed with a gas or oil furnace.

Perhaps you believe your heating system should have provided more heat for the hard-earned money you spent on fuel this past winter. Or maybe you're thinking about installing or replacing your central air conditioner before summer. In both cases take a look at the efficient add-on electric heat pump. Only the heat pump can provide year-round living comfort, supplying nearly 80 percent of your home heating needs and all of your cooling requirements.

The heat pump does not produce heat. It sim-

ply transfers it. In the winter the pump extracts heat from the cold outside air and pumps it into the house. And it does it efficiently, too. For every kilowatt-hour the pump requires to operate, it produces the equivalent of anywhere from one to three kilowatt-hours in heat, depending upon conditions. That 100 percent to 300 percent efficiency is the highest of any heating system available, well above the 65 percent seasonal efficiency of the average oil furnace in use.

During the cooling season, the heat pump reverses its cycle and pumps heat outdoors like a conventional air conditioner. And the advantage of its "reverse" is that you don't have to buy a separate unit for cooling.

### What is a heat pump?

A heat pump is an extremely efficient year-round heating and cooling system that runs on electricity. During the summer, the heat pump "pumps" the heat inside your home to the outside, cooling and dehumidifying your home in the process. In the winter, the heat pump "pumps" heat from the air outside to the air inside, heating your home.

### How does it work?

Heat energy actually moves from a warm area to a cool area. This is why we insulate, to keep the warmth in our homes and not to keep the cold out.

The heat pump takes advantage of this same principle. In the summer, the compressor moves

the freon through the inside coil (evaporator) where it absorbs heat in the air. It then cycles through the outside unit (condenser) where the outside air is cooler than the coils. The heat radiates to the outside air, cooling the freon before it returns to the inside to absorb more heat.

In the winter, the flow of freon is reversed. It flows through the outside unit (now the evaporator) where it absorbs heat from the outside air. From there, it goes to the inside coil where it radiates its heat to the inside cooler air. It is then returned to the outside unit again to absorb more heat energy.

### Why is it so efficient?

Most heating systems convert energy from one form to another to create heat, (gas to a flame, liquid to a flame and electric energy to heat energy). Therefore, they can only give out as much heat energy as the original form contained (most cannot even convert at 100 percent efficiency because heat escapes up the flue with hot exhaust gases).

A heat pump does not change energy forms to create heat. It simply moves free heat in the outside air to the inside. The only energy it needs is for the compressor motor, which "pumps" the freon through the system. Because

percent of the heating needs, but then in the summer air conditioning mode, it would not run enough to remove the humidity in the house. As relative humidity is a large factor in cooling comfort, a heat pump should be sized to the cooling load requirement.

### What is the difference between a heat pump and an add-on heat pump?

When you install a heat pump, your contractor will install a complete heating package, including the outside condenser unit, the inside evaporator coil and an air handler. The air handler contains the auxiliary electric resistant heat strips and the fan that moves the air through the duct system.

When you install an add-on heat pump, your contractor will use your existing furnace (electric, propane, fuel oil or natural gas) for the auxiliary heat and the fan. He will "add" the outside condenser unit and the inside evaporator coil to this existing system.

When the outside temperature falls below the balance point, (where the home's heat loss and the heat pump input are equal) your existing furnace will then begin to work in conjunction with the heat pump. If you have a fossil-fueled furnace, this creates less of a demand on your electric supplier as resistance heat has an extremely high demand.

An add-on heat pump is normally less expensive to install and, depending on the system and type of auxiliary heat, can be less expensive to operate than a package heat pump.

### How do I qualify for the rebate?

If you install an add-on heat pump with a fossil-fueled auxiliary heat system, (fuel oil, propane or natural gas) in your existing or new home, Egyptian Electric will send you a \$300 rebate.

To qualify, contact either the Murphysboro or Steeleville office prior to installation. You will be asked to sign a rebate application and will be given a certification form to give to your heating and air conditioning contractor. When your heating and air conditioning contractor has installed the heat pump, he should send the certification form to Egyptian Electric. Egyptian Electric will then issue a check to you, made out to you and your contractor.

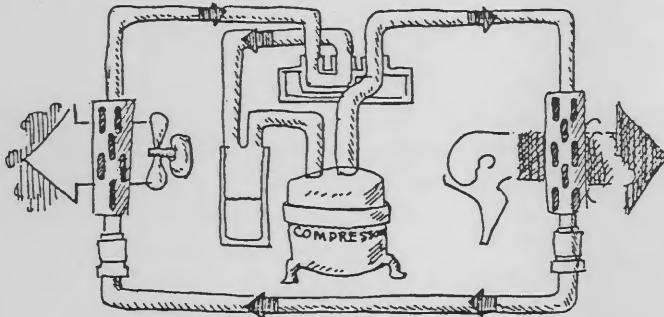
### How much can I save?

Your actual savings will depend on your home and the heat pump used. Normal savings range from 10 percent to 30 percent.

Egyptian Electric has computer programs that will calculate the proper size equipment for your home and the savings that you might expect.

Please contact your nearest cooperative office for any questions you might have. Remember, Egyptian Electric is here to serve you, its members.

You could oversize the heat pump to give 100



it is just moving heat and not creating it, a heat pump is from 100 percent to 300 percent efficient, depending on the unit and the outside air temperature.

### Why do I need auxiliary heat?

As the temperature difference between the air inside your home and the air outside increases, the amount of heat energy (BTU's) needed inside also increases. Conversely, as the outside air temperature decreases, the amount of heat energy (BTU's) that the heat pump can absorb from it decreases. Where the two rates are equal is called the balance point. Below this, the heat pump cannot supply enough heat energy to maintain the inside air temperature. This is when some type of auxiliary heating system is required. This can be from either a fossil-fueled furnace or electric resistance heat.

You could oversize the heat pump to give 100



HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP  
HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828  
TELEPHONE 736-2211 / 643-5110  
1-800-44RURAL

## BASIC SERVICES

EXPANDED BASIC	\$19.35		
BASIC SERVICE	\$12.95	\$8.95	G1 BASIC
Arts & Entertainment			G1-12
CNN			G1-07
Country Music Television			G1-13
Discovery			G1-22
ESPN			G1-09
Family Channel			G1-11
Headline News			G1-08
Nashville Network			G1-02
USA			G1-21
WGN			G1-03
WTBS			G1-18
KTVT			S3-05
Learning Channel			F1-02
Lifetime			G3-20
Nickelodeon			G3-19
Nostalgia			F4-21
Travel Channel			F1-09
Weather Channel			G3-13
WPIX			S3-09
Black Entertainment			F1-20
MTV			G3-17
Prime Network			T3-17
VH-1			G3-15
WABC			F2-04
WBBM			F2-02
WXIA			F2-12
WSBK			S3-03
WWOR			G1-15

Any Basic without ESPN    \$1.00 Less

## PREMIUM SERVICES

PT24	WABC - New York	F2-04
	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12
SKYLINE	KTLA - Los Angeles	S3-15
	WSBK - Boston	S3-03
	WWOR - New York	G1-15
NETLINK	KCNC - Denver	F2-22
	KMGH - Denver	F2-03
	KRMA - Denver	F2-18
	KUSA - Denver	F2-01
	KWGN - Denver	F2-17
HBO	East	G1-23
	West	F1-13
CINEMAX	East	G1-19
	West	F1-23
SHOWTIME	East	G1-05
	West	G1-16
MOVIE CHANNEL	East	G1-10
	West	G1-14
DISNEY	East	G1-04
	West	G1-24
SSN	Home Team Sports, HSE, KBL, MSG, Midwest Sports, Pass, Pacific Sports, Prime Network, Prime Sports NW, Prime Sports, Prime Ticket, Sport South Sunshine Network	

Any two of  
HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Movie Channel, or Disney  
\$14.95

Any three: \$20.95; Any four: \$27.95; All five: \$33.95

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday)  
CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER  
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MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call 684-2144.

THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.

5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

# Egyptian Messenger

The Egyptian Messenger, published by the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, with offices in Steeleville and Murphysboro, providing electric service to Southern Illinois.

## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### INSURANCE

I recently received another mailing in regard to health insurance from a company that uses a name and letter that would lead you to believe that they are somehow associated with the electric cooperatives. The company hopes, of course, that you will associate it with your local electric cooperative and, if you have a good opinion of your local cooperative, you may be inclined to contact them about insurance.

I have discussed this before, but I think it bears repeating every so often because these companies do not seem to go away. I do not know if the insurance they sell is good or bad, but I think you need to use caution with any company that uses deceptive advertising in order to get you to buy their product. If a company has a good product, they should not have to trade on someone else's good name in order to sell it and caution in dealing with them ought to be the order of the day. From our standpoint, I want to repeat that we do not endorse or promote the product of any insurance company and if we were to do so, we would tell you right up front so that there would be no doubt as to whether or not we were promoting it.

Our own association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, NRECA, does in fact sell some form of medical insurance to the members of the electric cooperatives and may have placed an ad in this magazine from time to time. They have asked us to participate in promoting the insurance, but we have declined to do so. We declined not because we do not think they have a good product, since we carry the medical insurance for our own employees with them, but because we did not want to become involved in promoting something over which we had no control but would probably be involved whenever there was a problem. These days there are always some problems associated with medical claims

and we really do not want to take the chance of having the members getting upset with us because their medical claim may not have been settled entirely to their satisfaction. We are not insurance experts and really have no plans to get into the business, so when you get mailings that may lead you to believe that we are endorsing some kind of insurance, please be aware that such is not the case.

### WIRING INSPECTIONS

A few months back I mentioned that there was a scam going around where someone was posing as co-op employees and were doing wiring inspections of members' premises. They, of course, found something wrong that they needed to fix immediately or else they would have to cut off the power. The end result being that the member paid a good deal of money to fix a non-existent problem. I read recently where this had occurred again, so I am going to repeat what you should be aware of in regard to the way we operate.

The number one thing that you should remember is that unless you are behind on your bill and we are there to collect your electric bill, we are never going to be at your door asking for money. We do not inspect your wiring, nor do we do work on your side of the meter, so no employee of Egyptian Electric Cooperative is going to be telling you that you have a problem with your wiring and you need to pay him to fix it. If you are having a problem with your service and we come out and determine that the problem is on your side of the meter, we will tell you that you need to engage the services of a qualified electrician, but we certainly are not going to tell you that we are going to disconnect your service unless you pay us to fix it.

The number one rule in dealing with anyone who is demanding money from you and you are not positive it is legitimate, do not pay. It only takes a phone call to check and nothing can be so urgent that it can not wait five minutes until a phone call is made to verify what the person is telling you. Whether it is your electrical service or anything else, common sense dictates that when you are dealing with people who you do not know, it is a whole lot better to be cautious and safe than a whole lot sorry later. Rarely do people recover their money once they give it to a scam

artist because those people operate on the hit-and-run plan and they are rarely caught.

### PREPAID METERING

We have been surveying those members that have prepaid metering and with about half of the surveys returned, the overwhelming majority likes this form of metering and prefers it over conventional metering where you pay after the fact. Most seem to really appreciate the ability to buy electricity on a schedule that fits their pay periods and they like the ability to keep a close eye on what they use.

I have not made a recommendation to the board of directors as yet, but based on our experience thus far and the member surveys, it does appear that this type of metering is a tool that we can effectively utilize on this system. As I reported previously, I do not anticipate that we would offer this type of metering to the general membership at this time, but would only require it in those situations where it will pay for itself in cutting collection losses and reducing the time spent on collections.

During a typical month we mail 1,200-1,300 late payment notices to those people who have not paid their bill on time. These members are then given a certain number of days to pay and if payment is not received, a disconnect notice is mailed. During a typical month, 400-600 disconnect notices are sent out. After so many days, we start working those accounts where payment has not been received. Typically, those accounts will number around 150 per month. After making as many phone contacts as we can, we will then turn the accounts over to the servicemen for collection and those accounts will average around 80 per month. When all is said and done, we will probably actually disconnect anywhere from 12 to 25 each month for non-payment. Of those that are actually disconnected, no more than a couple of the residences are still occupied. In other words, it is rental property and they have run off and left us with the bill. We make every effort to collect



**Tornado season is here!**

### Tornado safety tips

When the Weather Bureau learns of tornado conditions, it issues a tornado watch. Should a tornado develop, it sends out a tornado warning. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Plan ahead of time where to take shelter.
- If you must be in the field, stay within 10

what is due, but we usually write off between \$30-35,000 each year as uncollectible.

As you might surmise from the foregoing, it takes a considerable amount of time, effort and expense to collect those last few hundred accounts each month and in a number of cases we are dealing with the same people each month. I believe that we are going to have to take a hard look at certain individuals and properties that are causing most of the collection problems and losses and offer them a choice of a high security deposit or prepaid metering. From our standpoint, the prepaid metering is the route to go because a high deposit may cut the losses, but it does not do away with the collecting problems each month. A high deposit just means you do not lose as much when you actually disconnect for non-payment.

For those members that have trouble paying, I really believe prepaid metering is in their best interest. The electric bill has to be paid sooner or later and putting it off until several hundred dollars are owed makes it a whole lot more difficult than buying a few dollars at a time and keeping current. What they avoid in late payment charges and collection trip charges can be used to purchase more electricity and once you are able to monitor daily as to what is going on, you are in a position to make economic decisions as to how much you want to buy and how much you might be able to cut back. There are no surprises at the end of the month with prepaid metering.

### ANNUAL MEETING

Due to scheduling conflicts, the annual meeting is set for one week later than we have been holding it the last eight years and is now set for Thursday, August 6, 1992, so mark your calendars for that date.

### Office closing

Our offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

minutes of your shelter.

- When you learn that a tornado is headed your way, move to shelter. The safest place is an underground shelter. Because of the general direction a tornado takes, the southwest corner is the safest.

- If you are in a vehicle and see a funnel cloud approaching, try to leave the area as rapidly as possible. If you can't escape the path of the tornado, stop and get away from the vehicle. Lie flat in a ravine or ditch and protect your head from flying debris.

- It's a good idea to take cover anytime you encounter an unusually severe storm. Darkness or heavy rain can obscure a funnel cloud and it is best to take cover just in case.

# Let the yellow tag be your guide

There's more to buying an appliance than just looking at the price tag. It's also important to compare energuide labels.

When buying an air conditioner, you should look for a higher number. Air conditioners are labeled with an energy efficiency rating (EER), which is the ratio of the cooling capacity of the unit to the amount of electric power used by the unit. The higher the number, **the more efficient** the air conditioner. You will

save money on operating costs as long as you own it.

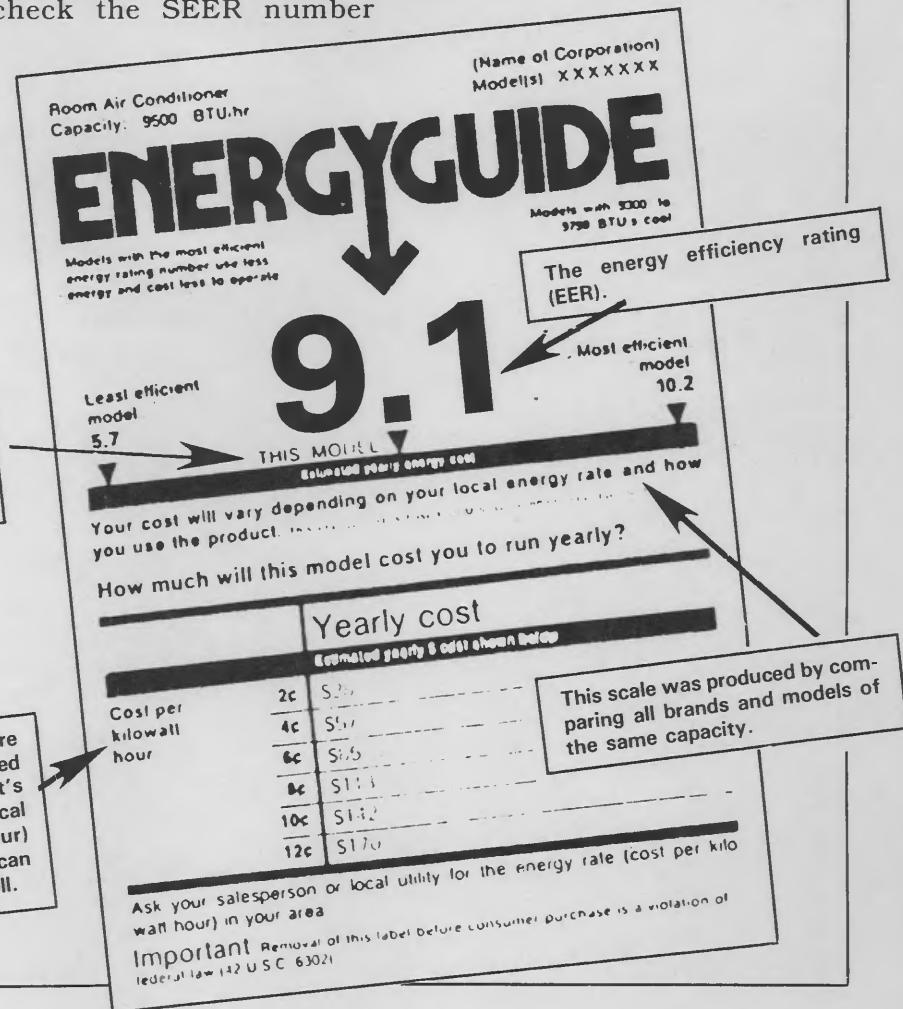
If you are looking at central air conditioning systems, check the SEER number

(seasonal energy efficiency ratio).

Our example illustrates a room air conditioner label.

Where the energy efficiency rating of this particular model falls in comparison to comparable models.

This chart allows you to more closely pinpoint your costs based on your local electrical rate. It's important to determine your local rate (cost per kilowatt-hour) before going shopping. This can be found on your monthly bill.



## Refrigerator economics

Studies at Purdue University and by Whirlpool Corporation have discovered that the number of times a day a refrigerator door is opened has little bearing on the amount of electricity used.

Researchers measured the energy use of a typical refrigerator at different rates of door openings. The measurements spanned a range of 0-80 door openings per day. Whirlpool discovered that the average number is about 45 but a family of six may have over 100.

The studies determined that the number of door openings has a relatively modest effect on overall energy use. The extreme case of shifting from zero openings to 80 openings per day increased the use of electricity by about 25 percent.

Most of the energy is consumed in overcoming heat gain through the walls of the appliance and in operating the automatic defrost feature. This explains why a member's usage (and bill) will not

fall dramatically during the summer when the family is on vacation and the house is empty. Without air conditioning, the heat build-up in the house will force the refrigerator (and the freezer) to operate many more hours than normal. We stress regular cleaning of the gasket on the door and of the frame where the gasket makes contact. A void caused by food particles or dirt buildup creates an opening for the exit of cold air from the refrigerator and a consequent extended running time for the compressor to overcome the loss. And, of course, cleaning the cooling coil often to increase the efficiency of the unit is still good practice.

The conclusion is that, once a refrigerator is purchased, little can be done to reduce its energy consumption — so, when purchasing a refrigerator, choose very carefully for the most efficient model. Then keep it clean.



HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP  
HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828  
TELEPHONE 736-2211 / 643-5110  
1-800-44RURAL

## BASIC SERVICES

\$19.35	\$12.95	\$8.95	Arts & Entertainment	G1-12
			CNN	G1-07
			Country Music Television	G1-13
			Discovery	G1-22
			ESPN	G1-09
			Family Channel	G1-11
			Headline News	G1-08
			Nashville Network	G1-02
			USA	G1-21
			WGN	G1-03
			WTBS	G1-18
			KTVT	S3-05
			Learning Channel	F1-02
			Lifetime	G3-20
			Nickelodeon	G3-19
			Nostalgia	F4-21
			Travel Channel	F1-09
			Weather Channel	G3-13
			WPIX	S3-09
			Black Entertainment	F1-20
			MTV	G3-17
			Prime Network	T3-17
			VH-1	G3-15
			WABC	F2-04
			WBBM	F2-02
			WXIA	F2-12
			WSBK	S3-03
			WWOR	G1-15

Any Basic without ESPN    \$1.00 Less

## PREMIUM SERVICES

PT24	WABC - New York	F2-04
	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12

SKYLINE	KTLA - Los Angeles	S3-15
	WSBK - Boston	S3-03
	WWOR - New York	G1-15

NETLINK	KCNC - Denver	F2-22
	KMGH - Denver	F2-03
	KRMA - Denver	F2-18
	KUSA - Denver	F2-01
	KWGN - Denver	F2-17

HBO	East	G1-23
	West	F1-13

CINEMAX	East	G1-19
	West	F1-23

SHOWTIME	East	G1-05
	West	G1-16

MOVIE CHANNEL	East	G1-10
	West	G1-14

DISNEY	East	G1-04
	West	G1-24

SSN	Home Team Sports, HSE, KBL, MSG, Midwest Sports, Pass, Pacific Sports, Prime Network, Prime Sports NW, Prime Sports, Prime Ticket, Sport South Sunshine Network	

Any two of  
HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Movie Channel, or Disney  
\$14.95

Any three: \$20.95; Any four: \$27.95; All five: \$33.95

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday)  
CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER  
NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434  
or Murphysboro 684-2143.  
AFTER OFFICE HOURS:  
STEELEVILLE AREA — Call 965-3437. If there is a delay, please remain on the line until the call

is answered.

MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call 684-2144.

THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.

5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

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## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### LIGHTNING DAMAGE

This is the time of year that we experience a large number of lightning hits on our lines and some of them cause damage to our system when the intensity of the stroke exceeds the ratings of our equipment. In some cases the voltage surge caused by the lightning strike gets into the member's wiring and causes damage to his equipment, particularly voltage-sensitive electronic controls and circuit boards.

We really cannot do anything to avoid having lightning strike power lines, but there are steps that we as consumers can take to protect sensitive equipment. There are many types of surge arrestors on the market today that a homeowner can install either at the main panel or at individual outlets to protect sensitive and expensive equipment, such as home computers. These surge protectors will protect against any type of surge, whether it be a lightning surge, disturbances generated on the customer's side of the meter or disturbances occurring on the power supply network. With modern equipment becoming more complicated and more sensitive to voltage fluctuations, some type of protection makes sense for many owners of this type of equipment and is something you should consider if you fall into that category.

In those cases where lightning does not cause damage, it will still cause our automatic breakers to operate if it flashes to ground. Once an arc to ground is started, it represents a short circuit on our system and a protective device must operate to break the arc. Thus, you may notice a number of single blinks on your line when lightning activity is heavy. Our automatic circuit breakers are set to operate three times and to lockout on the fourth trip if the short circuit does not clear. If lightning should strike a pole-top pin and arc to ground, you will see one operation of the auto-

matic circuit breaker and the service will be restored. On the other hand, if that same stroke should puncture or shatter the pole-top insulator and a permanent short circuit is created, you will see three quick blinks and then the power will be interrupted. When the power is interrupted, the fact that a breaker operates only once or four times is a clue to us as to what to look for as to the cause of the outage. Power interruptions without three blinks usually mean a wire or jumper burned off to where the source wire is in the clear or a breaker is not operating properly. Several blinks mean a downed wire, something on the line, or a broken insulator.

Rural systems, such as ours, are more prone to lightning damage because of the increased exposure. Power lines in towns and cities are more shielded from the elements by buildings and trees that take the lightning hits, but lines that run through the country side are very exposed and subject to being hit. In many cases our poles are the highest thing around when a lightning storm rolls through, so it is not a matter if the line gets hit, but more a matter of when and where. Most of the time our most serious damage is blown primary fuses, but we do lose a few transformers at member service locations when a particularly severe storm rolls through. When a transformer sustains lightning damage, it will usually be shorted internally and the primary fuse blows and can not be refused. On rare occasions, however, lightning may short out some of the turns in the windings and the transformer can remain in service. Those transformers we do not find until a member complains about abnormally high voltages. It does not happen often, but out of over 7,000 transformers we may get a couple cases a year where transformers have shorted internally and have gone to high voltage.

### DAMAGE CLAIMS

On occasion when a member sustains damage to some of his equipment he will send the repair bill to us because he believes that whatever caused his equipment to fail came in over our lines. We send whatever claims we receive to our insurance carrier, but our carrier's basic position is that it will cover only those claims where negligence on our part caused the damage. So-called Acts of God

and natural weathering are considered beyond our control and our carrier will usually decline to pay damage claims attributed to those causes.

The best course of action for any homeowner or businessman is to carry adequate insurance to protect against damage to electrical equipment. Then, if damage should occur due to causes other than normal wear, a claim can be submitted to one's own homeowner's insurance carrier. In any circumstance, your own insurance carrier is obligated to take care of damage covered by your policy and they then should take whatever recourse they feel necessary against any other parties that they might feel are responsible for the damage. In other words, if there is reason to believe that we, as the power supplier, did something that caused the damage, it is really up to your insurance carrier to take care of you and then file a claim with us. You pay a premium for specified coverages and it is not your responsibility to determine who might be responsible for the damage and try to collect from that party. Many people will probably say that is all fine and good, but what about my deductible? The level of deductibles that each person has in his policy is really a risk decision that each person must make and then be willing to live with thereafter. I personally raised the deductible on my home from \$50 to \$250 several years ago because I was willing to gamble lower premium costs against the chance that I would have a claim. So far, it has been a good decision, but if it goes the other way I will simply have to pay the bill. Each of us has to decide what we can live with and if you can handle a little higher premium as opposed to the chance that you might have to pay a larger amount if you have a loss, then that is the route to take.

From the member's standpoint, our insurance carrier's position on claims may seem a little unfair, but you have to look at it from our side of the matter. If we were to assume responsibility for the damage every time a repairman said it was the power supplier's fault or every time we had something happen on the system, there

would be no end to the claims, legitimate or otherwise, and in most cases we would have no control over the alleged causes. The best advice I can give is to carry good insurance that provides the coverage you need and purchase surge arrestors for expensive and sensitive electronic equipment that you might have in your home.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

Just a reminder that the annual meeting is set for Thursday, August 6, 1992, and will be held in the Steeleville Legion Hall. Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there. The official notice will be in next month's issue, so you can be looking for it then.



#### CAPITAL CREDITS

I think that most current members know that we are refunding capital credits to the estates of deceased members and to date we have refunded well in excess of \$200,000. If you are the heir of someone who was a member of the cooperative, you should inquire as to whether or not that person had accumulated any capital credits. The amount of each person's capital credits is dependent upon that person's usage in the years that the cooperative made an operating margin and can be anything from a few dollars to several hundred dollars. In most cases, it is well worth looking into.

## How to estimate capital credits

Total margins of \$1,313,745.89 for 1991 have been allocated on the books of Egyptian Electric Cooperative. You may estimate the amount allocated to your capital account as follows:

- Step 1. Add up the total amount paid for energy charges only. Do not include taxes or late payment charges.
- Step 2. Multiply total kwh used in 1991

by .04624201.

- Step 3. Subtract Step 2 from Step 1.
- Step 4. Multiply Step 3 amount by .3016164.

The amount computed in Step 4 represents the total amount of capital credits allocated to your account. To determine the amount of operating margins allocated due to Egyptian Electric's operations, multiply the amount in Step 4 by .736.

# Nominating Committee appointed

To: Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Cooperative and in compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Electrification Administration Revised Bulletin 20-19, notice is hereby given to the members of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association that the Cooperative will hold its 54th annual meeting of its members on Thursday evening August 6, 1992, at 7:30 p.m., in the Steeleville American Legion meeting room located on the west side of town and a block south of Broadway.

Notice is further given that the terms of office of directors W. Dean Bame, Ava; Kevin L. Liefer, Red Bud; and Edward C. Timpner, Pinckneyville; will expire at said annual meeting.

Notice is further given that the board of directors of the Cooperative have appointed the following named persons as a nominating committee:

Robert D. Bigham	Pinckneyville
Chester L. Brown	Rockwood
Mary Nell Chew	Carbondale
Richard D. Heine	Campbell Hill
Bill Kuhnert	Ava
Stuart Langrehr	Evansville
Melvin Paul	Marissa
Leonard Priebe	Campbell Hill
Mike D. Robison	Hurst

Notice is further given that the above nominating committee will meet at the Steeleville office

of the Cooperative, located at the west edge of Steeleville, Illinois, on Monday, June 29, 1992, at 8 p.m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for election to the board of directors, and that all members interested may attend said meeting and participate.

The by-laws also provide that the nominating committee, upon making their nominations, shall prepare and post at the office of the Cooperative, at least 30 days before the annual meeting, a list of nominations for directors.

The by-laws further provide that any 15 or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signature not less than 25 days prior to the meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.

The by-laws provide that each active member shall be entitled to one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at the meeting of the members and that proxy voting is prohibited.

A member having questions regarding the above proceedings may contact any officer or member of the board of directors for clarification or further information.

Copies of the by-laws of the Cooperative are available and can be obtained at the Cooperative offices located at Steeleville and Murphysboro, or mailed to you upon request.

Respectfully submitted,  
John E. Steele, Secretary

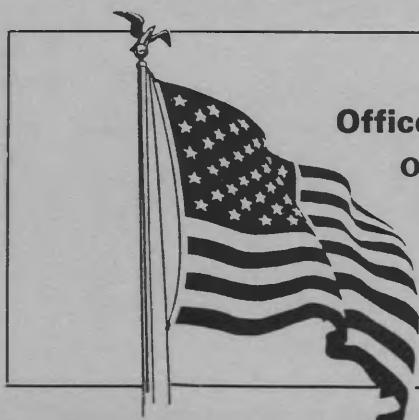
## Rural insurance

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

has no known affiliation with any rural electric cooperative.

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

If you have any questions in regard to this matter, please feel free to call 965-3434.



### Office closing

Our offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, 1992,  
in observance of Independence Day.



HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP  
HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828  
TELEPHONE 736-2211 / 643-5110  
1-800-44RURAL

## BASIC SERVICES

EXPANDED BASIC	\$19.35	
BASIC SERVICE	\$12.95	
G1 BASIC	\$8.95	
		Arts & Entertainment
		CNN
		Country Music Television
		Discovery
		ESPN
		Family Channel
		Headline News
		Nashville Network
		USA
		WGN
		WTBS
		KTVT
		Learning Channel
		Lifetime
		Nickelodeon
		Nostalgia
		Travel Channel
		Weather Channel
		WPIX
		Black Entertainment
		MTV
		Prime Network
		VH-1
		WABC
		WBBM
		WXIA
		WSBK
		WWOR

Any Basic without ESPN    \$1.00 Less

## PREMIUM SERVICES

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\$3.95	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12
	SKYLINE	S3-15
\$3.00	WSBK - Boston	S3-03
	WWOR - New York	G1-15
	NETLINK	F2-22
	KCNC - Denver	F2-03
	KMGH - Denver	F2-18
	KRMA - Denver	F2-01
	KUSA - Denver	F2-17
	KWGN - Denver	
	HBO	East
	G1-08	G1-23
	G1-02	West
	USA	F1-13
	WGN	
	WTBS	
	KTVT	
	Learning Channel	
	Lifetime	
	Nickelodeon	
	Nostalgia	
	Travel Channel	
	Weather Channel	
	WPIX	
	Black Entertainment	
	MTV	
	Prime Network	
	VH-1	
	WABC	
	WBBM	
	WXIA	
	WSBK	
	WWOR	
	SKYLINE	
	NETLINK	
	HBO	
	CINEMAX	
	SHOWTIME	
	MOVIE CHANNEL	
	DISNEY	
	SSN	
	Home Team Sports, HSE, KBL, MSG,	
	Midwest Sports, Pass, Pacific Sports,	
	Prime Network, Prime Sports NW,	
	Prime Sports, Prime Ticket, Sport	
	South Sunshine Network	

Any two of  
HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Movie Channel, or Disney  
\$14.95

Any three: \$20.95; Any four: \$27.95; All five: \$33.95

## What to do if the power goes off

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## Invitation to the annual meeting from the board of directors



Liefer

On behalf of the board of directors of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, I extend a personal invitation to attend your cooperative's 54th annual meeting. The meeting will be held at Steeleville's American Legion Hall on Thursday, August 6, 1992. The hall is air-conditioned and has been very comfortable the past annual meetings in spite of the summer heat.

Registration will begin at 6 p.m., and each member registering will receive an attendance gift. All members registered by 7:30 p.m. will be included in the drawing for 10 "early bird" prizes, which will be \$20 credits to be applied on an electric bill. At the conclusion of the meeting, all members present will be eligible for the drawing of other attendance prizes as well as the two grand prizes of a \$100 credit to be applied to an electric bill. There will also be a drawing for the Anniversary prize, which will be a 20-inch color TV.

As in the past few years, we are planning a very short business meeting to conduct the necessary business affairs of the cooperative, and we will conclude the meeting with Harry Houston as our guest speaker. Additional information on Mr. Houston is included elsewhere in this section. His presentation has been well received by many annual meeting groups, and I believe you will also enjoy him.

From past experience, the most effective method of getting word to the members about the annual meeting is for those reading this announcement to tell others about the meeting. Please help us out and remind your friends and neighbors about the annual meeting. Better yet, bring them with you and let's have a big turnout. This is your opportunity to participate in the operation of your cooperative, and we promise to keep the meeting short and get you home at a reasonably early hour.

**Kevin L. Liefer, President  
Board of Directors**

## Official Notice

### Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

**54th Annual Meeting  
August 6, 1992 7:30 p.m.**

**American Legion Hall  
South Chester Street  
Steeleville, Illinois**

**Action will be taken on the following matters:**

1. Report on the number of members present, in order to determine the existence of a quorum.
2. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting as the case may be.
3. Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meeting of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon.
4. Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, trustees and committees.
5. Election of board members.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Adjournment.

**John E. Steele, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Egyptian Electric Cooperative**

## **From the Manager's Desk**

**by Harry Kuhn**



### **ANNUAL MEETING**

Elsewhere in this section is the official notice of the annual meeting and your attention is called to it. The meeting will be held on August 6, 1992, and will be held in the American Legion Large Hall in Steeleville. Due to scheduling conflicts, we had to set the meeting a week later than in past years, but it does give a few more days notice between the mailing of this notice and the day of the meeting. Those of you that have attended meetings in the past know the hall is air conditioned and suits our purposes very well. As usual, we are planning for a short business meeting and have lined up an entertaining speaker, so why not plan to spend a couple of hours with us on the 6th?

### **REFUNDING OF CAPITAL CREDITS**

For a number of years your cooperative has been refunding accumulated capital credits to the estates of deceased members and to date we have refunded in excess of \$360,000. These retirements have been made in full for the deceased member's share of the margins earned by Egyptian Electric through its own operations during the years the member received service. In the past, refunds to estates have not been discounted for receiving refunds ahead of other members.

The board of directors has determined that the financial position of the cooperative would permit a general refund of capital credits at this time and has authorized the general retirement of capital credits allocated during the period of 1953-1967. Approximately \$220,000 was allocated to the member accounts during this period and that is the amount that will be subject to refunding this year. The refunding of these capital credits would put the cooperative on a 25-year cycle and the goal is to eventually be on a 20-year cycle. Thus, if the cooperative's financial position permits, a refund would be made each year of the capital credits that were earned and allocated twenty years earlier.

Our procedure for making the refunds will be to start with those members who took service during the 1953-67 period and are still members today. There are approximately 10,000 accounts involved, and according to our computer test runs, about 2,000 of those members are still receiving service today. We plan to issue those checks and have them available for distribution at the annual meeting, if all goes as planned. Those checks that are not picked up will be mailed. Once we have made the refund to the active accounts we will then start the process of trying to locate those who received service during the 1953-67 period, but have since left the system. We expect that it will be a long

process, but once we get this initial refund behind us, we should not have to find as many people in subsequent refunds.

Since we are dealing with nearly 10,000 accounts and the amount to be refunded is approximately \$220,000, you can reasonably assume that the average check will not be large. The amount of capital credits allocated to each individual account is based on the member's usage each year, so the size of the checks will vary greatly from member to member and what your neighbor received really has no relation to what you might receive. Whatever the amount might be, it is a benefit you have due to your receiving electric service from a cooperative. Customers of private utilities do not share in the margins or profits unless they happen to be a stockholder of the utility from which they receive service.

Due to the fact that there will be a number of checks that are very small because a member might have received service for a very short period of time during the time period covered by the refund, our procedures call for issuing checks only in excess of \$10.00. Where a member has less than \$10.00 due him or her at this time, the amount will be carried forward to the next refund until such time the total exceeds \$10.00. The \$10.00 minimum will not apply where making the refund would close out a former member's account or where a member requests that an amount of less than \$10.00 be refunded. Because of the cost of writing checks and the fact that many small checks are put aside and not cashed, we believe this approach is practical and cost effective.

Now that the cooperative has started a general refund program and has set a 20-year cycle as a goal, estates will no longer be refunded in full. Heirs will have a choice of receiving the estate's capital credits over the same period of years as everyone else or taking a discounted amount as full payment. The discount will be based on a 20-year discount period. We have not as yet set a date as to when the discounting of estates will begin, but in all likelihood the discounts will apply to all estates where the death of the member occurred after December 31, 1992.

Under state statutes, capital credits that are unclaimed after two years from the date they are made available for refund may be considered abandoned and can be retained by the cooperative for the benefit of the general membership. Any such funds will be retained by the cooperative as operating capital, but a detailed record will be kept of each account and should the owner of an account show up at a later date, he or she will still be entitled to receive the amount that is due them.

Your board of directors and management are pleased to be able to initiate this program and hope that you are pleased as well. As we get into trying to find some of the past members or their heirs, we will probably be publishing names in this section and asking for your help in locating them. Other cooperatives that have started general refund programs have

found that current members can be a big help in locating those who have moved off the system or letting us know who their children might be. Finding owners of 40-year-old accounts may seem like a daunting task,

but if the experience of other cooperatives is a guide, we will probably find around 70 percent of the owners or their heirs. Without your help, it will undoubtedly be something less than that percentage.

## Minutes of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee, in compliance with the by-laws of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, met in Steeleville, Illinois, in the office of the Cooperative, on June 29, 1992, at 8 p.m., to nominate candidates for the office of director of the Cooperative to serve for a three-year term and to be voted upon by the membership of the Cooperative in its annual meeting to be held on August 6, 1992, in the Steeleville American Legion Hall.

Attorney George Twomey opened the meeting by stating that the purpose of the Nominating Committee is to nominate candidates for the office of director of the Cooperative, and that the terms of Mr. W. Dean Bame, Mr. Kevin L. Liefer, and Mr. Edward C. Timpner were expiring this year.

A roll call of the members of the Nominating Committee was taken, and all members were present.

Attorney Twomey stated that the first order of business would be to select a chairman and a secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Melvin Paul was duly selected as chairman of the Committee, and Mr. George Twomey was selected as secretary of the meeting.

### **Annual meeting registration instructions: last name please**

The membership will be divided alphabetically, by the last name. There will be two lines immediately inside the entrance doors for registering members. Be sure that you get in the correct line, as it speeds up registering and keeps the line moving. Members must be registered by 7:30 p.m. to qualify for the "early bird" prizes. Registration will begin as early as 6 p.m.

Entrance to the hall will be through the double doors on the south side, from the walkway between the Legion Hall and the new bowling alley building. Access to this walkway is from the front parking lot towards the bowling alley, or from the west parking lot behind the ball diamond. These entrances will be clearly marked, and Cooperative employees will be located around the area to help direct you to the meeting. The club room doors will be locked, so there will be no entering from the club room.

The chairman instructed the Committee that three or more nominations could be made by the Committee and placed on the ballot. Following a discussion on this, it was unanimously agreed to nominate three candidates.

Mr. Bill Kuhnert nominated Mr. W. Dean Bame, Mr. Stuart Langrehr nominated Mr. Kevin Liefer, and Mr. Robert Bigham nominated Mr. Edward Timpner. Ms. Mary Nell Chew moved that the nominations be closed, and that W. Dean Bame, Stuart Langrehr, and Edward Timpner be nominated by acclamation, and that their names be placed on the ballot, to be voted on at the annual meeting of the members on August 6, 1992.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Richard Heine and unanimously carried.

There being no further business, motion was duly made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Melvin L. Paul, Chairman

Stuart J. Langrehr

Mary Nell Chew

Leonard A. Priebe

Michael D. Robison

Richard D. Heine

Bill Kuhnert

Robert D. Bigham

Chester Brown

## Harry Houston is guest speaker at annual meeting

A fellow worker at Tennessee Farmers Cooperative has dubbed Harry Houston "The Sage of Sand Ridge." What that means is Harry is a wise and witty country fellow. He's a country boy, born and bred, having been raised on the family farm near Sand Ridge, Tennessee. For those who don't know where Sand Ridge is... well, just be assured that it's real country. It's located in Henderson County in West Tennessee.

And when it comes to recognizing the value of cooperatives in the lives of Americans — especially farmers — Harry Houston knows what that's all about, too. He's been working with cooperatives for nearly four decades now.

Combining country humor with his knowledge of cooperatives, Harry has become a popular speaker at gatherings in many parts of the nation. He jokes; he reminisces; he draws on personal experiences to keep his audiences entertained while he's educating

*(Continued on page 12d)*

### **54th Anniversary prize — 20-inch color TV**

#### **Early Bird Prize**

**10 Credits for \$20  
on Electric Bills**

#### **Annual Meeting Grand Prizes**

**Two \$100 Credits  
on Electric Bills**

#### **Free Gift**

**To Each Registered Member**

**Drawing for Attendance Prizes — (Must be present to win prizes)**

**(Continued from page 12c)**

them about cooperatives.

While most of Harry's working life has been spent with cooperatives, it could have taken another course, had he chosen to pursue a trade for which he was trained. After he graduated from high school — and following service in the Navy as World War II was winding down — Harry trained to be a mortician. A more "lively" career lay ahead for him though, and Co-ops in Tennessee — along with their members — have benefited from his service.

Harry began his career with cooperatives back in 1947 as bookkeeper and sales clerk at Henderson Farmers Cooperative in Lexington. He has also served as manager of both Carroll Farmers Cooperative in Huntingdon and Dyer Farmers Cooperative in

Dyersburg.

Harry joined the staff of Tennessee Farmers Cooperative in 1969, first as a general fieldman. In early 1979, he became TFC's Assistant Director of Training and was named to his present position of Director of Training in 1980.

Harry is now responsible for recruiting and directing the training of college graduates to fill key management positions throughout the Tennessee Federation of Farm Supply Cooperatives — TFC and its 79 member Co-ops. He is also responsible for co-ordinating and planning training sessions for Co-op directors and managers and orientation schools for key employees.

He and his wife Ruth live in Dyersburg and are parents of two children — Jim and Cari.



Six students representing Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association on the 1992 Youth to Washington Tour witnessed their government in action during the week of June 15, meeting with Congressman Glenn Poshard of Carterville 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. From left, front row, are Cathy Hamilton of Murphysboro, Congressman Poshard and Karla Miller of Carbondale. Back row, from left, Daniel Kammler of Carbondale, Trent Maxey of Murphysboro, Richard Raymond of Marissa and Jamie Crelling of Carbondale. 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, the 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.

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday)  
CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER  
NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434  
or Murphysboro 684-2143.  
AFTER OFFICE HOURS:  
STEELEVILLE AREA — Call  
965-3437. If there is a delay, please  
remain on the line until the call

is answered.

MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call  
684-2144.

THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY  
REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT  
ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.

5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

# Egyptian Messenger

The Egyptian Messenger, published by the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, with offices in Steeleville and Murphysboro, providing electric service to Southern Illinois.

## From the Manager's Desk

*by Harry Kuhn*



### ANNUAL MEETING

The fifty-fourth annual meeting of the cooperative is now behind us and we had another nice turnout of the members August 6. There were 278 registered members in attendance and the total crowd numbered between 450 and 500. This was my tenth annual meeting as your manager and the size of the turnout in recent years has been

personally gratifying to me. The number required for a quorum is 150 members and the registered attendance at my first annual meeting was 167, so that did not give us a whole lot of room to spare. Since that first meeting the numbers slowly increased to where we have been averaging around 275 registered members for the last few years. The board of directors, the staff and I really appreciate the support and interest the members have shown and hope that those of you who have been coming to the meeting will continue to come and those of you who have never attended a meeting will make plans to do so.

### CAPITAL CREDITS

As I discussed in last month's column, our biggest news at this time is that the cooperative



Three members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association were reelected to the board of directors during the member-owned cooperative's 54th annual meeting August 6 in Steeleville. From left are directors W. Dean Bame of Ava, Kevin Liefer of Red Bud and Edward C. Timpner of Pinckneyville and Harry Kuhn, manager.



**Egyptian Electric employees are busy registering members who turned out for the meeting. A crowd estimated to be between 450 and 500 attended.**

has started the general retirement of capital credits. Capital credits assigned to member accounts for the period of 1953-67 are being retired at the present time and approximately \$220,000 is scheduled to be returned to the members. Our first step in the refund process was to issue checks to all current members who received service during the 1953-67 period and approximately 1,200 members fall into that category. We had those checks available at the annual meeting and quite a few were picked up. The balance will be put in the mail in the next day or two.

The next step in the process will be to try and locate the people who took service during 1953-67, but are not receiving service at the present time. As you can imagine, it will be a long process to locate seven or eight thousand people, but it is not an impossible task. Based on the experience of other cooperatives that started general retirements of capital credits and had to go back 40 or 50 years, we will probably find about 70 percent of those former members. Since we are planning to make future retirements, building a record base on this retirement will make it easier to send out checks for subsequent retirements.

We are following a policy whereby we will not issue checks in amounts less than 10 dollars, unless it closes out an account or a member requests that we do so. We plan to carry forward amounts smaller than 10 dollars to the next retirement until the total retirement exceeds the 10

dollar amount. We are using this approach to avoid the cost of issuing a lot of small checks and also to avoid issuing a lot of small checks that might get thrown in a drawer or be otherwise misplaced and never clear the bank and get off our records. So, if you read that we are refunding capital credits for a particular year, but you did not receive a check, it is probably due to the fact that your refund for that year was less than 10 dollars.

Since this is anticipated to be a continuing program, if the financial condition of the cooperative permits, informing us of address changes once



**Neil Dickey of Sparta won the grand prize, a 20-inch color television set.**

you are no longer receiving service will help us to send you what you are due.

### RATES

Probably the main item of interest at every annual meeting is what we are going to do about rates during the coming year. As many of you know, any rate changes that are made are put into effect with the October billing and we announce our plans at this time of the year. The reason that we have to make a decision no later than July is that it takes several months to have new rate charts and billing packets prepared for the self-billed accounts and those packets must be mailed in early October.

For those of you who were not in attendance at the annual meeting, the official word is that your current rates will remain in effect through September 1993. As has been our practice, we will make another evaluation of the cooperative's finances next summer and make a decision at that time with regard to rate levels beyond 1993. In the meantime, your cooperative's rates will continue to be very competitive with rates offered by other utilities and are among the very lowest in the state of Illinois. While rates are probably never as low as we would like to see them, it is nice to be at the low end of the scale.

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE

For a considerable number of years the state and federal governments have made funds available to assist low income people in paying their utility bills. Because of budget pressure these funds have been declining to the point the state no longer has any money to put into the program and the federal government is headed in that direction. I saw in

the newspaper last week that the federal government budget called for a 40 percent cutback in energy assistance and if that cut stands, those of you who might have received assistance in the past can probably expect that any future assistance will be reduced by that amount.

I don't know what the answer to the problem is, but if we have a colder-than-normal winter, some of our members probably will not be able to pay their bills. That is a problem for both them and the cooperative. About all I can suggest at this time is that if you are someone that has been depending on energy assistance in the past and can spare any money at the present time, you should consider budget billing whereby you might build up a little cushion before the winter bills hit. All you need to do is contact one of our offices and we will compute a budget amount for you.

The proposed cut in energy assistance does point to the problem that our elected leaders face. Everyone is in favor of cutting government spending and balancing the budget, but all government spending affects someone somewhere and cuts are not painless for everyone. The problem is that we tend to believe that government money spent on us is justified and the other guy should stand the pain. If these cuts stand, some of our members are going to feel the direct impact and only time will tell just how severe the impact will be.

### Office closing

Our offices will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.



The distribution of capital credit refund checks was a highlight of the meeting. This was the first time for a general refund.



## Play it safe during harvest

They say you reap what you sow.

If in fact actions lead to the resulting consequences, many accidents could be avoided if time is taken to think safety first.

All year-round, on the farm, in the home, or on the road, safety must be a conscious priority. Specifically during harvest time, many avoidable accidents occur in rural areas.

Modern farming requires the use of large complex machinery. Each year, a tragic number of accidents are caused by careless handling of farm equipment around electric power lines. Egyptian Electric Cooperative urges you to use caution at all times — to watch for overhead power lines and utility poles to avoid any contact with

this potentially lethal power equipment.

Insist that hired hands and family members learn to survey their working area carefully before operating farm equipment. Have every worker make sure the equipment he is using will not come into contact with power lines, poles or power-support equipment.

Although you may have no power lines in your fields, they are usually present in equipment storage areas and grain storage areas.

Be sure paths from equipment storage areas to fields and from fields to grain storage areas are safe routes. There should be ample clearance for combines, pickers, balers, front-end loaders, stackers or any other equipment

you're moving about your farm.

If there is any question about whether equipment will clear a power conductor, assume it won't and take a different route.

More often than not, power lines follow property lines. When you reach the end of a field and turn your equipment, there's a very good chance power lines will be nearby. Always be alert to power lines along your property lines. They may even be hidden by trees or brush, so take precautions to ensure your equipment doesn't make contact.

Grain augers and bins are often used along property lines, too, since such placement makes the best use of the land. Again, be sure the augers don't contact power lines.

Crop-storage equipment such as augers, balers and stackers can be extended in height to exceed electric code clearances for power lines. Take precautions to be sure the stacking equipment won't contact the lines. It only takes one mistake to bring tragedy.

If contact is made while you are on the equipment, remain on the machine and call for help. Have a family member or neighbor call the cooperative and a crew will be sent to disconnect power.

If no one is around to help, jump free of the equipment to the ground. Be sure that at no time you or anyone touches the equipment and the ground at the same time.

Make it a safe autumn season. Think "safety first."

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

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2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

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# Egyptian Messenger

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## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### SUMMER LOADS

As some of you have no doubt noticed, usage this summer has really been below average. We have not received our wholesale power bill for August from the power cooperative as yet, but we can tell from our preliminary estimates that it will be one of the lowest August bills in years. I know that we did not run our air conditioner very much in August and it is pretty obvious that you had yours turned off a good bit of the time.

A summer such as this can really make one look bad when you compare actual usage to budget guesses. When making up the budget, I try to look at the past 10 years and attempt to come up with a figure that will reflect some load growth due to new customers and is based on what I consider to be a reasonable average temperature. None of my graphs or projections allowed for anything like this summer, so consequently it appears that I am off about 15 percent in August energy usage projections. To miss a summer month that much on the high side is really unusual and I would venture to say that I had a lot of company in guessing this summer wrong.

While the below-budget usage does affect our bottom line as well as the bottom line of the power cooperative, the cool summer does not hurt us as bad as those businesses that virtually depend on hot summer temperatures, such as swimming pool distributors. We still have a few fall and winter months to possibly make up the budget deficit, but for a lot of companies, the year is over. As far as we are concerned, the year is what it is and when I make up next year's budget, I will assume that the summer of 1992 was a freak and I won't take it into consideration in next year's guesses. Two years in a row, however, will make me reconsider. I believe that I am pretty safe in discounting this year because my mother is

eighty-three years old and she cannot remember ever seeing a summer like this in North Dakota and she remembers pretty well. One day in the nineties in North Dakota does not a summer make and the odds are slim that there will be two in a row like this one.

### MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

As I reported to you earlier, our major construction projects are completed and we are now concentrating more of our efforts on maintenance. We have been working on right-of-way maintenance and have switched the construction contractor over to changing out bad poles. Right now the contractor is working in the northern half of the system and those of you that are in the area where he is working will be experiencing outages as the new poles are tied into the system. We know that this can be an inconvenience, but changing the poles now will avoid outages later that might occur at much more inopportune times and would be a lot longer in duration. We have over 40,000 poles on the system and many of them are 50 years old, so we won't run out of poles to change and we ask for your patience and cooperation as we perform this needed work. As for the old poles that we replace, our policy is that we leave them for the property owner and if he does not want them, they are up for grabs. We only ask that they be removed from the right-of-way as quickly as possible.

### CAPITAL CREDITS

We can tell from the calls that we are getting that those of you who have received capital credit checks are telling other people about it and we appreciate the help. We only issued checks to current members who received service between 1953-67, so we have to get the word out to those that have already left the system and word of mouth is an effective way of getting the job done. Since it appears that we have about 8,000 people that took service during 1953-67 and have left the system, locating them will be a long project and we will need all the help we can get.

I do want to stress again that we are issuing checks only for the years of 1953-67 and we are not issuing checks for less than \$10, unless the

member insists or issuing the check will close out the account. Refunds of less than \$10 will be carried forward to the next year a retirement is made and a check will be issued when the total amount exceeds \$10. This will hold down the cost of issuing checks and will avoid having a lot of small checks that may be thrown in a drawer and never cashed. Since margins for 1966 and 1967 were small, checks issued to members who had service only during those years would probably average less than a dollar and it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to issue a bunch of checks for such small amounts. We want to do this as cost effectively as

we can and we hope that you will understand.

#### BILLING PACKETS

We are getting down to that time of year when those of you that are on self billing are about out of billing material. The billing packets will be mailed in early October and you will have them in plenty of time before the October bill is due. If you do not have yours by October 20th, please call one of our offices and we will send you another one. As I reported last month, rates will remain the same for another year.



## to buy an add-on heat pump

### What is a Heat Pump?

A heat pump is an extremely efficient, year-round heating and cooling system that runs on electricity. During the summer, the heat pump "pumps" the heat inside your home to the outside, cooling and dehumidifying your home in the process. In the winter, the heat pump "pumps" heat from the air outside to the air inside, heating your home.

### How does it work?

Heat energy actually moves from a warm area to a cool area. This is why we insulate, to keep the warmth in our homes and not to keep the cold out.

The heat pump takes advantage of this same principle. In the summer, the compressor moves the freon through the inside coil (evaporator) where it absorbs heat in the air. It then cycles through the outside unit (condenser) where the outside air is cooler than the coils. The heat radiates to the outside air, cooling the freon before it returns to the inside to absorb more heat.

In the winter, the flow of freon is reversed. It flows through the outside unit (now the evaporator) where it absorbs heat from the outside air. From there, it goes to the inside coil where it radiates its heat to the inside cooler air. It is then returned to the outside unit again to absorb more heat energy.

### Why is it so efficient?

Most heating systems convert energy from one form to another to create heat, (gas to a flame,

liquid to a flame and electric energy to heat energy). Therefore, they can only give out as much heat energy as the original form contained (most cannot even convert at 100 percent efficiency because heat escapes up the flue with hot exhaust gases).

A heat pump does not change energy forms to create heat, it simply moves free heat in the outside air to the inside. The only energy it needs is for the compressor motor which "pumps" the freon through the system. Because it is just moving heat and not creating it, a heat pump is from 170 to 330 percent efficient, depending on the unit and the outside air temperature.

### Why do I need auxiliary heat?

As the temperature difference between the air inside your home and the air outside increases, the amount of heat energy (BTU's) needed inside also increases. Conversely, as the outside air temperature decreases, the amount of heat energy (BTU's) that the heat pump can absorb from it decreases. Where these two rates are equal is called the balance point. Below this, the heat pump cannot supply enough heat energy to maintain the inside air temperature. This is when some type of auxiliary heating system is required. This can be from either a fossil fueled furnace or electric resistance heat.

You could oversize the heat pump to provide 100 percent of the heating needs, but then in the summer air conditioning mode, it would not run enough to remove the humidity in the house. As

relative humidity is a large factor in cooling comfort, a heat pump should be sized to the cooling load requirement.

### What is the difference between a heat pump and an add-on heat pump?

When installing a conventional heat pump, the contractor will install a complete heating system consisting of an outside condenser unit, an inside evaporator coil and an air handler. The air handler contains the auxiliary electric resistance heat strips and the fan that moves the air through the duct system.

An add-on heat pump installation differs from a conventional one in that the contractor will use the home's furnace for the auxiliary heat source and fan. He will simply "add" the outside condenser unit and the inside evaporator coil to the central heating system. The add-on heat pump can be added to an existing heating system or it can be installed in conjunction with a new central heating system in a new home. The add-on heat pump will work with any type of auxiliary system, be it electric, natural gas, fuel oil or propane.

When the outside temperature falls below the balance point, (when the home's heat loss and the heat pump's output are equal) the auxiliary heat system will begin to work in conjunction with the heat pump in order to maintain the thermostat setting. If the auxiliary heat is provided by a natural gas, fuel oil or propane furnace, as opposed to electric resistance heating strips, the electrical demand on the power supply system will be reduced substantially. Such an add-on heat pump adds little, if any, to the electrical system's peak demand during the peak heating times and consequently the cooperative does not incur addi-

tional wholesale power demand charges from its power supplier. That is why a rebate is being offered for add-on heat pumps that are installed in conjunction with a fossil fuel auxiliary heating system.

The add-on heat pump provides the consumer with a choice of two heating systems and allows him to choose the one that might be the most economical at a given time or temperature. If operated properly, the add-on heat pump should provide the consumer with one of the most efficient heating systems available.

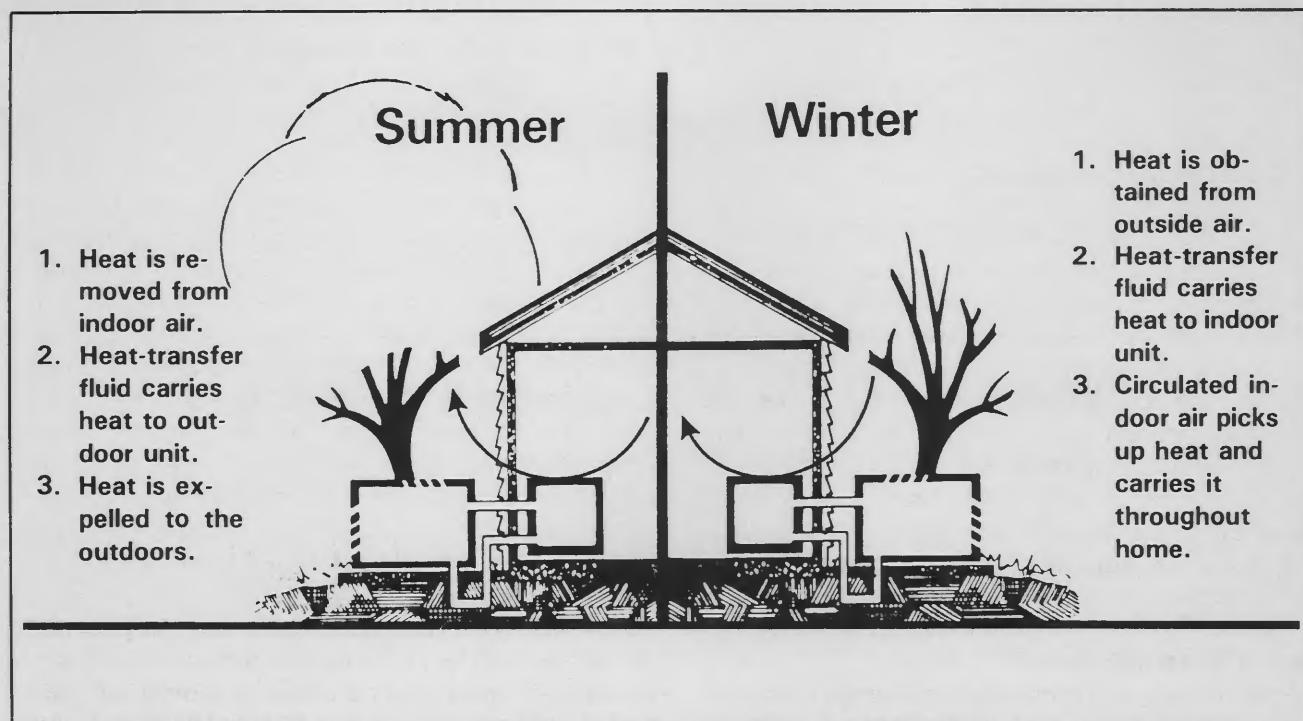
### How do I qualify for the rebate?

If you install an add-on heat pump with a fossil fueled auxiliary heat system, (fuel oil, propane or natural gas) in your existing or new home, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association will send you a \$300 rebate.

To qualify, contact Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association prior to installation. You will be asked to sign a rebate application and will be given a certification form to give to your heating and air conditioning contractor. When your heating and air conditioning contractor has installed the heat pump, he should send the certification form to your cooperative. Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association will then issue a check made out to you.

### How much can I save?

Your actual savings will depend on your home and the heat pump used. Normal savings range from 10 percent to 30 percent. Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association has computer programs that will calculate the proper size equipment for your home and the savings that you might expect.





**HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP**  
 HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828  
 TELEPHONE 736-2211 / 643-5110  
 1-800-44RURAL

## BASIC SERVICES

<b>EXPANDED BASIC</b>	\$19.35	Arts & Entertainment	G1-12
	\$12.95	CNN	G1-07
	\$8.95	Country Music Television	G1-13
		Discovery	G1-22
		ESPN	G1-09
		Family Channel	G1-11
		Headline News	G1-08
		Nashville Network	G1-02
		USA	G1-21
		WGN	G1-03
		WTBS	G1-18
		KTVT	S3-05
		Learning Channel	F1-02
		Lifetime	G3-20
		Nickelodeon	G3-19
		Nostalgia	F4-21
		Travel Channel	F1-09
		Weather Channel	G3-13
		WPIX	S3-09
		Black Entertainment	F1-20
		MTV	G3-17
		Prime Network	T3-17
		VH-1	G3-15
		WABC	F2-04
		WBBM	F2-02
		WXIA	F2-12
		WSBK	S3-03
		WWOR	G1-15

Any Basic without ESPN    \$1.00 Less

## PREMIUM SERVICES

<b>PT24</b>	WABC - New York	F2-04
\$3.95	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12
<b>SKYLINE</b>	KTLA - Los Angeles	S3-15
\$3.00	WSBK - Boston	S3-03
	WWOR - New York	G1-15

<b>NETLINK</b>	KCNC - Denver	F2-22
\$5.95	KMGH - Denver	F2-03
	KRMA - Denver	F2-18
	KUSA - Denver	F2-01
	KWGN - Denver	F2-17
<b>HBO</b>	East	G1-23
\$7.95	West	F1-13
<b>CINEMAX</b>	East	G1-19
\$7.95	West	F1-23
<b>SHOWTIME</b>	East	G1-05
\$7.95	West	G1-16
<b>MOVIE CHANNEL</b>	East	G1-10
\$7.95	West	G1-14
<b>DISNEY</b>	East	G1-04
\$7.95	West	G1-24
<b>SSN</b>	Home Team Sports, HSE, KBL, MSG, Midwest Sports, Pass, Pacific Sports, Prime Network, Prime Sports NW, Prime Sports, Prime Ticket, Sport South Sunshine Network	

Any two of  
HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Movie Channel, or Disney  
\$14.95

Any three: \$20.95; Any four: \$27.95; All five: \$33.95

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday)  
CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER  
NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434  
or Murphysboro 684-2143.  
AFTER OFFICE HOURS:  
STEELEVILLE AREA — Call 965-3437. If there is a delay, please remain on the line until the call

is answered.

MURPHYSBORO AREA — Call 684-2144.

THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.

5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.

# Egyptian Messenger

The Egyptian Messenger, published by the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, with offices in Steeleville and Murphysboro, providing electric service to Southern Illinois.

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## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### BILLING PACKETS

The billing packets for the self-billed members were picked up by the postal department at our Steeleville office on October 4, so everyone should have received their packet by the 20th. If you have not received your packet by the time you are reading this article, please call one of our offices as soon as possible.

### MURPHYSBORO OFFICE

If you happen to stop in at our Murphysboro office in the next couple of months, you will notice that we are making some changes to the building itself and are adding a new garage and warehouse behind the existing building. We are also adding parking at the west side of the building and are making the building handicap accessible.

In addition to making the existing building handicap accessible, we are making some interior changes to better utilize the available space. Since we once were in the appliance sales business, the lobby was made large enough to display some appliances and once we got out of the business, the display area was really dead space. We have made the lobby smaller and the display space will be utilized for engineering offices. We will be making some other changes to better utilize space and in the process will be giving some of the interior a general face-lift.

Over the years that the Murphysboro office has been in existence, we have added equipment in both number and size and our existing garage facilities are simply not adequate to handle our needs today. With the addition of the new garage area, we will have space to store our vehicles and material, as well as have a garage area to perform vehicle maintenance. Once all of the improvements have been made, we should be set for many years down the road.

We do not anticipate that the construction activities will interfere with traffic coming to the office, but if you are inconvenienced by the construction, please bear with us for a few months. We expect that the outside improvements will be completed by January 5, 1993.

### DAMAGE CLAIMS

With the widespread use of all kinds of electronic equipment or electronic equipment controls, we are seeing more damage claims due to what the repairman calls "voltage surges" or "power surges." The usual scenario is that a television or stereo fails and since it is difficult to determine just why an electronic component burns out or fails, it is assumed that voltage surges must be the culprit.

Since the serviceman has now identified the utility as being responsible, the customer naturally feels that the utility should pay for the damage and that is where we have a problem. First of all, there probably is no way of knowing just what caused the equipment failure. Possibly it was a voltage surge, but it could just as well be a poorly designed or manufactured component that failed over time. I find it rather hard to believe that many failures are not due to the manufacture of the unit itself or that components don't fail because of repeated use and insulation breakdowns.

As far as voltage surges are concerned, they can occur for a variety of reasons, such as lightning strokes, switching surges or equipment on the member's own premises. Probably the most frequent complaint or claim we receive is that a member's equipment failed after we had breaker operations on the system and the member believes that the breaker operations caused his damage. Whether the damage is due to the breaker trips is open to debate, but I do know that we cannot operate a utility system without short circuit isolating equipment, whether it be a one-shot type of device or an automatic reclosing device. With one-shot devices, such as fuses, you have an outage every time you have a short circuit, even though the short circuit might be very temporary in nature. With automatic reclosers, you have three or four trips during

which time many short circuits clear and the power is restored without a power interruption of more than a couple of seconds. I can assure you that on a rural system as ours with all of the exposure to the elements, none of you would tolerate service based on one-shot protective devices. As an example, we have hundreds or even thousands of breaker operations during the lightning season and most of them do not result in outages. With one-shot devices, it would mean hundreds or thousands more outages and that is simply not acceptable to the consumer or to the utility providing the service.

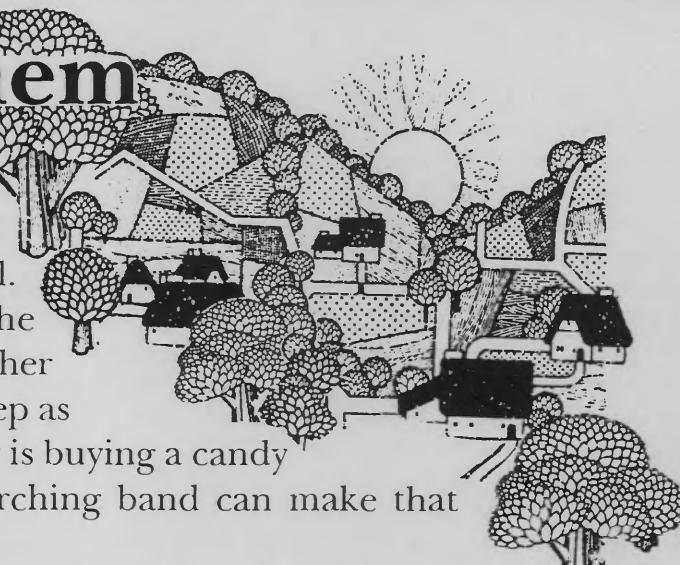
Since breaker operations are a fact of life on a utility system, what should be our responsibility for damages that members claim because of these operations? Our insurance carrier says none because the cooperative has not been negligent and obviously if breaker operations are a fact of life, then appliances must be designed to tolerate such disturbances or none of us could have them. The question does arise as to whether or not we were quick enough to find a problem and thus limit the number of operations, but finding temporary short circuits is not an exact science. Sometimes a faulty lightning arrestor on a member's transformer will short circuit on an

intermittent basis and can be nearly impossible to find. In those cases, we have to resort to hanging fault targets on lines to try to narrow down the area where the problem may be and it can be a time consuming process. While the member may think we are ignoring the problem, it's just a case where we simply have not been able to determine just where the problem is.

Our basic position is that we do not have a whole lot of control over short circuits that occur on our system and thus cannot eliminate breaker operations on the system. Consequently, we cannot accept responsibility for damages that a repairman claims were caused by those operations. We recommend that homeowners carry appropriate homeowner's insurance with deductibles that they can afford and cover themselves in that manner. Also, there are a multitude of surge suppressors on the market today that you can purchase to protect expensive equipment and if you are concerned about damage of that type, I would highly recommend them for your home. You can buy the type that can be installed in your main entrance panel or those that plug into outlets and protect individual pieces of equipment, such as home computers or stereo equipment.

## You see them every day

He's selling soft drinks to you at the town festival. She's sitting next to you at the school basketball game. Another one waves from the front step as you go to work. Yet another is buying a candy bar so your daughter's marching band can make that spring trip.



They're all around you. They are part of your electric cooperative, bringing the best possible electric service to homes, farms and businesses. They work in the office, or they are out on the power poles, or they are like you — a fellow member-owner. And, they are part of your community.

The "cooperative" kind of utility isn't some faceless office in a faraway city. It's you and the people you see at the grocery store or the local dance. It's you and your neighbors getting together to make your community a better place to live.

**October is Cooperative Month**

# Use the earth for heating, cooling

It's not yet a well-known means of heating and cooling a home, but more and more people are coming to realize that the most economical and efficient energy source for heating and cooling is in their yard. It's called geothermal heating and cooling, and it gets its energy from the heat naturally stored within the soil outside the home.

Comfort, efficiency, environmentally safe — these are among the advantages the geothermal system has going for it.

- Geothermal heating and cooling is creating year-round comfort in the Oklahoma State Capitol.

- In Illinois, Ohio and Indiana, entire residential subdivisions have been developed to take advantage of this type of home energy system.

- The Wall Street Journal said in a 1990 article, "You can heat and cool your home for 30 to 40 percent less than with natural gas or straight electricity — while at the same time doing your bit to protect the environment."

Many electric cooperatives in Illinois are leading the way to promote geothermal systems for their members, letting them know that this type of system combines the wise use of energy resources with the lowest possible operating cost. Such a system not only heats and cools a home efficiently, but as a byproduct it provides free hot water for much of the year.

This is another example demonstrating how electric cooperatives put into practice the 1992 October Cooperative

Month theme, "Meeting People's Needs."

## How it works

The geothermal system's main component is a looping series of plastic pipe buried in the ground. An anti-freeze liquid is circulated through the pipe and into the home. This liquid collects stored solar energy from the soil, heat that constantly builds up within the ground as the sun shines on the earth.

In the winter, the heat is brought into the house through the system. In the summer, the system is reversed so that heat is carried outside and absorbed by the ground.

Independent laboratory tests have shown that the geothermal system heats up to four times more efficiently than fossil-fuel systems, and is 30 percent more efficient than other air-conditioning methods. Customers who have the system installed find that they get \$4 to \$5 worth of heat for every dollar of electricity it uses.

The system uses no flame or internal combustion, favorable points in the safety and environment categories. It is quiet, and it provides an even air flow so that there are no warm or cool "pockets" in the house.

## Popularity in Illinois

In 1991, ground was broken for a 31-acre subdivision south of Quincy. What makes this new residential subdivision unique for Illinois was that every home on its 25 lots will be heated and cooled with the geothermal system.

Adams Electrical Co-Operative

at Camp Point, working with Applied Energy Systems of Illinois and developer Matt Holtmeyer, made Hidden Cove the first all-geothermal subdivision in Illinois.

Holtmeyer said, "I'm committed to geothermal because it's the most efficient heating and cooling system available. When the homeowner has lower utility bills, that adds value to the homes I build."

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., Auburn, is another electric cooperative that is finding growing acceptance of geothermal technology among its members. Word-of-mouth and testimonials in the cooperative's monthly newsletter to members have boosted its local popularity. The cooperative offers rebates to members who install geothermal units. Two rebates were issued in the program's first year, 1982, and the total has grown since then to 79 so far this year.

The role of the electric cooperatives in promoting this high-technology heating and cooling system reflects the goal that has driven these not-for-profit organizations for more than 50 years. Established to bring safe, convenient electricity to farms and homes in rural areas, the cooperatives have broadened that mission to improve the lives of their members in many ways.

Two-way radio communication, television for rural areas, safe and adequate water supplies, a voice representing them in state and federal government — members are benefiting from the varied roles played by today's electric cooperatives.

## Office closing

**Our offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11,  
in observance of Veteran's Day.**



HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP  
HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828  
TELEPHONE 736-2211 / 643-5110  
1-800-44RURAL

## BASIC SERVICES

\$19.35	\$12.95	\$8.95	Arts & Entertainment	G1-12
			CNN	G1-07
			Country Music Television	G1-13
			Discovery	G1-22
			ESPN	G1-09
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\$7.95	West	G1-16
MOVIE CHANNEL	East	G1-10
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# Egyptian Messenger

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## From the Manager's Desk

by Harry Kuhn



### WINTER BILLS

As I write this, we are experiencing the coldest weather of the fall season and, while it is not as cold as it was last year at this time, it is a warning that the winter season is not far away. With the colder weather on the way, it means that utility bills will be increasing and that is always a concern for both the member and the cooperative. Higher bills make it tougher for some members to pay their bills and it means that we will have to devote more time and effort to collections.

This past month we sent out approximately 750 disconnect notices because of nonpayment and that is a significant percentage of our 11,000 plus accounts. It is particularly disturbing to us because the past couple of bills should have been some of the lowest of the year for most residential consumers. If 750 of our members could not pay a September or October bill, it does not bode well for December through February. I do not know what the answer is, but as with any other business, we simply cannot give our service away and we must collect our bills in order to stay in business. In order to collect those bills, we use every means available to us and we will ultimately disconnect the service if payment is not made.

Since payment must be made sooner or later in order to retain the electrical service, I would highly encourage everyone to make every effort to pay on time. By paying on time, you pay the net rate and we avoid the extra expense of processing delinquent accounts. Any extra expense we incur in collecting bills is ultimately paid by everyone. If you do get into a situation where you just cannot pay your bill when it is due, the worst thing you can do, from our standpoint, is to ignore our notices. We interpret total disregard of our reminder and disconnect notices as an indication that a member has no interest or intention of

paying his or her bill and we will disconnect the service, no matter the season. In fairness to those who do pay their bill, no matter how difficult it may be for them, we have to cut off those who make no effort to pay or work with us.

We do not know at this point just how much energy assistance will be available for low-income people this winter, but as usual the key is to seek assistance early if you have a problem. We should not have to prod people to seek assistance and it is too late to start thinking about it when our serviceman is at the door to either collect or disconnect the service. Our basic policy is that if you are low income and are eligible for assistance, you should be arranging for assistance. If your income is too high to qualify for assistance, you should be paying something on your electrical bill. It is a mistake to ignore us on the assumption that it is winter and we won't disconnect for nonpayment because we can and will do so. In most cases, someone who is willing to work with us on a reasonable basis, and lives up to agreed-upon terms, will not find his or her service terminated.

### HEAT PUMPS

Since we are getting into the heating season, it may be a good time to repeat my very short course on the operation of a heat pump. We usually have a number of cases each year where someone either installs a new heat pump or buys a home that has one installed and in either case it is their first experience with this type of heating system. In order to operate the system properly, you have to understand that a heat pump system consists of a compressor that can operate in heating or cooling mode and usually two backup electric resistance strip heaters. During the winter heating season, the smaller of the two strip heaters will kick in when the compressor is going through its defrost mode. The strip heater provides tempering air for the heating ducts so that the unit will not start with completely cold air when it comes off the defrost mode. The large strip heater provides backup heat in the event the outside air temperatures drop so low that the compressor simply cannot extract enough heat to maintain the thermostat setting.

The backup heaters are the part of the system

that are not fully understood by some homeowners and they have unnecessarily incurred high bills because of this lack of understanding. During a winter such as last winter, my own heat pump's backup heating strip rarely operated and that should be the normal case. When they do operate, there is a warning light on the thermostat that tells you the strips are in operation and you should make it a practice to look at your thermostat from time to time when the system is running. If the strip heater light is on very much or all the time, it may be telling you that your heat pump compressor is not operating properly or may not be operating at all. If the compressor is not operating at all, your heat pump system has essentially been converted to an electric strip heater furnace and that is not nearly as efficient as a heat pump. Many, if not all, heat pump systems have an electrical breaker installed at the outside unit and sometimes these breakers trip and take the compressor off line. If that happens and you do not pay attention to your thermostat indicator lights, you are probably going to be in for a surprise when you pay your next electric bill.

Everyone probably operates their heat pump system a little differently, but I personally shut my heat pump unit down and switch to the backup heat when outside temperatures drop below zero. At those temperatures, the unit is running continuously trying to extract heat out of the outside air and I believe it better for the unit and about as efficient at that point to go to the electric strip

heaters. That does not happen too often in this area, but it does happen every once in awhile. As with any forced air system, it is important to keep filters clean so air flow is not restricted and to not block registers.

#### POLE MAINTENANCE

We are continuing the pole maintenance program and the contractor will shortly be finishing up in the Sparta-Tilden area. We will then move him into the area between Steeleville and Rockwood. As those of you know that live in the area where he has been working, we are taking a number of outages when we switch the wires from the old poles to the new poles. We know that this is an inconvenience to those members that are affected, but hopefully we will avoid outages down the road that would be a lot more inconvenient and longer. The contractor has changed over 200 poles since August and we are also working on poles with our own crews, so we are making good progress on maintaining service reliability in the future. We have in excess of 35,000 poles on our system, so we won't run out of poles to be replaced anytime soon. Please bear with us as we work to maintain a reliable system.

#### Office closing

**Our offices will be closed on Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, for the Thanksgiving holidays.**

## Electric heat tapes: Potential fire hazard

Homeowners and mobile home residents who use electric heat tapes to prevent exposed water pipes from freezing are cautioned by government safety experts to inspect the tapes for possible fire hazards.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), at least 500 house fires in the last seven years are believed to have been caused by electric heat tapes. Also known as pipe heating cables, heat tapes consist of two wires enclosed in molded plastic insulation that emit heat due to electrical current passing through the wires when the cable is plugged into an outlet.

The tapes are commonly used in crawl spaces and in the substructure of homes and mobile homes and are usually energized after the first freezing temperatures. Some heat tapes are plugged in year-round and a thermostat located in the power supply cord of the heat tape turns on the tape whenever the outdoor temperature approaches freezing.

CPSC reports that improper installation by consumers is a frequent cause of home fires.

In one study of 35 fires, agency investigators learned that 40 percent of the heat tapes were "overwrapped," that is, the tape was lapped over itself when the consumer installed the tape around

the pipe.

The agency offered the following suggestions:

- Inspect all heat tapes now or have a licensed electrician check them for proper installation or deteriorated electrical insulation. Refer to any installation instructions that accompanied the heat tape when you bought it.
- If you are purchasing new heat tapes or cables, know the diameter of the pipe you are protecting as well as the total length of the pipe. Manufacturers normally suggest specific lengths of tape for certain pipe lengths and diameters. Match your specific needs to the heat tape you are buying.
- Older heat tapes should be checked for bare wires or for cracks in the plastic insulation; in such cases, replace the heat tape immediately.
- Not all heat tapes may be used on plastic pipes; check to make certain the heat tape you are using is recommended specifically for the plastic pipe in question.
- Finally, manufacturers emphasize that heat tapes should never be used over the thermal insulation on a pipe or near flammable objects. Inspect previously installed tapes to make certain these fire hazards do not exist in your home.

# Add a heat pump and save

If you heat with gas or oil and are going to replace your central air unit or are considering the installation of central air in your home, you should consider an add-on heat pump. Egyptian Electric is offering a \$300 rebate to those members who install an add-on heat pump unit in conjunction with their gas or oil furnace. The rebate is also available to new home builders where an add-on heat pump is installed with a gas or oil furnace.

Perhaps you believe your heating system should have provided more heat for the hard-earned money you spent on fuel last winter. Or maybe you're thinking about installing or replacing your central air conditioner. In both cases take a look at the efficient add-on electric heat pump. Only the heat pump can provide year-round living comfort, supplying nearly 80 percent of your home heating needs and all of your cooling requirements.

The heat pump does not produce heat. It simply transfers it. In the winter the pump extracts heat from the cold outside air and pumps it into the house. And it does it efficiently, too. For every kilowatt-hour the pump requires to operate, it produces the equivalent of anywhere from one to three kilowatt-hours in heat, depending upon conditions. That 100 percent to 300 percent

efficiency is the highest of any heating system available, well above the 65 percent seasonal efficiency of the average oil furnace in use.

During the cooling season, the heat pump reverses its cycle and pumps heat outdoors like a conventional air conditioner. And the advantage of its "reverse" is that you don't have to buy a separate unit for cooling.

## How do I qualify for the rebate?

If you install an add-on heat pump with a fossil-fueled auxiliary heat system, (fuel oil, propane or natural gas) in your existing or new home, Egyptian Electric will send you a \$300 rebate.

To qualify, contact either the Murphysboro or Steeleville office prior to installation. You will be asked to sign a rebate application and will be given a certification form to give to your heating and air conditioning contractor. When your heating and air conditioning contractor has installed the heat pump, he should send the certification form to Egyptian Electric. Egyptian Electric will then issue a check to you, made out to you and your contractor.

Please contact your nearest cooperative office for any questions you might have. Remember, Egyptian Electric is here to serve you, its members.

# Plan a safe Christmas

Next month many families will be exchanging gifts around a Christmas tree brightly illuminated with twinkling lights. The warm, safe light from electric bulbs wasn't always used to help celebrate Christmas, however.

Until Edward Johnson broke with tradition in 1882, burning candles illuminated Christmas trees. These wax candles caused many tragic fires over the years, and Johnson was convinced electric lights would be safer.

Johnson was one of Thomas Edison's chief assistants at the inventor's Menlo Park, N.Y. laboratory and a director of the Edison Illuminating Electric Company of New York. He went to a great deal of trouble to prove electricity would work for electric Christmas lights and would be less dangerous than wax candle parlor trees.

When setting up your holiday centerpiece this year, remember not only that Edward Johnson helped make the holiday safer with electric Christmas lights, but also that whether you have an artificial tree or a fresh-cut evergreen, special precautions need to be taken.

If you use a cut evergreen, make sure you select a fresh one. Grasp a limb about six inches from the tip. Using your forefinger and thumb, gently

pull the branch toward you. Needles should not fall off into your hand. Look under pre-cut trees for needles that have fallen on the ground. Place a needle between your thumb and forefinger and bring the ends together — the needle should bend, not break (balsam fir trees are the exception to this rule). After you get your tree home, the key to keeping it fresh is to water, water, water! A tree can absorb up to a gallon of water each day, depending on the size and condition.

Avoid putting your tree in front of furnace ducts, electric heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces. These can dry out both artificial trees and cut trees and result in serious fire hazards.

Electrical cords, lights, and other decorations should be used only in places designated by the manufacturers. Do not overload electric receptacles. If a circuit is frequently overloaded, the wiring could break down, resulting in electrical shocks or fires. Make sure extension cords are free from nicks, cuts and fraying. Cords should be kept out of paths of heavy foot traffic.

Use your good judgment when preparing for the holidays. Be wise — and safe — this holiday season.



**HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP**  
 HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828  
 TELEPHONE 736-2211 / 643-5110  
 1-800-44RURAL

### BASIC SERVICES

\$19.35		Arts & Entertainment	G1-12
	\$12.95	CNN	G1-07
	\$8.95	Country Music Television	G1-13
		Discovery	G1-22
		ESPN	G1-09
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### PREMIUM SERVICES

<b>PT24</b>	WABC - New York	F2-04
\$3.95	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12
	<b>SKYLINE</b>	S3-15
	\$3.00	S3-03
	WWOR - New York	G1-15

<b>NETLINK</b>	KCNC - Denver	F2-22
\$5.95	KMGH - Denver	F2-03
	KRMA - Denver	F2-18
	KUSA - Denver	F2-01
	KWGN - Denver	F2-17
<b>HBO</b>	East	G1-23
\$7.95	West	F1-13
<b>CINEMAX</b>	East	G1-19
\$7.95	West	F1-23
<b>SHOWTIME</b>	East	G1-05
\$7.95	West	G1-16
<b>MOVIE CHANNEL</b>	East	G1-10
\$7.95	West	G1-14
<b>DISNEY</b>	East	G1-04
\$7.95	West	G1-24
<b>SSN</b>	Home Team Sports, HSE, KBL, MSG, Midwest Sports, Pass, Pacific Sports, Prime Network, Prime Sports NW, Prime Sports, Prime Ticket, Sport South Sunshine Network	

Any two of  
HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Movie Channel, or Disney  
\$14.95

Any three: \$20.95; Any four: \$27.95; All five: \$33.95

# Egyptian Messenger

The Egyptian Messenger, published by the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, with offices in Steeleville and Murphysboro, providing electric service to Southern Illinois.

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## One Man's Life



Here is a young man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty, and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family.

He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

While he was still a young man, the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to the cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth, and that was his coat.

When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries wide have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

All the armies that ever marched and all the navies that ever sailed, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as has that one solitary life.

Anon.

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all  
of you, from your directors and employees of  
Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association.**





# A Yuletide Wish . . .

## Directors

Harold I. Dycus  
Raymond C. Mulholland  
Dale A. Smith  
Edward C. Timpner  
William Broom, Attorney

Kevin Liefer  
Archie Hamilton  
John E. Steele  
W. Dean Bame  
Hubert L. Chapman

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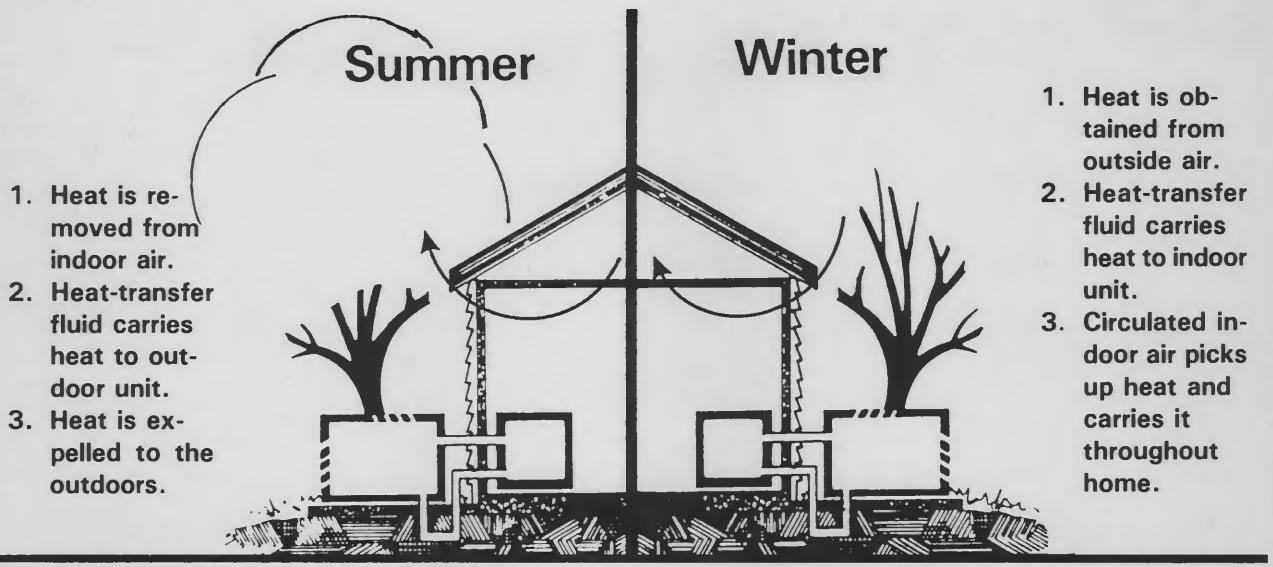
## Employees

Harry Kuhn, Manager  
Scot Alms  
Dana Bayer  
Don Bollman  
Mike Chamness  
Brenda Cleland  
Bryce Cramer  
Darwin Dailey  
Glen Degenhardt  
Bryan Diercks  
John Donovan  
Michael Ellis  
Edie Ernsting  
Tom Ernsting  
Linda Florreich  
Merle Fuhrhop  
Carl Goetting  
Jim Grothaus  
Charles Guetersloh  
Larry Hartman  
Terry Hope

Lester James  
William Korando  
Wayne Luedeman  
Diane Maxwell  
Richard McGill  
Tammy Mikulay  
Art Pontow  
Bob Poole  
Norman Quillman  
Wilbert Schnepel  
Aaron Schuster

Harold Shields  
David Sickmeyer  
JoAnn Simmons  
Jim Smith  
Richard Stein  
Roger Stuva  
Kay Taylor  
Gerald Thies  
Linda Williamson  
Judy Wolters

*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year*



## Add a heat pump and save

If you heat with gas or oil and are going to replace your central air unit or are considering the installation of central air in your home, you should consider an add-on heat pump. Egyptian Electric is offering a \$300 rebate to those members who install an add-on heat pump unit in conjunction with their gas or oil furnace. The rebate is also available to new home builders where an add-on heat pump is installed with a gas or oil furnace.

Perhaps you believe your heating system should have provided more heat for the hard-earned money you spent on fuel last winter. Or maybe you're thinking about installing or replacing your central air conditioner. In both cases take a look at the efficient add-on electric heat pump. Only the heat pump can provide year-round living comfort, supplying nearly 80 percent of your home heating needs and all of your cooling requirements.

The heat pump does not produce heat. It simply transfers it. In the winter the pump extracts heat from the cold outside air and pumps it into the house. And it does it efficiently, too. For every kilowatt-hour the pump requires to operate, it produces the equivalent of anywhere from one to three kilowatt-hours in heat, depending upon conditions. That 100 percent to 300 percent

efficiency is the highest of any heating system available, well above the 65 percent seasonal efficiency of the average oil furnace in use.

During the cooling season, the heat pump reverses its cycle and pumps heat outdoors like a conventional air conditioner. And the advantage of its "reverse" is that you don't have to buy a separate unit for cooling.

### How do I qualify for the rebate?

If you install an add-on heat pump with a fossil-fueled auxiliary heat system, (fuel oil, propane or natural gas) in your existing or new home, Egyptian Electric will send you a \$300 rebate.

To qualify, contact either the Murphysboro or Steeleville office prior to installation. You will be asked to sign a rebate application and will be given a certification form to give to your heating and air conditioning contractor. When your heating and air conditioning contractor has installed the heat pump, he should send the certification form to Egyptian Electric. Egyptian Electric will then issue a check to you, made out to you and your contractor.

Please contact your nearest cooperative office for any questions you might have. Remember, Egyptian Electric is here to serve you, its members.

### Office closings

**The offices of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association  
will be closed on Friday, December 25, for Christmas and  
Friday, January 1, for New Year's Day.**



HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP  
 HIGHWAY 142 EAST DAHLGREN, IL 62828  
 TELEPHONE 736-2211 / 643-5110  
 1-800-44RURAL

### BASIC SERVICES

<b>EXPANDED BASIC</b>	\$19.35	
<b>BASIC SERVICE</b>	\$12.95	
<b>G1 BASIC</b>	\$8.95	
		Arts & Entertainment
		G1-12
		CNN
		G1-07
		Country Music Television
		G1-13
		Discovery
		G1-22
		ESPN
		G1-09
		Family Channel
		G1-11
		Headline News
		G1-08
		Nashville Network
		G1-02
		USA
		G1-21
		WGN
		G1-03
		WTBS
		G1-18
		KTVT
		S3-05
		Learning Channel
		F1-02
		Lifetime
		G3-20
		Nickelodeon
		G3-19
		Nostalgia
		F4-21
		Travel Channel
		F1-09
		Weather Channel
		G3-13
		WPIX
		S3-09
		Black Entertainment
		F1-20
		MTV
		G3-17
		Prime Network
		T3-17
		VH-1
		G3-15
		WABC
		F2-04
		WBBM
		F2-02
		WXIA
		F2-12
		WSBK
		S3-03
		WWOR
		G1-15

Any Basic without ESPN \$1.00 Less

### PREMIUM SERVICES

<b>PT24</b>	WABC - New York	F2-04
	WBBM - Chicago	F2-02
	WXIA - Atlanta	F2-12

<b>SKYLINE</b>	KTLA - Los Angeles	S3-15
	WSBK - Boston	S3-03
	WWOR - New York	G1-15

<b>NETLINK</b>	KCNC - Denver	F2-22
	KMGH - Denver	F2-03
	KRMA - Denver	F2-18
	KUSA - Denver	F2-01
	KWGN - Denver	F2-17

<b>HBO</b>	East	G1-23
	West	F1-13

<b>CINEMAX</b>	East	G1-19
	West	F1-23

<b>SHOWTIME</b>	East	G1-05
	West	G1-16

<b>MOVIE CHANNEL</b>	East	G1-10
	West	G1-14

<b>DISNEY</b>	East	G1-04
	West	G1-24

Home Team Sports, HSE, KBL, MSG, Midwest Sports, Pass, Pacific Sports, Prime Network, Prime Sports NW, Prime Sports, Prime Ticket, Sport South Sunshine Network		
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Any two of  
 HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Movie Channel, or Disney  
 \$14.95

Any three: \$20.95; Any four: \$27.95; All five: \$33.95

## What to do if the power goes off

We offer these suggestions:

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "on" position.
3. If you still have no power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

4. DURING OFFICE HOURS: (8 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday through Friday)  
**CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER**  
 NEAREST YOU: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143.  
**AFTER OFFICE HOURS:**  
**STEELEVILLE AREA** — Call 965-3437. If there is a delay, please remain on the line until the call

- is answered.  
**MURPHYSBORO AREA** — Call 684-2144.  
**THERE IS ALWAYS A COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ON CALL AT ONE OF THESE TWO NUMBERS.**
5. Please give the person who answers the member's name as it is billed, and other information requested.